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RIGHT TO WORK
NEWSLETTER

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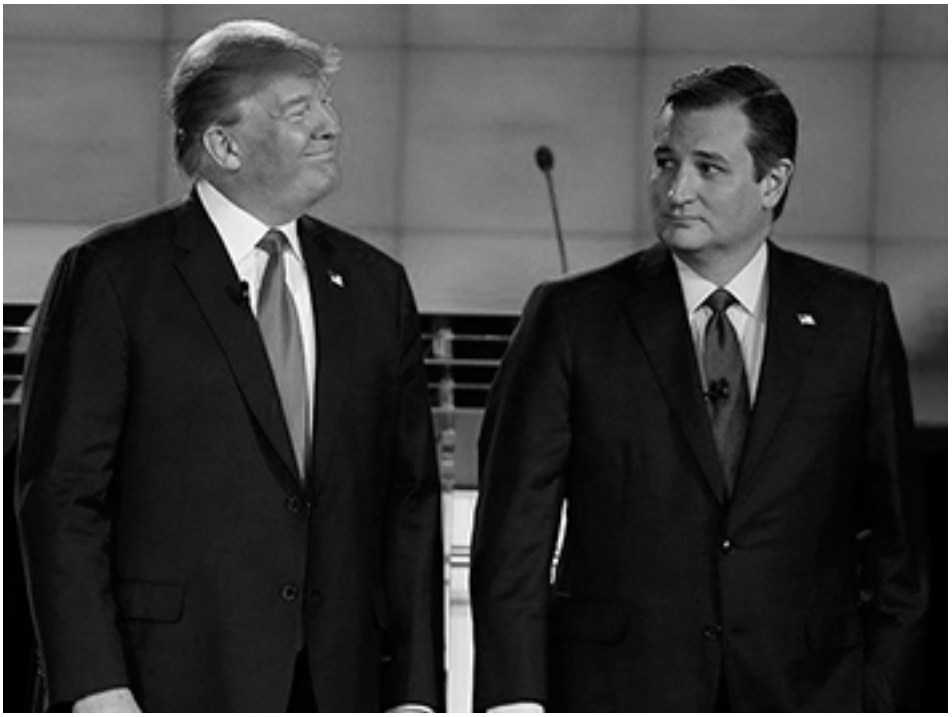
Presidential Hopefuls Feel Right to Work Heat

Committee Goal: Persuade All Candidates to Oppose Forced Unionism

As this Newsletter edition goes to press just a few weeks before the 2016 presidential caucuses and primaries get underway, National Right to Work Committee leaders and members have serious concerns about several of the remaining candidates for the GOP and Democrat presidential nominations.

The good news is that five candidates remaining in the race as of the start of this year have responded to their Committee candidate surveys and staked out their position 100% in opposition to compulsory unionism and in favor of a national Right to Work law.

Among the candidates who have pledged full support for Right to Work is U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas). At press time, he is his party's frontrunner in the February 1 Iowa caucuses, the first major electoral event in the presidential nominating process.



CREDIT TO:JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

As this Newsletter goes to press, Ted Cruz (right) is the only "top-tier" presidential hopeful pledging to support Right to Work 100% if elected. Committee supporters are asking others to join him.

Trump, Rubio and Carson Campaigns Have Yet to Respond

Unfortunately, the three GOP candidates who are, at press time, running second, third, and fourth behind Mr. Cruz in Iowa, according to the famous *Real Clear Politics* average of polls, have yet to return their Right to Work questionnaires.

"The not-so-good news is that Donald Trump, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio [Florida], and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson are, at least for the moment, still sitting on the fence with regard to compulsory unionism," said Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"But the presidential caucus and primary season is just getting underway. There's still time for Mr. Trump, Mr. Rubio, Mr. Carson and other non-responsive candidates who remain in the race to stand up for the Right to Work."

The other somewhat expected, but nonetheless bad news is on the Democrat side where, for years, Big Labor has dominated the party's nominating process.

Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders And Martin O'Malley Vow To Veto Any Right to Work Bill

In response to the union bosses' bluster, Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, and Martin O'Malley are so far doing everything they can to woo Big Labor's primary support by opposing passage of a National Right to Work law.

In Late December, Committee Began Mobilizing Supporters In Iowa, New Hampshire

To clarify the intentions of all the announced candidates seeking the GOP and Democrat presidential nominations, last fall the Committee mailed surveys to their campaigns, asking where the candidates stand on nine key compulsory-unionism-related issues.

And as this Newsletter goes to press, the Committee is turning up the heat by mailing letters to pro-Right to

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Members' Impact 'Very Positive'

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Work citizens all across Iowa and New Hampshire.

The letters are mobilizing freedom-loving Granite Staters and Hawkeyes to contact the candidates and urge them to take a clear stand against compulsory unionism.

"For decades, polls have shown that the vast majority of Americans who regularly vote in federal elections believe laws and other policies that favor forcing workers to pay union dues or fees as a condition of employment are just plain wrong," said Mr. Mix.

In Early Presidential Battleground States, Voters Heavily Pro-Right to Work

"And opposition to pro-forced unionism labor policies appears to be especially intense among likely voters in the states where the crucial first contests for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination are taking place," Mr. Mix added.

He noted that less than two years ago, Iowa state Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Red Oak) unabashedly supported Right to Work as she campaigned successfully to capture a U.S. Senate seat that had previously been held by Big Labor Democrat politician Tom Harkin.

And in November 2015, Ms. Ernst cosponsored S.391, legislation commonly referred to as the National Right to Work Act. It would repeal all the provisions in federal labor law that currently authorize the termination of employees for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union.

Moreover, surveys conducted for the Committee in late 2011 by pollster Kellyanne Conway showed that voters likely to participate in the 2012 presidential ballots in New Hampshire and South Carolina (the second primary state) overwhelmingly agree that federal labor laws should protect the Right to Work.

Ms. Conway's scientific survey found that 72% of likely Granite State primary voters believe federal law should "definitely not" allow "labor union officials to have a worker fired . . . for not paying union dues or fees."

An additional 9% said federal law should "probably not" allow that.

In the Palmetto State, the results were even more lopsidedly pro-Right to Work.

An overwhelming 82% of likely South Carolina 2012 primary voters said federal law should "definitely not" sanction forced union dues or fees. Another 4% said "probably not."

Will the Next President Of the United States Stand up to Big Labor?

Mr. Mix commented:

"Ever since he became President in 2009, Barack Obama has overtly championed Big Labor power grabs in Congress and selected forced-unionism zealots for leadership positions at the National Labor Relations Board [NLRB], the Labor Department, and other federal bureaucracies.

"The Obama Administration's schemes to expand forced unionism, such as the 2015 decision by three Obama NLRB appointees to ignore the statutory definition of 'employer' in order to facilitate the corralling of millions of franchise and contract-company employees into unions, are very unpopular.

"As an alternative to Mr. Obama, freedom-loving Americans of all parties want a President who's ready to fight for the Right to Work principle. Will the next President stand up to Big Labor?

"Or will he or she spend four years coddling the union bosses, or avoiding confrontation with them because they're 'too powerful' to take on?"

Mr. Mix urged Right to Work members, especially residents of early primary states, to continue intensely lobbying all the nonresponsive presidential hopefuls.

It's worthwhile to keep contacting even candidates who have seemed unsympathetic or openly hostile to Right to Work up to now.

Nominee Who Offers Clear Alternative to Dead-End Obama Agenda Can Win

"I would be overjoyed," said Mr. Mix, "if all the Republican and Democrat candidates decided, in response to grass-roots activism, to oppose forced unionism in the future, regardless of where they have stood up to now.

"But if it turns out there is only one presidential candidate on the ballot this fall who offers a clear alternative to President Obama's dead-end agenda of compulsory unionism, I'm confident that candidate can prevail, despite all the forced-dues money the Big Labor political machine will undoubtedly spend.

