Committee Unveils ‘Agenda For Freedom’
Dole, Gingrich Urged to Allow Vote on National Right to Work Bill

The National Right to Work Committee has laid down a challenge to the new GOP leadership in Congress: demonstrate your commitment to meaningful change and your respect for the will of the American people by passing the National Right to Work Act.

In letters recently sent to Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole (R-Kan.) and House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), Committee President Reed Larson outlined a bold legislative program — an Agenda for Freedom — that will end federally-imposed compulsory unionism.

Mr. Larson called, first and foremost, for hearings and a recorded vote on the National Right to Work Act before the end of the 104th Congress.

Congress Must
Right the Wrong
Of Forced Unionism

"By passing the National Right to Work Act, Congress will return to working Americans the freedom of choice that never should have been stripped from them," Larson wrote.

"No other single action by Congress will do more to increase both the freedom and the prosperity of all Americans."

In addition, Larson urged the Republican leaders to tear down the other pillars of compulsory unionism, including: legal immunities for perpetrators of union violence, forced-dues political corruption, and the diversion of massive amounts of taxpayers’ money into union treasuries and union-boss front groups.

"Now is the time," Larson said.

"The American people look ... to the new Congress with the hope that federal-

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In the spirit of Jefferson, who declared "eternal hostility to all forms of tyranny," Committee President Reed Larson unveiled an Agenda for Freedom that will liberate workers from the tyranny of compulsory unionism.
Forced Unionism Hurts Employees Most

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mandated forced unionism will finally be overturned.”

Thirty-five years ago, the late Nobel Prize-winning economist Friedrich A. von Hayek described Organized Labor as a “uniquely privileged institution to which the general rules of law do not apply.”

The federal government established Big Labor’s above-the-law status by bestowing upon union officials the extraordinary power to compel workers to join unions and pay union dues in order to work.

American workers, employers and taxpayers have paid a huge price for this coercive system ever since. Coercive unionism has prevented millions of talented employees from being fairly compensated for their efforts on the job and forced them to pay dues for the “benefit” of Big Labor job destruction through senseless work rules and hate-the-boss propaganda.

It has corrupted the nation’s political system by enabling union officials to consume, unchecked, hundreds of millions of dollars in forced union dues to elect and reelect the Tax & Spend politicians who protect their privileged status.

And the federally-imposed system of forced unionism has spawned violent, mobbed-up union hierarchies who are responsible for countless acts of vandalism, terror and intimidation.

Americans Back Agenda for Freedom

The American people have never approved of compulsory unionism in any form.

According to a scientific, nationwide survey conducted in 1993 by the Marketing Research Institute, nearly eight out of 10 Americans oppose forcing workers to pay union dues as a job condition.

This past November, Americans replaced scores of forced-unionism congressional incumbents with new members who have pledged to support Right to Work.

Some 91% of newly-elected GOP congressmen have pledged support for Right to Work (and 87% of this year’s freshman class in Congress were Republican).

If Dole and Gingrich (and their own congressional delegations) want to stay on the right side of the American people, they can start by acting on the four main provisions of the Committee’s Agenda for Freedom.

They are:

1. Schedule hearings and a recorded vote on the National Right to Work Act.

Current federal labor law empowers union officials to force working Americans to pay union dues for unwanted union “representation” in order to get or keep a job.

Congress can solve this problem, without adding a letter to current labor law, simply by deleting the provisions which authorize forced union dues.

2. Schedule hearings and a public roll-call vote on the Union Violence Control Act, also known as the “Hobbs Act Amendment” (S. 56, 103rd Congress).

This bill would close a loophole in the 1946 Hobbs Anti-Extortion Act as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 Enmons decision.

Congress has long refused to apply the Hobbs Act to violence incited or committed by union officials in pursuit of “legitimate union objectives.”

3. Oppose steadfastly any campaign finance “reform” legislation that fails to deal effectively with the use of forced dues for politics.

Union officials who impose compulsory union dues contracts on American workers should not be allowed to spend even one penny for politics.

