



# NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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## Obama-Clinton Court Could KO Right to Work Laws *One More High Court Vote Would Give Big Labor an Opportunity*

Undoubtedly fearing they would provoke a harsh public backlash if they did, top union bosses aren't talking publicly about the spectacular judicial prize they intend to win if Big Labor candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton is elected the next President of the United States.

But some of the union hierarchy's incautious allies, such as former American Federation of Teachers (AFT/AFL-CIO) Deputy Director of Organizing Shaun Richman, have already let the cat out of the bag.

Writing for the avowedly socialist publication *In These Times* this April, Mr. Richman gloated about the potential impact of *International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) v. Wasden*, a then-obscure lawsuit pending before a federal judge in Idaho:

"The result could be that all right-to-work laws are nullified -- and sooner than you might imagine."

### **'Big Labor Sees a Chance to Kill Right to Work Before It Spreads to Even More States'**

"Union bosses are flabbergasted and outraged about the fact that a majority of states have now adopted laws prohibiting forced union dues and fees," said National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"Even more worrisome for the union brass is that four of the 26 state Right to Work laws that are now on the books were adopted just since the beginning of 2012.

"Moreover, several more states -- including Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, Missouri, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and New Hampshire -- are poised to prohibit compulsory union financial support over the course of the



CREDIT TO: ETHAN WILLER/GETTY IMAGES/VA

Big Labor bosses like government union chief Lee Saunders (left) know that, if Hillary Clinton is elected, "[t]he result could be that all [Right to Work] laws are nullified -- and sooner than you might imagine."

next few years.

"But Big Labor sees a chance to kill Right to Work before it spreads to even more states. Union kingpins are jumping at the opportunity.

"Of course, union strategists know that their scheme to 'nullify' every single state Right to Work law through judicial activism in the near future can't possibly succeed without the installation of another U.S. Supreme Court justice who would side with Organized Labor on controversial matters.

"That's where Hillary Clinton comes in."

Four members of the High Court today -- Justices Breyer, Ginsburg, Kagan and Sotomayor -- are plainly predisposed to ruling in favor of expanded monopoly privileges for the union hierarchy.

### **Ms. Clinton: 'Organized Labor Will Have a Champion Inside The White House'**

But four other current members -- Justices Alito, Kennedy, Roberts and Thomas -- have, perhaps thanks to the strong arguments made in their chambers

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# Judicial ‘Doomsday’ Weapon

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over the years by National Right to Work Foundation attorneys, become more and more receptive to subjecting compulsory unionism to strict judicial scrutiny.

And since the death of Antonin Scalia in February, there has been one vacant Supreme Court seat.

Picking a nominee to fill that seat will almost certainly be one of the first tasks of the next President.

“Union bosses are spending roughly two billion dollars in this campaign cycle, mostly forced-dues dollars, to install Hillary Clinton in the White House and elect other Big Labor puppets to U.S. Senate and House seats and state offices,” said Mr. Mix.

“And Ms. Clinton is openly vowing that, if she is elected, ‘organized labor will have a champion inside the White House.’

“For these and other reasons, union bosses have ample reason to believe they can count on a President Clinton to nominate and get confirmed a fifth justice who will join the Breyer-Ginsburg-Kagan-Sotomayor clique on cases concerning Big Labor special privileges.

“If that happens, Right to Work Foundation attorneys and their allies will continue to do everything possible to block *IUOE Local 370* and other similar cases from reaching the Supreme Court, or to defeat such a case there if necessary.

“But it could turn out to be a difficult task.”

## Phony ‘Takings’ Case Against Right to Work Could Reach Supreme Court in Two Years

*IUOE Local 370* and a second pending anti-Right to Work federal lawsuit target workplaces where Big Labor is empowered by law to represent all front-line employees, including union members and nonmembers alike, throughout all negotiations with the employer on matters concerning all terms of employment.

According to Big Labor lawyers, union officials in such workplaces have a constitutional right to seize forced fees from nonmembers on pain of termination if they refuse.

As Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden, who is leading the defense of the Gem State’s three-decade-old Right to Work law from IUOE bosses’ legal assault, has pointed out in a court filing, such statutes cannot possibly violate the

Fifth Amendment’s “Takings” Clause, as union lawyers brazenly claim.

