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Michigan Passes State Right to Work Law *If Forced-Unionism Foes Can Do It There, They Can Do It Anywhere*

Last month, the U.S. Census Bureau issued a report showing a continuation of the massive exodus of employees and their families from forced-unionism states.

This is an exodus that the Census Bureau has documented ever since it began tracking state-to-state domestic migration during the 1990's.

According to the new report, from April 1, 2010 through July 1, 2012, a net total of nearly 809,000 Americans moved into one of the 22 Right to Work states from elsewhere in the U.S. (Since Indiana and Michigan did not pass their Right to Work laws until February and December 2012, respectively, they are not counted as Right to Work states in this analysis.)

Previously, from April 1, 2000 through July 1, 2009, there was a net transfer of nearly five million Americans to Right to Work states.

Employees of All Kinds Are 'Speaking' With Their Feet

"Of course, both forced-unionism states and Right to Work states were rocked by the Great Recession of 2007-2009," recalled Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"But Right to Work states retain far superior job-market fundamentals, and collectively they are once again growing far more rapidly than the national average.

"That's why the latest Census Bureau data continue to speak to the harmfulness of the federal labor-law provisions that empower Big Labor to get workers fired for refusal to pay dues or so-called 'agency' fees to an unwanted union.

"In the very latest year for which data are available, from July 1, 2011 through July 1, 2012, they present an especially stark contrast between Right to Work states and forced-unionism states.

"Not one of the 14 states suffering the worst net out-migration, in absolute numbers, to other states had a Right to Work law on the books as of 2011. But seven of the eight states with the greatest net in-migration from other states have Right to Work laws."

(See the chart on this page for more information. Since Indiana did not adopt its Right to Work law until

February 2012, it is excluded. Since Michigan did not adopt its Right to Work law until the period being considered was over, it is counted as a forced-unionism state.)

Mr. Mix added: "While Americans of all ages are moving to Right to Work states, young employees and entrepreneurs seeking higher incomes clearly constitute a major part of the transfer.

"Between 2000 and 2011, the number of Right to Work state residents in the 25-34 age bracket increased by 11.2%, from 15.272 million to 16.975 million.

See Workers page 2

Biggest Losers From Domestic Migration, July 2011–July 2012

New York	-115,754	Pennsylvania	-18,767
Illinois.....	-73,453	Missouri	-14,195
New Jersey	-49,300	Wisconsin	-9929
California	-44,451	Massachusetts.....	-9613
Ohio.....	-37,622	Minnesota	-8127
Michigan	-32,982	Maryland	-7821
Connecticut	-19,251	New Mexico	-7577

(All 14 are forced-unionism states.)

Figures denote net migration from other states between July 1, 2011 and July 1, 2012. States listed are the biggest losers in absolute, not percentage, terms. Indiana, which adopted its Right to Work law in February, 2012, is excluded.

Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

Not one of the states suffering the greatest net out-migration of people into other states from July 1, 2011 through

July 1, 2012 had a Right to Work law on the books as of 2011. Forced-unionism apologists can't explain why.

Workers Escape Compulsory Unionism

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"Meanwhile, the population aged 25-34 of non-Right to Work states inched up by just 0.7%, from 24.518 million to 24.679 million." (Since Indiana and Michigan were both forced-unionism states from 2000 to 2011, they are counted as such here.)

In 2012, Voters Rewarded Politicians For Curtailing Big Labor Privileges

Such data shouldn't come as any surprise, Mr. Mix explained.

"Government-sanctioned forced union dues and fees have predictable economic consequences," he said. "Where forced dues are legal, union bosses use their power to disrupt labor markets, jack up costs, and bankroll Tax & Spend, regulation-happy state legislators and governors.

"Forced-union-dues states consequently have far fewer economic opportunities to offer."

Of course, state elected officials from coast to coast have known about the detrimental impact of monopolistic unionism for many years.

But in 2013 there is good reason to hope that politicians in many forced-unionism states will be more likely to act on their knowledge.

That's the case in part because, in early 2012, Indiana became the only Great Lakes state with a private-sector Right to Work law, and the first new Right to Work state in more than five decades not to share a border with at least one other state that has such a statute.

