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Forced Union Dues-Funded Incumbent Protection *Will Big Labor Machine Rescue Unpopular Union-Label Politicians?*

Over the past two years, Big Labor bosses have repeatedly succeeded in getting their favored federal politicians in competitive U.S. House districts and states to cast "politically difficult" votes.

Early in 2009, for example, union lobbyists twisted arms to secure majorities in both chambers of Congress for controversial "stimulus" legislation. Since it became law, the "stimulus" has bilked taxpayers of hundreds of billions of dollars to ensure that bloated, unionized government payrolls stay bloated, but furnished no detectable help for America's private sector.

And, more even than President Obama or any other elected official, top union officials are responsible for Congress's narrow votes to reconstruct America's enormous health-care system in late 2009 and early 2010.

As the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics reported March 22, 2010, "in the final push before the vote," many union bosses and union operatives "displayed their clout through threats to withhold endorsements from lawmakers who failed to back the bill. They also vowed to support primary challenges or third-party bids against incumbents who opposed" ObamaCare.

Now polls indicate that voters across the country are poised to punish vulnerable U.S. representatives and senators for doing what Big Labor told them to do.

Undoubtedly compounding the woes of many of the endangered politicians who backed the government union boss-friendly "stimulus" package and ObamaCare is that they are also on the record in support of forced-unionism initiatives that, due to stiff Right to Work opposition, have yet to be enacted.



CREDIT: MARK WILSON/GETTY IMAGES NORTH AMERICA

Top AFL-CIO union official Richard Trumka is going all out this fall to help U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

(D-Calif.) retain the power to keep pushing forward his forced-unionism agenda in 2011 and 2012.

Most of all, millions of freedom-loving citizens are furious with their incumbent politicians for having backed Big Labor's now-stalled "card check" forced-unionism bill and its still-pending scheme to federalize government union monopoly bargaining over state and local public-safety employees.

National Union Boss Vows 'Massive Incumbent Protection Program'

But despite poll after poll showing the public thinks little of the forced-unionism agenda and the politicians who have helped implement major parts of it, AFL-CIO chief Richard Trumka clearly believes he can build on the "achievements" of the 2009 "stimulus" and ObamaCare.

This fall, Mr. Trumka and his cohorts are expected to spend well over a billion dollars, mostly derived from union dues and fees employees are forced to pay as a condition of employment, on electioneering efforts designed to benefit their puppet politicians.

Union kingpins calculate that their forced dues-funded phone banks, get-out-the-vote drives, and propaganda mailings, mostly conducted under the radar, can help dozens of Big Labor politicians who would otherwise go down to defeat this year secure reelection.

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME/AFL-CIO) union President Gerald McEntee has frankly called what he and other union bosses are up to a "massive incumbent protection program."

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Right to Work Survey Under Way

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Mr. Trumka and Mr. McEntee know that, if they can show this November that backing Big Labor's agenda on vote after vote has relatively little political downside, despite that agenda's unpopularity in the polls, it will be much easier for them to ram through "card check" and more in the 2011-2012 Congress.

But the National Right to Work Committee and its members (now 2.6 million, and growing) are now fighting to ensure that congressmen and senators who have carried water for Big Labor time and again are held accountable this fall.

Right to Work Survey 2010 Can Help Ensure Politicians Are Held Accountable

The principal Committee program for holding politicians' feet to the fire is the federal candidate Survey 2010.

The ongoing Survey 2010 consists of three phases.

In the first phase, candidates receive questionnaires asking them how they intend to vote on a number of forced unionism-related issues, including mandatory "card checks," federalized public-safety union monopoly bargaining, and national Right to Work legislation.

"The Committee's goal is not just to secure enough support to block enactment of forced-unionism schemes like 'card check' legislation, but also to forge pro-Right to Work majorities in the House and Senate," explained Committee President Mark Mix.

"That's why the Right to Work survey raises the pressure on candidates to oppose the expansion of Big Labor's forced-unionism privileges, and also to support rolling those privileges back."