Under Idaho’s Right to Work law, IUOE and other union bosses are absolutely free to “persuade nonmembers to make voluntary payments” by convincing them that the union furnishes valuable services.

Mr. Mix commented: “Unfortunately, the fact that Big Labor’s judicial attack on Right to Work laws is illogical and in conflict with several High Court and other federal court precedents doesn’t mean it will fail.

“Within a year or so, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the most radically pro-forced unionism federal appellate court in the U.S., could take up *IUOE Local 370*. Despite the merits, I wouldn’t bet that this court will rule against the union bosses.”

## Right to Work Leaders Are Already Preparing For the Worst

“And if such a ruling comes down, Big Labor’s ‘doomsday’ weapon against Right to Work laws will, within another

year, likely be headed to the Supreme Court,” warned Mr. Mix.

He added that he and other Committee leaders are already preparing for a “worst-case” scenario in which Hillary Clinton is elected and proceeds to nominate a judge with a record of forced-unionism bias for the open seat on the Supreme Court.

“Decades of electoral experience show that the American people routinely punish politicians who try to protect and expand compulsory unionism,” he observed.

“But in a massive presidential race, only a candidate and his campaign have access to hundreds of millions of dollars to hold a rival accountable for his anti-Right to Work record.

“GOP nominee Donald Trump has pledged he will support Right to Work 100% if elected. But so far he and his campaign have basically given Hillary Clinton a free ride on the Right to Work issue.

“That’s one reason why it is so important that Right to Work activists be prepared now, in case the Clinton-Kaine ticket wins in November, to fight furiously next year to stop Senate confirmation of a fifth union-label justice on the Supreme Court.” 



Big Labor federal jurists like Diane Wood are itching to approve union lawyers’ far-fetched anti-Right to Work “Takings” argument. In a 2014 dissent, Judge Wood gave it a nod, even though it hadn’t even been made in the case at hand!

# Grass-Roots Efforts Challenge Forced Unionism

## State Groups Bolstered by Recent Wins in Wisconsin, West Virginia

This fall, members of grass-roots groups based in states as diverse as Montana, Kentucky, and New Hampshire are striving with all their might to follow in the footsteps of Wisconsin and West Virginia Right to Work advocates.

Freedom-loving citizens in Montana, Kentucky, and New Hampshire, as well as in other states like Ohio, Delaware and Colorado, are turning up the pressure on their state legislative and executive candidates to oppose forced unionism.

And proponents of making union membership fully voluntary now sense they have the wind at their back, largely because of Right to Work laws adopted in four states since early 2012 and in two (Wisconsin and West Virginia) just since the beginning of 2015.

Thanks to the recent progress made by Right to Work proponents, a majority of states now have laws on the books prohibiting forced union dues and fees, and an estimated 48.5% of all Americans today enjoy the benefits of living in a Right to Work state.

### Prices Lower, Living Standards Higher in Right to Work States

Public efforts to enact more state Right to Work laws are intensifying in part because such laws are seen as a means for a state to attract new job-creating and income-raising business investments.

Throughout most of the seven years since the official end of the 2008-2009 national recession, overall U.S. employment and incomes have risen only at a snail's pace. Consequently, every state is under more pressure to capture as great a share as possible of all domestic growth.

"The evidence that prices are generally lower and living standards are higher in Right to Work states is indeed compelling," commented Matthew Leen, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

Regarding prices, Mr. Leen cited comparative cost-of-living indices for the 50 states published four times a year by the Jefferson City-based Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC), a government agency.

"MERIC's indices show that, on average, forced-unionism states were 25% more expensive to live in last year than Right to Work states," said Mr. Leen.

"And when you adjust U.S.

Commerce Department data for regional differences in cost of living with MERIC's indices, you find Right to Work states had an average 2015 per capita disposable income of \$41,355, which is nearly \$2600 more than the forced-unionism state average."

(Since West Virginia's Right to Work law was not adopted until this February, it is counted as a forced-unionism state here.)

Mr. Leen continued: "All of the five highest ranking states have Right to Work laws on the books. And the five bottom-ranking states all lacked Right to Work laws as of 2015."

