NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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'Reform' Would Assist Corrupt Union Kingmakers

Campaign-Season Gag Rule Targets Opponents of Forced Unionism

This month, a team of Big Labor politicians and others who seem to be simply misguided are poised to ram through the U.S. Senate legislation that would tilt the electoral playing field even more steeply in favor of the union hierarchy, already the most powerful political machine in America.

Displaying, on the one hand, remarkable cynicism and, on the other, incredible naiveté, proponents are selling this scheme as campaign-finance "reform."

This so-called "reform" (S.27) would put sweeping new restrictions on voluntary political contributions and lobbying activities.

Specifically, S.27 would cripple Right to Work efforts to offset AFL-CIO bosses' campaign war chest, which consists mostly of forced union dues and whose estimated value is $800 million per federal election cycle.

This war chest isn't used for direct campaign contributions.

Instead, it is commandeered to pay for phone banks, get-out-the-vote drives, and many other activities collectively known as "in-kind" support for union boss-favored candidates.

Bill Would Eviscerate Right to Work Members' Freedom of Speech

Big Labor's slanted "issue discussion" TV and radio ads, which are valued at tens of millions of dollars per campaign cycle and have been repeatedly shown to include gross distortions and falsehoods, are the best publicized example.

As explained below, S.27 would actually help union bosses make their

See **War Chest** *next page*

WARWICK HUTTON / MACMILLAN PUB. CO.

The so-called campaign-finance "reform" now headed for the U.S. Senate floor is a Trojan horse that would actually help the corrupt union hierarchy funnel even more forced dues into politics.

Bill Expands Forced-Dues War Chest

Continued from page 1

forced-dues juggernaut even bigger!

And it would at the same time bar the National Right to Work Committee and other grass-roots groups from countering Big Labor's multi-million-dollar TV-and-radio ad campaigns by informing citizens where their candidates stand on forced unionism!

To continue to spend more than $10,000 on broadcast "issue" ads during primary and general election campaigns, the Committee would be forced to publish many of its members' names — exposing them to retaliation by union thugs.

Of course, this phony "disclosure" scheme is artfully drawn to have no practical impact on union bosses' TV and radio ads.

As Committee President Reed Larson has vowed repeatedly, "The Committee will never hand over any of our members' names or addresses for any reason."

Therefore, if S.27 passes in its present form, the Committee will be effectively forced to sit on the sidelines while union bosses spend tens of millions of dollars on vicious "issue ads" attacking pro-Right to Work candidates.

Corruption Entrenched Under Federal Labor Policy

The fact is, the main source of U.S. political corruption today is the federal labor-law provisions that empower Big Labor to force workers to pay union dues or "fees," or be fired.

And even good-faith efforts to stop the political abuse of the $5 billion in forced dues union bosses rake in annually under National Labor Relations Act and Railway Labor Act provisions can have but little impact.

That's because the phone banks, mass mailings, and campaign staff Big Labor pays for with forced dues are highly effective at getting union-label candidates elected, but not deemed "political" under federal or state campaign-finance statutes.

Therefore, any campaign-finance reform clause banning "political" uses of confiscated dues is largely meaningless.

But S.27 is truly damaging, because it specifically authorizes confiscation of objecting workers' dues for politicking that is "related" to Big Labor's monopoly-bargaining activities.

Under the U.S. Supreme Court's *Beck* decision and related decisions won by National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation attorneys, workers who object currently have the legal right to stop the misuse of their forced dues for any kind of politics or lobbying.

Forced-Dues Repeal Necessary For Genuine Campaign-Finance Reform

Scofflaw union bosses have so far blocked from exercising their *Beck* rights the large majority of the 60% of private-sector union-"represented" workers who, according to a recent opinion poll, don't want any of their dues spent on politicking.

That means nearly five million of the eight million private-sector forced dues payers are being denied their rights.

But tens of thousands are getting relief.

S.27 would wipe out the modest progress independent-minded workers have made and prevent any future gains.

"Any true federal campaign-finance reform package would have to begin with the National Right to Work Act, which would abolish the forced-dues provisions in federal labor law," said Mr. Larson.