In the second phase of the Survey 2010, Committee members call and write the candidates, asking them to answer their questionnaires 100% in favor of Right to Work.

In the final phase, the Committee, through TV and newspaper ads, e-mails and the postal service, reports back to members and friends at the local level on how their candidates responded. That keeps the heat on non-responsive candidates to take a clear stand on the Right to Work issue.

"The aim of Big Labor's billion-dollar, forced dues-funded electioneering

program is to divert public attention from the damage that union-label politicians have wrought on America over the past two years and the even more severe damage they will do over the next two if they can," said Mr. Mix.


Public Doesn't Support Compulsory Unionism

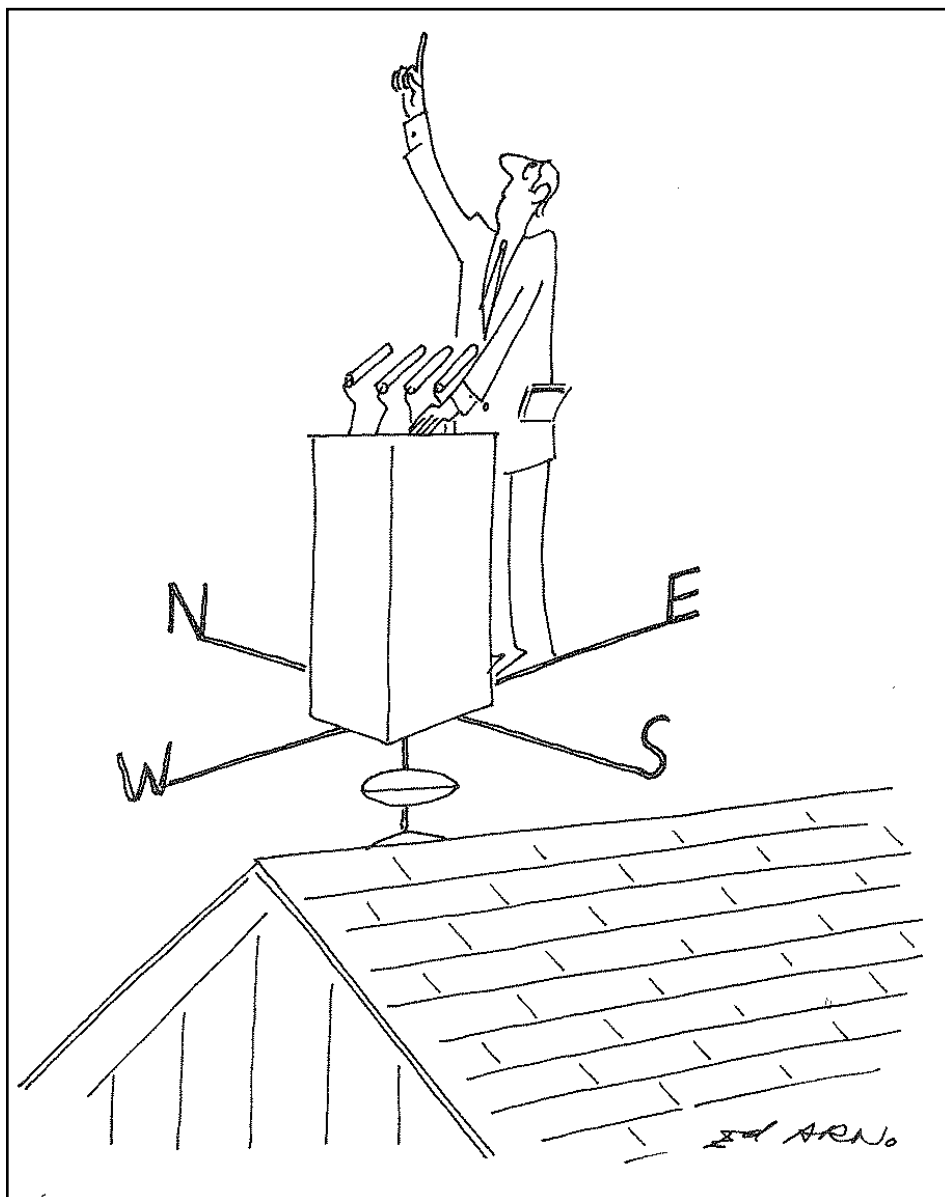
"Big Labor has far more money at its disposal than do Right to Work supporters, but the union bosses have one major problem: The general public, and even the workers they

claim to represent, don't support what they are selling," Mr. Mix continued.

