

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 57, NUMBER 2

www.nrtwc.org

February 2011

AFL-CIO President Applauds Obama Bureaucrats *Kudos Go to NLRB Members For 'Encouraging' Monopolistic Unionism*

The four current members of the powerful National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), all appointed or reappointed by President Barack Obama, are poised to make a series of major decisions expanding forced unionism over the next few months.

Richard Trumka, president of the AFL-CIO union conglomerate, is licking his chops at this prospect -- and it's no mystery why he and other union kingpins are eager to see the Obama NLRB reinvent the federal rules for unionization campaigns.

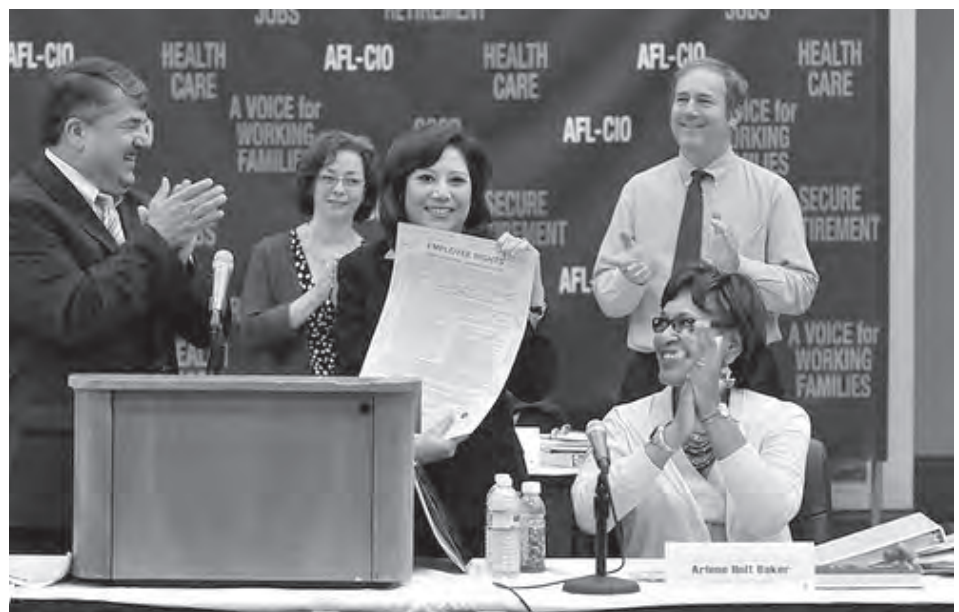
Chairman Wilma Liebman, an NLRB veteran first appointed to the agency in 1997 by then-President Bill Clinton and elevated to the leadership position by Mr. Obama in 2009, is an ex-Teamster union lawyer. And Obama appointees Craig Becker and Mark Pearce both come out of union legal ranks.

More important, Ms. Liebman, Mr. Becker, and Mr. Pearce have all already demonstrated a willingness to go well beyond the pro-forced unionism letter of federal labor law to make it as difficult as they can for independent employees and businesses to avoid union monopoly control.

Federal Labor Law Itself Tramples Freedom of Independent-Minded Workers

Only one current NLRB member, former GOP Senate staffer Brian Hayes, has shown any real reluctance to rewrite the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) whenever they turn out to be inconvenient for union organizers.

But Mr. Hayes is evidently destined to be perpetually outvoted by the three forced-unionism zealots who now sit



Obama appointees such as U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis (center) have put a smile on the face of AFL-CIO chief

Richard Trumka (left) by promoting bureaucratic schemes to herd workers into unions.

with him on the Board. (The fifth NLRB seat remains vacant as this month's Right to Work Newsletter goes to press.)

Even were it implemented as it is written, the decades-old NLRA would be an inveterate enemy of the American employee's freedom to make personal decisions about unionism.