"The *Beck* decision was a step in the right direction, but it can never put workers on an even keel with the union bosses who retain the power to get them fired for refusal to pay tribute.

"The only way to eliminate forced union dues from politics is to eliminate them altogether."

Fully four decades ago, the late Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black recognized that political corruption is inextricably tied to forced-dues labor laws in his prophetic dissent in *Machinists vs. Street*.

The "remedy" of authorizing forced dues while seeking to regulate their diversion into politics, wrote Justice Black, "with its attendant trial burdens, promises little hope for financial recompense to the individual workers whose First Amendment freedoms have been flagrantly violated. . . .

"I cannot agree to treat so lightly the value of a man's constitutional right to be wholly free from any sort of governmental compulsion in the expression of opinions."

AP / KENNETH LAMBERT

Sen. Feingold would crack down on citizen groups' "issue ads" — but not the union bosses'.

Big Labor Wisconsin Senator Promotes His Self-interest, Labels It as 'Reform'

"It's easy to understand why union-label Democrat Sen. Russ Feingold [Wis.] is helping lead the charge for S.27, and why habitual forced-unionism supporters in the Senate are lining up behind it," said Mr. Larson.

"The simple answer is: This bill would rig federal-election law even further in Big Labor's favor and hand union operatives almost unlimited power over our political system.

"What's very hard to fathom is why GOP Sen. John McCain [Ariz.] and a handful of other on-again, off-again Right to Work supporters in the Senate are working with Mr. Feingold to pass this scheme.

"Can it really be that Mr. McCain doesn't understand that this bill constitutes an assault on the Right to Work cause?"

Late last month Committee representatives at its two phone banks in Virginia Beach and Newport News, Va., launched a nationwide member-mobilization program to stop S.27.

Mr. Larson encouraged Right to Work members to contact their senators today at 202-224-3121 and request that they oppose S.27 on all votes.

In addition, members are urged to call President Bush immediately at 202-456-1111 and request he promise to veto S.27 and any similar campaign-finance "reform."

How You Can Leave a 'Legacy of Freedom'

Matthew Leen, Right to Work vice president of strategic programs, explains how you may attain tax savings by making non-cash, "in-kind" contributions to the Committee.

Dear Member,

Over the past few years, I have personally visited hundreds of National Right to Work Committee members around the country to brief them about the Committee's legislative battle plans and to request financial support for their implementation.

Many have responded with generous financial support that has been vital for our battles with Big Labor.

While most members choose to make these important programs possible by contributing cash or a check, occasionally I bring up how it might be to their advantage to make instead a non-cash, "in-kind" contribution.

Newsletter readers who have never made a non-cash contribution may wish to consider for themselves whether by doing so they could save on their taxes as well as leave a legacy to a cause they believe in.

Appreciated Stock Shares May Be Contributed Without Incurring Capital-Gains Tax

Of course, along with all other Committee officers and staff, I deeply appreciate your check and cash contributions.

Without them, the Committee wouldn't survive, and union bosses would have free reign to spread forced unionism and its myriad evils throughout the 50 states.

But if you own stocks, bonds, or other taxable assets whose value has appreciated substantially since you bought them, then an in-kind contribution this year may be advantageous for you and the Right to Work cause.

For example, perhaps you bought stock shares decades ago that are now valued at several times their purchase price.

Depending on your circumstances, selling some shares and reinvesting the proceeds elsewhere to reduce risk might be prudent, except that the capital gains-tax liability incurred by the sale may exceed the benefits.

By contributing your shares to the Committee instead of selling them, you can benefit a cause you believe in without sending anything extra to the IRS. (As a nonprofit, the Committee will never have to pay a capital-gains tax on your gift.)

Meanwhile, you can put the cash you save by making a non-cash donation into whatever investment you like.

How One Member Saved Nearly $1500 in Taxes

For example, not long ago one member from the Midwest donated $8000 in shares of stock he had purchased years before for well under $1000.

The member saved nearly $1500 in taxes by contributing in-kind rather than selling the stock and donating cash.