Even more important, in November 2012 Indiana voters rewarded the Hoosier legislators who had voted for Right to Work and other legislative and executive candidates who had been publicly supportive of the measure.

In the race for the Indiana governorship, pro-Right to Work Republican Mike Pence defeated

union-label Democrat John Gregg by nearly 75,000 votes. The GOP state Senate and state House majorities both expanded, and by a full nine seats in the case of the House.

'We Think There's a Chance Just About Everywhere Now'

"The utter failure last November of national AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and other union kingpins to make good on their threats to punish Indiana politicians who had supported Right to Work was certainly a major factor in Michigan's passage of a Right to Work law the following month," noted Mr. Mix.

"Michigan legislators whose constituents had long pressed them to support a state Right to Work law, but had held back due to fear of Big Labor retaliation at the polls, could see for themselves that voters had actually rewarded Indiana politicians for standing up to the union bosses.

"And of course, passage of a Right to Work law in Michigan, a longtime bastion of compulsory unionism and as of 2011 the fifth-most unionized state in the country, will in itself have positive repercussions in other states.

"We think there's a chance just about everywhere now."

Right to Work Law Primarily a Moral Issue

Mr. Mix specifically mentioned several states as ripe for intensified Right to Work activism in the wake of the Indiana and Michigan victories:

"In Pennsylvania and Missouri, along with Montana, Alaska and several other states, grass-roots Right to Work efforts are being bolstered by the events of 2012.

"Residents of these states can see that Right to Work states as a group are doing far better at attracting and retaining jobs that pay well enough to support a family, once regional differences in the cost of living are taken into account.

"But Right to Work laws are actually first and foremost a matter of principle, rather than economics.

"No American should be forced to join or bankroll a union as a condition of employment. The vast majority of citizens simply agree with this principle, and would do so even if it were the case that Right to Work laws had no impact on the economy at all." 📣



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Freedom-loving constituents are already asking Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett (R) to stop trying to appease Big Labor

bosses, who hate him anyway, and start speaking out in favor of a Keystone State Right to Work law.

Top Prosecutor, Judge Were Cozy at Obama NLRB

Do GOP Leaders in Congress Have the Will to Rein in Rogue Agency?

From the time he launched it in May 2011, Acting National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) General Counsel Lafe Solomon's legal blitz against Boeing and its Palmetto State employees was controversial.

But now, roughly a year after the Boeing case itself was "settled," new questions are being raised about Mr. Solomon's conduct in the matter.

Until June 2010, Mr. Solomon, an unabashed partisan of monopolistic unionism, was a mostly anonymous cog in the NLRB bureaucracy. Then Democrat President Barack Obama, without the U.S. Senate's advice or consent, installed him as the board's top lawyer.

Less than a year later, the acting general counsel ignited a public-policy firestorm by filing a complaint against Boeing for initiating a second Dreamliner 787 aircraft production line in Right to Work South Carolina.

Employees in Right to Work States Are Mr. Solomon's Principal Targets

Mr. Solomon's case was built on a complaint filed by International Association of Machinists (IAM/AFL-CIO) union bosses.

Boeing had no right, union officials contended, to expand production in a Right to Work state so as to cut the cost to customers, employees and shareholders of the disruptive strikes that the union brass had repeatedly instigated at the company's West Coast facilities over the years.

Of course, production workers as well as managers, shareholders and customers are hurt by strikes, and it makes perfect business sense to try to avoid them.

Nevertheless, Mr. Solomon, egged on by IAM union chiefs, insisted Boeing's expansion choice was motivated by "anti-union animus," and therefore illegal.

In late November 2011, IAM bosses, having squeezed as much advantage out of the Boeing complaint as they could, cut a deal with the company and publicly indicated they wanted the case to go away. Within a few weeks, the case was dismissed.