The NLRA explicitly provides that, when one more than half of employees, among those expressing an opinion, favor unionization, *all* employees may legally be forced to accept a particular union as their "exclusive" (monopoly) bargaining agent with regard to terms and conditions of employment.

Monopoly bargaining, sanctioned under the NLRA, denies employees who don't want any union (or at least

one particular union) the freedom to negotiate directly with their employer (or through another union).

This is not a case of "majority rule." The fact is, when a majority of workers *oppose* unionization, the NLRA as interpreted by federal courts permits the minority of workers who want a union to select a union to negotiate contracts for members only.

But workers who *oppose* unionization are, when they are in the minority, denied the freedom to remain free of monopolistic unionism.

The NLRA also empowers union officials, except those whose coercive privileges are checked by a state Right to Work law, to browbeat employers

See 'Card Check' page 2

CREDIT: RADARIS.COM

'Card Check' by Another Means

Continued from page 1

into agreeing to fire employees who refuse to join or pay dues or fees to a union they don't want.

However, as biased as federal labor law is, it hasn't, especially in recent years, helped Big Labor acquire and maintain monopoly control over nearly as many private-sector workers as union officials and their political allies deem sufficient.

That's why Mr. Trumka and company are now looking to the NLRB to grease the skids for thousands of additional Big Labor workplace takeovers.

'Electronic' Voting Would Facilitate 'Card Check'-Style Abuses

On January 19, the AFL-CIO czar explained why he is so looking forward to seeing the Obama NLRB in action:

"We are seeing a President who supports collective bargaining [i.e., monopolistic unionism] and is doing what he can to have the National Labor Relations Board perform its function of encouraging that process."

One significant way in which the NLRB may go about "encouraging" monopolistic unionism is through promotion of so-called "electronic" voting in workplace unionization campaigns.

Last June, the NLRB put out a request for information about "electronic voting services for both remote and on-site elections."

The request has been widely interpreted as a step toward mandating the routine use of remote Internet or telephone balloting in union organizing campaigns.

Under current law, when a unionization election occurs, employees normally cast their votes in private ballot booths, except when circumstances make the use of ballot booths very difficult or impossible.

If the Obama NLRB dispenses with ballot booths, and instead makes it the norm for workers to cast their votes over unionization from, say, their home computers, that will greatly intensify the process's bias in favor of union organizers.

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix pointed out: "Federal labor policy already authorizes professional union

organizers to target individual workers by visiting them at their homes, a privilege of which the union hierarchy regularly takes advantage.

"Forcing employees to vote at home would greatly exacerbate the abuses that already occur during such 'home visits.' Union organizers would visit workers' homes to 'make sure' they had voted electronically, and even offer to 'help' them cast their votes.

"In fact, the potential for Big Labor abuses generated by mandatory electronic balloting may be just as great as if Congress had replaced secret ballots in unionization campaigns with mandatory 'card checks.'

"Because of overwhelming public opposition, mobilized largely by Right to Work members, Congress declined to heed Big Labor demands to mandate 'card checks' in 2009 and 2010.

"But NLRB bureaucrats could, even without Congress's help, do just as much damage by mandating intrinsically insecure off-site electronic balloting."

Mr. Mix added that the NLRB is far from the only federal bureaucracy that Obama appointees appear to be using as a prod to corral workers into unions.


Another major example is the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). A DOL

"strategic plan" made public early this year actually states that "many" of the agency's "outcome goals are furthered by high rates of [compulsory] union membership."

Committee President Pledges To Work With Capitol Hill Allies to Thwart Power Grab

But Mr. Mix vowed that the Committee would work closely with Capitol Hill allies to block Obama bureaucrats from the NLRB, the DOL, and other agencies from using regulations to steepen federal labor law's slant against the individual employee's freedom.

"Enactment of budgetary or other legislation reining in NLRB and DOL abuses will be a tall order this year and next, given Big Labor Sen. Harry Reid's [D-Nev.] continuing control over Congress's upper chamber and President Obama's continued veto power," acknowledged Mr. Mix.