"And Right to Work members and supporters will have a very positive impact by helping millions of other Americans see how important the Right to Work issue is, and letting them know exactly where the candidates stand."

CREDIT TO: CHELSEA MORTON

Freshman U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst (left, pictured with Committee President Mark Mix) has shown she understands support for Right to Work is an important political asset in her home state of Iowa.

Pay Forced Dues to a Union Don Who Insults You?

Conscientious Teacher's Trials Attest to Need For Right to Work

From the 1999-2000 through the 2014-2015 school years, enrollment in charter schools across the U.S. skyrocketed from 300,000 to 2.9 million.

Charters are public institutions that furnish their services to K-12 schoolchildren free of charge, but are subject to fewer regulations than traditional district public schools.

Big Labor is alarmed by the rapid rise of charters because, in stark contrast to K-12 schools where roughly two-thirds of teachers are subject to union monopoly bargaining, charters are overwhelmingly union-free.

Many Union Bigwigs Today Claim to Have Had a Change Of Heart About Charters

For years and years, teacher union bosses sought to deal with the "threat" of charter schools by trying to squash them, or at least stymie their growth, through legislation.

More recently, many union bigwigs have claimed to have had a change of heart with regard to charters. Now, instead of focusing on the destruction of charters, they are often making them the targets of Big Labor organizing drives.

Writing for the normally pro-Big Labor L.A. *Weekly* late last year, journalist Gene Maddaus addressed the efforts of top bosses of the United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA/NEA/AFT) union to secure monopoly-bargaining privileges at the Alliance chain of charters in southern California.

"Of course," commented Mary King, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee, "union officials have at their disposal plenty of forced-dues money to finance this charter campaign in the L.A. area.

"But its success remains far from certain."

Charter Teachers With Personal Knowledge About UTLA Chiefs A Problem For Union Organizers

"One reason why the UTLA hierarchy is fighting an uphill battle," Ms. King continued, "is that many teachers in the Alliance chain already have had personal experience with union chiefs, and they didn't like what they saw."

As teacher union bosses have expanded their efforts to grab monopoly-bargaining power over charter school educators in recent years, Right to Work attorneys have been eager to help freedom-loving educators.

Mr. Maddaus cited as an example Kip Morales, a language and composition teacher who was formerly employed in the unionized L.A. Unified School District (LAUSD):

Mr. Morales "felt that he did not have a voice within the UTLA." In one case, union bosses "prevented teachers from grading a standardized test because it wasn't in the contract." Union officers "never asked teachers if they wanted to grade the test," he said.

Mr. Morales also believed UTLA officials were "protecting bad teachers."

After Mr. Morales was honored with a "teacher of the month" award granted in part because his students passed the high school exit exams "at a much higher rate" than the school average, he ran into his union representative in the hall.

"He asked if I had a little brown on my nose," Mr. Morales recalled. "I said, 'Excuse me?'"

He suspected the insult was intended "to make sure he wasn't putting in more effort than anyone else."

Later, when the district went through layoffs, Mr. Morales "lost his job due to lack of seniority."

Union bosses who believe only seniority, and not talent or effort, should be considered when layoffs are made didn't see this as a problem.

Mr. Morales told Mr. Maddaus he prefers working at Alliance because teachers are held accountable. In his new job, he recently got a 33% raise based on merit. "I don't want UTLA [bosses] coming in and messing that up," he concluded.

Teachers Forced to Pay Dues To Union Czars Who 'Messed Up' Their Job Opportunities

Unfortunately, good teachers still employed in the Big Labor-dominated Unified School District actually have to pay dues or fees to the UTLA machine to keep their jobs, even if union bosses have "messed up" opportunities those teachers could have had.

"Hardworking educators shouldn't have to bankroll union kingpins who insult them and denigrate their efforts," said Ms. King.

"That's one reason why the National Right to Work Committee and its members are working hard to build support for forced-dues repeal legislation in California and the 24 other states that still lack Right to Work protections for employees.