But Boeing and the South Carolina employees who would have lost



CREDIT: MICHAEL RAMIREZ/INVESTORS BUSINESS DAILY

"Unfortunately, the out-of-court resolution of the Boeing case does nothing to stop President Obama's NLRB prosecutors

from mounting similar attacks on independent employees' Right to Work in other industries."

thousands of good jobs had the acting general counsel's position prevailed were not Mr. Solomon's only targets.

'That's Like a Prosecutor and a Judge Coordinating Their Messages For the Media'

"Unfortunately, the out-of-court resolution of the Boeing case does nothing to stop President Obama's NLRB prosecutors from mounting similar attacks on independent employees' Right to Work in other industries," noted National Right to Work Committee Vice President Mary King.

"Moreover, new evidence of Lafe Solomon's unfitness for the job President Obama gave him keeps emerging.

"In December, for example, the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform issued a report documenting an array of abuses over the past couple of years in the NLRB Office of General Counsel (OIG) as well as on the NLRB itself.

"The report demonstrates that the OIG, on Mr. Solomon's watch, has repeatedly sought to sabotage congressional oversight of the Boeing complaint by misleading legislators and delaying the production of documents.

"Even worse, there is clear evidence that in 2011 Mr. Solomon improperly communicated with then-NLRB Chairman Wilma Liebman about his media strategy in the Boeing case. That's like a prosecutor and a judge coordinating their messages for the media.

"And there is some evidence he may even have illegally communicated with Ms. Liebman regarding his legal strategy.

"Fortunately, the Republican House leaders who have been sharply critical of the Obama NLRB's excesses and will retain control of Congress's lower chamber this year and next have the power to rein in this rogue agency."

Ms. King vowed that the Right to Work Committee would work closely this year with Capitol Hill allies to craft one or more measures to prevent Lafe Solomon from launching additional assaults on independent employees' freedom to do their jobs without being corralled into an unwanted union.

"As the originator of all appropriations measures, including measures funding the NLRB, the House can stop the Obama NLRB in its tracks," Ms. King explained. "The only question is whether or not GOP House leaders have the will." 📌

Membership Ballot Protects Your Free Speech

Your Signature May Stop the FEC From Trampling on Your Rights

This month the National Right to Work Committee is providing supporters across the country with a much-needed opportunity to protect themselves, one by one, from Big Labor-friendly bureaucrats at the Federal Election Commission (FEC).

Given FEC bureaucrats' long track record of bullying pro-Right to Work Americans who try to exercise their First Amendment rights, this is an opportunity you can't afford to pass up.

Over the years, FEC lawyers have repeatedly buried Right to Work officers under mountains of harassing subpoenas concerning the Committee's survey program, which informs members which U.S. senators and congressmen support Right to Work -- and which ones don't.

FEC's Biased Definitions Of 'Member' Have Been Rejected by Courts

Starting nearly three decades ago, the FEC has tried to concoct rules that disqualify some or even all Right to Work members from "true" membership status.

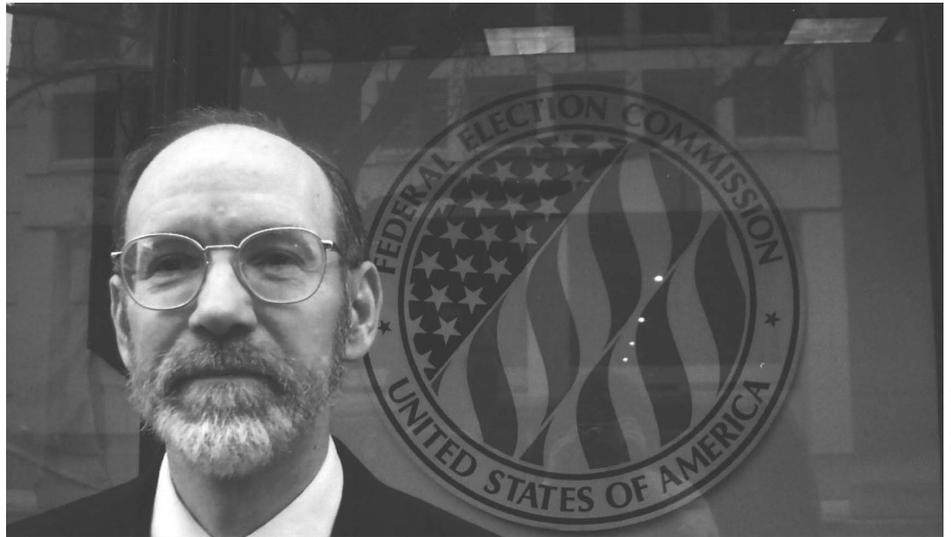
Many members would thus be denied a voice in the legislative process.

