



NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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'Unionism Without Consent . . . Is Despotism' *Acclaimed New Book by Union Activist Whacks Compulsory Unionism*

For decades, National Right to Work Committee officers, members and supporters have charged that federally-imposed union monopoly bargaining and forced union dues and fees breed union lawbreaking and abuses.

As the late U.S. Sen. John McClellan (D-Ark.), one of Right to Work's staunchest Capitol Hill allies of all time and the chairman of a special committee that held blockbuster hearings on union corruption, put it: "Compulsory unionism and corruption go hand in hand."

Solidarity for Sale, an eye-opening book published early this year by PublicAffairs/Perseus Books, doesn't mention either Mr. McClellan or the famous McClellan Committee, but it illustrates and updates the senator's point in copious detail.

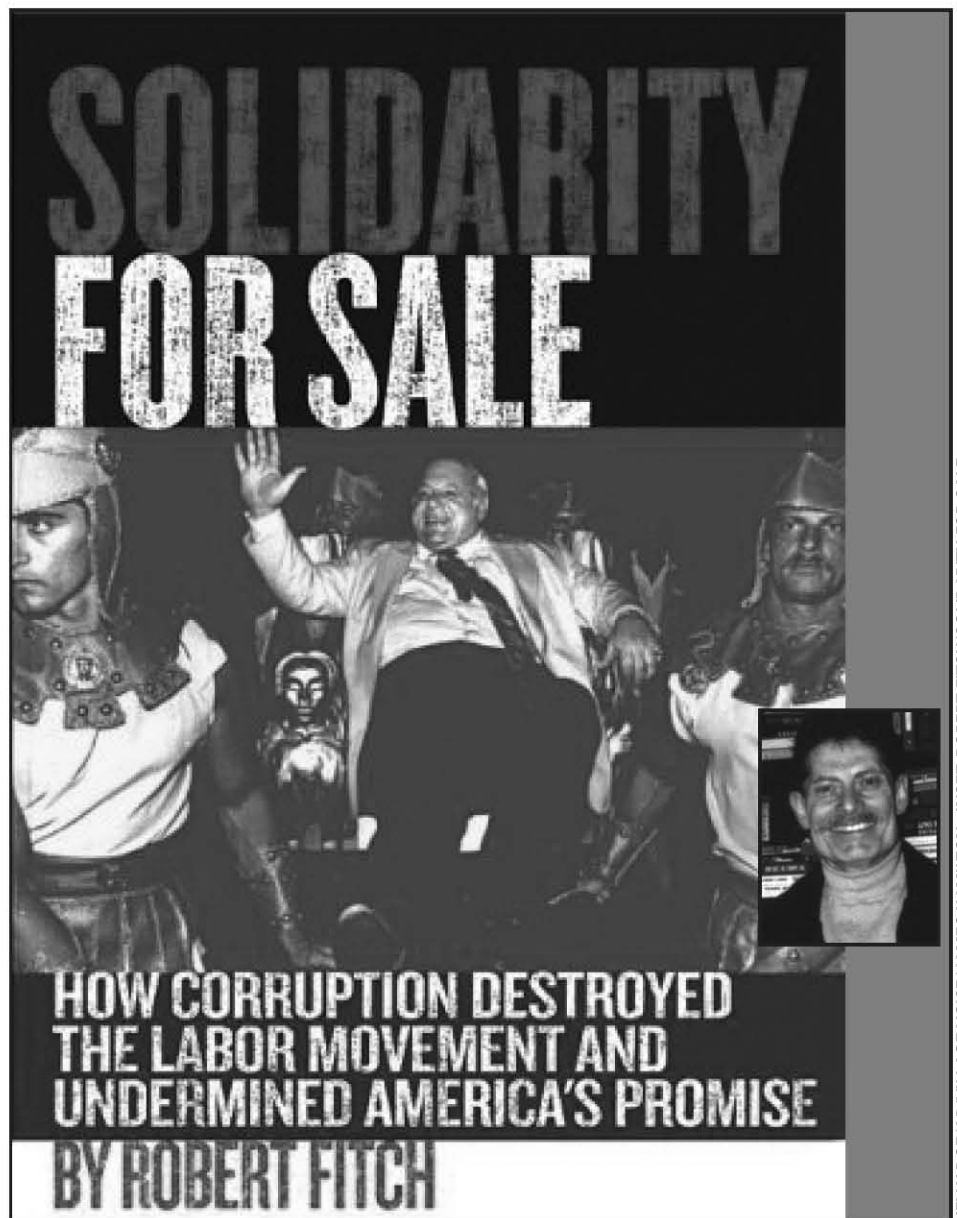
In the West, American Unions 'Are the Last Refuge Of Premodern Despotism'

The goal of author Robert Fitch, who first joined Local 5 of the Laborers Union in Chicago 53 years ago, when he was 15, and has been a union member ever since, is to explain why American unions have regularly failed to serve the interests of their members and society.