"I want to do everything I can to convince Congress to correct the mistake it made by empowering Organized Labor to get workers fired for refusal to pay dues or so-call 'fees' to a union," said the freedom-loving Midwesterner.

"By contributing stock shares instead of cash, I could afford to do more and move around my estate portfolio without suffering tax consequences."

Depending on how much your investment has appreciated, you may also be able to enjoy a similar savings (in percentage terms), no matter what the size of your contribution.

Committee Endowment Fund Honors Labor Forefather, A Forced-Unionism Foe

In addition to stocks and bonds, you can donate appreciated real estate, life insurance policies, dividends paid on those policies, and much more.

It is important to remember, however, that both cash and non-cash contributions of or equivalent to $10,000 or more are subject to federal estate taxes.

To ensure compliance with tax laws regarding non-cash contributions, you should contact your attorney and/or financial advisor before proceeding.

In an effort to assist supporters who want to use their cash or non-cash contributions to establish a legacy for the cause of employee freedom, the Committee set up the Samuel Gompers endowment fund in 1999.

The founder of the American Federation of Labor (precursor to today's AFL-CIO), Sam Gompers was an eloquent foe of compulsion in general and compulsory unionism in particular.

One of his most famous statements on the issue is permanently inscribed in the lobby of the Committee's Springfield, Va., headquarters:

"The workers of America adhere to voluntary institutions in preference to compulsory systems, which are held to be not only impractical, but a menace to their rights, welfare and their liberty."

If you would like to leave a legacy of freedom for millions of American workers, give me a call, and I'll do all within my power to help.

I can be reached at 888-748-2975, or, if you prefer, you can e-mail me at mml@nrtw.org, or write me in care of the National Right to Work Committee, 8001 Braddock Rd., Springfield, Va. 22160.

Sincerely, Matthew Leen

'The workers of America adhere to voluntary institutions in preference to compulsory systems, which are held to be . . . a menace to their rights, welfare and their liberty.' ***— Sam Gompers***

Teacher Union Bosses' Contract Rat's Nest

The American Enterprise

By George Liebmann
January/February 2001

(Editor's note: America's industrial-style education union monopoly, under which employees are forced by 34 state laws to accept union officials as their "exclusive" workplace bargaining agents, has put American public education in a state of crisis.

Monopoly-bargaining laws deny teachers who prefer not to join a union the freedom to negotiate a contract on their own behalf, without union-boss interference.

Writer George Liebmann recently completed a study gauging monopoly-bargained contracts' harmful impact on education. He has published a summary of his findings in *The American Enterprise*.)

The veto power that teacher unions hold over educational decisions through their union contracts is a major obstacle to school improvement. Here are some of the harmful provisions common in many teacher contracts across the country.

- In some states, teacher pay increases automatically with seniority up into the thirteenth year. This soaks up funds that could be better used for merit pay or higher salaries for the best new teachers.

The Labour government in Britain proposes ending automatic teacher pay increases at the tenth year — an example worth copying.

- Very few U.S. school districts provide added pay for superior performance. Tony Blair's government in Britain, by contrast, seeks to provide merit incentives in the $5,000–$7,000 range for half the teaching force, plus a fast-track reward of $10,000 to $12,000 for honors graduates who enter teaching.

Our unions strenuously resist any connection between pay and classroom performance.

