NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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Senate Green-Lights NLRB 'Card-Check' Scheme

Big Labor Senators Let Obama Bureaucrats Do Their Dirty Work

In the 2007-2008 and 2009-2010 Congresses, Big Labor's top objective was a rewrite of federal labor law making it even easier for union bosses to seize monopoly-bargaining power over millions of employees in the American private sector.

Union strategists' legislative vehicle was the cynically mislabeled "Employee Free Choice Act," more accurately referred to as the "Card-Check" Forced-Unionism Bill.

So-called "card checks" enable union bosses to acquire "exclusive" (monopoly) power to negotiate employees' pay, benefits, and work rules solely through the acquisition of signed "union authorization cards."

Federal labor law has long permitted card checks. Consequently, individual workers under the peering eyes of union organizers may be intimidated into signing not just themselves, but all of their nonunion fellow employees, over to union-boss control.

However, as stacked as current statutes are in favor of Big Labor's monopoly-bargaining power, employers nevertheless retain the right to stand up for their employees against union-boss intimidation tactics.

In the 2010 Elections, 31 Card-Check Bill Supporters Went Down to Defeat

The Card-Check Forced-Unionism Bill would have empowered union officials to impose monopoly bargaining through card checks automatically, with no recourse for any pro-Right to Work employee or employer.

This legislation was totally contrary to the policy views of the vast majority of citizens, including union members.

CREDIT: REDDOGREPORT.COM

"Moderate" Senate Democrats like Michael Bennet, Kay Hagan, and Mark Warner (inset, top to bottom) sided with the union brass and Majority Leader Harry Reid in last month's "card-check" showdown.

"Over the years, polls have shown Americans overwhelmingly oppose union monopoly bargaining, period," explained National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"The public certainly has no interest in backing policies designed to help Big Labor grab monopoly-bargaining privileges over millions of additional workers."

On Election Day, 2010, the American people had their say about whether Washington, D.C., should be handing union bosses more power over workers and helping funnel more forced dues into union coffers.

"Just 18 months ago," noted Mr. Mix, "31 House and Senate incumbents who had voted for the card-check scheme lost their re-election bids. This was about as clear an electoral repudiation as any bill ever gets.

"Unfortunately, the forced-unionism zealots who have been running the show at the National Labor Relations Board since shortly after Barack Obama became President don't seem to have noticed. And U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid [Nevada] and his caucus appear not to remember any more what happened in the 2010 elections.

"Voters sent a plain message they oppose the imposition of new federal policies to help Organized Labor increase the share of workers under union monopoly-bargaining control.

"But in November 2011 the Obama NLRB okayed the first phase of its plan to achieve precisely that goal. And last

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'Card Check' by Bureaucratic Fiat

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month a 54-45 Senate majority gave the NLRB a green light to proceed."

The NLRB rule was advanced last fall by Chairman Mark Pearce and Craig Becker, two rabidly anti-Right to Work ex-union lawyers installed on the board by President Barack Obama. It would sharply reduce the current median time frame of 38 days between the filing of a union "representation petition" and the conduct of a union election.

'Ambush' Elections Would Deny Workers a Meaningful Vote

As former NLRB member and Right to Work supporter Peter Kirsanow noted at the time, the effect of such a change will be dramatic. It will "utterly and completely deprive employers of the ability to communicate vital information to their employees regarding their rights and the effects of unionization," charged Mr. Kirsanow.

Of course, once employers are denied enough time to make their case, employees will ipso facto be denied the opportunity to hear both sides of the story before voting on unionization.

"Apologists for President Obama's NLRB brazenly claim that the 'ambush' election scheme it is now implementing step by step represents only a few modest changes from practices that have been in place for decades," said Mr. Mix.

"In reality, this is nothing other than an underhanded means of gutting what Craig Becker has called workers' 'choice to remain unrepresented' -- a choice he has indicated time and again he doesn't think should be legally protected at all."

Senate Joint Resolution Would Have Overturned Obama NLRB's Late 2011 Power Grab

Heeding the pleas of Committee members and supporters, pro-Right to Work members of Congress have fought to stop the Obama NLRB from wielding its regulatory powers to eviscerate the limited protections employees who don't want a union have long had under federal law.