Mr. Fitch, a journalist, university instructor, union activist, and former union organizer, remains ardently pro-union.

But this avowed, albeit chastened, leftist acknowledges and grapples with the problem of pervasive union corruption and abuses, a problem that many supposedly "mainstream" reporters covering Organized Labor seek to minimize or sidestep altogether.

See **Union Activist** next page



Former union organizer and 53-year union member Robert Fitch: "It's past time to challenge the very basis of

the American labor movement, which remains . . . its fundamental lack of consent."

KELLY DOE/AP/VILLAGE VOICE/JAMES HAMILTON INSET: ROBERT FITCH/SOLIDARITY FOR SALE

Union Activist Favors Freedom

Continued from page 1

Mr. Fitch concludes: "In the Western world, American unions like the Teamsters, the Longshoremens, UNITE, and the Laborers are the last refuge of premodern despotism. . . . More than any other single factor, what turns them into realms governed by petty warlords is a lack of consent."

His presentation of the facts about the innumerable union officials who partner with the Mob, pilfer from union treasuries, or callously collect forced dues from workers without ever having a genuine plan to better their lot, is compelling: so compelling, indeed, that even some pro-forced unionism reviewers have called *Solidarity for Sale* "excellent" and commended Mr. Fitch for his "investigative zeal."

Forced Union Dues Collections Called 'the Lifeblood of . . . Zombie [Union] Locals'

Mr. Fitch sees that the problem of union corruption is structural, and cannot be remedied by replacing one set of union bosses with another:

"[F]orced unionism -- unionism without consent -- is despotism.

"The practical problem with despotism is that it makes people stupid and passive. Only the despot thinks and acts. Everyone else is following orders."

Even when union officials don't exploit the numerous opportunities this

system furnishes to steal, the result is an unaccountable unionism that undercuts workers' real interests.

Mr. Fitch quotes former AFL-CIO Assistant Director of Organizing Stephen Lerner, who has acknowledged that, for many union locals, the "primary reason to exist is to keep on existing and to provide employment for officers and staff."

Mr. Fitch comments: "Automatic [forced] dues check-off is the lifeblood of these zombie locals."

Right to Work Measures Gain Momentum in Congress

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix observed that Mr. Fitch is only one of a growing number of union activists and union allies who have spoken out about the harm inflicted on employees and our nation by forced unionism.

"Former electricians union national organizing director Ed Bruno, union-friendly journalist and best-selling author William Greider, and even former Clinton National Labor Relations Board General Counsel Fred Feinstein have publicly questioned whether pro-union monopoly labor laws really benefit workers," said Mr. Mix.

"*Solidarity for Sale* represents an important new step in the critique of compulsory unionism from within

Organized Labor. It shows the power of the Right to Work principle to unite people who otherwise hold disparate political and social views."

Meanwhile, two measures that would fulfill Mr. Fitch's goal that "American workers . . . be allowed the freedom to join whatever union they wish, or none at all if they so choose," are gaining momentum on Capitol Hill.

The House and Senate versions of the National Right to Work Act, known as H.R.500 and S.370, have a combined total of 122 congressional sponsors as this month's Newsletter goes to press.

Among the elected officials who signed on to Right to Work legislation just last month are Congressman Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.) and Sens. Mel Martinez (R-Fla.) and Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.).

Most Union Members -- And Even Some Union Activists -- Oppose Compulsory Unionism

"A 2004 nationwide survey conducted by Del Ali, a leading election analyst who often appears on CNN and is frequently quoted in the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and *USA Today*, showed that 79% of Americans who regularly vote in federal elections support the Right to Work principle," noted Mr. Mix.

"Another 2004 survey of *union members only* by renowned pollster John Zogby found that 63% believe it is 'unfair for a worker to lose their job if he or she refuses to pay dues to, or support, a union.'"

"Now *Solidarity for Sale* has demonstrated that there's significant opposition to forced unionism even among union activists.

"If H.R.500 and S.370 come up for votes this year, Big Labor politicians who rely on forced dues-financed union political staff and campaign materials to stay in office may well defeat both bills.

"But the votes will nevertheless pave the way for an eventual Right to Work victory by focusing public scrutiny on the politicians who care more about Big Labor special interests than the legitimate interests of employees, business owners and consumers."