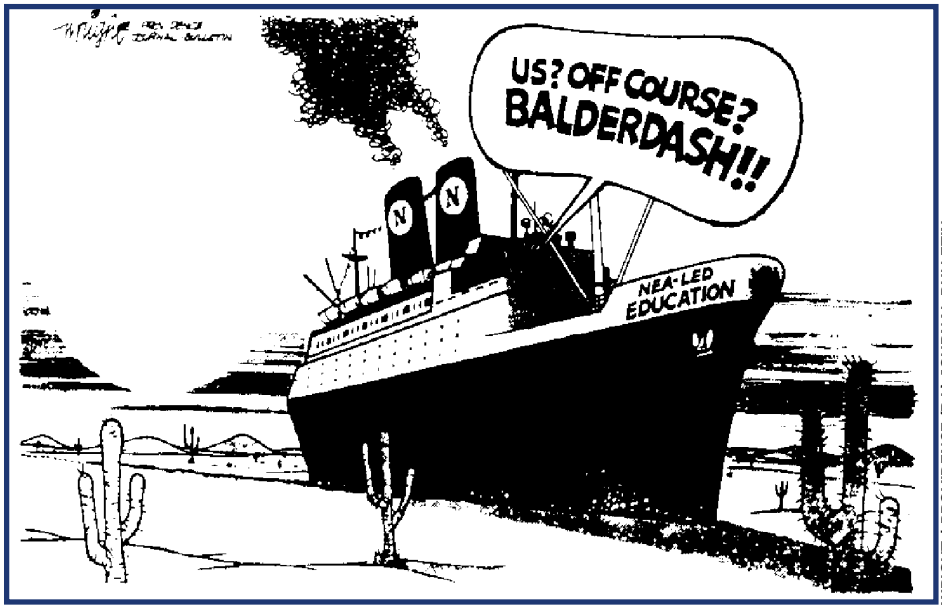
The largest teachers' union, the National Educational Association, recently declared that "Merit pay or any other system of compensation based on an evaluation of an education employee's performance is inappropriate." At long last, one major school district — Cincinnati — has implemented a merit-pay system anyway.

- Union contracts encumber teacher evaluation by limiting its frequency (say, to once every five years), limiting unannounced classroom visits, and requiring unfavorable comments be deleted from a teacher's file after a certain period. The result: Only a fraction of one percent of teachers are ever sanctioned for poor classroom performance.
- Unions have strenuously resisted probationary periods for new teachers. Union contracts frequently give persons serving probation elaborate procedural rights which make it hard to release bad apples.
- Because of union opposition, very few school districts authorize extra pay for teachers in scarce disciplines like computer science. At its last convention, the NEA actually declared, "The Association opposes providing additional compensation to attract and/or retain education employees in hard-to-recruit positions."

The upshot in Maryland, to take one example, is that the state recruits only half the physics and chemistry instructors it needs.

- Few contracts allow administrators to hire talented candidates who come from outside the established teacher-college channels — like returning housewives, bright liberal arts graduates, and military or police officers. In many states, state laws now forbid hiring new teachers unless they've attended at least a year of education courses. Training in hard subject matter is not recognized. . . .
- Union contracts provide interminable grievance appeals. Instead of giving politically responsible school boards the last word, many contracts transfer final decision-making powers to third-party arbitrators (who have an incentive to split any difference to secure re-employment).
- Many contracts preclude what would seem normal teaching responsibilities. Two Maryland contracts absolve teachers from supervising student teachers; the Baltimore contract excuses them from cafeteria duty, detention duty, lavatory and office duty, and the duplication of teaching materials. . . . Most contracts reserve coaching and extracurricular activity supervision to teachers, excluding community volunteers. Two Maryland contracts even bar teachers from being required to maintain student attendance records.
- Contracts often allow unions to collect agency fees even from teachers who don't join the union, and to use the payroll system to channel funds to union political action committees.

The first step toward eliminating destructive contract provisions like these is simply for more people to learn that they exist — in most of our home towns.



WRIGHT / PROVIDENCE (R.I.) JOURNAL-BULLETIN

When NEA union officials wield monopoly-bargaining power in nearly 70% of U.S. school districts to deny appropriate pay to outstanding teachers, it's little wonder our schools don't improve.

Big Labor Attacks Nebraskans' Right to Work

Forced-Unionism Bills Ready For Senate Panel's Rubber-Stamp

Apparently ignoring the risks of provoking a battle with freedom-loving constituents, members of the Nebraska Senate Business and Labor Committee are poised to approve two bills that would bore gaping holes in the state's popular Right to Work law.

After holding a perfunctory hearing February 12, at press time the panel is on the verge of rubber-stamping Right to Work-gutting measures L.B.29, authored by Sen. Pam Redfield (Omaha) and L.B.153, authored by Sen. John Hilgert (Omaha).

