

AN ILLEGAL ALIEN WORKED 5 YEARS FOR HUFFINGTONS

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Body

California Republican candidate Mike Huffington, whose tough stand against illegal immigration is a cornerstone of his Senate campaign, employed a woman at his Santa Barbara home for about five years who was in the United States illegally, his campaign acknowledges.

The woman's job ended last year, shortly after Huffington was sworn into office as a freshman congressman and several months before he announced his bid to challenge Sen. Dianne Feinstein, sources told the Los Angeles Times. The woman had cared for the Huffingtons' two daughters - now ages 3 and 5 - since they were born.

On Wednesday, after a campaign event in San Diego where he spoke about his support for Proposition 187 - the anti-illegal immigration measure on the November ballot - Huffington was asked if he had ever employed an illegal immigrant at his home, which is a violation of federal law. He told the San Diego newspaper reporter that he did not know of any problem.

On Wednesday evening, however, Huffington's campaign issued a one-sentence response acknowledging that the employee had worked at the home illegally.

Huffington's campaign released five pages of federal documents Wednesday evening, after being questioned about the issue by The Times, to demonstrate that the candidate's wife had tried unsuccessfully to obtain papers that would allow the worker to be in the country legally.

The candidate's wife, Arianna Huffington, said the couple had paid all the necessary taxes for the woman. She said the woman left the Huffingtons' employment shortly after Michael Huffington was sworn into office in January last year. Arianna Huffington said the woman did not want to make the move to Washington with the Huffingtons because she was married.

Robb, North Spar

In Virginia, Oliver North, whose felony convictions were overturned by a federal appeals panel, criticized rival Sen. Charles S. Robb for backing federal appeals judges who North says are too soft on criminals.

North attacked Robb's votes this year to confirm Rosemary Barkett for the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and H. Lee Sarokin for the 3rd Circuit.

"Chuck Robb talks tough about crime, but he's really soft on crime," the Republican challenger said at a news conference Wednesday.

Robb, a Democrat, called North's comments "incredible."

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"If it hadn't been for a couple of soft-on-crime federal judges, he'd be in the slammer and certainly wouldn't be able to run for federal office," Robb said.

Both judges were endorsed by their senators and by police organizations in their states, Robb said.

Cuomo Up In Polls

The endorsement of Rudolph Giuliani, a Republican, of Democratic Gov. Mario Cuomo is helping Cuomo catch up to GOP challenger George Pataki, two polls released Thursday show.

A poll by the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion had Pataki at 37 percent, Cuomo at 36 percent and independent B. Thomas Golisano at 8 percent, with 17 percent undecided. The margin of error was 3.5 percentage points.

A New York Post-Fox 5 television poll had Pataki at 40 percent, Cuomo at 36 percent, Golisano at 6 percent and 16 percent undecided. The margin of error was 3.4 percentage points.

Both polls were conducted after Giuliani, the Republican mayor of New York City, endorsed Cuomo on Monday.

Marist pollster Lee Miringoff said Cuomo is being aided by Giuliani's endorsement. But the governor is being helped even more by the Golisano candidacy, which didn't begin until mid-September.

Republicans Attack

The GOP began an ad blitz Thursday designed to sour voters on President Bill Clinton and the Democratic Congress.

"Clinton and his Democrat Congress control Washington, and what do we get?" says one of three new GOP ads. "More taxes, more spending, more government. That's not what we were promised. And that's not what this country needs."

Haley Barbour, chairman of the Republican National Committee, said the ads would cost roughly \$ 1.9 million and include a modest national purchase and heavier buys in targeted markets in 25 or so states, beginning Friday and running through Election Day.

The White House quickly counterpunched, suggesting that the GOP ads were proof of Democratic momentum. "They don't suddenly do \$ 2 million worth of hit ads unless they are worried," said White House chief of staff Leon Panetta.

Republican Lead Thins

A new national poll offered a sliver of evidence to support the White House argument.

A Times Mirror survey of 1,577 registered voters taken Oct. 20-24 found that 47 percent planned to vote Republican in their House race, while 44 percent said Democratic. That was an improvement for Democrats over the last Times Mirror survey, and other polls this week have even shown Democrats with a narrow lead on the question.

Graphic

PHOTO; (1) Photo By AP - Above: Oliver North campaigns Thursday at a commuter train station in Manassas, Va. He called Wednesday for tougher judges on federal appeals courts. (2) Photo By AP - Right: Mitt Romney hunts for votes in Revere, Mass., Thursday morning. He is challenging Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

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