Mr. Mix urged Right to Work members everywhere to contact House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.), 202-225-2976, and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.), 202-224-3344, and ask them to schedule floor votes on H.R.500 and S.370 without delay. 📌



Even former Clinton National Labor Relations Board General Counsel Fred Feinstein (seen from behind, with

Committee President Mark Mix on the right) has questioned whether pro-union monopoly laws benefit workers.

Right to Work Revving Up Survey 2006

Pro-Forced Unionism Federal Candidates Will Have Nowhere to Hide

Altogether, it's estimated that AFL-CIO, Change to Win Federation (CTWF), and National Education Association (NEA) union kingpins will spend more than a billion dollars, mostly forced-union-dues money, on efforts to influence the outcome of this year's elections.

The AFL-CIO umbrella outfit alone recently acknowledged in disclosure forms filed with the U.S. Labor Department that, during its last fiscal year, union bosses spent \$49 million, or 27% of its forced dues-funded budget, on politics and lobbying.

But bosses of major AFL-CIO affiliates like the United Auto Workers (UAW) and the Communications Workers of America (CWA) have yet to fulfill their obligation, under federal law, to reveal what share of their combined \$835 million in annual disbursements go into politics and lobbying.

Candidate Survey Is 'One of the Committee's Most Effective Tools'

And union bosses in the NEA and the breakaway Change to Win Federation, especially the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the Teamsters, have records of dumping an even higher share of their forced-dues revenues into politics than do the remaining AFL-CIO affiliated union bosses.

To meet union bigwigs' challenge, the National Right to Work Committee has launched its federal Candidate Survey 2006.

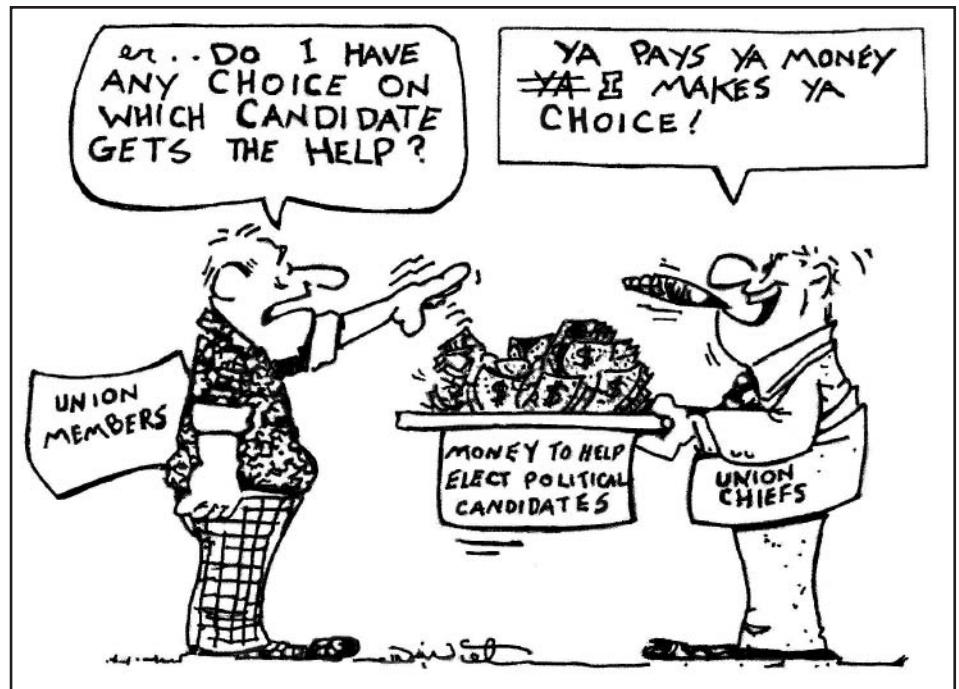
As longtime Committee members know, the federal candidate survey asks congressional candidates to commit themselves to support national Right to Work legislation and other pro-Right to Work measures if elected.

The survey is "one of the Committee's most effective tools," observed Committee Vice President Matthew Leen.

"All Senate and House candidates are given several chances to return their surveys and answer 100% in favor of Right to Work," Mr. Leen explained.

"And hundreds of thousands of Committee supporters are mobilized to lobby each candidate to respond to his or her Right to Work survey.

"The success of the survey program is key for the Committee's future ability to



Union bosses are expected to spend over a billion dollars this year, mostly forced-dues money, to help their

puppet politicians win U.S. House and Senate races. But the Survey 2006 can foil this power grab.

pass a national Right to Work law and defeat Big Labor power grabs in Congress."