"Poll after poll shows that nearly 80% of Americans agree that no one should be forced to join or pay dues to a union, simply in order to keep his or her job.

"The Committee survey program works simply by ensuring that the Right to Work issue, which already has overwhelming public support, remains in the spotlight throughout the campaign season.

"With members' generous support, I'm confident that this fall the federal survey will force candidate after candidate either to pledge to stop attacking employees' Right to Work, or face serious repercussions at the polls." 



CREDIT: ED ARNO/THE NEW YORKER

The Right to Work survey program puts the heat on politicians to state publicly how they will vote on key

forced-unionism issues shortly before Election Day -- when they are most likely to listen.

Pro-Union Monopoly Republican Loses in Kansas

Public-Safety Union Power Grab at Issue in Senate Primary

In covering the hard-fought and expensive campaign for the GOP nomination to succeed U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.), which concluded early last month, national media pundits missed a major policy difference between the two top-tier candidates.

Primary contenders Todd Tiahrt and Jerry Moran, who currently hold two of the Sunflower State's four seats in the U.S. House, had both opposed the 2009 "stimulus" package and ObamaCare. And they had virtually identical voting records on the politically charged issues of gun control and abortion.

But there is one policy difference between Mr. Tiahrt and Mr. Moran that proved to be very important to rank-and-file Kansas voters this summer. In spite of the failure of newspaper, TV and radio political reporters to cover this issue during the campaign, it was clearly decisive for the race's outcome.

For years, Mr. Tiahrt has defied the wishes of his overwhelmingly pro-Right to Work constituents in south central Kansas by cosponsoring and voting for one of the top power grabs on the Capitol Hill agenda of Organized Labor, the #1 pro-Big Government special-interest group in America.

In 2007, Mr. Tiahrt went along with the wishes of the Nancy Pelosi-led House Democratic caucus by voting for the union bosses' Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill (then H.R.980).

The Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill (now H.R.413 in the House) would impose a new federal mandate ensuring that government union bosses get monopoly-bargaining privileges over additional hundreds of thousands of state and local public-safety employees.

Localities Would Be Denied Option to Refuse to Give Union Bosses a Monopoly

H.R.413 and its nearly identical Senate counterpart, S.3194, would federally impose union monopoly bargaining by denying localities the option to refuse to grant a single public-safety union the power to speak for all front-line employees, including those who don't want to join.

Monopoly bargaining, euphemistically labeled as "exclusive representation," would be foisted on state



After the Kansas GOP Senate primary was over, the *Washington Examiner's* "Beltway Confidential" blog suggested that Todd

Tiahrt's (left) pro-union monopoly stance had "hurt him significantly" in his race against Right to Work supporter Jerry Moran.

and local police, firefighters, and other public-safety employees nationwide.

And in most states that already authorize public-safety union monopoly bargaining, H.R.413/S.3194 would widen its scope.

"Todd Tiahrt's record of voting for and repeatedly cosponsoring the Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill sent a red flag to Kansas voters that, in the Senate, he would vote for expanding union monopoly control over government," commented National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"In contrast, Jerry Moran has consistently supported the Right to Work. He stood up to the Pelosi Democrats by voting against the monopoly-bargaining bill when it came to the House floor in 2007.

"And during this year's campaign he publicly pledged to continue opposing legislation like H.R.413 in the future."

During the final weeks before Kansas's primaries, the Committee broke through the media blackout on Mr. Tiahrt's pro-forced unionism record by directly contacting over 40,000 targeted households multiple times, and urging them to ask the candidate to change his stand on H.R.413.