"But it's a battle Right to Work supporters can't afford to pass up. Committee members and supporters and their allies fought too hard during the first two years of the Obama Administration to block the 'card-check' scheme legislatively to now stand back and let it be imposed, effectively, by bureaucratic fiat." 



Craig Becker, one of three union lawyers now sitting on the NLRB, has publicly dismissed the notion that workers should

have any say whatsoever, as individuals or collectively, over whether or not they are unionized.

CREDIT: PURPLEPEOPLEBEATERS.COM

'Wrongful Use of...Violence and Fear'

Latest Indictments Show Mob Retains Grip on Several Major Unions

Just last September, Tommy Leonardis, president of the Newark-based Local 1235 of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA), attended a hearing at the New Jersey Capitol in Trenton to protest a state program targeting Organized Crime in the New York harbor region.

Mr. Leonardis insisted Mafia infiltration of the ILA and the waterfront was a thing of the past, grumbling that the program unfairly "tars the industry as mob-influenced."

But last month, a federal grand jury issued an 82-page indictment charging that it is in reality ILA union bosses like Mr. Leonardis who continue to blacken the reputation of the New Jersey waterfront.

The indictment accuses Mr. Leonardis, along with former Local 1235 Presidents Albert Cernadas and Vincent Aulisi, the latter's son Eddie, and Nuncio LaGrasso, vice president of another Newark-based ILA local, as well as other conspirators, of running an extortion operation in which unionized workers were the principal victims.

Specifically, Mr. Leonardis and other conspirators "agreed to obtain property of ILA members, that is: money belonging to ILA union members, with their consent, which consent was to be induced by wrongful use of actual and threatened force, violence and fear." One especially egregious form of extortion of which several ILA union-boss defendants are accused is the collection of "Christmas tribute" money from dockworkers after they received year-end bonuses. This tribute was allegedly funneled into Genovese Crime Family coffers as well as ILA chieftains' pockets.

A Foreman Who Protests Shakedowns May Need 'to Be Physically Assaulted'

Federal prosecutors' January 20 arrests of half-a-dozen current and former ILA officials and their cohorts were only part of a larger takedown that day. Also indicted was Ralph Scopo Jr., the former president of Local 6A of the New York Cement and Concrete Workers union. This local is affiliated with the notorious Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA).



CREDIT: AF11.WORDPRESS.COM

Under forced-unionism laws, crooked union dons like Albert Cernadas are often succeeded by other crooks.

The indictment in which Mr. Scopo is named alleges that he and his son, Ralph III, current union president and an unindicted coconspirator, have run Local 6A as a front for the Colombo Crime Family.

Among the favors done by Local 6A kingpins for the Colombos was the "coffee boy" scam. In this shakedown, occurring at every 6A-controlled job site, workers were forced to buy all their lunches, snacks and drinks from a mob-selected vendor who kicked back \$250 a week to the Colombos.

When one foreman protested such extortion, Ralph Jr. escorted him to a meeting with Colombo captain Dino

Calabro and Ralph III. According to the indictment, during the meeting Ralph Jr. explained to Mr. Calabro that he had brought along Ralph III in case the foreman "needed to be physically assaulted."

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

"The ILA's New Jersey locals and LIUNA Local 6A are representative of many other union operations that have remained crooked, decade after decade, despite multiple crackdowns by law enforcement," noted National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen.

"And federal labor laws that force employees to accept unwanted union representation and pay union dues or fees as a condition of employment are the single most important reason why. Forced unionism denies ordinary honest employees the opportunity to fight back against corrupt union bosses by quitting the union and withholding their dues money.