Survey Will Target Critical Senate and House Contests

The Survey 2006 will target critical Senate races in a number of states, including Virginia, Arizona, and Montana, where pro-Right to Work GOP Sens. George Allen, Jon Kyl, and Conrad Burns, respectively, face well-funded reelection challenges.

The survey will encourage Sens. Allen, Kyl and Burns to renew their commitments to oppose compulsory unionism and call upon their challengers to pledge to be equally willing to stand up to Big Labor.

Other potential target states include Vermont, Rhode Island, Nebraska, Delaware, Florida, and North Dakota.

In the House, the Survey 2006 program is targeting 20-30 "open seat" House races and races in which potentially vulnerable House Big Labor allies are seeking reelection.

The program is also focusing on races in which union bosses are bankrolling politicians who are seeking to unseat

House Right to Work stalwarts like Reps. Marilyn Musgrave [R-Colo.], Robin Hayes [R-N.C.], and Ron Paul [R-Texas].

"Before Election Day, the citizens these politicians are vying to represent in Congress have a right to know where they stand on Right to Work," noted Mr. Leen.

"Regardless of whether they are political newcomers or have already cast thousands of recorded votes, Big Labor candidates will have nowhere to hide this year. Candidates in both major parties will feel intense heat to support Right to Work."

Right to Work Vice President Optimistic Members' Support Will Continue to Intensify

"I am confident that Committee members' intensifying support for their survey program will counterbalance the union bosses' billion-dollar scheme and, as a result, the Right to Work cause will enjoy a number of important victories this year," Mr. Leen continued.

He urged members across the U.S. to be on the lookout for their Survey 2006 mailings, and to send their postcards and letters to their candidates promptly once the mailings arrive. 📧

'Pay Dues, or Be Fired' Is No Idle Threat

Big Labor Near to Getting 14 Independent-Minded Nurses Terminated

In a significant victory for United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) union bosses, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit has ruled that St. John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis, Mo., must fire 14 nurses who refused to pay union dues or fees between 2002 and 2004.

As National Right to Work Committee members know, under federal law, union officials have long wielded the power to get workers, including union nonmembers, terminated if they refuse to bankroll an unwanted union.

Only in the 22 Right to Work states are workers protected from being forced to pay dues or fees to a union they would never voluntarily join.

Big Labor Normally Wins Through Intimidation

The February 1 *St. John's* decision is unusual only because Big Labor has had to enlist a federal court's aid to invoke its forced-dues privileges.

Normally, employees who, at first, resist joining the union later decide either to quit or pay union fees under duress so that they can keep their jobs and support

their families.

However, a substantial number of nurses employed at St. John's so intensely oppose affiliating with the UFCW union that they have evidently been willing to put their livelihoods on the line.

Hundreds of Nurses Refused to Join Strike For Forced Dues

Roughly 55 nurses on St. John's staff refused to pay dues or fees to UFCW Local 655 between 2002 and 2004, despite receiving multiple warnings from union bosses that their continued refusal would cost them their jobs.

Recognizing the widespread opposition to compulsory unionism among St. John's nurses, two years ago management boldly proposed that the forced-dues clause be removed from the new union contract commencing in October 2004.

Local 655 bosses called a strike to protect their forced-dues privileges. But hundreds of nurses at the hospital refused to go along.

Ultimately, the strike failed. In

January 2005, the UFCW brass at last had no choice but to acquiesce to a contract without a forced-dues clause, retroactive to the previous October.

However, demonstrating their contempt for the hundreds of rank-and-file nurses who clearly think there should never have been a forced-dues clause in the first place, Local 655 chiefs have since pursued, with grim tenacity, a crusade to punish 14 nurses who didn't pay dues while they were still compulsory.

In March 2005, the National Labor Relations Board, acting at union lawyers' behest, ordered St. John's to fire these nurses.

And now the Eighth Circuit has upheld the NLRB's order.

(Why Local 655 officials and UFCW lawyers have fought so hard to get just 14 nurses fired, and not the roughly 40 others who also refused to pay forced dues or fees, has always been a mystery to outsiders.)

Right to Work Members And Supporters Fight To Change Unjust Law

Just before this month's Newsletter went to press, a St. John's spokesman told a Right to Work staffer that the medical center had successfully petitioned the NLRB for more time to deliberate on whether or not to fire the 14 nurses or pursue another appeal.

"This case is not quite over yet," said National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"But it's already demonstrated that, when a union boss snarls to a dissenting worker, 'Pay dues, or you'll be fired,' this is no idle threat.