Thousands and thousands of pro-Right to Work Kansans responded by making phone calls and sending postcards, letters and e-mails to Mr. Tiahrt's congressional office and his campaign. But Mr. Tiahrt did not repudiate his advocacy of federally

mandated union monopoly bargaining over public employees.

Big Government Is Big Labor's 'Bread and Butter'

"If Todd Tiahrt had seen the light, withdrawn his current sponsorship of H.R.413, and apologized for his 2007 vote for very similar legislation, freedom-loving Kansans very likely would have forgiven him," said Mr. Mix.


"As it happened, he stuck with government union bosses, and ended up losing to his pro-Right to Work rival by 17,000 votes.

"Kansas voters were right to see Mr. Tiahrt's support for H.R.413 as a problem.

"Over the course of the past few decades, public servants, especially state and local public employees, have become Big Labor's bread and butter.

"Today, union officials wield monopoly-bargaining power over 43% of state and local government employees, compared to just 8% of private-sector workers.

"And Big Labor featherbedding and counterproductive work rules have sharply increased real taxpayer costs for compensation of state and local government employees.

"No candidate can credibly claim he will fight against the skyrocketing cost of Big Government while supporting police/fire monopoly-bargaining legislation. Todd Tiahrt just learned this lesson the hard way." 

Idahoans Commemorate Right to Work Anniversary

Gem State Politicians Eager to Be Associated With Successful Law

Back in the 1970's and 1980's, as they successfully pressed first for passage of a state law prohibiting forced union dues and fees, and then to prevent Big Labor from overturning this law in a statewide referendum, Idaho Right to Work activists had few friends in the political establishment.

The Gem State's union-label Democratic governors during those decades, Cecil Andrus and John Evans, were unabashed cheerleaders for compulsory unionism.

Meanwhile, establishment Republicans' relationship with the Right to Work movement was often frosty.

For example, 1986 GOP gubernatorial nominee David Leroy tried to have it both ways during his campaign, announcing late in the game that he would oppose efforts to reinstate the then-fledgling Right to Work law if Big Labor succeeded in overturning it. (Ironically, this craven attempt at self-preservation probably cost Mr. Leroy the governorship.)

Also in 1986, Republican James McClure, then Idaho's senior U.S. senator, poured cold water on both local and national pro-Right to Work efforts, publicly declaring:

"I've urged Republicans not to raise the issue for years. I think it's a bad political issue for us, and it's a real motivational issue for the union people."

But after Idahoans upheld their

Right to Work law by a solid 54% to 46% margin on November 4, 1986, and also reelected their staunchly pro-Right to Work junior U.S. senator, Republican Steve Symms, on what was otherwise a bleak day for GOP U.S. Senate candidates, Mr. McClure admitted he had been wrong.

Most Idaho Politicians Have Finally Decided to Stop Arguing With Success

In 2010, 25 years after the Idaho Legislature overrode Gov. Evans's veto and adopted a state Right to Work law prohibiting the termination of workers for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union, most of the Gem State's politicians have finally decided to stop arguing with success.

On August 5, current Gov. Butch Otter (R) and state House Speaker Lawrence Denney (R-Midvale) gathered together with former Idaho Freedom to Work leader Gary Glenn, National Right to Work Committee Executive Director Reed Larson, and other movement veterans to celebrate the law's anniversary.

Mr. Larson, leader of the National Committee from 1959 until 2003, spoke on behalf of the organization at the event in Garden City, an enclave of Boise, Idaho's capital.

"Even taking into account the difficult national economic climate since 2007, Idaho has established a remarkable track record of growth since 1987, the first full year the state's Right to Work law was in effect," notes Mr. Larson.

"From 1987 through 2009, real personal income growth in Idaho outpaced the national average by nearly 80%. By comparison, from 1965 to 1987, personal income growth in Idaho had slightly trailed the national average.

"Similarly, from 1987 through 2009, private-sector employment in Idaho grew five times as much as the national average. But from 1965 through 1987, private-sector job growth in forced-unionism Idaho was less than three-quarters as much as the national average.