"This is never an easy fight, and it is an extraordinarily hard one in Big Labor strongholds like California. But the Committee will never give up until we prevail."

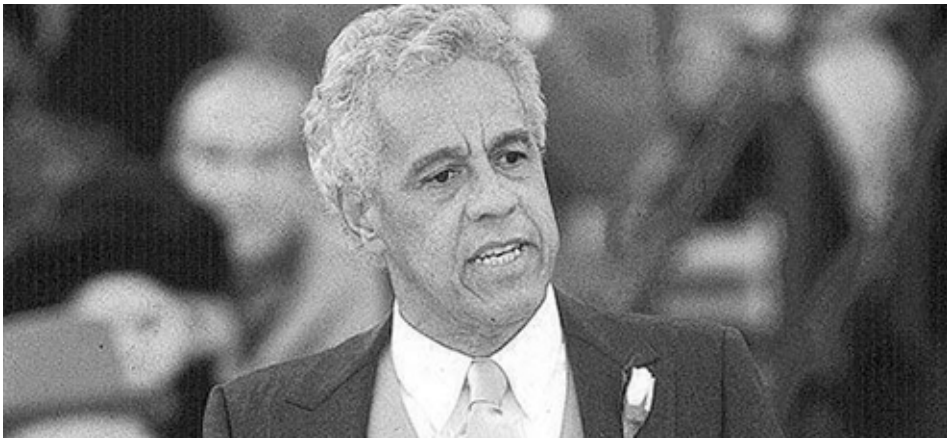
‘Official Time’ in Right to Work Virginia?

How Big Labor Circumvents Old Dominion’s Public-Sector Labor Laws

Nearly a quarter-century ago, then-Gov. Doug Wilder (D) signed into law a statute explicitly prohibiting public officials at the state and local levels in Virginia from recognition of government union bosses as employees’ “exclusive” bargaining agents.

Consequently, teacher, firefighter and other government union bosses in the Old Dominion, unlike their counterparts in most other states, may not legally wield monopoly-bargaining power.

Unfortunately, the fact that public-sector monopoly bargaining is illegal in Virginia has not prevented teacher and other government union bosses in several localities from acquiring some of the same special privileges commonly granted to union chiefs in Big Labor-controlled states. And of course, taxpayers are left with the tab.



CREDIT TO: RICHMOND (VA.) TIMES-DIS-

In 1993, then-Gov. Doug Wilder signed legislation prohibiting all forms of union bargaining in Virginia’s public sector. How, then, can taxpayer subsidies for government union activism be permissible?

Taxpayers Bankrolled Fairfax County Teacher Union Activities To the Tune of $5.8 Million

Perhaps the most outrageous privilege granted to government union bosses by local politicians in Virginia is labeled by Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) as “employee organizational leave.”

This policy, originally rubber-stamped by FCPS 30 years ago, authorizes government employees who are part- or full-time union officials to collect their taxpayer-funded salaries and benefits for conducting union business, rather than for serving the public.

Citing the 2016 Approved Fairfax County Public Schools Budget, the Center for National Labor Policy, a northern Virginia-based citizens’ group, reported last fall that, over a three year period, FCPS had approved the expenditure of $5.8 million in taxpayer money for “organizational leave.”

This covered the cost to provide for an estimated 132,559 hours of compensation for substitute teachers and teachers on paid union leave so that members of the latter group could attend state and national union meetings, meet with FCPS officials regarding conditions of employment, lobby politicians, etc.

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix observed:

“Operatives for the National Education Association-affiliated Fairfax Education Association [FEA] and other government unions use their taxpayer subsidies to push for the same counterproductive policies the NEA union elite promotes across the country.

“For example, NEA union kingpins openly oppose ‘providing additional compensation to attract and/or retain education employees in hard-to-recruit positions.’

“School districts that allow NEA union bosses to get their way routinely experience shortages of qualified teachers for subjects like Special Ed, Physics and Calculus, and surpluses of teachers for other subjects. This harms taxpayers, schoolchildren, and many hardworking, conscientious teachers.