"That's why Right to Work members and supporters are fighting so hard to pass Right to Work laws in forced-unionism states like Missouri.

"This year, freedom-loving 'Show Me' State citizens are battling to secure the first recorded votes in many years on legislation, perhaps to be offered as an amendment, that would make Missouri a Right to Work state.

"But Committee members across America will not rest until Congress approves a national Right to Work law prohibiting forced union dues in all 50 states." 📣



SAINT LUKE HEALTH SYSTEM

Last month, a federal appeals court reaffirmed that any nurse who refuses to pay dues to an unwanted union may

be fired. Only state and federal Right to Work legislation can stop such unjust firings.

'Missouri Compromise' Would Ban Some PLA's

Taxpayer-Funded Schemes Corral Construction Workers Into Unions

The Missouri Legislature seems poised early this month to enact legislation that would ban union-only "project labor agreements," or PLA's, on taxpayer-financed public works that receive all or most of their funding from the state.

This compromise measure is a sign both of increasing Right to Work strength in the "Show Me" State, and of the considerable obstacles Right to Work advocates continue to face.

Counties, cities, and school districts could continue to cut PLA deals in cases where more than half of their tax funding comes from local sources, but would have to conduct public hearings before imposing a so-called PLA.

National Right to Work Committee leaders, who had called on Missouri legislators early this year to enact a total ban on state and local taxpayer-funded PLA's, have a mixed reaction to the new "Missouri Compromise" pending in the state Senate.

Workers and Small Firms Are Harmed by PLA's

"It's been said that when both parties are dissatisfied with the outcome, you have a genuine compromise," said Committee Vice President Doug Stafford.

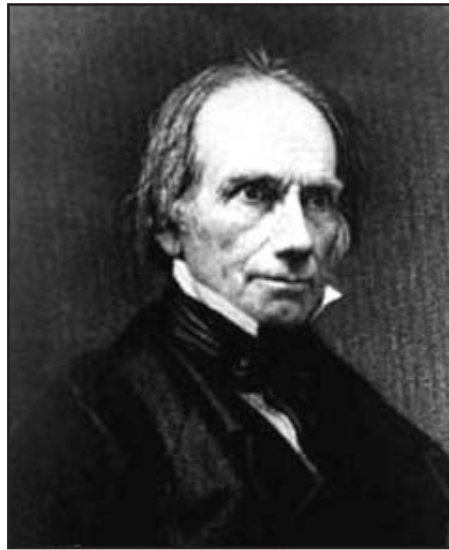
"By that definition, the deal cut in Jefferson City last month is certainly a compromise.

"Construction union bosses are furious that their special privileges may be pared back. Independent-minded employees, small firms and taxpayers are disappointed that a Big Labor filibuster prevented the Senate from banning taxpayer-funded PLA's flat-out.

"Inadequate as it is, however, S.B.849, the amended PLA bill that now is poised to pass the Senate, represents a step in the right direction."

PLA's typically force nonunion companies who wish to bid on taxpayer-funded public works to impose union monopoly bargaining and forced union "agency fees" on their long-term employees and hire many employees through discriminatory union hiring halls.

Independent workers, including those who already have their own health and retirement plans, are forced to contribute



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Like the original "Missouri Compromise," coauthored by American statesman Henry Clay, the compromise



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on taxpayer-funded, union-only PLA's forged in Missouri's Capitol last month has left both sides dissatisfied.

to Big Labor-manipulated benefit funds.

"The bogus excuse for such flagrant discrimination against independent workers is that PLA's promote 'labor peace' and thus control taxpayer costs for public works," said Mr. Stafford.

'Labor Peace' Excuse For PLA's Is Belied by Years Of Bitter Experience

"But the history of PLA's is that they promote union-boss featherbedding and cost overruns for which taxpayers usually have to pick up the tab," Mr. Stafford added.

"The most notorious example is Boston's 'Big Dig,' which was finally completed in 2004, six years late and \$12 billion over budget, then promptly experienced 400 leaks in its tunnel wall as well as a wide array of other costly-to-repair damage.

"PLA's on smaller, simpler projects also routinely go wrong."

Mr. Stafford cited a meticulous 2003 study of school PLA's conducted by Boston's Beacon Hill Institute.

It found that school PLA's in the Greater Boston Area add an estimated \$18.83 (in 2001 dollars) per square foot to the bid cost of construction -- a markup of almost 14%, which is, of course, taken out of taxpayers' pockets.

The potential taxpayer savings for not entering a PLA on a school construction

project thus range from \$1.88 million for a 100,000 square-foot structure to \$5.6 million for a 300,000 square-foot structure.