On April 24, the Senate voted on a joint resolution (S.J.Res.36) that would have overturned the NLRB "ambush" election rule adopted last fall.

Unfortunately, the White House, Big Labor Senate Majority Leader Reid, and union lobbyists prevailed upon every member of Mr. Reid's 53-member Democrat caucus to oppose the rule.

"Even self-styled 'moderate' Senate Democrats like Michael Bennet [Colo.], Kay Hagan [N.C.], and Mark Warner [Va.] voted in favor of 'card check' by bureaucratic decree," Mr. Mix pointed out.

"They were joined by a single GOP senator, Alaska's Lisa Murkowski.

CREDIT: ROB STAPLETON/AP

Habitual union boss-appeaser Lisa Murkowski (Alaska) was the only Senate Republican to go along with the Obama NLRB's "ambush" election scheme. It would curtail drastically employees' ability to resist unionization.

Mark Mix: The Obama NLRB's unmistakable goal is to gut workers' "choice to remain unrepresented."

"In a way, it is fitting that Ms. Murkowski was the only Republican to vote against S.J.Res.36. Unlike virtually every other Big Labor-appeasing Republican in history, she really is beholden to the union political machine.

"In 2010, after Ms. Murkowski was defeated by a pro-Right to Work challenger in her state's GOP Senate primary, teacher and other union bigwigs spent massive sums of forced-dues money to help her stage a rare successful 'write-in' campaign in the general election."

Committee President Vows To Continue Fighting

Because a majority of senators voted in favor of the Obama NLRB's card check-like power grab, the rule went into effect April 30. But Right to Work supporters across the country remain unbowed.

"Over the next few months, the Committee will do everything possible to mobilize pro-Right to Work constituents of senators who voted against S.J.Res.36, and face possibly competitive races for reelection this year," vowed Mr. Mix.

"Right to Work supporters are also fighting tooth and nail to prevent the Obama NLRB from implementing the next phase of its card-check scheme. It includes a mandate that employee phone numbers and e-mail addresses be handed over to union organizers at the outset of each 'ambush' election campaign.

"This is an uphill battle, no doubt, but it's one Right to Work supporters can't afford to pass up. Before we can make things better, we have to stop them from getting even worse."

Did Top NLRB Lawyer Violate Ethics Rules?

Inspector General Asked to Investigate Ex Parte Communications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CREDIT: GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Lafe Solomon (right) attended a 75th birthday gala for federally-imposed forced union dues in 2011.

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

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

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

But Boeing and the South Carolina employees who would have lost good jobs had the acting general counsel's position prevailed were not Mr. Solomon's only targets.

Under the novel legal theory he adopted to bring the case, employees in any state or locality with a comparative advantage in labor relations is a potential target. However, in practice, employees in the 23 states with Right to Work laws barring forced union dues are the main targets, since those states are where most U.S. job growth has occurred in recent decades.

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

"Unfortunately, the out-of-court resolution of the Boeing case does nothing to stop Lafe Solomon from using the same radical reinterpretation of labor law to kill thousands of jobs for other independent employees in other industries," charged National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen.

"And new evidence that Mr. Solomon isn't fit for the job President Obama gave him keeps emerging. Just last month, a Freedom of Information Act [FOIA] request by the group Cause for Action uncovered evidence that Mr. Solomon communicated with then-NLRB Chairman Wilma Liebman about his media strategy in the Boeing case.

"At that time, Ms. Liebman headed the board to which Mr. Solomon could be expected to bring his complaint eventually. Though the heavy redactions of the substance of the e-mails provided in response to the FOIA make it impossible to say for sure, it seems they constitute improper ex parte communications between Mr. Solomon and Ms. Liebman.

"It's like a prosecutor and a judge coordinating their messages for the media in an ongoing case."

Mr. Leen noted U.S. House Workforce Chairman John Kline (R-Minn.) had sent a letter to the NLRB inspector general April 13 asking him to investigate whether Mr. Solomon made improper ex parte communications in the Boeing matter, and called on congressional leaders to monitor the probe closely.