"Idahoans recognize an economic benefit when they see it. That's one reason why they overwhelmingly support retention of their Right to Work law and oppose any weakening of it. And like other Americans, Idahoans support the Right to Work as a matter of principle.

"Idaho's Right to Work law has become so popular that even this year's Big Labor-backed Democratic nominee for governor, Keith Allred, is sending mixed messages about whether he'll support a scheme to bring back forced union dues or fees."

More and More Montanans Eager to Replicate Idaho's Right to Work Experience

Mr. Larson adds that, in today's troubled economic climate, when state civic leaders are especially eager to do everything they can to facilitate income and job growth, the Idaho Right to Work model is looking more and more attractive to other states:

"It's easy for people in neighboring forced-unionism Montana, for example, to see that the job climate for talented employees is far superior in Right to Work Idaho. That's why, just from 2000 to 2008, Idaho's college-educated adult population grew 64% faster than Montana's.

"More and more people in Montana and other nearby forced-unionism states are eager to replicate Idaho's Right to Work experience. And the National Committee and its 2.6 million members stand ready to help them do just that." 📌



CREDIT: COURTESY OF GARY GLENN

Last month, former National Committee President Reed Larson joined with grass-roots Right to Work

activists and elected officials in Idaho to applaud the Gem State's 25-year-old ban on forced union dues and fees.

Big Apple Carpenters Union Local Stays Crooked

Federally-Authorized Compulsory Dues Undermine Clean-Up Efforts

Samuel Johnson said it was second marriages that represent "the triumph of hope over experience."

But were the eminent sage living in the United States today, he would surely agree that an attorney who accepts appointment as the federal monitor of a corrupt union is even more quixotic than a widower who remarries.

One such brave soul is former New York state organized crime prosecutor Dennis Walsh. This spring, Mr. Walsh became the fifth federal monitor in the past 15 years to take on the daunting task of cleaning up the notorious New York City District Council of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners union (UBC).

Alleged Genovese Crime Family Associate Linked to New York Union Shakedown Scheme

In late July, Mr. Walsh achieved a breakthrough when Michael Forde, chieftain of the council from 1999 until 2009, confessed in court that he had for many years regularly extracted bribes "in the form of cash payments" from construction contractors.

He also confessed to perjury and obstruction of justice. In November, Mr. Forde will be sentenced, and he is expected to receive at least a nine-year prison term.

Mr. Forde and his cohorts allegedly allowed contractors who cooperated with their scheme to skip millions of dollars in payments to benefit funds for unionized employees. Bribe-paying contractors were also allegedly granted permission to hire nonunion employees.

Prosecutors believe that, in carrying out their illegal shakedowns over the years, New York City carpenters union bigwigs relied heavily on the assistance of construction contractors' representative Joseph Olivieri.

Mr. Olivieri, who allegedly has longstanding ties to the Genovese crime family, is scheduled to go on trial this month.

Mob Control, Forced Unionism Pervasive in New York Construction Since World War I

Mr. Walsh has publicly admitted that, in the past, convictions of



CREDIT: WARD/DAILY NEWS (N.Y.C.)

Michael Forde was the fourth chief of New York City's District Council of Carpenters union to be charged with

corruption since 1980. In late July, he pleaded guilty to racketeering and other related charges.

criminal union bigwigs have done little to prevent subsequent corruption in the District Council of Carpenters and other seamy construction unions in Gotham.

Indeed, Mr. Forde's predecessor, Fred Devine, was convicted of stealing union funds in 1998, but allowed to run for reelection.

Mr. Forde himself actually thwarted Mr. Devine's re-election bid by vowing to run a clean union!

The fact is, union corruption in New York City's building trades has very deep roots. As a commission appointed by former Big Labor Gov. Mario Cuomo (D) once pointed out, mob control of the city's construction industry has World War I-era roots.

In 1919, racketeer Robert Brindell established a citywide building trades union with the support of the American Federation of Labor (AFL), the AFL-CIO's precursor.