Fortunately, Right to Work attorneys and attorneys representing other citizens' groups have succeeded time and time again in getting the FEC's artificial and biased definitions of "member" and "membership organization" struck down in court.

But as a safeguard, the Committee has long encouraged members to certify each year that they still consider themselves to be members and wish to retain the freedom to participate fully in the Committee's federal lobbying activities.

Of course, Committee supporters' signed membership ballots cannot prevent every kind of FEC harassment -- such as the sweeping demands for Committee documents made by FEC lawyers a few years ago in connection with the Committee's successful efforts to overturn the so-called "Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002."

(Until the U.S. Supreme Court eliminated this law's tight restrictions on the ability of the Committee and other grass-roots groups to expose anti-Right to Work politicians' records



CREDIT: FILE PHOTO

Right to Work corporate counsel Rich Clair has repeatedly had to battle with FEC bureaucrats to stop them from

denying to Committee members "true" membership status under federal campaign law.

through TV and radio ads, it steepened the electoral playing field's tilt in favor of Big Labor.)

However, your signed and returned ballot will make it almost impossible for the FEC to declare that you have no associational free-speech rights.

To make it easy for Right to Work supporters to certify their Committee membership, Committee President Mark Mix, working with independent attorney Michael Avakian, recently sent out letters including membership ballots and pre-posted reply envelopes all around the country.

Mark Mix Urges Members To Return Ballots to Committee Headquarters Promptly

"The Committee is fighting for our freedom to ask all members -- including new members who have not yet had an opportunity to fill out a membership ballot -- to participate in our efforts to get federal candidates to pledge to support Right to Work," said Mr. Mix.

"But signing and returning a membership ballot is the quickest and easiest way for each individual Right to Work member to protect his or her rights.

"If you don't want the FEC ever to tell you that you have no right to be informed where your presidential and U.S. Senate and House candidates stand on Right to Work, or to lobby

them to change their position when appropriate, then the smartest thing you can do this winter is sign and return your ballot to the Committee.

"Please verify that you got your letter and ballot in the mail.

"And then try to return your ballot immediately, so you can't possibly forget."

Letters Also Seek Members' Input Regarding Committee Legislative Objectives

Mr. Mix's letters also include surveys allowing members to offer their opinions on how much of the Committee's resources should be devoted to federal and state lobbying programs over the coming year.

"Many Committee members care most of all about our efforts to secure U.S. House and Senate votes on a national Right to Work law this year," said Mr. Mix.

"But other members want us to focus on passing new state Right to Work laws and protecting existing ones. These are also very important battles.

"We need a wide variety of members' input and their ever-more generous financial support in order to combat effectively the Big Labor political machine, which is sure to spend over a billion dollars in forced-dues money on federal politics and lobbying in 2013 and 2014." 

Forced Unionism Linked to Health-Insurance Ills

Private Health Coverage Bounces Back in Right to Work States

Big Labor's allies sometimes concede that states with Right to Work laws, which bar the firing of employees for refusal to pay dues or fees to their "exclusive" (monopolistic) union bargaining agents, enjoy accelerated job creation.

Whenever forced-unionism apologists do make this concession, they insist the jobs created in Right to Work states are "the wrong kind."

But the fact is, it is in the non-Right to Work states as a group where new jobs are more typically not productive enough to come with important benefits like health insurance.

Runaway costs associated with Medicare and Medicaid, the two largest taxpayer-funded health-insurance programs, are helping to bust the federal budget and put many state governments deep in the red.