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Chicago Union Dons: Right to Work 'Enslaves' Us

Moreover, They Add, Compulsory Unionism Protects 'Free Speech'

Even before Hoosier legislators had approved a measure to make Indiana America's 23rd Right to Work state early this year, union operatives were publicly boasting that Big Labor would go to court to nullify employees' freedom to hold a job without being forced to fork over union dues, or be fired.

On January 30, as the Senate Labor and Pensions Committee was considering Right to Work legislation (H.B.1001), Todd Vandermyde, one of the top union political operatives in the Midwest, warned members of the panel that Big Labor would use the legal system to overturn the measure if they adopted it.

"No doubt about it. There is going to be litigation on this issue," snarled Mr. Vandermyde, political director of Local 150 of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE/AFL-CIO), headquartered in a Chicago suburb.

Right to Work supporters knew this was no idle threat. They recalled that, after Oklahoma passed its Right to Work law in 2001, union lawyers kept it tied up in court for more than two years before the state Supreme Court finally ended their legal gambit in December 2003.

'The Union Legitimately Utilizes' Nonmembers' Money 'To Finance Political Speech'

And indeed, shortly after the grass-roots campaign to pass an Indiana Right to Work law succeeded on the afternoon of February 1 as Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels signed H.B.1001 into law, the IUOE Local 150 legal team launched its counterattack.

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix observed: "My colleagues and I were definitely prepared for an IUOE Local 150 lawsuit against Indiana's Right to Work law. But we never would have anticipated some of the bizarre claims union lawyers have made."

For example, one Local 150 brief filed in late March actually contends that the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution mandates that union officials be granted the power to force nonmembers to pay dues or fees as a job condition:

CREDIT: JON L. HENDRICKS/NORTHWEST INDIANA TIMES

Officers of Local 150 of the International Union of Operating Engineers and their militant followers insist they are constitutionally entitled to seize forced fees from employees who don't want a union.

"The union legitimately utilizes [forced] dues money collected through the agency shop provisions in its collective bargaining agreements, in part, to finance political speech. The Indiana Right to Work law prohibits agency shop agreements, and that prohibition restricts a channel through which speech-supporting finance might flow."

"Do the Chicago union dons really expect any judge would take seriously such a twisted reading of the First Amendment?" asked Mr. Mix.

'Involuntary Servitude' For Union Bosses?!

As a matter of fact, the U.S. Supreme Court already dismissed such a Big Labor contention, formulated somewhat differently, in the *Davenport* case, won by National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation attorneys in 2007.

Justice Antonin Scalia's *Davenport* opinion bluntly stated: "[U]nions have no constitutional entitlement to the fees of nonmember-employees," regardless of how union officials plan to spend the money.

Local 150 lawyers made another even more outrageous constitutional claim in an amended brief filed last month. This time, they complained that revoking their privilege to exact forced fees from nonmembers consigns union officials to "involuntary servitude," and thus violates the Thirteenth Amendment.

"It should go without saying that Big Labor is not in any way 'serving' workers who don't want a union by forcing them to accept one as their monopoly-bargaining agent," retorted Mr. Mix.

"Forcing such workers to pay fees to the unwanted union for the 'privilege' of losing their personal bargaining rights adds insult to injury."

State Attorney General Greg Zoeller is currently defending the Indiana Right to Work law from IUOE Local 150 plaintiffs in federal court.

Right to Work Foundation attorneys representing Indiana employees who are still forced to pay dues to Local 150 under a "grandfathered" compulsory-unionism contract are seeking an opportunity to intervene in the case.

And These Are the 'Reformist' Big Labor Bosses?

'Known Criminal' Is Top Organizer For Insurgent Carpenters Union

The hierarchy of New York City's Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners (ACJ) union likes to claim that it is the "clean" alternative to Gotham's 25,000-member, corruption-plagued District Council of Carpenters (NYCDCC).

Top ACJ officials like President Joseph Firth surely have a strong case that the NYCDCC, an affiliate of the national United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners (UBC) union, is crooked through and through.

As a March 8 article for the New York *Times* by reporter Tom Robbins noted, the last four presidents of the NYCDCC union "were indicted for on-the-job crimes."