Both bills could then be scheduled for quick-snap floor votes in the Senate, Nebraska's sole legislative chamber.

L.B.29 is supposedly a "remedy" for an unjust 1969 Nebraska statute that now forces tens of thousands of public employees to accept government union officials as their "exclusive" bargaining agents in contract negotiations and grievance procedures.

Under current law, an employee who chooses not to join a union can take money out of his own pocket to pay for a nonunion lawyer to argue his grievance — then see the settlement junked because it doesn't conform to the union contract!

Misguided 'Remedy' Would Make Monopoly-Bargaining Law Even More Unjust

L.B.29 would compound this injustice by forcing any union nonmember who, realizing he has no real choice, instead follows union-created grievance procedures to pay so-called "agency fees" to the union.

And L.B.29 would let the union bosses decide how much to charge for their monopolistic grievance "service."

Employees who balked at paying exorbitant fees to Big Labor could be hauled into court.

L.B.153 is an even more direct assault on Right to Work. That measure would force all public and private employees subject to union monopoly bargaining to pay union tribute, or risk being sued by Big Labor's army of lawyers.

Nebraska Attorney General Don Stenberg ruled in 1993 that a bill identical to L.B.153 blatantly violated the Right to Work provision in Nebraska's state constitution.

Right to Work's John Tate charges Big Labor senators are "aiming a wrecking ball" at Nebraska's economy.

Like similar laws in 20 other states, Nebraska's Right to Work law partially restores for private-sector employees the individual freedom of choice that pro-union monopoly federal labor law takes away from them.

Therefore, employees cannot be fired for refusal to join a union or for refusal to pay dues to union bargaining agents they don't want and never asked for.

In fact, Cornhusker State employees, private and public alike, enjoy both constitutional and statutory protection.

Nevertheless, Big Labor-backed state politicians have for years sought to prove their fealty to union officials by eviscerating the law to compel financial support for unions.

"With the national economy already in serious danger of falling into recession, Big Labor politicians in Lincoln are aiming a wrecking ball at their state's economy," said National Right to Work Committee Vice President John Tate.

Mr. Tate explained that government-imposed union monopoly bogs down economic growth because it actively discourages workers' efforts to improve their productivity, "which are essential for fending off a recession."

Even Richard Rothstein of the Economic Policy Institute, an AFL-CIO-funded "think tank" in Washington, D.C., admitted a few years ago that one typical result of union boss-negotiated contracts is "reducing pay of the most productive workers."

"But the harm is far less extensive in Right to Work states, where highly productive workers have the freedom to fight back against union bosses who discriminate against them by withholding their dues," noted Mr. Tate.

"And better incentives for employees lead to higher real incomes in Right to Work states."

The Nobel Prize-winning Economics Department of George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., published a study last year comparing household incomes, adjusted for taxes and other living costs, in metro areas in Right to Work and non-Right to Work states.

The study revealed that Right to Work states have an adjusted mean two-income household income nearly $1200 a year above that of non-Right to Work states.

Members Mobilized To Lobby State Legislators

By moving L.B.153 and the slightly less extreme L.B.29 toward the Senate floor in concert, union strategists may be calculating they will give fence-sitting senators cover to vote for the latter as a "compromise."

"Nebraska Right to Work supporters must not allow Big Labor to get away with any such 'bait and switch' scheme," Mr. Tate remarked.

"Both L.B.153 and L.B.29 are forced-unionism bills and any state senator who votes for either bill will have voted against freedom."

Mr. Tate added that Committee members and supporters in Nebraska are being contacted as Committee officers await reports that L.B.153 and L.B.29 are headed for the Senate floor.

"By personally asking their senators to oppose these special-interest bills, Committee members can safeguard Nebraskans' constitutional Right to Work," he said.

"Nebraska state senators know from the experience of some of their former colleagues that they disregard the wishes of pro-Right to Work constituents at their own peril.

"With our members' assistance, I'm optimistic the Committee can not only defeat L.B.153 and L.B.29, but also convince the Nebraska Legislature to cease all efforts to tamper with the Right to Work law."