"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 is determined to pass national Right to Work legislation, and thus repeal all federally-imposed forced dues." 📞

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

www.nrtwc.org

February 2011

Written and Distributed by:

National Right to Work Committee®

8001 Braddock Road
Springfield, Va. 22160

E-mail: Members@NRTW.org

Mark Mix President

Reed Larson Exec. Cmte. Chairman

Stephen Goodrick Vice President

Matthew Leen Vice President

Greg Mourad Legislative Director

Stanley Greer Newsletter Editor

Editorial comments only: stg@nrtw.org

Contact the Membership Department by phoning 1-800-325-RTWC (7892) or (703) 321-9820, or faxing (703) 321-7143, if you wish to:

- Report address changes or corrections
- Receive the NEWSLETTER or request, renew, or cancel Committee membership
- Obtain more information

Because of NRTWC's tax-exempt status under IRC Sec. 501 (C) (4) and its state and federal legislative activities, contributions are not tax deductible as charitable contributions (IRC § 170) or as business deductions (IRC § 162(e)(1)).

© 2010 by the National Right to Work Committee®. Permission to reprint individual articles granted. Credit requested.

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

• SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2011 • www.indystar.com • 50 CENTS • CITY EDITION

Union bosses distort right-to-work facts

Regular observers of the Hoosier Capitol in Indianapolis report there is a strong possibility state legislators will soon vote on legislation protecting the individual employee's freedom to join or bankroll a union, or refuse to do either, without being fired as a consequence.

Even before the new legislature convened, Rep. Wes Culver, R-Goshen, introduced House Bill 1028, which would prohibit forcing employees to join or pay dues or fees to a union as a condition of employment, thus making Indiana America's 23rd right-to-work state. Rep. Jerry Torr, R-Carmel, and Sen. Carlin Yoder, R-Middlebury, have also introduced right-to-work legislation.

Not surprisingly, it angers Big Labor that Indiana elected officials may soon seriously consider stripping the state's union officials of their government-granted privilege to force employees, including union members and nonmembers alike, to pay tribute to their union monopoly-bargaining agent just to keep their jobs.

In their anger, union bosses are displaying a near-total disregard for the facts. In one remarkable example, the hierarchy of the Indiana AFL-CIO has posted on its website a screed insisting state right-to-work legislation is not necessary, because "federal law already protects workers who don't want to join a union to get or keep their jobs."

In reality, federal law specifically authorizes union contracts forcing workers who don't want to join a union to pay dues or fees that can be as high as full union dues, or be fired from their jobs. Technically, such workers haven't "joined" the union. But how significant is that?

If federal law permitted you to join a union over your employer's objection, but not to pay dues if the employer objected, then would your right to join a union

Mark Mix
MY VIEW

really be protected by the law? Labor-law specialists and the man on the street understand that would not constitute genuine protection. Similarly, the right not to join a union isn't truly protected by current federal law.

Federal law specifically authorizes contracts telling workers they do have to join a union within a few weeks after they get the job. And the overwhelming majority of private-sector union contracts in non-right-to-work states declare baldly that new hires have to become union "members."

Current law in Indiana and other non-right-to-work states helps Big Labor mislead millions of workers into believing they have to join the union flat out, or be fired. If federal law actually included provisions protecting the individual employee's freedom not to join, union lobbyists would be clamoring for their removal.

One falsehood by Indiana AFL-CIO bigwigs is their claim that unions "must represent all eligible employees, whether they pay dues or not." That's simply not true. Under both federal and state law, union officials have always had the option to negotiate "members-only" contracts with employers that do not affect the terms of employment of workers who do not wish to join or pay dues to a union.

However, union officials virtually always eschew their members-only option, and instead focus efforts on obtaining recognition from the employer as the monopoly-bargaining agent of all the employees in a so-called "bargaining unit."

Of course, monopoly bargaining paves the way for forced union dues and fees. But the fact that it is legal does not give union bosses the right to disregard the fact that members-only bargaining is also legal.

Misrepresentations, misdirection and misstatements are not a legitimate part of any public debate over whether Indiana should enact a right-to-work law.

★ Mix is president of the National Right to Work Committee in Springfield, Va.