The immediate predecessor of current NYCDCC chief Michael Bilello, Michael Forde, is currently "serving an 11-year term in federal prison for taking bribes."

Another former NYCDCC president, Theodore Maritas, was about to go on trial for extortion in 1982 when he vanished, "leaving behind only a wallet found floating near the Throgs Neck Bridge."

Mr. Bilello and the NYCDCC's current court-appointed monitor, Michael Walsh, promise that "this time will be different" and the union will be run cleanly in the future. But given the failure of four other federal monitors in the past 17 years to root out NYCDCC corruption, rank-and-file workers have good reason to be skeptical.

Head of Upstart Union Has Repeatedly Visited Mob Associate in Prison

Unfortunately for disgruntled unionized carpenters in the Big Apple, many ACJ union officers appear to be cut from the same cloth as Michael Forde.

In fact, ACJ President Firth himself admitted last month to repeatedly visiting Genovese crime family associate Joe Olivieri at the federal prison where Mr. Olivieri now resides in New Jersey. Mr. Olivieri, who is serving a sentence for perjury, also allegedly colluded with Mr. Forde's extortion racket.

Moreover, ACJ union spokesman Eric Gundersen has an extensive criminal record. The New York *Daily News* reported April 15 that in 1994 Mr. Gundersen was part of a teenaged gang that nearly beat to death an off-duty police sergeant who'd dared to tell them to quiet down a pre-dawn party.

Mr. Gundersen and his fellow thugs kicked out all of the sergeant's teeth "and broke nearly every bone in his face."

In 2002, Mr. Gundersen was again busted, this time in Brooklyn, "on 10 counts of assault, menacing and harassment." In 2006, he and two cohorts were charged with savagely beating a fellow worker, with one assailant "slamming a pool ball into the worker's face."

And just this March, Mr. Gundersen reportedly threatened to punch NYCDCC shop steward Chris Porteus with a metal shackle at an uptown job site. "Why would you take a known criminal [to organize]?" Mr. Porteus asked the *Daily News*.

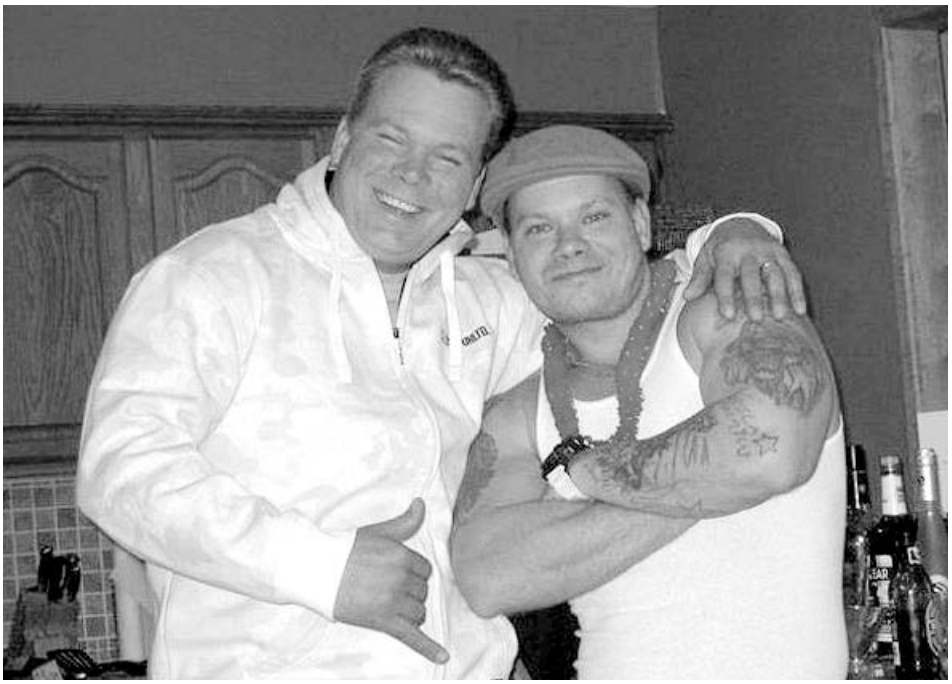
Forced Unionism Culpable For 'Almost Every Antisocial Aspect in Labor Relations'

"The ongoing battle between NYCDCC and ACJ chieftains is fundamentally about which set of Big Labor bosses retain control over New York carpenters' forced-union-dues money," charged National Right to Work Committee Vice President Mary King.