Any purported “campaign reform” scheme that allows union officials to spend union treasury funds for political purposes while forcing workers to pay union dues as a condition of employment should be rejected.

So-called “reform” legislation that restricts citizens’ voluntary political activity (without an enforceable ban on forced-dues contributions) would tilt an already-biased campaign playing field farther in Big Labor’s direction.

It would be better not to pass any legislation than a “reform” which will only make matters worse.

Congress should also schedule hearings that give the American people a chance to know the truth about the corrupting influence of forced union dues on...
Victor Riesel, 81, a nationally syndicated labor reporter and radio commentator who died January 4, never directly opposed compulsory union memberships, but Right to Work supporters owe much to him.

Mr. Riesel refused to let his personal friendship with long-time AFL-CIO chief George Meany prevent him from reporting accurately on union-boss corruption. Organized Labor’s ties with gangsters and Communists, and the use of members’ forced dues for politics.

Like all too many workers who challenge the union hierarchy, Riesel himself became a victim of union violence.

Hours after Riesel denounced the mob-infiltrated union hierarchy of New York’s garment district in a 1956 radio broadcast, a street tough threw acid in the reporter’s face, permanently blinding him.

An FBI probe later found that union racketeers, determined to terrorize Riesel and others into silence, had hired the assailant.

“The attack on me was an attack on the entire free press, challenging its right to expose crime and injustice,” Riesel later wrote.

“In hitting me, the underworld was thumping its nose at the community and the forces of law and order.”

Blindness Couldn’t Stop Riesel From Shedding Light On Big Labor Abuses

Big Labor thugs may have taken his sight, but they couldn’t silence Riesel’s voice.

He continued attacking union bosses’ abuse of workers’ rights in his radio commentaries and syndicated column, which at one time ran in nearly 350 papers, until his retirement in 1990.

“Riesel’s exposés of union officials who collaborated with Organized Crime and Communist agents helped the National Right to Work Committee mobilize public opposition to forced unionism in the ’50s and ’60s,” said Committee President Reed Larson.

“But it was Victor’s detailed reporting, in later years, on the operations of Big Labor’s forced-dues political machine — which only someone with his inside connections could accomplish —" See ‘National’ next page

Stop Big Labor’s Abuse of Taxpayers

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Stop Big Labor’s Abuse of Taxpayers

from powerful federal agencies, beginning with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

Don’t Confirm NLRB Nominees Who Oppose Right to Work

President Clinton has stacked the NLRB with compulsory-unionism zealots. Larson called for fair representation for the nearly 80% of Americans who favor Right to Work.

"NLRB and other nominees should not be confirmed unless they explicitly support voluntarism,” Larson told Senate Majority Leader Dole.

Larson also called for an investigation into the Clinton NLRB’s attempts to subvert state Right to Work laws by refusing to administer Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act.

If rogue federal agencies such as the NLRB, the Federal Election Commission and the Department of Labor continue to serve primarily as attack dogs or funding conduits for Big Labor, Congress should defund them and save billions of dollars in the process.

The Committee’s Public Affairs Department has launched a media campaign, targeting more than 2,500 top columnists, reporters, and editorial page editors as a first step in publicizing the Agenda for Freedom and building grassroots support for its lead provision, the National Right to Work Act.

Fight for Freedom Just Beginning

Larson said he would contact Committee members this month to request their help in the campaign to dismantle the federal system of compulsory unionism. “Union bosses will use all their clout to obstruct us,” he warned.

"To have even a chance of getting the National Right to Work Act up for a vote, we’ll have to put together a coalition larger and stronger than the one that defeated Sen. Ted Kennedy’s (D-Mass.) strike bill last year,” Larson added.

“That’s why I’m counting on Committee members to get involved in this great crusade early, and stay involved until we finish the job.”
Cover-up at Bill Clinton’s Labor Board
President’s NLRB Counsel Assaults Right to Work, Feigns Innocence

Though beset by pro-Right to Work Americans’ mounting protests, Bill Clinton’s top lawyer at the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) continues to refuse to enforce federal laws barring the seizure of forced union dues in Right to Work states.