Mr. Brindell's dirty work was facilitated by several then-recent New York State court decisions sanctioning compulsory unionism in private-sector employment.

Today, Mr. Walsh's undoubtedly sincere promises that "this time will be different" are undercut by federal labor law.

"Since the 1930's, the pro-forced unionism National Labor Relations Act, or NLRA, has been corrupt union bosses' best friend," noted Doug

Stafford, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.


Forced Unionism Culpable For 'Almost Every Antisocial Aspect in Labor Relations'

"The NLRA forces employees to accept unwanted union representation and pay union dues or fees as a condition of employment," Mr. Stafford explained.

"Dennis Walsh may succeed in getting not just Michael Forde, but a host of other rogue carpenters union bosses locked up, but despite Mr. Walsh's best efforts other crooks are bound to step into the void so long as New York hardhats' Right to Work without being forced to pay union tribute is denied.

"To stop the emergence of the next Michael Forde, Congress needs to repeal the forced-dues provisions in federal labor law and thus empower rank-and-file employees in every state to punish union corruption as soon as they see it by resigning and withholding their dues.

"As the late labor law scholar and onetime unpaid union organizer Sylvester Petro put it, the denial of the rights of 'individual workingmen' is the 'basic cause of almost every antisocial aspect in labor relations. . . .'

"That's why the Committee remains determined to pass H.R.4107, the National Right to Work Act, and thus repeal all federally-imposed forced dues." 

Auto Union-Boss Bailout Not Improving With Age

White House Again Exhorts Taxpayers to Feel Good About Boondoggle

In the summer of 2009, the Obama Administration handed over \$49.5 billion in federal taxpayers' money to the Big Labor-controlled, money-hemorrhaging General Motors Corporation (GM). At the time, bankrupt GM was on the verge of being forced into liquidation. Its assets would then have been sold off.

The White House publicly pitched this costly taxpayer-funded bailout as a bid to save American jobs. However, President Obama and his Administration actually knew full well that the number of Americans employed by GM would continue to shrink rapidly, even after the massive taxpayer bailout.

Taxpayer Bailout Hasn't Stopped Disappearance of Union Boss-Controlled Manufacturing Jobs

In early 2009, GM had 47 production facilities in the U.S. By the end of this year, it will have just 34. The company's vehicle sales today, when the country's economy is recovering, albeit weakly, remain far below what they were in 2008, when the economy was in a recession.

More than 80% of U.S. automotive manufacturing jobs are now in union-free firms, and these firms, not bailed-out GM and Chrysler, surely represent the future of domestic automotive manufacturing employment.

Rather than workers, the single greatest beneficiary of the GM bailout was the United Autoworkers (UAW) union hierarchy. Along with sympathetic Obama agents, union officials were effectively left in charge of the company.

Given that the wasteful work rules that UAW bosses, wielding government-granted monopoly-bargaining power over employees, insisted on for decades were largely what drove the company into bankruptcy, they certainly didn't deserve kid-gloves treatment. Yet that's what they got.

President Tries to Take Credit For Hiring by Firms He Didn't Bail Out

The President's decision to bail out GM and Chrysler and the UAW hierarchy with tens of billions of taxpayer dollars ranks among the most unpopular moves he has made so far.



CREDIT: WOT.MOTORTREND.COM

Autoworkers union President Bob King and other union bosses are the chief beneficiaries of the GM/Chrysler bailouts.

However, Mr. Obama appears to believe that, if he keeps telling Americans frequently enough that his giveaway to the UAW brass's "zombie" corporations really was the right thing to do, most citizens will come to agree with him in time.

During a July 30 stop at one of the remaining GM plants, the President even tried to take credit for the fact that overall employment in American auto manufacturing grew by 55,000 from June 2009 to June 2010. He failed to mention that the union-free firms that are now adding net jobs didn't get a bailout!