“It makes no sense for Virginia policymakers to ensure, at taxpayers’ expense, that government union bosses wield far more clout than they would if they had to rely on voluntary membership dues alone to run their operations.”

Virginia General Assembly Can Expressly Outlaw ‘Employee Organizational Leave’

Unfortunately, FCPS is far from the only government body in Virginia that has agreed to funnel taxpayer money into public-sector union coffers through “organizational leave” schemes.

School boards in Arlington, Harrisonburg and Lynchburg, as well as the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, have cut similar back-room deals with government union bosses.

“‘Organizational leave’ is certainly beneficial for Big Labor, and for politicians who depend on voter ID and ‘get-out-the-vote’ campaigns sponsored by union operatives to get elected and reelected,” said Mr. Mix.

“But it is not in the public interest.”

Mr. Mix added that, since monopoly bargaining and all other forms of union bargaining are prohibited in the government sector by Virginia state law, it is very doubtful that taxpayer subsidies of government union lobbying and other activism are legal today.

“‘Organizational leave’ policies in FCPS and other Virginia government jurisdictions are clearly vulnerable to court challenges,” Mr. Mix said.

“But the simplest and most efficient way for concerned citizens in the Old Dominion to put a stop to this corrupt and damaging practice is for the General Assembly to ban it expressly.”

This year, Right to Work legislative staffers will confer with members of the Virginia state Senate and House of Delegates to discuss the best way to move forward legislation barring public employers from cutting deals to compensate public employees or third parties for union activities.

“Union-label Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe [D] is not likely to favor such a reform, regardless of how warranted and reasonable it is,” acknowledged Mr. Mix.

“But public opinion in Virginia is so passionately pro-Right to Work that a ban on ‘organizational leave’ could potentially be adopted despite the governor’s resistance.”

Seattle Politicians: Forced Dues 'Uber Alles'

Right to Work Will Fight Back in Courts and State Legislatures

Heeding the breathtakingly arrogant demands of radical union bosses, on December 15 the Seattle City Council took an unprecedented step.

Union-label councilmembers voted unanimously that day to adopt an ordinance that, for the first time anywhere in America, subjects independent contractors to forced unionism.

The immediate target is thousands of Seattle drivers who work with ridesharing apps like Uber and Lyft.

But unless this power grab is reversed, millions of self-employed Americans who have up to now been exempt from monopolistic unionism could be at risk of being corralled into Big Labor cartels.

Uber Drivers Can Control When and Where They Work

Uber and Lyft drivers own their vehicles, set their own schedules, and decide for themselves which routes they drive. Therefore, it's not surprising that an independent survey conducted last year by the firm SherpaShare found that Uber and Lyft drivers overwhelmingly consider themselves to be independent contractors, not employees of those firms. And labor-law experts who have no ax to grind heartily agree.

For years, forced-dues-hungry Teamster bosses have prodded Big Labor-"friendly" bureaucrats in states like California to ignore the standard criteria and simply declare that Uber and Lyft drivers are "employees" who are for that reason potentially subject to monopolistic unionism under federal law.

But on December 14, the Teamster hierarchy and its puppet politicians in Seattle opted for another strategy.

Instead of arbitrarily designating for-hire drivers as "employees," the politicians rubber-stamped a local ordinance granting Big Labor monopoly-bargaining and forced-dues privileges over all such independent contractors in the Emerald City.

Ordinance Violates Drivers' Freedom of Association

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen pointed out that a November 2015 survey of Uber driver-partners in 24 of the firm's largest U.S. markets, including Seattle, found that 81% are satisfied with their overall work experience.

CREDIT TO: WWW.TEAMSTERSLOCAL2011.ORG

Seattle politicians are eager to help Teamster czar Jim Hoffa grab control over for-hire drivers.

"Obviously, the aim of the new Seattle for-hire driver unionization ordinance is not to help the drivers, who could lose the flexibility that most obviously value highly," said Mr. Leen.