Four months after his March 1994 confirmation, Clinton’s NLRB General Counsel Fred Feinstein shredded 50 years of federal labor law by aiding and abetting union bosses who violate Section 14(b) and other provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act in order to grab forced union dues from employees.

Since its inception, the NLRB has served as union officials’ attack dog in expanding compulsory unionism.

And now that Big Labor’s grip on Congress has been loosened by the November elections, says National Right to Work Committee Public Affairs Director Martin Fox, Clinton’s Big Labor-activist NLRB will be the President’s primary vehicle for advancing the forced-unionism agenda.

“Bill Clinton is stacking the renegade NLRB with compulsory-unionism zealots like Fred Feinstein, who will push the very agenda voters soundly rejected last year,” said Fox.

“The NLRB’s corrupt alliance with Big Labor may ultimately turn Taft-Hartley Section 14(b), which authorizes states to enact Right to Work laws, into a dead letter.

Fortunately, Congress, which sets the NLRB’s budget and confirms its appointments, has the authority to stop the Big Labor bureaucrats — but Committee members must make sure Congress exercises that authority,” Fox added.

General Counsel Feinstein Attacks Right to Work Laws, Federal Statutes

Over a year ago, officials of the militant International Association of Machinists posted a work-place notice warning employees of UNC Aviation Services (in Meridian, Miss.) to begin paying compulsory union dues within a month, or be fired.

Since Section 14(b) of the federal Taft-Hartley Act invalidates all forced-dues contracts in Right to Work states like Mississippi, the IAM bosses’ demand clearly violated Taft-Hartley Sections 8(b)(1)(a) and 8(b)(2), which prohibit the collection of forced dues without authorization by a valid contract.

But when 14 UNC Aviation employees filed an NLRB complaint against IAM chiefs, General Counsel Feinstein threw it out — setting a precedent that may make it much easier for union bosses to force workers in all Right to Work states to pay dues.

Independent-Minded Workers May Face Devil’s Choice

Until now, employees have been able to pursue claims through the NLRB without the expense of an attorney, citing the Taft-Hartley Act.

But if Feinstein eliminates that option, only two other alternatives will remain: 1) pay hundreds of dollars in illegal compulsory union dues, or 2) shell out thousands, maybe tens of thousands, in attorney’s fees fighting Big Labor lawyers in state court.

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‘National Party’ in AFL-CIO Building

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that was his greatest contribution to the Right to Work cause.”

As Riesel wrote in 1976, “. . . [During election years,] the AFL-CIO building becomes an instant national party headquarters — easily a match for the national committees of the Democratic and Republican parties . . . ”

Aided by a team of cost accountants, Riesel estimated that union bosses spend 8 to 10 times their publicly reported campaign contributions on unreported “soft money” contributions — which are financed primarily by workers’ forced union dues.

“Soft money” donations, as Riesel pointed out in another column, pay above all for “staff time — meaning union officials who are assigned to campaigns for months on end [while remaining on the union payroll],” and also “printing costs, postage, telephone, and various other support services financed entirely out of compulsory union dues and fees.”

When the union bosses denounced his reports on their politicking, Riesel, true to form, refused to back down:

“I know my estimates [of union-boss campaign spending] are right. . . Let them open their books if they say they aren’t.”

Of course, the union bosses never answered Riesel’s challenge, and continue to fight all efforts to open their books.

Last year, union bosses spent upwards of $410 million in forced-dues “soft money” to reelect 84% of AFL-CIO incumbent congressional cronies on the ballot, despite strong public revulsion toward Big Labor politicians.

“Victor’s reports, of course, didn’t shut down the union political machine,” said Reed Larson.

“But the information he unearthed has helped the Committee successfully mobilize public resistance to a series of phony campaign ‘reform’ bills that would have further enhanced the union bosses’ forced-dues political clout.