'In reality, federal law specifically authorizes union contracts forcing workers who don't want to join a union to pay union dues or fees that can be as high as full union dues, or be fired from their jobs.'

'If federal law actually included provisions protecting the individual employee's freedom not to join, union lobbyists would be clamoring for their removal.'



Mix

Right to Work on the March in Statehouses

Economic Reality Puts Compulsory-Unionism Apologists on Defensive

In a hand-wringing January 21 commentary for the leftist *Huffington Post*, international Teamster chieftain Jim Hoffa joined the ranks of prominent union officials bemoaning the recent introduction of legislation prohibiting forced union dues and fees in state capitols across America.

Mr. Hoffa called on his militant followers to "fight like h***" against what he called "dangerous attacks." In reality, of course, the Right to Work measures he decried would do nothing more than prohibit firing or denying a job to an employee simply because he or she refuses to join or bankroll an unwanted union.

Echoing the rhetoric of his late father Jimmy Hoffa, who filled out his last four years as Teamster czar while serving a federal prison term for jury tampering, attempted bribery and fraud, Mr. Hoffa proffered a conspiracy theory about why Right to Work legislation is being considered in so many states this year.

"A coordinated network of think tanks, business groups, [and other organizations] has for years been working toward passing these right-to-work ... laws. Leading the charge is National Right to Work," he fumed.

Greg Mourad, legislative director for the National Right to Work Committee, said he was flattered by Mr. Hoffa's willingness to give the Committee the lion's share of the credit for the proliferation of Right to Work

measures in statehouses this year, but added that the real story is rather different.

'Ever-Mounting Evidence Indicates Forced Unionism Stifles Economic Growth'

"It's true that the persistence and determination of the 2.6 million Committee members around the country are an important part of the reason why there are substantial and well-coordinated efforts to pass Right to Work laws underway in Missouri, Montana, Kentucky, Indiana, and Wisconsin this year," said Mr. Mourad.

"And to that already impressive list, you should add Maine and New Hampshire, two states in the Northeast, the only region of the country that hasn't had any Right to Work laws up to now.

"Plus there are now burgeoning efforts to pass Right to Work legislation in the longtime Big Labor stronghold states of Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

"Then there's Colorado, where the Right to Work movement is now slowly regaining strength after a well-intentioned, but misguided and unsuccessful bid in 2008 to prohibit forced union dues and fees through a statewide ballot initiative.

"Big Labor is now busy battling Right to Work legislative campaigns in roughly a dozen of the 28 remaining

forced-unionism states partly because of grass-roots activists, who are being assisted by the National Committee, but fundamentally because of economic reality.

"The fact is, ever-mounting evidence indicates forced unionism stifles economic growth. This is the case regardless of whether you compare the 22 states with Right to Work laws already on the books with forced-unionism states nationwide, or only with those located within the same region."

More and More Citizens Recognize Their States Require Fundamental Reform

"Take the Midwest, where several of the most advanced state Right to Work campaigns are now underway," Mr. Mourad continued.

"The last decade was undeniably tough for this region.

"But from 1999 to 2009, the five Midwestern Right to Work states experienced aggregate private-sector job growth of 2.3%. Over the same period, the seven Midwestern forced-unionism states lost 8.1% of their private-sector jobs.

"Forced-unionism states are lagging behind Right to Work states partially because Big Labor's counterproductive work rules and fomentation of the 'hate-the-boss' mentality lead to slower revenue growth in the unionized businesses themselves.

"On top of that, union bosses funnel a huge portion of the forced dues and fees they collect into efforts to elect and reelect state and local, as well as federal, politicians who support more forced unionism, higher taxes, and more red-tape regulation of business.

"In today's slow-growth national economy, such impediments hurt forced-unionism states more severely than they have in the past.

"That's why more and more citizens recognize their states need fundamental reform.