"Ever since the UBC left the AFL-CIO in 2001 and took the NYCDCC with it, AFL-CIO bosses have been looking for a way to get back the share of UBC forced-dues collections that used to go into their pockets. The ACJ represents AFL-CIO bigwigs' latest attempt.

"But the cycle of union corruption is bound to go on regardless of whether the so-called ACJ 'insurgency' succeeds or not. To stop the cycle, Congress needs to repeal the forced-dues provisions in federal labor law and thus empower rank-and-file employees in New York and elsewhere 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 working men' is the 'basic cause of almost every antisocial aspect in labor relations . . . .'"



PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY NEWS (NEW YORK CITY)

In 1994, Eric Gundersen (left) was part of a gang who assaulted an off-duty police officer, breaking nearly every bone in his face. Today Mr. Gundersen is a union organizer, and reportedly still a thug.

Government Unionism 'Is Not Moving People'

Big Labor Counts on Phony Issues to Destroy Governor It Loathes

Union bosses in Wisconsin and nationwide are currently pouring millions and millions of dollars, mostly forced-dues money, into a campaign to oust from office Badger State Gov. Scott Walker (R), Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch (R), and several of their legislative allies in "recall" elections next month.

And there is no doubt about why.

The union hierarchy is out for revenge against the Walker Administration for successfully sponsoring a measure (now known as Act 10) abolishing forced union dues for teachers and many other public employees and also sharply limiting the scope of government union monopoly bargaining.

Union operatives have secured pledges from all the leading Democrat candidates seeking to defeat Mr. Walker, Ms. Kleefisch, and state senators who voted for Act 10 that they will battle to restore all of their forced-dues and monopoly-bargaining privileges should they win next month.

However, as rabidly pro-Big Labor reporter Andy Kroll acknowledged in an analysis for *Mother Jones* April 9, the Wisconsin Democratic Party's strategy for getting rid of Gov. Walker and his team is to downplay the issue of union-boss monopoly power.

"Collective [monopoly] bargaining is not moving people," admitted Democrat Party spokesman Graeme Zielinski to Mr. Kroll. Therefore, union bigwigs and their favored politicians are trying to pitch to the public other rationales for driving Mr. Walker and Ms. Kleefisch from office barely a year and a half after they were duly elected.

Wisconsin Economy Is Getting Back on Its Feet

One Big Labor pretext is a supposed horrific decline in the Wisconsin economy since Mr. Walker's January 2011 inauguration.

Unfortunately for union propagandists, a dispassionate reading of the relevant federal data reveals that the Badger State economy is now actually getting back on its feet after suffering a severe decline during the 2008-2009 recession.

For example, data published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics last month show that, from March 2011 to March 2012, Wisconsin's civilian employment grew by roughly 18,500. State unemployment fell from 8.3% to 7.5%.

"The fact is, Act 10 has enabled Wisconsin to eliminate, without increasing taxes, a state budget deficit that was projected in February 2011 to reach $3.6 billion over two years," said Greg Mourad, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"At the same time, by rolling back government union bosses' 'exclusive'-bargaining privileges, this reform has made it far less difficult for local elected officials to spend the resources they have prudently, so as to provide taxpayers good services at a reasonable cost.

"Moreover, the early evidence indicates that the restoration of public employees' Right to Work and curtailment of government union chiefs' monopoly powers are fostering a better climate for job creation in Wisconsin."

Right to Work Ready to Mobilize Hundreds of Thousands of Wisconsinites

"Big Labor is determined to nip this successful, albeit incremental, reform in the bud," Mr. Mourad continued.

"Gov. Walker has publicly predicted the national union brass will pull as much as $70 million out of their forced dues-funded treasuries for this year's Wisconsin 'recall' elections. Given how high the stakes are, that seems plausible.

"But the Committee and our members will fight back with all our might.

"One important reason pro-Right to Work legislators in Wisconsin were able to withstand union militants' fury and approve Act 10 in early 2011 was the public support mobilized by the Committee's e-mail and telecommunications activities.