"President Obama likes to pretend that, if he, along with President George W. Bush before him, hadn't funneled a total of over \$60 billion to GM and Chrysler, by now hardly any auto manufacturing jobs in the U.S. would remain," noted National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen.

"That's preposterous. Even at the bottom of the recent recession, hundreds of thousands of Americans were working together in nonunion factories, mostly located in Right to Work states, to produce cars and trucks that could be sold, mostly to other Americans, at a profit.

"They were able to do it because they weren't hamstrung by productivity-quashing union work rules. And they would still be able to do it even if the bailouts of UAW-dominated companies had never happened."

Americans Aren't So Easily Bamboozled

"Fortunately, the American people are not as easily bamboozled as President Obama and his cohorts in the UAW, GM and Chrysler hierarchies seem to think they are," Mr. Leen continued.

"The President's fork-tongued reassurances that all is going well with the bailouts are unlikely to persuade most Americans they were wrong to oppose them in the first place.

"Instead, if Mr. Obama keeps it up, ordinary citizens are likely to get angrier and angrier as time goes on." 📣

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Beware Beltway's 'Lame Ducks'

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publicly confirmed what freedom-loving Americans have suspected for some time: that he will reconvene the Senate soon after Election Day on November 2. Under his plan, the "lame duck" chamber could remain in session until well into December, with only a brief Thanksgiving recess.

Reid lieutenant Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) has confirmed that the Senate will be considering major policy initiatives, and not just "must-pass" budget bills, after Election Day.

"It may well be we have to wait until a lame-duck session to pass whatever we're able to pass," Mr. Bingaman admitted to the Capitol Hill newspaper *Politico* in mid-August.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) has also made it clear she intends to hold a "lame duck" session in her chamber, though she has yet to publicly announce a schedule.

"Union bosses from AFL-CIO czar Richard Trumka on down are now reiterating their demand that Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi bring up the 'card check' bill, or its near equivalent, before the 2009-2010 Congress is over," noted Right to Work President Mark Mix.

"Mr. Reid and Ms. Pelosi are desperate to satisfy their Big Labor patrons. But at the same time they want to minimize the electoral damage that voting for this power grab would do to vulnerable union-label politicians in their caucuses. That's why the Big Labor Democrat leaders lean to the 'lame duck' strategy."

Public-Safety Union-Monopoly Bill Could Also Be on 'Lame Duck' Agenda

"And 'card-check' forced unionism isn't the only major rewrite of federal labor policy that may come up in the Big Labor Congress after November 2," Mr. Mix continued.

"Another strong possibility is H.R.413/S.3194, legislation cynically mislabeled as the 'Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act.'

"This measure would, at a time when government budget deficits are already sky high, hobble the ability of states and localities to keep their expenditures of taxpayer dollars under control.

"H.R.413/S.3194 would empower Federal Labor Relations Authority

bureaucrats to survey all 50 states and identify which have failed to meet 'core standards.' And the key 'core standard' is mandatory union monopoly bargaining.

"Localities in all 50 states would be denied the option to refuse to grant a single public-safety union the power to speak for all front-line employees, including those who don't want to join.

"Monopoly bargaining, euphemistically labeled as 'exclusive representation,' would be foisted on police, firefighters, and other public-safety employees nationwide. And in most states that already authorize public-safety union monopoly bargaining, H.R.413/S.3194 would widen its scope."

Right to Work Supporters Must Not Let Their Guard Down -- Even After Election Day

Mr. Mix pointed out that, up to now, the Right to Work Committee and its members have led a successful campaign to block the union brass from ramming police/fire monopoly-bargaining legislation through Congress.

However, he added, large majorities of both chambers of Congress, including a number of Republicans as well as practically every Democrat, are on the record in favor of H.R.413/S.3194. Now is certainly not the time to declare victory.

"Right to Work members and supporters nationwide must be prepared to keep turning up the heat on their senators and congressmen, even after Election Day, to ensure that neither a gussied-up version of 'card check' nor police/fire monopoly bargaining is enacted late this year," said Mr. Mix.