"And that's the basic problem for Jim Hoffa and company. The role of the Committee and its members is simply to help mobilize popular opposition to forced unionism and make it more effective." 📢



In January, Teamster President Jim Hoffa fumed: "A coordinated network ... has for years been working toward

passing these right-to-work ... laws. Leading the charge is National Right to Work."

Big Labor Disdained 'Alleged Religious Beliefs'

Unjust Firing Helped Make Frank Partin a Right to Work Leader

There are many paths to becoming a leader in the Right to Work movement. Frank Partin's was an unusually difficult one.

In 1973, Mr. Partin was working for Philco-Ford at the New Hampshire Satellite Tracking Station in New Boston, when the facility was targeted by International Association of Machinists (IAM/AFL-CIO) union organizers.

Mr. Partin's Efforts to Keep His Job Honorably Ran Into Big Labor Wall

The Big Labor campaign soon succeeded, and in short order IAM officials obtained from Philco-Ford a forced-unionism contract with a clause requiring the termination of any employee who refused to become and remain "a member in good standing of the Union" once the contract had been in effect for 30 days.

Mr. Partin's problem was not simply that he didn't want to join the IAM union, but that he couldn't do so without compromising his faith in God.

He was then, and remained for the rest of his life, a member of the Church of the Kingdom, a Christian denomination that teaches, as a matter of doctrine based on its understanding of the Bible, that no member may belong to, join, or participate in any labor union.

But Frank Partin still hoped, for a time, that IAM officials would accept an alternative arrangement he proposed and thus allow him to keep his job without going against the doctrine of his faith.

'We Have No Alternative But to Process Your Termination'

In a letter to the secretary-treasurer of his IAM local, Mr. Partin offered to "donate to the union the equivalent of initiation fees and monthly union dues if it was understood I was not a member of the union, and the union in turn donated that amount to a bona fide charitable organization."

IAM Local 2503 Secretary-Treasurer Dwight Mercer was unmoved.

Even a signed affidavit from Mr. Partin's pastor certifying that he was a

member of the Church of the Kingdom and could not remain one if he joined or participated in a labor union did not cause Mr. Mercer to budge.

In an icy letter, dated March 19, 1973, Mr. Mercer sneered that Mr. Partin's "current alleged religious beliefs" did not give him any protection from forced payment of a union initiation fee and full monthly dues. And IAM bosses would spend the conscripted money exactly as they wanted.

Frank Partin refused to compromise his faith in the way the IAM hierarchy demanded. Consequently, on March 28, 1973, he received a letter from Philco-Ford stating that, in accordance with Article II of the union contract (the forced-unionism clause), "we have no alternative but to process your termination as soon as possible."

'He Was the Kind of Guy Who Really Loved Life'

"A lesser man would have been embittered by what happened to Frank at Philco-Ford, but not him. Instead, he picked up the pieces and found another job he could hold in good conscience, without paying tribute to Big Labor," commented John Kalb, executive director of New England Citizens for Right to Work and a friend.

"His unjust firing at Philco-Ford did change Frank, but not in a negative way. It helped him decide to become a leader in both state and federal efforts to protect all workers from being forced

to pay tribute to an unwanted union as a condition of employment.

"Frank went on to become president of the New England Right to Work organization and a board member of the National Right to Work Committee. He was always ready to speak up for the cause, even when he knew he was fighting an uphill battle.


"You rarely saw him without a smile. He was the kind of guy who really loved life."

Right to Work Advocates Have Suffered a Great Loss

On December 26, Frank Partin died suddenly of a heart attack while shoveling snow outside his home in New Boston.