"To make it as easy as possible for union bosses to seize monopoly privileges over for-hire drivers, the ordinance empowers them to count signed cards extracted from drivers by burly Big Labor organizers as 'votes' for unionization.

"Moreover, before the so-called 'card check' campaign begins, the ordinance forces ridesharing companies to hand over drivers' home addresses and email addresses and home phone numbers to union bigwigs.

"It is outrageous that self-employed drivers trying to support their families or raise their living standards by earning extra money may have to fork over to Big Labor a portion of the fees they collect from passengers just for the privilege of doing business in Seattle.

"This measure is a violation of for-hire drivers' fundamental First Amendment freedom of association."

'Attack on the American Dream Must Not Stand'

Mr. Leen vowed that Right to Work leaders would pursue more than one avenue for overturning Seattle's for-hire driver forced-unionism ordinance, which as this Newsletter goes to press is set to take effect soon, even though Mayor Ed Murray has refused to sign it.

He added that attorneys for the Committee's sister organization, the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, contend that the Seattle ordinance may be pre-empted by federal labor law, and it is also very likely in conflict with federal anti-trust law.

Once the ordinance takes effect, Right to Work attorneys will challenge it in court on behalf of one or more independent-minded drivers at the first opportunity.

Meanwhile, Committee legislative staff will be reaching out to pro-Right to Work members of the Washington Legislature to discuss how state lawmakers in Olympia can block implementation of the Seattle scheme.

"This forced-unionism attack on the American dream must not stand," Mr. Leen concluded.

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Right to Work States Attract Business Investors

Global Firms Far Less Likely to Create Jobs in Forced-Dues States

The U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) has for several years tracked the total employment of U.S. "majority owned affiliates."

According to the BEA, these are U.S. business enterprises "in which a foreign entity . . . has a direct or indirect voting interest" greater than 50%.

Such data are currently available for all 50 states going back to 2007 up through 2013.

Nationwide, they show a 9.2% employment increase in majority-owned U.S. affiliates of foreign companies over that six-year period.

Right to Work State Employment Growth Triple That of Forced-Dues States

That compares to an aggregate 2007-2013 increase of just 1.8% in all private-sector employment as reported by the BEA.

While majority-owned affiliates of foreign firms have obviously provided a disproportionately large share of new job opportunities for American workers in recent years, not all states have benefited equally.

And the top-ranking states for job growth at foreign-owned firms overwhelmingly have one thing in common: a Right to Work law on the books prohibiting the termination of employees for refusal to join or pay dues to an unwanted union.

Six of the eight states with the greatest percentage gains in U.S. employment at foreign-owned firms from 2007 to 2013 are Right to Work states.

(Indiana and Michigan, whose Right to Work laws took effect in 2012 and 2013, respectively, are excluded from these calculations and those that follow. Since Wisconsin did not adopt its Right to Work law until last year, it is counted as a forced-unionism state here.)

As a group, the 22 states that protected employees' Right to Work continuously from 2007 to 2013 experienced a 14.4% increase in employment at foreign-owned firms.

That's more than triple the 4.5% aggregate increase for the 26 states in which compulsory union dues and fees were still permitted at the end of 2013.

If only states that already had at least 100,000 jobs in majority-owned affiliates of foreign companies as of 2007 are considered, aggregate Right to Work job growth was 11.7%, more than quadruple the 2.8% overall gain for forced-unionism states.

In Nine Years, Right to Work Job Share Has Soared From Under 36% to Over 45%

"As recently as 2007, less than 36% of all American jobs at affiliates of foreign companies were located in Right to Work states," said Greg Mourad, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"But today, thanks both to far more rapid growth in Right to Work states and to the adoption of three new state Right to Work laws since early 2012, it's safe to estimate that 45-46% of all U.S. jobs with foreign-owned firms can be found in states that prohibit forced union dues and fees.

"Of course, there's no reason to be surprised by the fact that Right to Work states would be far more successful than compulsory-unionism states in attracting job-creating investments from abroad."