"The Committee is prepared, if necessary, to mobilize its members in Missouri to ensure that S.B.849 is approved by the state Senate and House and signed by Gov. Matt Blunt [R]," said Mr. Stafford.

"But Committee members will also continue to push for total bans on state and local-taxpayer funded PLA's in Missouri and in other states."

Committee Officer Vows To Redouble Efforts to Ban Union-Only PLA's

"Freedom-loving Americans' efforts to stop the misuse of taxpayers' money for PLA's are gaining momentum. The fact that even a partial PLA ban stands on the verge of enactment in Missouri, a non-Right to Work state where Big Labor has historically wielded massive clout, is a good sign," Mr. Stafford continued.

"But we still have a long way to go. That's why the National Committee is determined to step up its assistance for legislative and gubernatorial candidate survey programs in key states this year.

"With National Committee members' help, states like Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky and Delaware can pass full PLA bans in the near future."

Virginia's Economy May Bear 'Mark of Kaine'

Virulent Right to Work Opponent Slated For New Administration

Demonstrating that Big Labor knew what it was doing when it went all-out to get him elected last year, new Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine (D) has nominated a rabble-rousing former union official to a key position in his administration.

The nomination constitutes clear evidence that Mr. Kaine made a promise as a gubernatorial candidate not to tamper with Virginia's cherished Right to Work law only because he thought he had to, in view of overwhelming public opposition to forced unionism.

While a direct attack on the law by the Kaine Administration remains unlikely, Right to Work supporters can now certainly expect Kaine appointees to try to sabotage the law's enforcement.

Mr. Kaine nominated longtime Virginia AFL-CIO boss Danny LeBlanc to be his secretary of the commonwealth back in December, several weeks before he was inaugurated as governor.

As the most powerful arbitrator of political patronage in Virginia, the secretary of the commonwealth oversees roughly 4000 appointments to boards and commissions.

Nominee Doesn't 'Respect' Firms That Prefer to Locate in a Right to Work State

Many of the boards and commissions appointed by the governor in consultation with the secretary of the commonwealth regulate private businesses.

Big Labor-stacked boards and commissions could wield their regulatory

power to coerce employers and employees to submit to union control, and thus undermine Virginia's Right to Work law. Meanwhile, Mr. Kaine is stacking many of his executive agencies with lower-profile union-boss appointees.

Right to Work laws, now on the books in a total of 22 states, simply prohibit the firing of employees for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union. By checking Big Labor excesses, such laws foster a good business climate.

As a group, Right to Work states have a long track record of superior job and real income growth.

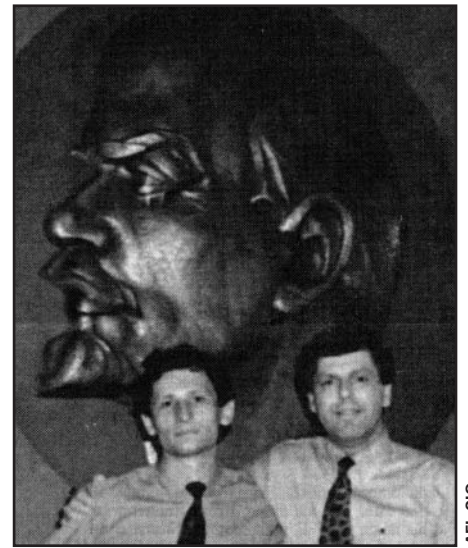
But to Mr. LeBlanc, Right to Work laws' aim is to "keep us [workers] down." (Since Mr. LeBlanc said this as the top executive of the Virginia AFL-CIO, his self-description as a "worker" was rather dubious, but that's another story.)

Moreover, Mr. LeBlanc has publicly proclaimed he doesn't "respect" businesses that choose to locate in Right to Work states for economic reasons.

"Danny LeBlanc plainly has no respect for the employee's freedom as an individual or for how the free-enterprise system works," commented Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"And when a prominent Virginia Right to Work supporter asked how the governor could justify such nominations, he reportedly received this cynical response: 'I've got debts to pay.'"

Early last month, Mr. Mix wrote all the members of the Virginia General Assembly to urge them to oppose Mr.



AFL-CIO

"Leninist" class warrior Danny LeBlanc (right) could be a key player in the Kaine Administration.

LeBlanc's nomination as secretary of the commonwealth. It still remains possible that the nomination could be scuttled.

GOP State Senators Decided to Give Danny LeBlanc a Free Pass

But Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling and a handful of other prominent GOP politicians have publicly announced that maintaining Virginia's legislative tradition of approving executive-branch appointments should outweigh public concerns about what Mr. LeBlanc would do with his patronage powers.