Dubya Curbs Taxpayer-Subsidized Discrimination

Committee Commends Crackdown on Union-Only 'Project Labor' Deals

Responding to the growing outcry by independent-minded employees, firms and taxpayers against discriminatory "project labor agreements," the White House issued an executive order last month cracking down on such schemes.

Executive Order 13202 would ban virtually all "project labor agreements" (PLA's) on contracts funded wholly or partly by federal taxpayers.

(This was one of three Right to Work-related orders issued by the White House February 17.

Orders designed to notify federal-contract employees of their rights under the Supreme Court's *Beck* decision and curtail union monopoly bargaining in the federal workplace will be covered in future Newsletter issues.)

Right to Work Leader Calls Order a 'Step In the Right Direction'

PLA's force contractors to fill jobs through discriminatory union hiring halls, penalizing long-term, loyal employees who don't wish to join a union or pay into union-manipulated pension funds.

And PLA's set the stage for Big Labor to force independent workers to pay union dues as a job condition.

The bogus rationale is that PLA's foster "labor peace" and thus control building costs.

In fact, a 1995 analysis of bids on the PLA for New York's Roswell Park Cancer Institute found that it jacked up overall taxpayer costs by more than 25%. Studies of subsequent PLA's confirm they increase taxpayer expenses by 20% or more.

National Right to Work Committee Senior Vice President Mark Mix called Executive Order 13202 "one step in the right direction."

"Bill Clinton's 1993 executive order that entrenched discriminatory PLA's on federal public works is just one of a number of ways that Inside-the-Beltway politicians have spread forced unionism across America," said Mr. Mix.

"Right to Work members applaud President Bush's reinstatement of the previous federal-contract policy of equal treatment for union and nonunion firms and their employees.

"But many other pro-forced unionism federal policies will require sustained effort to change.

"Necessary fundamental change must begin with repeal of federal labor statutes that grant Big Labor the raw power to seize tribute from unwilling workers.

"I urge the President to follow up by prodding congressional leaders to hold votes in the near future on forced-dues repeal, also known as the National Right to Work Act.

"This is the key way the President can fulfill his 2000 campaign pledge to 'work with Congress to ensure that no worker is forced to join or support a union.'"

A PLA on Boston's "Big Dig" that discriminates against nonunion employees and firms has contributed to huge cost overruns. Estimated taxpayer expenses for the job have soared from $2.3 billion to $13.1 billion!

Taxpayers Have Suffered Under PLA Boondoggles

Independent-minded construction workers and their employers are not the only beneficiaries of Mr. Bush's crackdown on PLA's.

PLA's have compiled a long record of taxpayer-gouging cost overruns as a result of Big Labor featherbedding and strikes called in violation of contract clauses.

Two well-known examples are Boston's Central Artery/Tunnel Project (the "Big Dig") and the San Francisco Airport renovation.

Operating under a PLA, the projected $2.3 billion "Big Dig" is now far behind schedule and over budget by more than $10 billion, largely due to labor-cost overruns. Of course, federal and state taxpayers are picking up the tab.

And the "no-strike" provision in the San Francisco Airport PLA didn't deter union bosses from ordering carpenters, plumbers, electricians and painters out on strike in 1999, significantly increasing the project's price tag.

It's too late for federal action to remedy these and a number of other PLA boondoggles.

Wilson Bridge Project Now Back on Track

But Executive Order 13202 will derail union puppet Maryland Gov. Parris Glendening's (D) scheme to shake down workers and Maryland, Virginia, and federal taxpayers through a PLA on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge replacement project.

Last year, Maryland and Virginia officials pledged $200 million apiece to replace the 40-year-old Wilson Bridge, which carries the Washington Beltway and I-95 South across the Potomac River from Maryland to Virginia, just south of Alexandria.

Congress subsequently set aside $1.5

See **Lawsuit** *next page*

Members Reaffirm Zeal For Right to Work Cause

Ballots Help Committee Officers Forge Legislative Battle Plans

National Right to Work Committee members voiced their strong support early this year for a full-scale lobbying program to roll back compulsory unionism in Congress.