“Although Right to Work supporters had many disagreements with Victor over the years, we salute this honest and courageous journalist, who often lived up to his self-description as a ‘friend of the worker,’” Larson concluded.
Breaking Big Labor’s Stranglehold On Education
Committee Members Battle NEA Teacher Union Brass in Indiana

A single crack may now be opening in the teacher union hierarchy’s vast empire, the 34 states where teachers are forced by law to accept teacher union militants as their monopoly bargaining representatives on all matters pertaining to wages, benefits, and working conditions.

Pro-Right to Work Indianans are now fighting to pass the first state law repealing teacher union monopoly privileges.

The law would allow individual teachers to decide for themselves whether or not they want union representation at the bargaining table.

Wielding their monopoly bargaining power, union radicals have been able to seize control of the committees that establish curricula, acquire textbooks, and set hiring criteria for teachers in hundreds of school districts across America.

Wherever this has happened, parents, teachers and school boards have lost effective control of school management. And educational standards have plunged.

But if the citizens of even one state repeal an existing monopoly bargaining law, it can start a trend that could ultimately reverse decades of decline in student achievement.

Pro-Right to Work Hoosiers Back Voluntary Bargaining For Public Schoolteachers

Teacher-friendly legislation (S.B.273 and S.B.437) introduced in the Indiana Senate would repeal Indiana’s teacher monopoly bargaining law.

The virtually identical bills are sponsored, respectively, by state Sens. Patricia Miller and Morris Mills (both R-Indianapolis).

The Monopoly Bargaining Repealer would eliminate so-called “exclusive representation” rules which force Indiana teachers to yield their rights of freedom of association and personal choice to teacher union bosses.

Giant Teacher Union May Spend Millions To Protect Special Privileges

But America’s largest and most powerful union, the National Education Association (NEA), aided by its state subsidiary, the Indiana State Teachers Association (ISTA), is putting heavy pressure on Hoosier legislators to kill the legislation.

“The NEA union hierarchy will spend hundreds of thousands, even millions of dollars, to protect monopoly bargaining, which provides NEA officials their pretext for forcing Indiana teachers to pay for ‘representation’ they neither asked for nor want,” said Cathy Jones.

Ms. Jones is coordinator of Concerned Educators Against Forced Unionism (CEAFU), the branch of the National Right to Work Committee which opposes compulsory unionism in education.

Freeing teachers from the NEA’s clutches is not the only benefit that repeal of monopoly bargaining would bring to Indiana.

Hoosier Schoolchildren Would Benefit Most From Monopoly Bargaining Repeal

A wide array of data shows that states which force teachers to accept union “representation” have experienced a steady decline in academic achievement by comparison with states where teacher unionism is completely voluntary.

For example, SAT scores have declined by an average of 26 points since 1972 in the 34 states that authorize teacher monopoly bargaining.

But SATs have actually increased by an average of seven points in the 16 states that neither force teachers to pay union dues nor compel them to accept union representation at the bargaining table.

“Allowing teachers a free choice fosters professional flexibility and personal initiative in the classroom, ultimately leaving schoolchildren better prepared to join the twenty-first century work force,” said Jones.

Despite Electoral Gains, Right to Work Forces Expect Stiff Opposition

Though Right to Work made substantial gains in the Indiana legislature during last year’s elections, restricting teacher union bosses’ coercive powers won’t be easy.

See Hoosiers next page

‘Allowing teachers a free choice fosters professional flexibility and personal initiative in the classroom, ultimately leaving schoolchildren better prepared to join the twenty-first century work force.’

Cathy Jones, Coordinator Concerned Educators Against Forced Unionism
Decades of NLRB Precedents Ignored

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Many employees would effectively be forced to pay union dues — even though they work in Right to Work states.

Big Labor Senators Help Feinstein Stonewall

Not content just to help union bosses break the law, Feinstein has buried the truth about his scheme. He claims his ruling does nothing new.

But even the Jimmy Carter-appointed NLRB (in Iron Workers Local 18, 1981) recognized that federal labor law prohibits forced-dues contracts in Right to Work states.

Responding to letters from Committee President Reed Larson, thousands of Committee members have contacted their U.S. senators, urging them to pressure Feinstein into reversing his decision.

Thanks to Committee members’ efforts, the NLRB General Counsel has been forced to duck a stream of inquiries regarding the UNC Aviation case from dozens of senators.