Private Health Coverage Expanded by 1.69 Million in Right to Work States in 2011

The so-called "Affordable Care Act" of 2010, otherwise known as ObamaCare, was sold in part on the theory that it would help stop Medicare and Medicaid costs from spiraling out of control.

Even at the time of ObamaCare's enactment, it seemed extraordinarily unlikely this promise would be fulfilled. Today the odds are slimmer still.

"Clearly, the accelerated creation of good jobs that are sufficiently productive to absorb the high cost of family health-care benefits remains a key component for resolving the Medicare and Medicaid crises," observed Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"Sadly, millions and millions of such jobs were destroyed throughout the country during the Great Recession of 2007-2009.

"In 2011, however, despite the tepid national recovery, private insurance bounced back vigorously in many, though far from all, states."

That year Right to Work states as a group (then 22 in number) enjoyed a net increase of 1.69 million, or 2.6%, in the number of people covered by private, employment-based health insurance.

Meanwhile, the 28 states that at that time did not protect employees from federally-imposed compulsory



CREDIT: FOX BUSINESS

Mark Mix: Right to Work states are superior in creating jobs that come with health benefits.

unionism suffered a net decline of roughly 970,000 in private, job-based insurance coverage.

(Indiana and Michigan, which became the 23rd and 24th Right to Work states, respectively, in 2012, are counted as forced-unionism states in the calculations above.)

Congress Created Problem Of Compulsory Unionism

"Right to Work states' superiority in creating jobs that come with health-insurance benefits is no mere one-year anomaly," said Mr. Mix.

Over the past decade for which data are available (2001-2011), despite the

enormous setback of the Great Recession, Right to Work states as a group (again excluding Indiana and Michigan) added roughly 870,000 people, net, to the ranks of the privately insured.

Meanwhile, forced-unionism states saw their ranks of privately insured people shrink by 7.71 million.

(The data cited here, unlike those above, include people who buy their own private insurance as well as those who receive private insurance through their employers.)

Had private insurance coverage increased in forced-unionism states as much as it did in Right to Work states over the past decade, there would have been roughly 9.2 million more people with private insurance nationwide in 2011 than the actual figure of 197.3 million.

"Where forced dues are legal, union bosses use their power to dislocate labor markets, jack up costs, and bankroll Tax & Spend, regulation-happy politicians," explained Mr. Mix.

"The evidence indicates fewer jobs that pay well and offer good benefits are created as a consequence.

"And Congress created the problem of private-sector compulsory unionism. Among the estimated 6.5 million non-farm, private-sector workers who are forced to pay union dues to keep their jobs, hardly any are forced to do so by a state law.

"Congress created the moral evil of forced unionism and the economic ills it spawns. It's Congress's responsibility to correct its mistake." 

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'Forced Solidarity Is No Solidarity at All'

Michigan Employees Key Leaders in State Right to Work Campaign

Big Labor propaganda against Right to Work laws commonly presupposes that virtually all, if not all, unionized employees actually want to be forced to pay union dues or fees as a condition of employment.

The union rank and file, we are implicitly told, do not trust themselves and their fellow employees to support "workers' organizations" voluntarily even if they believe those organizations are doing a good job. Ordinary employees need to be compelled to do "the right thing."

But the fact is, reputable polls have shown for decades that most union members reject this cynical rationalization for compulsory unionism.

For example, a fall 2010 scientific survey of union members nationwide, conducted by well-known pollster Frank Luntz for the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, gauged union members' opinions on Right to Work and other related issues.

Nearly 80% of all Americans who regularly vote in federal elections support the Right to Work principle. The Luntz survey showed that union members share the views of the vast majority of their fellow citizens on this issue.

Most (54%) union members "strongly agreed" that workers should "never be forced or coerced to join or pay dues to a union as a condition of employment." An additional 26% "somewhat agreed," whereas only 14% disagreed, either "somewhat" or "strongly."

Terry Bowman: Responsible Unionism Impossible Without The Right to Work

Among the millions of unionized employees who oppose compulsory unionism, a significant number are actively involved in the fight to pass more Right to Work legislation. One remarkable example is Terry Bowman, an employee at the Rawsonville Ford Plant in Ypsilanti, Mich., and a member of the United Autoworkers (UAW/AFL-CIO) union for the past 15 years.