Laws Empower Employees to Fight Back Against Greedy And Tyrannical Union Dons

Right to Work laws, explained Mr. Mourad, simply protect the freedom of employees to get and hold a job without forking over dues or fees to a union that is recognized as their "exclusive" (actually, monopoly) bargaining agent.

"Unless they are protected by a state Right to Work law," he added, "independent-minded employees have no power to fight back against a greedy and tyrannical union boss by withholding their financial support.

"And when employees have no personal freedom of choice, union bosses have little incentive to tone down their class warfare.

"Employees are consequently far less likely to reach their full productive potential and reap the accompanying benefits.

"That's a key reason why not only employment at foreign-owned businesses, but almost every economic indicator, shows that forced union dues inhibit growth."

CREDIT TO: WWW.MODERNTIREDEALER.COM

In 2013, employment at foreign-firm affiliates in Right to Work South Carolina rose to 127,000. New facilities like Spartanburg's agricultural tire plant have surely since driven the number even higher.

Repercussions Lasted Years

Continued from page 8

Teamsters, poured vast sums of money from their forced-dues-funded treasuries into efforts to protect their friends and hurt their enemies on Capitol Hill.

As the *Christian Science Monitor* put it, union officials "campaigned harder" in 1966 "than in any other off-year election." But in the end, as one union spokesman admitted off the record to *Business Week* shortly after Election Day, they got "clobbered" anyway.

Thirty-nine House members who had voted to wipe out 14(b) were defeated in primaries or the general elections in 1966.

Union boss-endorsed candidates also performed poorly in "open seat" races, so that Big Labor's net strength in the House plummeted by 49 seats, according to a post-election analysis by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Meanwhile, not one House member who had voted to protect 14(b) was defeated by a 14(b) opponent.

AFL-CIO Czar's Admission: There 'Is a Question Of Where the Vote Went'

Even George Meany implicitly acknowledged at a news conference that the 1966 Elections had been a catastrophe for Big Labor: "[T]here is a question of where the vote went. . . . [T]here are indications we didn't get the percentage of the vote we got in the past and we want to see why."

Because the overwhelming majority of the senators who had embraced the 14(b) repeal scheme did not have to face the voters in 1966, the magnitude of the legislative battle's impact on the upper chamber wasn't immediately apparent.

But after the dust from the 1970 elections had settled, and all the seats of senators voting on 14(b) had finally come up for grabs, Big Labor had lost a net of eight Senate seats.

Between 1966 and 1970, a steady stream of pro-forced unionism senators, including Ross Bass (D-Tenn.), David Brewster (D-Md.), Thomas Dodd (D-Conn.), Al Gore Sr. (D-Tenn.), and Ralph Yarborough (D-Texas), were defeated by avowed 14(b) proponents.

In Obama Era, Votes For Monopolistic Unionism Still Fraught With Political Risk

Top union bosses were, it seems, shaken by what syndicated columnist John Chamberlain aptly labeled as an electoral "reproof." They have never since mounted such a direct attack on Right to Work laws at the federal level.

Instead, Big Labor has pushed for policies that would in practice help it seize more power over workers and funnel more forced dues into union coffers while leaving state Right to Work laws formally on the books.

One notorious recent example is the cynically mislabeled "Employee Free Choice Act," which would have greatly enhanced union bosses' power to secure monopoly-bargaining privileges over employees solely through the acquisition of signed "union authorization cards."

From 2007 to 2010, mandatory "card checks" were the union hierarchy's top legislative objective. In 2007, Big Labor Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) rammed "card-check" legislation through the House, and in the Senate Right to Work supporters were able to stop it only via an extended debate.

But after forced-unionism champion Barack Obama was sent to the White House and the American people were confronted with the genuine possibility that mandatory "card checks" could become law, support for such legislation quickly became an electoral albatross.

"In the 2010 general elections," recalled National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix, "48 House and Senate incumbents who had voted for the 'card-check' scheme and/or cosponsored it lost their re-election bids. This was a clear electoral repudiation.