So far, Feinstein has tried to quell the controversy by misleading senators, saying his refusal to enforce the Taft-Hartley clauses is “consistent with . . . precedents.”

By repeating Feinstein’s disinformation, Big Labor senators such as Paul Simon (D-Ill.), Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.), Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.), Richard Bryan (D-Nev.), and Joe Biden (D-Del.) are assisting the general counsel’s cover-up of decades of NLRB precedents, under both Democrat and Republican administrations, which prevented union bosses from collecting forced dues in violation of federal law.

But Feinstein and his Senate apologists’ attempts to muddy the waters have not stopped Right to Work protests, and heated congressional confrontations over the UNC Aviation decision are likely during appropriations and confirmation hearings in the coming weeks.

Committee Unveils Plan To Tame Rogue NLRB

Public Affairs Director Fox recently announced the Committee’s three-point Action Plan to overturn the UNC Aviation decision and prevent further forced-unionism abuses from Bill Clinton’s NLRB:

- During hearings on the NLRB’s 1996 budget, press the U.S. House and Senate Appropriations Committees to grill General Counsel Feinstein for answers concerning his refusal to impartially administer federal labor law. If Feinstein refuses to change course, NLRB funding should be dramatically cut.
- Urge the Senate to force future NLRB nominees to guarantee that they will uphold the provisions in federal labor law banning the collection of forced dues in Right to Work states — or deny them confirmation.
- Ask Congress to defund the NLRB if Feinstein continues to use it as a launching pad for other attacks on Right to Work, or if Bill Clinton continues to appoint individuals determined to extend Big Labor’s forced-unionism privileges.

“Right to Work members’ grassroots activism can ensure the effectiveness of the Committee’s Plan to force NLRB General Counsel Feinstein to do his duty and protect state Right to Work laws,” said Fox.

Fox Rallies Members To Take Action

“Right to Work members’ grassroots activism can ensure the effectiveness of the Committee’s Plan to force NLRB General Counsel Feinstein to do his duty and protect state Right to Work laws,” said Fox.

“Feinstein is devoted to employee coercion, but he naturally wants to keep the NLRB up and running.

“And if senators and representatives keep feeling the heat from citizens demanding that they reign in the outside-the-law NLRB, these politicians will crank up the pressure on Feinstein.

“With two NLRB nominations and the agency’s budget under review during the next few months, Feinstein and his cohorts will be very sensitive to any congressional inquiry into their shilling for compulsory unionism.

“So now is the time for members to take action to force Feinstein to reverse his decision making it much easier for union bosses to bilk forced union dues from employees in Right to Work states,” Fox concluded.

Members can call their senators and representatives at (202) 224-3121. Just ask for them by name.
Capitol Hill Workers Chained to Union Brass
Gingrich, Dole, Clinton Expand Big Labor Monopoly Bargaining

- The so-called "Congressional Accountability Act," which will ultimately force Capitol Hill employees to accept unwanted union representation, became the first law established by the new Republican Congress January 23, when President Bill Clinton signed it.

Before the House and Senate passed the Congressional Accountability Act, the National Right to Work Committee alerted every GOP member of Congress to its forced-unionism provisions and urged that the bill be changed.

President Jimmy Carter imposed these monopoly bargaining provisions on most federal employees by amending the Federal Labor Relations Act back in 1978.

And now, House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.), enthusiastically backed by the AFL-CIO and Big Labor politicians like Bill Clinton and Sen. Ted Kennedy, have extended monopoly bargaining to Capitol Hill workers.

Gingrich, Dole Reject Committee Members’ Pleas

- Speaker Gingrich and Majority Leader Dole rejected Right to Work supporters' requests that they instead fight to abolish the forced-unionism clauses in Carter's "reform."

"I'm disappointed," acknowledged Committee President Reed Larson.

"Like many Committee members, I was excited to see so many pro-Right to Work candidates elected last November. It's unfortunate that the GOP leadership, which had promised to back Right to Work, decided to expand forced unionism as its first act.