In 2010, Mr. Bowman founded a grass-roots group dedicated in large part to pushing for passage of a Michigan Right to Work law.



Ford autoworker and UAW member Terry Bowman (right): "The truth is freedom to work does not ban unions, it

does not get rid of collective bargaining, and it does not stop anyone from forming, joining or assisting a union."

At the end of last year, the efforts of Mr. Bowman and many other likeminded citizens, including thousands of Michigan members of the National Right to Work Committee, came to fruition as the Wolverine State became the 24th to adopt a statute banning compulsory union dues and fees.

In an op-ed published in the *Detroit News* just days before final passage of private- and public-sector Right to Work measures in Michigan, Mr. Bowman expressed his strong belief that this legislation would represent a big step forward for responsible unionism:

"Unionism in the private sector used to be over 30 percent, now it is a paltry 6.9 percent. Forced unionism isn't working. Forced solidarity is no solidarity at all. Even prisoners in a chain gang have solidarity.

"Only through complete voluntary unionism will there be real solidarity that fosters mature relationships to save and create jobs. To be a pro-union worker means to be pro-freedom to work."

'Workers Are Frustrated Over a Lack of on-the-Job Representation'

Union bigwigs routinely misrepresent Right to Work laws as an attempt to destroy unions and prevent them from bargaining on behalf of

employees who wish to join. Over the years, they have succeeded in confusing many union members and other citizens about what Right to Work laws actually do.

But Mr. Bowman believes the tide is turning. And he has substantial evidence to back him up. For example, as UAW PR agent Frank Hammer has conceded, Big Labor's Proposal 2 -- the November 2012 ballot measure that would have rendered any Michigan Right to Work statute unconstitutional -- "didn't have solid support . . . even within union ranks."

Mr. Bowman has no doubt why hundreds of thousands of members of union households joined with the majority of their fellow Michiganders to defeat Proposal 2:

"All across Michigan in every union, workers are frustrated over a lack of on-the-job representation, being denied their First Amendment right of freedom of association, and unions taking their money and spending it on a political agenda with which 40 percent or more of members disagree."

Terry Bowman and a number of other Michigan union members who publicly campaigned for a Michigan Right to Work law and are now defending the new statute represent a key part of the coalition against compulsory unionism. The entire national Right to Work movement owes these men and women a debt of gratitude. 📧

Big Labor Bosses Defeated in Michigan

Continued from page 8

presented itself to them shortly after the fall elections.

The National Right to Work Committee has for years been calling upon candidates for state office in Michigan to pledge 100% support for Right to Work, and giving encouragement and advice to grassroots citizens seeking to pass a state law revoking union officials' forced-dues and forced-fee privileges.

After Rep. Mike Shirkey (Clark Lake) and Sen. Pat Colbeck (Canton), the two legislators who went on to become the lead sponsors of successful Right to Work measures in their respective chambers, were first elected in November 2010, National Right to Work officers worked with them and other allies in the state.

The evening the Michigan Right to Work Bills were signed into law, Mr. Shirkey left a grateful message on Mr. Mix's cell phone: "I wanted to let you know I really appreciate you, and all you guys have done I cannot thank you enough."

The National Committee's assistance included a massive phone and mail mobilization in the days before the legislative fight began. And independently from such mobilization efforts, Right to Work's research affiliate, the National Institute for Labor Relations Research, supplied Michigan elected officials, journalists, policy organizations, and ordinary citizens with information advancing the moral and economic arguments for forced-dues repeal.

Probably the most important contribution of all made by National Right to Work to freedom-loving Michiganians' victory was the Committee's work since 2003 in helping build legislative and public support for the 23rd state Right to Work law in Indiana.

Battle to Defend Michigan Law Is Only Beginning

"Our legislative allies in Michigan are convinced that both the passage of the Indiana law and the subsequent electoral success of Hoosier Right to Work supporters in November are critical in explaining what happened in Michigan in December," said Mr. Mix.