### Each Worker Is 'Entitled' To 'Do as He Pleases' With 'The Fruit of His Labor'

As compelling as such data are, the fact is that grass-roots support for the Right to Work issue is driven primarily by moral concerns, not economics.

Today's Right to Work activists recognize what Abraham Lincoln recognized back in 1858, when he observed, in an Illinois speech rejecting the notion that slavery is morally or politically acceptable when imposed by popular vote:

"I believe each individual is naturally

entitled to do as he pleases with himself and the fruit of his labor, so long as it in no wise interferes with any other man's rights."

Besides being morally right, standing up for each worker's freedom to do as he or she pleases with the fruit of his or her labor is politically smart.

### Appeasement Doesn't Work

"In 2014," Mr. Leen explained, "among the 19 Republican state governors who sought reelection, the only one who was defeated by a Democrat challenger was Big Labor-appeasing Pennsylvanian Tom Corbett.

"Mr. Corbett had tacitly supported the forced-dues status quo in his state by refusing to lift a finger on behalf of any effort to pare back significantly union bosses' special privileges.

"Of course, this stance did not quell Big Labor opposition to Mr. Corbett's reelection by even a whit. The union political machine went all out to unseat Mr. Corbett and install unabashedly pro-union monopoly Democrat Tom Wolf in his place.

"Facing intense union-boss hostility, and having given the pro-Right to Work majority of Pennsylvanians little reason to support him, Mr. Corbett ended up losing by nearly 10 percentage points." 

### Cost of Living-Adjusted Disposable Personal Income Per Capita, 2015

Top Five		Bottom Five	
Wyoming	\$53,616	Hawaii	\$25,572
North Dakota	\$48,752	Oregon	\$29,402
Virginia	\$47,978	West Virginia*	\$31,888
Nebraska	\$46,678	Maine	\$33,391
Iowa	\$46,520	California	\$34,179

Right to Work States       Compulsory-Unionism States

Right to Work Average	\$41,355
Forced-Unionism Average	\$38,762

\*West Virginia's Right to Work law was not adopted until this year.

Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Commerce Department; MERIC

**The top-ranking states for cost of living-adjusted disposable income in 2015 all have Right to Work laws. The average Right to Work state resident's real, spendable, after-tax income is well over \$41,000.**

# Right to Work on the Line in U. S. Senate Races

## *As Election Day Approaches, Forced-Dues Foes Pressing Candidates*

With just a short time to go until Election Day, Big Labor bosses remain hopeful that their enormous, forced-union-dues-funded campaign war chest will enable them to topple avowed Right to Work supporter Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) from his post as U.S. Senate majority leader.

Once control of the chamber changes, union kingpins will be able to install one of their puppets, most likely rabidly anti-Right to Work Empire State Democrat Charles Schumer, as the new Senate majority leader.

But the National Right to Work Committee and its 2.8 million members are fighting back through their federal Survey 2016 program. This program's basic goal is simply to ensure that pro-forced unionism candidates for the Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives are held accountable.

### **Backing Forced Unionism Is Normally a Dangerous Move For a Politician**

This fall, Committee leaders and members are going all out to publicize the positions of federal candidates, challengers and incumbents alike, on

compulsory unionism.

By the time they have the opportunity to read this Newsletter edition, the vast majority of Committee members and supporters should already have received in the mail a Survey 2016 results roster informing them whether and how their federal candidates have responded to the Right to Work survey.

Pro-Right to Work Americans who have not yet received their Survey 2016 results may obtain a copy by contacting the Committee by email -- Members@NRTW.org -- or by dialing 1-800-325-7892.

By calling, writing and visiting their candidates and urging them to declare themselves in opposition to Big Labor special privileges, Committee members are making forced unionism and the Right to Work important issues in state after state this year.

As this article is being drafted roughly five weeks before Election Day, the presidential polls are neck-and-neck, and no one can honestly say whether avowed Right to Work supporter Donald Trump or forced-unionism proponent Hillary Clinton will be the next President. Over the years, countless federal elected officials and candidates have learned that

opposition to the American employee's Right to Work is politically dangerous.