"It might be hard for some people to believe that even Harry Reid, Nancy Pelosi, and President Obama would be audacious enough to try to grant enormously consequential new special privileges to Big Labor during a 'lame duck' congressional session.

"But the grim determination of these politicians to help union bosses corral workers into unions, by hook or crook, cannot be overestimated.

"Forced-unionism opponents can't afford to let their guard down for one moment. Not now, with crucial elections just a few weeks away. But not after Election Day, either." 📌



CREDIT: ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama and Big Labor legislators like Sen. Bob Casey (D-Pa.) are desperate to please their union

patrons by passing major forced-unionism legislation in the current Congress. They may keep trying after Election Day.

Capitol Hill's 'Lame Ducks' Are Dangerous

Right to Work Mobilizes Against Looming 'November Surprise'

Since forced-unionism cheerleader Barack Obama became President in January 2009, Big Labor bosses and their yes-men in the U.S. Congress have helped him inflict a lot of damage on employees, businesses, and taxpayers across America.

To take just the latest example, last month union puppet politicians in the Senate and House rubber-stamped a special-interest measure (H.R.1586) that will ultimately extract an additional \$10 billion from beleaguered private-sector employees and businesses to maintain and expand wasteful unionized government payrolls.

From 1998 to 2007, the number of instructional employees at K-12 public schools nationwide soared by 15.9% -- an increase 3.5 times greater than the 4.5% growth in school enrollment over the same period.

The rapid-fire expansion of school payrolls, roughly 70% of which are unionized, produced no measurable improvement in educational outcomes, but cost taxpayers tens of billions of dollars.

And the terms on which H.R.1586 piles on another \$10 billion are expressly designed to ensure that currently strapped states do not pare back the past decade of teacher union boss-driven growth in K-12 payrolls in order to avoid increasing the burden on taxpaying individuals and businesses.

On August 11, just one day after the House had okayed H.R.1586, President Obama signed it into law.

Big Labor Bosses Still Far From Satisfied

But despite having received a host of handouts like H.R.1586 during the past two years, top union bosses remain far from satisfied. They are making no secret about the fact that they think they are still owed at least a few more juicy legislative plums before the end of this Congress.

After all, as union dons never hesitate to remind the Democratic President and congressional leaders, they, more than any other special-interest group, are responsible for

giving one political party control of the White House and lopsided Senate and House majorities at the same time.

It's estimated that, in 2007 and 2008, the union political machine pumped well over a billion dollars, mostly siphoned off from workers' forced union dues and fees, into efforts to put Big Labor Democrats in firm control of the executive and legislative branches of the federal government.

Consequently, union barons expected to see enacted in the current Congress legislation that would help them sharply increase the share of all private-sector workers who are under union monopoly-bargaining control.

Their original vehicle for achieving this objective was S.560/H.R.1409, the so-called "Employee Free Choice Act."

Sponsored by Big Labor Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Congressman George Miller (D-Calif.), S.560/H.R.1409 would grease the skids for union-boss workplace takeovers in several ways. Most famously, it would effectively end secret-ballot elections in union organizing drives, replacing them with so-called "card checks."

That means, if S.560/H.R.1409 became law, union organizers would have far more opportunities than they currently do to intimidate individual workers into signing not just themselves, but all of their nonunion fellow employees, over to Big Labor control.

Right to Work Resistance Has Stalled Power Grab

Unfortunately for union bigwigs, since early 2009 the National Right to Work Committee and its allies have mobilized massive public opposition to S.560/H.R.1409, greatly lowering its prospects for passage in its current form.

In response, for many months now Big Labor lobbyists and politicians have huddled together with the intent of concocting new, passable legislation that would accomplish the same objective through somewhat different means.

Now it seems that their "Plan B" might well emerge in the 2009-2010 Congress -- but not until after Election Day!

On August 12, union-label Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.)

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CREDIT: WWW.FLICKR.COM (MAGZIE)

If freedom-loving citizens don't keep turning up the heat on their senators and congressmen late this fall, a looming

"lame duck" session of Congress could end up doing severe damage to the Right to Work.