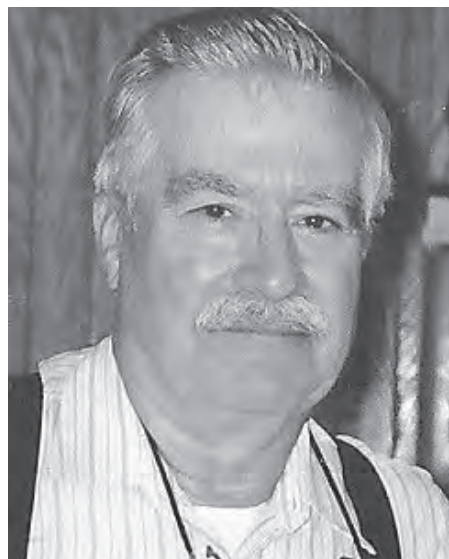
His wife Jean recalls that he "looked as if he'd seen Heaven's welcoming committee and gone home -- no sign of pain at all."

"I knew Frank thanks to his unflagging Right to Work activism," said Mr. Kalb. "but he was even more dedicated to his faith and family members." A passionate striper fisherman, Mr. Partin went on many fishing trips with his sons Chris and Andy.

Supporters of the individual employee's Right to Work, as well as his wife, children, step-children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and other family, have suffered a great loss with the passing of Frank Partin. 

'The fact is, compulsory unionism hurts workers, and I have experienced this first-hand.'

Frank Partin, testifying before a New Hampshire Senate panel in 2006



Mobilization Remains Critical

Continued from page 8

99% of the Democrats voting sided with Big Labor.

"This debacle occurred in large part due to lack of leadership by senior House Republicans.

"In fact, the GOP House leadership team failed even to send out an e-mail urging caucus members to oppose H.R.980 until an hour before the floor vote.

"Fortunately, thanks to Committee members' determined efforts, the Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill has never made it through the Senate, even though more than 60 senators were on record in favor of it at the beginning of the 2009-2010 Congress.

"But the history of flat-out support for this destructive scheme by many Republicans and often lackluster opposition by others reminds us that Right to Work mobilization is always necessary, regardless of who holds the congressional reins."

States With Heaviest Public-Sector Unionization Have Higher Taxes, More Debt

Mr. Mix emphasized that all taxpayers, including but not limited to the millions of Americans who support the Right to Work as a matter of principle, have a stake in preventing the federalization of public-safety monopoly bargaining.

"The record shows that pervasive unionization of government employees is closely associated with higher taxes and more public debt," observed Mr. Mix. "Therefore, enactment of federal police/fire monopoly-bargaining legislation would almost certainly lead to tax hikes in state after state.

"In 2008, while 40.7% of all government employees, federal, state and local, nationwide were unionized, public-sector unionization was 60% or more in seven states.

"That year, residents of those Big Labor-controlled states had to fork over, on average, a 22% higher share of their income in state and local taxes than did the residents of states with below-average public-sector unionization.

"Moreover, in Fiscal 2008, eight of the 10 states with the most long-term debt as a share of their personal income had public-sector unionization higher than 50%.

"Meanwhile, every one of the 10

states with the least long-term debt as a share of their personal income had public-sector unionization below the national average.

"In five of these last indebted states, public-sector unionization was less than half the national average!

"Cities, towns and counties across America are already facing their worst fiscal crisis in decades.

"It would truly be tragic if the 2011-2012 Congress passed legislation greatly compounding the damage."

Neutrality Is Not an Acceptable Position

Mr. Mix called on House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) and House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.) to announce publicly and without delay that they will do everything within their power to prevent the so-called "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act" from becoming law over the next two years.

He specified: "The speaker ought to make it clear he will not allow this power grab to come up for a House floor vote, unless Big Labor forces his hand by browbeating a majority of House members into signing a 'discharge petition.'"

"And simply by broadcasting his


firm opposition to government union bosses' pet legislation now, Mr. Boehner can make it much more difficult for union lobbyists to muster sufficient support to pull off a discharge-petition strategy.

"It's also important that rank-and-file House members, especially the 59 Republicans who voted for H.R.980 in 2007 and are still in the lower chamber today, announce that from now on they will consistently oppose such legislation.

"A handful of the 59 have already made such a commitment, and I applaud them, but many more must do the same.