"'Card-check' forced unionism helped end Nancy Pelosi's tenure as House speaker in 2010, and four years later it helped oust Big Labor politician Harry Reid [D-Nev.] from his position as Senate majority leader.

"Even in 2014, their pro-'card-check' records continued to dog the campaigns of two of Mr. Reid's caucus members, Sens. Mark Pryor [D-Ark.] and Mary Landrieu [D-La.]. Both ultimately went down to defeat."

Momentum Swings Towards Right to Work

"In addition to their 'card-check' votes," Mr. Mix noted, "Mr. Pryor and Ms. Landrieu had to answer for their early 2009 ballots against a federal compulsory-dues repeal amendment sponsored by then-Sen. Jim DeMint [R-S.C.].

"By opposing a national Right to Work law, Mark Pryor and Mary Landrieu helped perpetuate federally imposed forced union dues. This is politically risky, just as voting to expand Big Labor's privileges is.

"As the leaders of overwhelmingly pro-Right to Work caucuses, House Speaker Paul Ryan [R-Minn.] and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell [R-Ky.] would be strategically savvy to allow recorded floor votes on forced-dues repeal legislation in their respective chambers this year."

CREDIT TO: ANDREW HARNIK/ AP

Decades of electoral experience indicate it would be politically savvy for House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Minn., left) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) to allow floor votes on forced-dues repeal this year.

Recalling Big Labor's 1966 Electoral 'Reproof'

After 14(b) Showdown, Union-Label Politicians Were Shellacked

Time and again over the years, when U.S. senators and congressmen have had to go on the record "for" or "against" Right to Work in a recorded floor vote, opponents of voluntary unionism have suffered dire political consequences when their constituents subsequently went to the polls.

This year, National Right to Work Committee leaders and members are commemorating the 50th anniversary of perhaps the most striking example of the electoral potency of the forced-unionism issue yet to occur.

Most Members of Congress Voted For 14(b) Repeal

The Big Labor debacle that commenced during the 1966 Congressional Primaries and reached a climax in that November's General Elections was a consequence of recent votes by most members of both chambers of Congress for H.R.77, legislation to "repeal Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act."

Since 14(b) was and is the only provision in federal labor law explicitly authorizing states to ban compulsory unionism, its repeal would have gutted all state Right to Work laws.

After being introduced and rammed through the Sub-Committee on Labor by union-label Congressman Frank Thompson (D-N.J.), the panel's chairman, H.R.77 reached the U.S. House floor during the summer of 1965.

Despite overwhelming public opposition, largely mobilized by the Committee, the House voted in a close 221-203 roll call on July 28 to repeal Section 14(b).

Pro-Right to Work Americans were disappointed, but they didn't give up. They immediately began turning up the pressure on the Senate. At the time, if the entire upper chamber was present, 34 out of 100 senators could defeat a "cloture motion" and keep a debate going indefinitely.

In three Senate cloture roll calls held in October 1965 and February 1966, Big Labor never secured more than 51 votes, far fewer than the 67 needed to end debate on H.R.77 so that the Thompson bill could be rubber-stamped.

After the third cloture motion secured fewer votes than the second, Big Labor Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) finally threw in the towel.

After a Campaign Surpassing Previous Off-Year Efforts, Big Labor Got 'Clobbered'

But Committee members and supporters knew the battle to save 14(b) was only half over. Next they had to prevent the union political machine from exacting vengeance at the polls against pro-Right to Work elected officials.

Union chieftains like George Meany, Walter Reuther, and Jimmy Hoffa, who then respectively headed the AFL-CIO, the United Auto Workers, and the

See **Repercussions** *page 7*

CARTOON CREDIT: CAL ALLEY/ MEMPHIS (TENN.) COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Just six months after Big Labor's 14(b) repeal scheme stalled in the U.S. Senate, it claimed its first electoral victim, as anti-14(b) Sen. Ross Bass (D-Tenn.) was beaten by a pro-14(b) primary challenger.