### **Right to Work Support In Senate and House Key To Stopping Big Labor**

But in a 50-state presidential contest, the only practical way for a candidate's pro-forced unionism record to be exposed effectively is for an opposing campaign to do the job. And so far, the Hillary Clinton-Tim Kaine ticket has not been confronted and asked to explain why the candidates think it's fair to corral employees into a union against their personal wishes.

In the event of a Clinton victory November 8, the White House over the next four years can be expected to continue the Obama Administration's pattern of promoting forced unionism by issuing ever-more radical executive orders and by packing courts and federal agencies with more and more Big Labor shills.

Congress has the constitutional authority to thwart the President from unilaterally giving away the store. But only a Congress in which U.S. Senate and House majorities have a strong commitment to the Right to Work principle can be expected to exercise this power.

That's why, this fall, Committee members and supporters are hoping to see, despite the cloudy political climate, elections resulting in increased Right to Work Capitol Hill strength.

### **North Carolina Senate Seat Is a Top Big Labor Target**

To buttress the Senate firewall against future power grabs by union monopolists, the Right to Work movement will naturally need to be effective at defense as well as offense in 2016.

The Tarheel State, where consistently pro-Right to Work Sen. Richard Burr (R) faces a Big Labor-backed challenge from lawyer and former state Rep. Deborah Ross (D), is a key example.

Mr. Burr is a current cosponsor of S.391, the Senate version of the National Right to Work Act. This legislation would repeal the provisions in federal labor law that authorize the termination of employees for refusal to join or pay dues to an unwanted union.

Mr. Burr has also regularly supported legislative efforts to use Congress' "power of the purse string" to thwart the Obama

*See Accountable page 5*



A "flood of [forced-dues] money and resources" furnished by the national AFL-CIO hierarchy is helping North Carolina AFL-CIO chief MaryBe McMillan orchestrate overtly partisan get-out-the-vote efforts targeting "the population as a whole."

# Politicians Held Accountable

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Administration's regulatory schemes to expand union bosses' special privileges.

According to a September report by radical Charlotte-area journalist Ryan Pitkin, the national AFL-CIO is so determined to unseat Mr. Burr this November and replace him with Ms. Ross that the union political machine has recently given North Carolina "Tier 1 Status."

Consequently, "a flood of [forced-dues] money and resources" furnished by the union hierarchy in Washington, D.C., is now helping state AFL-CIO chief MaryBe McMillan orchestrate overtly partisan get-out-the-vote efforts targeting "the population as a whole."

At press time, the *Real Clear Politics* website's average of recent polls shows Mr. Burr trailing in the Senate race by one percentage point.

## Union-Label Colorado Senator Faces a Strong Challenge

Committee Vice President Mary King noted that, in addition to Mr. Burr, union political strategists are hoping to replace staunchly pro-Right to Work Sens. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) with forced-unionism allies.

"So far," said Ms. King, "Mr. Rubio and Mr. Grassley have retained significant leads. But Right to Work strategists suspect these races could become much closer by Election Day."

Meanwhile, in one state a union-label incumbent senator is facing an unexpectedly strong challenge from a 100% pro-Right to Work candidate.

One of the first votes Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) cast upon joining the Senate in January 2009 was to kill a pro-Right to Work amendment sponsored by then-Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) and thus perpetuate Big Labor's federally granted privilege to force employees to join or bankroll a union, or be fired.

Since then, Mr. Bennet has continued to toe the line for the union brass. But now, facing the voters in a few weeks, he holds a shrinking lead over GOP challenger Darryl Glenn, an El Paso County commissioner. Mr. Glenn is pledging to Coloradans that, if he wins in November, he will support Right to Work across-the-board in the Senate.

The four states cited above are just some of those where the Senate survey program is in high gear this fall. In several other states like Nevada and New Hampshire, where neither major-party Senate nominee has yet made a commitment to support Right to Work, Committee leaders remain cautiously optimistic that at least one candidate will make such a pledge by Election Day, so pro-freedom voters have a choice.

## Committee Rallies Members To Put Heat on the Candidates

The principal Committee program for holding politicians' feet to the fire is the federal Survey 2016. It has three phases.