"Over the next few weeks, as the 'recall' elections approach, we will once again contact hundreds of thousands of identified Right to Work supporters in Wisconsin to ensure they understand exactly what is at stake.

"Union bigwigs are hoping Badger State citizens will forget that compulsory union dues and union monopoly bargaining are the fundamental issues in the 'recall' elections. It is the Committee's job to ensure they remember. If they do, they will surely repudiate public-sector forced unionism on Election Day."

CREDIT: WTMJ-TV (MILWAUKEE)

Tom Barrett and Kathleen Falk (pictured) are the top two Democrat contenders to be GOP Gov. Scott Walker's challenger in June's "recall" election. Mr. Barrett and Ms. Falk are both vowing to kill Act 10.

All 50 States Would Reap Benefits

Continued from page 8

pay dues to a union, without facing job loss as a consequence of their decision.

"Restoring the personal freedom of millions of American employees is the direct and primary purpose of S.2173 and H.R.2040," explained Mr. Mix. "This legislation wouldn't add one word to federal law.

"At the same time, of all the economic reforms Congress may consider this year, DeMint-Rand-King would surely have the strongest positive impact for incomes and jobs.

"Leading labor economists such as Dr. Richard Vedder of Ohio University have furnished compelling evidence that forced unionism hinders income and employment growth.

"On top of that, union bosses funnel a large amount of the forced dues and fees they collect with federal labor law's abetment into politics.

"And the union-label politicians who routinely get elected and reelected because of their forced dues-funded support overwhelmingly favor higher taxes and more red-tape regulation of businesses.

"The actions of forced dues-funded politicians thus result in less job growth nationwide. But if Congress repealed all the forced-dues provisions in federal labor law, this massive impediment to economic growth would quickly be lifted.

"Forced-dues repeal would spur income and job growth in all 50 states."

Not One of the 16 States With The Slowest Income Growth Had a Right to Work Law

"Growth trends for disposable personal income, that is, the income you have for spending and saving after taxes are paid, illustrate well the potential impact of a nationwide pro-Right to Work policy," Mr. Mix continued.

"Until this year, 22 states had laws on the books that protect employees from being fired for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union. Such state Right to Work laws were explicitly authorized by Congress in Section 14(b) of the 1947 Taft-Hartley Act.

"In March, Indiana became the 23rd Right to Work state when its recently-adopted ban on forced union dues took effect.

"From 2001 to 2011, inflation-adjusted disposable income in Right to Work states grew by an average of 26%, or nearly 70% more than the average gain for forced-unionism states.

"Eight of the 10 states with the fastest growth in disposable income over the past decade have Right to Work laws. But not one of the 16 states with the slowest income growth from 2001 to 2011 had a Right to Work law during that time period.

"And faster growth only constitutes part of Right to Work states' economic edge."

For example, adjusting for regional differences in living costs with the help of indices created by the non-partisan Missouri Economic Research and Information Center, in 2011 the average disposable income per capita in Right to Work states was $36,821.

That's nearly $2200 more than the average for forced-unionism states.

Employees and Firms Based in Current Right to Work States Would Benefit

"Big Labor clearly does the most damage in the states where union bosses rake in the most forced-dues money. But businesses based in current Right to Work states also suffer whenever their major out-of-state suppliers and customers get hurt by Big Labor excesses," Mr. Mix pointed out.