"When the principle of forced unionism is at stake," Larson continued, "the Right to Work movement has no choice but to do all it can to protect any and all employees who are under attack."

Workers, Taxpayers Get Hurt, Congressmen Left Unscathed

- Now Capitol Hill employees (like postal workers before them) may be required to accept federal union officials as their monopoly bargaining representatives, whether they like it or not.

Inevitably, the extension of union-boss monopoly bargaining to congressional employees will have the same effects on Capitol Hill that it has had in the Post Office: penalization of the hardest-working employees, bloating of the bureaucracy and increasing the costs imposed on federal treasuries.

While congressmen may be inconvenienced from time to time, the extra expense will actually be borne by the taxpayers, not congressmen or senators personally.

Furthermore, the burden of compliance with the dictates of government union brass (wielding exclusive powers to negotiate job assignments, hours and grievances), will be borne by the Capitol Hill janitor or groundskeeper who never wished to join a union.

Right to Work Members Must Stay Vigilant

- "Republican senators and representatives' unanimous support for the 'Congressional Accountability Act' highlights why the vigilance of National Right to Work Committee members is still necessary over the next two years," Larson pointed out.

"The GOP leadership was willing to sacrifice Capitol Hill employees' Right to Work for the sake of what they considered more pressing objectives," Larson noted.

Unless They Hear Protests, Politicians May Again Sell Out Right to Work

- "Right to Work members must keep a watchful eye on the politicians on Capitol Hill.

"Those who made campaign pledges to support employee freedom will throw Right to Work overboard again, unless we hold their feet to the fire and insist they keep their promises."

Right to Work members who are represented by GOP congressmen are urged to call them at (202) 224-3121."
Committee Membership Tops 1.9 Million

New Right to Work Recruits Helped Stop Strike Bill, Change Congress

Thanks to a record-breaking recruitment drive, the National Right to Work Committee’s membership rolls have grown to 1.9 million.

The nearly 300,000 new members recruited during the last Congress helped the Committee defeat Sen. Ted Kennedy’s (D-Mass.) Pushbutton Strike Bill.

And the momentum carried through to Election Day.

New members played a major role in the Committee’s Survey ’94, which convinced 91% of Congress’ new GOP members (who dominate this year’s freshman class) to pledge to support Right to Work.

New Members’ Efforts Were Critical To Strike Bill’s Defeat

The strike bill, Big Labor’s #1 legislative priority of the 1990s, would have forced workers to go on strike at the union bosses’ command.

The strike bill came within just three Senate votes of passing Congress in the summer of 1992.

After Big Labor elected Bill Clinton, many Washington observers (including some Right to Work allies) predicted the bill would pass without much trouble. The respected Kiplinger Letter predicted union officials would win early in President Clinton’s term.

However, Right to Work opposition was much stronger than expected.

Several divisions of fresh National Right to Work Committee recruits joined veteran members in bombarding Congress with millions of petitions, letters, and phone calls.

As a result, the strike bill was stalled, confounding political pundits and union bosses alike.

New and old Committee members fought to safeguard their strike bill victory during last year’s federal campaigns.

As a result of the mobilization of Committee members, candidates for the U.S. Senate and House received record numbers of postcards urging them to support Right to Work.

By heeding requests to support employee freedom, hundreds of House and Senate candidates improved their election chances. After all, over three-quarters of Americans support Right to Work.

Right to Work made major electoral gains — picking up six Senate seats and nearly 50 House seats.

Missing This Opportunity Could Prove Fatal For Right to Work Committee

The results of the 1994 elections and the growth in Committee membership have provided Right to Work supporters a rare chance to go on the offensive and fight to overturn coercive federal laws which have dragooned millions of workers into unwanted unions.

“We have the best chance in decades to pass the National Right to Work Act,” said Stephen Goodrick, National Right to Work Committee vice president for communication.

“But only if the citizen army the Committee mobilized to defeat the strike bill stays united. The continued support of our new recruits (when combined with millions of veteran Right to Work supporters) could put our National Right to Work Act over the top in Congress,” concluded Goodrick.