Most rank-and-file Republican senators quickly fell into line. Mr. LeBlanc has yet, however to be rubber-stamped by the full state Senate and House of Delegates.

"Thanks to the weak-kneed GOP Senate majority leadership, Virginia's economy could bear the 'mark of Kaine' over the next four years," commented Mr. Mix.

He urged Right to Work members in Virginia to contact their state senators and delegates and express their opposition to the LeBlanc appointment.

To obtain your legislators' contact information, visit <http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/main?openform> on the Internet, or call 800-889-0229 (outside Richmond) or 698-1990 (Richmond area).

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Written and Distributed by:

National Right to Work Committee®

8001 Braddock Road

Springfield, Va. 22160

E-mail: Members@NRTW.org

Mark Mix President

Reed Larson Exec. Cmte. Chairman

Stephen Goodrick Vice President

Matthew Leen Vice President

Doug Stafford Vice President

Stanley Greer Newsletter Editor

Editorial comments only: stg@nrtwc.org

Contact the Membership Department by phoning

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Are 'Gay Unions' a Workplace Issue?

Union Bosses Use Forced-Dues Clout to Back Controversial Causes

On January 31, the Maryland House of Delegates commenced hearings on a state marriage amendment spurred by a Baltimore judge's recent decision that will, if upheld on appeal, impose same-sex marriage in the Free State.

Approval of the amendment by both chambers of the Maryland Legislature would have allowed the state's voters to cast ballots this fall on a constitutional provision defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

Regardless of what they think about the controversial "gay marriage" issue, the vast majority of Americans and of union members in particular would undoubtedly agree it has nothing to do with labor unions.

Nevertheless, top bosses of the nine million-member AFL-CIO union conglomerate and the six million-member Change to Win Federation (CTWF), which split off from the AFL-CIO last year, are convinced that promoting "gay marriage" is their business.

And many are now wielding their massive political clout, which derives overwhelmingly from government-granted coercive powers, to defeat federal and state measures protecting traditional monogamous marriage.

At the Maryland Capitol, for example, Maryland/D.C. AFL-CIO boss Fred Mason, testifying along with homosexual activists, warned state delegates that the union hierarchy opposed allowing a statewide referendum on the Marriage Protection Amendment.

In 2004, Michigan Poll Showed Two-Thirds of Union Households Backed Marriage Protection Act

Effectively, he put the electioneering power of the Maryland union machine, which collects an estimated \$266 million a year in forced dues and fees, at the service of the foes of traditional marriage.

(While the Newsletter has a copy of an official record showing that Mr. Mason testified against the amendment, it has been unable to obtain a copy of his written testimony. When a Right to Work staffer went to the Maryland Capitol in Annapolis last month, all copies of Mr. Mason's testimony had mysteriously gone missing.)

One normally pro-Big Labor delegate incredulously asked: "If I believe in the right of the people to vote on this issue,



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With evident contempt for the views of the union rank-and-file, Big Labor bosses like John Sweeney (left) and

Andy Stern have used their forced dues-funded empires to assist controversial political agendas.

have I alienated the AFL-CIO?"

The AFL-CIO kingpin admitted that Maryland union members had not been polled on the issue.

A wealth of other survey information strongly suggests that the vast majority of Free State union members would actually support the Marriage Protection Amendment.

An October 2004 *Detroit News* poll, for example, showed that two-thirds of union households supported a similar state marriage amendment that was then awaiting a vote in Michigan. This was "identical to the level of support in nonunion households." (That November, the Michigan amendment easily passed with the support of a 59% majority of voters.)

"Poll after poll shows, as with many other issues, there is an obvious rift between union officials and the workers for whom they claim to speak on the 'gay marriage' issue," said National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"The fact that, under federal law, millions of workers are being forced to bankroll political agendas that they oppose, but union bosses like AFL-CIO President John Sweeney favor, underscores the need for national Right to Work legislation.

"Unionized workers should have the same right as other Americans to make personal choices about which public policies and politicians they support or oppose.


"U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist [R-Tenn.] and House Speaker Dennis Hastert [R-Ill.] should take advantage of this opportunity to explain to the public the need to enact pending national Right to Work measures [S.370 and H.R.500], which they have already publicly indicated they favor."

Right to Work Can Level Legislative Playing Field

In addition to the AFL-CIO Executive Council, which publicly denounced the Federal Marriage Amendment in March 2005, other union bosses who have taken formal stands against legal protection for traditional marriage include Andy Stern, chief of the biggest CTWF union, and CTWF czarina Anna Burger.