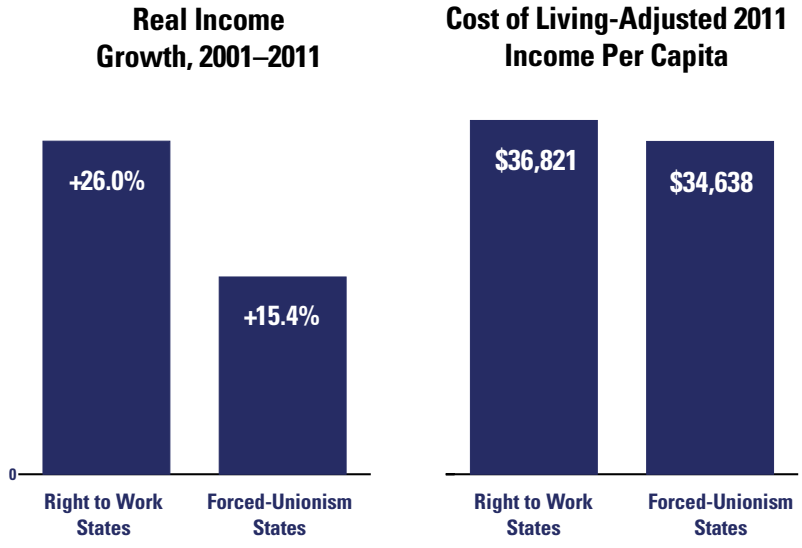
"For that reason alone, employees and businesses based in current Right to Work states would share the benefits as their suppliers and customers were freed from the burden of compulsory unionism.

"No politician should use the fact that his state has a Right to Work law, or doesn't have one, as an excuse to oppose S.2173 or H.R.2040."

Responding to the Committee's mobilization efforts, Right to Work members and supporters, especially constituents of senators whose stance on S.2173 is still unclear, are now contacting their elected officials by phone, mail and e-mail to ask them to support this legislation on all votes. Some Right to Work advocates are even personally visiting Capitol Hill to promote S.2173.

Regardless of whether or not they have already done so, Newsletter readers are urged to contact their U.S. senators right away through the Capitol Hill switchboard, 202-224-3121, and emphasize how important it is they vote for a national Right to Work law.

Disposable Personal Income: Right To Work States Hold the Advantage



Sources: U.S. Commerce Department, U.S. Labor Department, MERIC

With Right to Work states' benefiting from faster growth and higher living standards, no wonder more and more concerned citizens are joining the effort to ban compulsory union dues nationwide.

Right to Work Roll Call May Be Imminent

Grass-Roots Citizens Urging U.S. Senators to Support S.2173

National Right to Work Committee leaders are optimistic that the U.S. Senate will hold a recorded floor vote within the next few weeks on legislation prohibiting Big Labor from taking money from employees' paychecks as a condition of their getting or keeping a job.

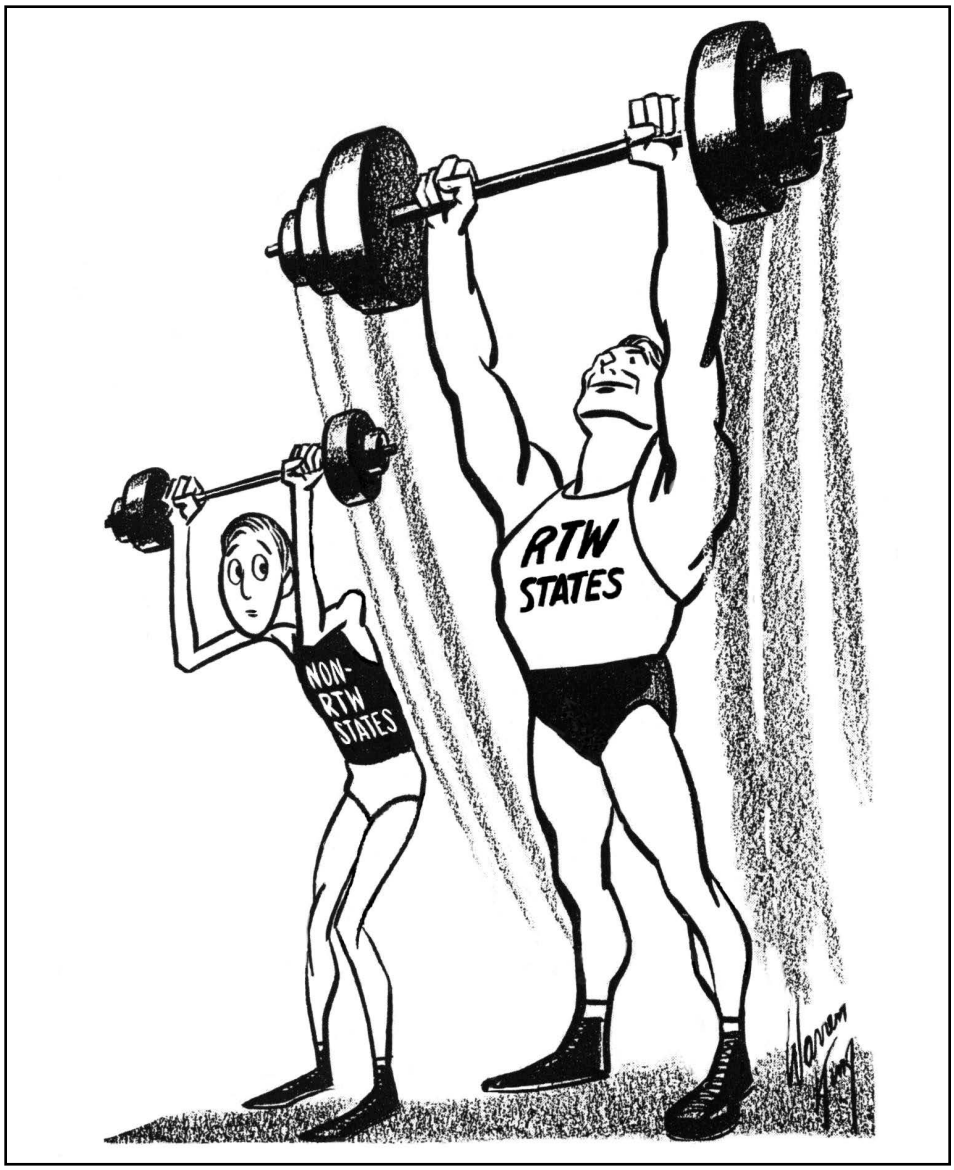
In anticipation of a possible roll call early this summer on S.2173, the National Right to Work Act, the Committee is now mobilizing members and supporters across the country to contact their senators and urge them to support this legislation.