He vowed that the National Committee's efforts to ensure Michigan

employees are free to work regardless of union affiliation or nonaffiliation would continue in the wake of the 24th state Right to Work law's passage.

"It's plain to see that union bigwigs are far from ready to accept the decision of Michigan's Legislature and governor," Mr. Mix explained. "They are now preparing to attack the latest state Right to Work law on multiple fronts."

On the floor of the Michigan House the day it gave final approval to private- and public-sector Right to Work measures, union-label state Rep. Douglas Geiss (Taylor) raged:

"We're going to pass something that will undo 100 years of labor relations, and there will be blood. There will be repercussions!"

That evening, Teamster don Jim Hoffa seethed on CNN that the signing of Right to Work legislation by Gov. Snyder was "just the first round of a battle that's going to divide this state. We're going to have a civil war."

A few days later, Al Garrett and Larry Roehrig, the two top bosses of the Detroit-based Council 25 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME/

AFL-CIO) union, laid out their strategy to destroy the Right to Work law and get "retribution" against supporters in a taped conference call.

According to a report by *Michigan Capital Confidential*, Mr. Garrett said efforts to "recall" the governor and legislators who had voted for the bill would start "as soon as we can." He also said union lawyers were "combing over the law to see if it can be overturned in court."

'Right to Work Supporters In Michigan and Nationwide Won't Rest on Their Laurels'

Mr. Mix vowed that attorneys for the Committee's sister organization, the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, would help shield Michigan's Right to Work statute from union lawyers' attacks.

He also promised to help mobilize the vast majority of Michiganians who support Right to Work during any and all future campaigns in which Big Labor is seeking to retaliate against Michigan elected officials for opposing forced union dues.

"Rest assured, Right to Work supporters in Michigan and nationwide won't rest on their laurels," he concluded. 🇺🇸



Teamster czar Jim Hoffa (left) has warned, "We're going to have a civil war" over Michigan's new Right to



Work law. Big Labor state Rep. Douglas Geiss has raged that "there will be blood."

CREDIT: POLITICALTICKER.BLOGS.CNN.COM (LEFT), NATIONALREVIEW.COM (RIGHT)

'Overnight' Victory Was Years in the Making

Big Labor's 'Easy Flow' of Forced-Dues Money Cut Off in Michigan

Top union officials in Washington, D.C., are bitter and furious about their watershed defeat late last year in Michigan, a state that for decades was a stronghold of compulsory unionism.

In two separate votes on Tuesday, December 11, the Michigan state House approved private- and public-sector Right to Work measures that had been adopted a few days earlier by the Senate. Hours later, Gov. Rick Snyder signed both bills into law.

All the new Michigan Right to Work law will directly do, once it takes effect this spring, is prohibit the firing of employees for refusal to pay dues or fees to a union they don't want, and never asked for.

In other words, as former National Writers Union President and zealous Big Labor partisan Jon Tasini admitted in a commentary about the news from Michigan, union bosses "can no longer rely on an easy flow of [forced-] dues money deducted automatically from wages."

'It Takes Moxie For Union Bosses to Portray Themselves as Victims'