In a January letter, Committee President Reed Larson asked members to certify their membership and advise him on their preferences for the use of the Committee's limited funds in 2001.

By reaffirming their membership, Right to Work supporters have strengthened the Committee's legal defense against the Big Labor-controlled Federal Election Commission (FEC) and its ongoing vendetta against Right to Work.

For years, FEC lawyers have attempted to prevent the Committee and its members from exercising their First Amendment rights to promote worker freedom.

Mr. Larson has been threatened with stiff fines and a jail term simply for informing members about the positions and records of pro-forced unionism candidates for Congress.

But the Committee members who completed and returned their 2001 Membership Ballots helped establish that (contrary to FEC lawyers' claims) they are entitled to the same constitutional protections as members of other groups.

Time and again, Committee members' resistance to FEC harassment has been vindicated in federal court.

In 1996, for example, a federal judge threw out an FEC lawsuit designed to force the Committee to pay huge fines on the incredible charge of improperly assisting 1984 Big Labor presidential candidate Walter Mondale!

But the FEC, which will remain under the control of ex-President Bill Clinton's appointees at least until April 2003, may now be poised to launch a new crackdown on the Committee's highly effective federal candidate survey program.

Big Labor hates this program, which informs millions of citizens where their candidates stand on Right to Work.

While completing their 2001 Membership Ballots, Committee members endorsed full-scale campaigns to roll back federally-imposed forced unionism and to enact more state Right to Work laws.

Members' Loyal Support Vital to Campaign Against Forced Unionism

With George W. Bush as President and self-avowed Right to Work supporters holding top leadership positions in both chambers of Congress, there is a window of opportunity to implement the Committee's federal battle plan — but that opportunity may be very brief.

"There's no denying that beating the union political machine and passing forced-dues repeal, also known as the National Right to Work Act, will be difficult," said Mr. Larson.

"However, now that the 2001 Membership Ballots have confirmed members' intent to grant their full support this year, we are eager to escalate our campaign."

Union Bosses Threaten Lawsuit

Continued from page 6

billion in federal tax money for the project, but only approved the release of $170 million to begin dredging and foundation work.

Release of the balance was held up when Virginia's elected officials refused to bankroll Mr. Glendening's PLA, which mandated preferential treatment for firms that corral employees into unions.

He insisted that the tax burden of cost overruns under his PLA scheme must hit Virginians just as hard as Marylanders.

Right to Work Members Paved Way For Progress

The impasse threatened to stymie the project, which transportation experts agree is necessary to reduce traffic delays.

But now Mr. Glendening is barred from further use of federal tax dollars to pay off his union cronies. The Wilson Bridge project can continue, and no one will have to pay Big Labor extortion money to keep crossing the Potomac River.

Not surprisingly, angry construction union bosses led by Edward Sullivan, head of the AFL-CIO's building-trades subsidiary, are vowing to go to court to overturn Executive Order 13202.

Rather than try to sell unionism on its merits to the more than 80% of American construction workers who are not now subject to a union monopoly-bargained contract, Mr. Sullivan and his cohorts have in recent years used PLA's to corral whole groups into unions.

Mr. Mix urged the Bush Administration to stand firm:

"Throughout the 1990s, Right to Work members have banded together with other Americans to expose PLA injustices and push for their abolition.

"With these persistent, principled citizens standing behind him, Mr. Bush has nothing to fear from AFL-CIO kingpins and their lawyers.

"Far from backing down, he should instead move quickly to address the wider problem of forced unionism by seeking prompt congressional votes on the National Right to Work Act."

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Labor Panels Warm Up to Right to Work

Majority on Key Subcommittee Publicly Back Forced-Dues Repeal

This month Congressman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.), together with dozens of original cosponsors, will reintroduce the National Right to Work Act in the House of Representatives.

Within days after its reintroduction, National Right to Work Committee officers expect the bill will be referred to the Employer-Employee Relations (EER) Subcommittee of the Education & the Workforce Committee.

During the three previous Congresses, the EER panel took no action on the Right to Work Bill.