Altogether, AFL-CIO, CTWF, and other union bosses will spend over a billion dollars this year advancing their own political agendas on a host of issues, including "gay marriage."

"The sure way to stop union bosses from forcing workers to bankroll causes and candidates with which the workers disagree is through enactment of Right to Work legislation, which would prohibit all forced union dues and fees," said Mr. Mix.

Mr. Mix asked Committee members to call Majority Leader Frist, 202-224-3344, and Speaker Hastert, 202-225-2976, to urge them to schedule recorded votes on S.370 and H.R.500 in the current Congress. 

Right to Work Law Is 'Transforming' Oklahoma

Real Household Income Rising, Poverty Falling in Sooner State

Four years ago last September, one of Big Labor's most formidable fear-and-loathing campaigns ever launched ended in failure when Oklahoma approved a statewide ban on compulsory union dues and fees and thus became the nation's 22nd Right to Work state.

Almost immediately, the very union bosses who had been shrilly predicting that a Sooner Right to Work law would swiftly lead to disaster moved to prevent the law from having any impact at all.

When the Right to Work law had been in effect just seven weeks, Big Labor lawyers launched an underhanded bid to overturn it. This legal attack kept the law's future under a cloud for more than two years.

But in December 2003, the state's attorneys and Right to Work attorneys intervening on behalf of several independent-minded workers finally prevailed when the Oklahoma Supreme Court unanimously rejected national AFL-CIO Associate General Counsel Larry Gold's demand that it overturn the law.

Since Ruling, Sooner Incomes Have Grown Half Again as Fast As Forced-Dues State Average

"Since the union bosses' legal assault on Oklahomans' Right to Work was thwarted, the state's economy has picked up more strength," observed Doug Stafford, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"From the first quarter of 2004 through the third quarter of 2005, real personal income in Oklahoma grew by 3.5% -- half again as fast as the overall average of the 28 forced-dues states.

"Over the past year alone, a wide array of businesses have announced major new investments in Oklahoma.

"For example, in December 2005 Mercury MerCruiser, a manufacturer of stern drive marine engines, announced it would expand operations in Stillwater, Okla., rather than beef up other domestic or offshore operations in China and Mexico.

"The planned \$13.5 million expansion of the company's Stillwater plant could add up to 100 jobs for machinists and die cast operators when complete.

"To mention just one other example, in July Dell announced it would expand



NSUOKEDU

MORE THAN JUST A PRETTY FACE. Oklahoma, America's newest Right to Work state, has bragging

rights not only about 2005 *American Idol* winner Carrie Underwood, but also about a host of new, high-paying jobs.

its customer-contact operation in Oklahoma City with an additional 120,000 square-foot building. The company increased the number of projected employees to 1000 by this year, up from 250-500 when the center was first announced in 2004."

Right to Work laws facilitate the creation of high-paying service-sector jobs, as well as traditionally unionized manufacturing jobs, because they help improve a state's general business climate.

Right to Work Laws Benefit Citizens at All Income Levels

"In states where forced dues are legal," explained Mr. Stafford, "union campaign operatives use a large chunk of the forced dues they grab to elect politicians who are beholden to Big Labor's agenda of higher taxes, more government spending, and strait-jacket regulation of business.

"This high-tax, high-regulation agenda hinders the creation of service and manufacturing jobs alike.

"That's why Right to Work laws increase opportunities for all kinds of citizens -- at all income levels.

"According to the U.S. Census Bureau, between 2000-2001 and 2003-2004, Oklahoma's constant-dollar median household income increased by

roughly \$1500, while the national median fell by \$1106 as a result of the 2001 recession and subsequent slow recovery.

"During the same period, the Sooner poverty rate dropped by 3.2 percentage points, while poverty increased by 1.1 percentage points nationwide.

"The evidence is clear that Oklahoma's Right to Work law is transforming the state. And the biggest benefits are yet to come."

Across the country, improved public understanding of the salutary economic impact of state Right to Work laws is helping to spur popular movements to ban forced union dues in more and more states.

As this Newsletter issue goes to press, grass-roots proponents of Right to Work have won or are seeking recorded votes on Right to Work measures in Missouri, Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, and a number of other states.

"The Committee and its 2.2 million members are greatly encouraged by these efforts at the state level," commented Mr. Stafford.

"And we will do everything possible to ensure their success."

Newsletter readers who want to help their state enact a Right to Work law may e-mail Committee Director of Legislation Greg Mourad -- gwm@nrtw.org -- to obtain pertinent information for their legislators and local media. 