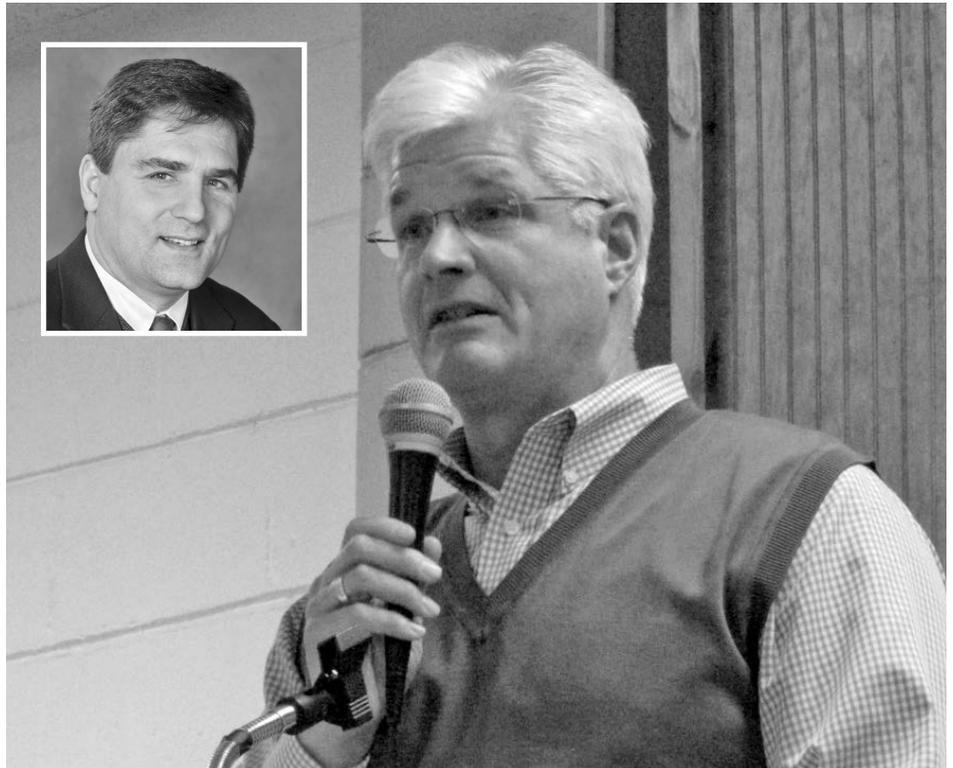
"It takes moxie for union bosses to portray themselves as victims because, in 24 states, they have lost a legal privilege that virtually no other private organizations ever had in the first place," observed National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"But that is exactly what union officials from AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka on down are doing now."

In an interview with the rabidly pro-forced unionism *Huffington Post* published December 21, Mr. Trumka baselessly charged that Gov. Snyder had "flushed . . . his principles" by approving Right to Work legislation.

The fact is, in successfully seeking the GOP gubernatorial nomination and the governorship in 2010, Mr. Snyder said in public that if elected he would sign a Right to Work measure if it came to his desk. He did this because he knew Michiganians oppose forced unionism.

Like many politicians, Mr. Snyder hedged his position, attempting to appease Big Labor. He indicated he wouldn't push for passage of a Right to



Working with National Committee officers, Rep. Mike Shirkey (Clark Lake, main photo) and Sen. Pat Colbeck

(Canton, inset) have over the past two years led the charge for Right to Work in the Michigan state capitol.

Work law. But he never said he opposed such laws in principle.

Big Labor knew full well Mr. Snyder supported Right to Work, albeit timidly. That's why United Autoworkers (UAW/AFL-CIO) union chief Bob King decided shortly after Indiana approved the 23rd state Right to Work law last February to mount a preemptive strike against Right to Work in Michigan.

Joined by a host of other union officials, the UAW brass concocted a November 2012 ballot initiative known as Proposal 2.

Had it been approved, Proposal 2 would have made it constitutionally impossible for Michigan's elected officials to adopt a Right to Work law or restrict substantially Big Labor's monopoly privileges in any other way.

Unfortunately for Bob King and his cohorts, the people of Michigan refused to go along. And Proposal 2's defeat by 57.4% of Michigan voters actually emboldened many elected officials who had been sitting on the fence to support Right to Work.

"The 'stab in the back' theory Richard Trumka and other top union bosses are now floating to explain how a Right to Work law was adopted in Michigan is nothing but a fantasy," declared Mr. Mix.

"What actually happened is that the union hierarchy saw support for Right to Work in Michigan growing rapidly and sought to nip it in the bud, but its efforts backfired and made enactment of a ban on forced union dues possible years earlier than would otherwise have been the case."

National Committee Provided Michigan's Grass-Roots Activists With Encouragement, Advice

In retrospect, Big Labor's Proposal 2 was a gross miscalculation.

But it never would have led to the approval of a state Right to Work law in late 2012 if freedom-loving Michiganians hadn't been prepared to take advantage of the opportunity that

See *Big Labor Bosses* page 7