"A floor vote on S.2173, sponsored by Sens. Jim DeMint [R-S.C.] and Rand Paul [R-Ky.] would be a test -- a test to see which senators are for freedom and which are for coercion," said Committee President Mark Mix.

"The last time the Senate voted on national Right to Work legislation, in January 2009, Big Labor lobbyists corralled a majority in the Senate to support federally imposed compulsory unionism.

"But three members of that union-label majority -- Wisconsin's Russ Feingold, Arkansas's Blanche Lincoln, and Pennsylvania's Arlen Specter -- were given the boot by voters in the 2010 elections.

"Senators who have vowed 100% support for Right to Work, including federal forced-dues repeal, now hold the seats formerly held by Mr. Feingold, Ms. Lincoln, and Mr. Specter."



CREDIT: WARREN KING

LIFTING THE ECONOMY -- Both aggregate disposable personal income growth and cost of living-adjusted disposable income per capita are substantially higher in Right to Work states than in forced-unionism states.

Right to Work Gains Strength in Republican Senate Caucus Since 1996

Mr. Mix continued: "Unfortunately, it's very likely a vote on Right to Work this summer will show Big Labor bosses still control the votes of a majority of senators. But freedom-loving Americans have clearly made progress over the years.

"In July 1996, the first time the Senate ever voted on forced-dues repeal, 60% (barely a majority) of GOP senators supported Right to Work.

"In 2009, more than three-quarters of Republican senators stood up to compulsory unionism. This year, the contingent of union boss-appeasing Republicans is likely to be smaller still.

"It's far past time that GOP politicians learned their lesson. History shows that, time and again, union bigwigs have refused to accept GOP senators' anti-Right to Work 'olive branches' and targeted them for defeat.

"Meanwhile, Big Labor efforts to oust pro-Right to Work senators have overwhelmingly failed."

National Right to Work legislation is sound policy as well as smart politics.

S.2173 and its U.S. House counterpart, H.R.2040, sponsored by Congressman Steve King (R-Iowa), would simply repeal the provisions in federal labor law that authorize compulsory union dues and fee payments as a condition of employment.

Federal Forced-Dues Repeal Would Help Reinvigorate National Economy

When forced-dues repeal becomes law, private-sector employees in all 50 states will have the freedom to choose as individuals whether or not to join or

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