"Neutrality is not an acceptable position. Just last summer, Kentucky Secretary of State Trey Grayson, then a leading candidate for the GOP nomination for his state's open U.S. Senate seat, tried to fudge his position on public-safety monopoly bargaining.

"Outraged Right to Work supporters and limited government proponents responded to Mr. Grayson's issue dodging by voting to make staunch forced-unionism foe Rand Paul their GOP nominee, and ultimately their senator.

"I hope all House members who call themselves opponents of Big Government remember what happened to Mr. Grayson and several other candidates who tried to dodge the monopoly-bargaining issue last year. And side with the millions of freedom-loving Americans who want to roll back union monopoly control over public servants, rather than expand it." 



Kentucky U.S. Senate candidate Trey Grayson (facing forward) paid a steep political price in 2010 for his refusal to

oppose legislation promoting union monopoly bargaining over police, firefighters, and other first responders.

CREDIT: AP

Have GOP Big Labor Appeasers Changed Their Ways?

Opposition to Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill a Major Test

Last November, voters across the country expressed their dismay at the huge expansion in government spending that began during the presidential administration of Republican George W. Bush and has accelerated sharply since Democrat Barack Obama took over the White House in early 2009.

One of reform-minded 2010 voters' principal aims was first to contain this expansion, and then to roll it back.

Now Republican Speaker John Boehner (Ohio) and the 241 other members of his U.S. House party caucus have an early opportunity to demonstrate they are worthy of the trust grass-roots supporters of limited government have put in them.

The challenge is fundamentally the same for the speaker and other GOP House leaders, rank-and-file Republican congressmen, and for Democrat politicians who purport to want to keep government expenditures from spiraling out of control:

State publicly and as soon as possible that you will do everything within your power to prevent passage by the 2011-2012 House of union bosses' Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill.

Introduced in the House in the last Congress as H.R.413, the Police/Fire Monopoly Bargaining Bill would empower Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) bureaucrats to survey all 50 states and identify which have failed to meet the legislation's "core standards."

'Any Genuine Opponent of Big Government Should Eagerly Oppose This Legislation'

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 monopoly bargaining, this legislation would widen its scope.



CREDIT: ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

Last year, well-mobilized Right to Work opposition prevented President Obama from delivering union monopoly control

over state and local public-safety officers nationwide to firefighters union kingpin Harold Schaitberger (right).

As *Wall Street Journal* reporter Kris Maher noted late last spring, under this legislation, if any state refused to institute monopoly bargaining and comply with other mandates, FLRA bureaucrats would implement them themselves.

"The Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill is an intrusive federal mandate that would impair the ability of states and localities to keep their expenditures of taxpayer dollars under control," noted National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"Proponents have cynically mislabeled this measure, which could be reintroduced in the new Congress at any time, as the 'Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act.' In reality, the bill would exacerbate an imbalance that already exists between the government sector and the private sector.

"In every political jurisdiction, public spending tends to grow faster than taxpayers' incomes, rendering government costs more and more burdensome over time.

"But decades of experience show this problem is worst of all in states with pervasive and mandatory public-

sector monopoly bargaining.

"That's why, in the current Congress, any genuine opponent of Big Government should eagerly oppose this legislation."

In 2007, 98 House Republicans Voted For Monopoly-Bargaining Bill

"Some freedom-loving citizens may assume federally mandated union monopoly bargaining is no longer a threat this year, because Republicans have taken over the House," Mr. Mix continued.

"Unfortunately, that's just not so.

"While in recent years congressional Republicans have opposed certain other union power grabs, such as the notorious 'card-check' forced-unionism bill, virtually as a bloc, that hasn't been the case with regard to the public-safety union power grab.

"In fact, in July 2007, when union lobbyists rammed the Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill, then numbered H.R.980, through the House for the first time, 98 GOP congressmen voted for it, while just 94 voted against it! Meanwhile, nearly

See Mobilization page 7