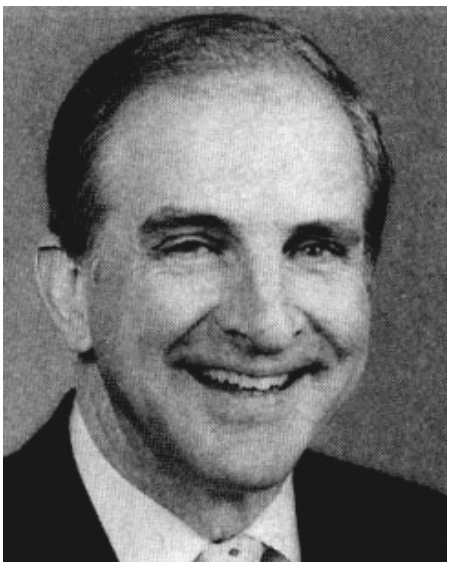
Right to Work officers had no choice but to seek other means to bring the bill to the floor, because a coalition of Big Labor politicians would likely have defeated it in its subcommittee of origin.

However, thanks to Right to Work members' increasingly effective lobbying of candidates running for election or reelection to the House, a majority of EER panel members are now publicly on record in favor of the Right to Work Bill.

Furthermore, EER's new chairman, Congressman Sam Johnson (R-Texas), is an active Right to Work supporter.

"Because of the solid groundwork laid by Right to Work members over the past few years, I'm optimistic that Rep. Johnson will hold hearings and a successful vote," said Right to Work Senior Vice President Mark Mix.

"And that could build momentum for passage by the entire Education & the Workforce Committee, which has also become notably more pro-Right to Work in the new Congress. Then the next step would be the House floor."



U.S. Rep. Bob Goodlatte (left) will reintroduce the National Right to Work Act in the House this month. The bill is expected to be assigned to Rep. Sam Johnson's Employer-Employee Relations Subcommittee.

President, Congressional Majority Leadership Favor Forced-Dues Repeal

Under current federal law, 10 million American workers are stripped of their right to bargain individually over their pay and working conditions if they wish to keep their jobs.

Compounding the injustice, federal law also authorizes union officials to get eight million of these employees fired should they refuse to pay union dues or "fees."

The Right to Work Bill would protect workers' freedom to refuse to join or pay tribute to a union that has been granted a monopoly-bargaining privilege over them.

President Bush and the leaders of both chambers of Congress are all on the record in favor of this legislation.

Forced-Dues Money Bankrolls Special-Interest Politics

Forced-dues money pays for union actions that range from guerrilla warfare with management to systematic harassment of individual workers and "sweetheart" deal-making that protects union officials' privileges at most workers' expense.

It also pays for special-interest lobbying and partisan political phone banks, get-out-the-vote drives, and mailings.

Union-"represented" workers such as Mark Simpson, a nursing home employee in New Wilmington, Pa., know this all too well.

Under federal labor law, Mr. Simpson is forced to pay monthly tribute to Teamster union officials whose partisan political agenda he abhors in order to keep his job at a religious facility.

But last year Mr. Simpson thought he could at least exercise his legal right, established in a series of U.S. Supreme Court cases won by the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, to stop the misuse of his forced dues for Teamster-boss politics.

Teamster Local 250 union officials had another idea.

Although Mr. Simpson resigned from the union and took all other necessary steps to exercise his political rights nine months ago, at press time Teamster bosses continue to funnel his forced dues into their slush fund.

Mr. Simpson, aided by Foundation attorneys, is suing to stop the unlawful seizure of forced dues for politics, but for most dissenting workers such obstructionist union-boss tactics render even the limited protection they have under court precedents meaningless.

Congress Authorized Compulsory Unionism, Congress Must End It

"Clearly, the true solution for the political corruption and for other abuses spawned by compulsory unionism is for Congress to repeal the labor-law provisions that are the root of the problem," said Mr. Mix.

He urged Newsletter readers immediately to contact House EER Chairman Sam Johnson at (202) 225-4201 and Education & the Workforce Chairman John Boehner (R-Ohio) at (202) 225-6205:

"Let them know the National Right to Work Act should be a top legislative priority in this Congress."