In the first part, candidates received questionnaires asking them how they intended to vote on a short list of forced unionism-related issues, including national Right to Work legislation and



CREDIT TO: U.S. SENATE

**Sen. Richard Burr, a cosponsor of federal forced dues-repeal legislation, faces a tough re-election battle.**

mandatory card checks.

"The Committee's goal is to forge increased support for Right to Work in the Senate and House," explained Ms. King.

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

In part two, Committee members called and wrote to the candidates, asking them to answer their questionnaires 100% in favor of Right to Work.

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

## Public Doesn't Support Compulsory Unionism

"Big Labor has far more money at its disposal than do Right to Work supporters, but the union bosses have one major problem: The general public, and even the workers they claim to represent, don't support what they are selling," said Ms. King.

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

"With members' generous support, I'm confident that this fall the federal survey will convince candidate after candidate to pledge to defend employees' Right to Work, and candidates who refuse will be held accountable by the public." 



CREDIT TO: ASSOCIATED PRESS

One of the first votes Michael Bennet cast after joining the Senate in early 2009 was to perpetuate federally imposed forced union dues. Freedom-loving Coloradans have vainly pleaded with him for years to change course.

# Right to Work States' Job Growth Is Superior

## *All of the Seven Lowest-Ranking States Are Compulsory-Unionism*

On September 28, the U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) issued its initial estimates for total 2015 private-sector, nonfarm employment in the 50 states.

The latest BEA data show, as such data long have done, a wide advantage for states that protect employees from being fired for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union over states where the law permits such unjust firings.

Nationwide, private-sector, nonfarm employment as reported by the BEA grew by 11.9% from 2005 to 2015. (Unlike the establishment jobs data collected by the U.S. Labor Department, BEA data track self-employment and contractual employment as well as payroll jobs.) Historically, this was an anemic gain.

However, states that protect employees from being fired for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union typically fared far better than the rest.

### Right to Work States' 2005-2015 Job Increase 48% Above the Forced-Unionism Average

All of the top four, and eight of the top 10, states for 2005-2015 private-sector employment growth were Right to Work for the entire period.

Meanwhile, the seven bottom-ranking states for employment growth -- Maine, Missouri, New Hampshire, Ohio, Rhode Island, Vermont and West Virginia -- all lacked Right to Work protections until this year.

(Since Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin switched over from forced-unionism to Right to Work between 2012 and 2015, they are excluded from the



CREDIT TO: YOUTUBE.COM, VIDEO POSTED BY ANDREI SEVERNY

**Eminent statistician/artist/author Edward Tufte: "Correlation is not causation, but it sure is a hint."**

above analysis. Since West Virginia's Right to Work law is only eight-months-old at press time, it is counted as a forced-unionism state here.)

Overall, BEA-reported, private-sector, nonfarm employment in Right to Work states grew by 15.4% from 2005 to 2015. That's 48% above the average for forced-unionism states, and 29% above the national average.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Greg Mourad noted that faster growth in jobs and income is clearly a key reason why real expenditures on housing, health care, food, clothing, cars, gas, and other services and goods are rising far more rapidly in Right to Work states than in forced-unionism states.

"New and revised BEA data issued early this year," recalled Mr. Mourad, "showed that, from 2005 to 2015,

inflation-adjusted personal consumption expenditures grew by 24.3% in the 22 states that were Right to Work the whole time.

"That's 60% greater real PCE growth than what was experienced in the aggregate by the 25 states that still allowed forced unionization as of 2015."

### Kentucky Senator and Iowa Congressman Have Introduced Federal Forced-Dues Repeal

Mr. Mourad continued: "The hard, objective data from the U.S. Commerce Department help show why S.391 and H.R.612 are extraordinarily important pieces of legislation."

Respectively introduced by U.S. Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and U.S. Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa), S.391 and H.R.612, also known as the National Right to Work Act, would simply repeal all federal labor-law provisions that currently authorize compulsory union dues and fee payments as a condition of employment.

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

### Forced-Dues Repeal Would Help Reinvigorate Economic Growth Across America

While restoring workers' personal freedom is the primary purpose of Paul-King, of all the economic reforms Congress may consider in the next couple of years, it would probably have the strongest positive impact for jobs and incomes.

Mr. Mourad explained: "As eminent statistician and Yale professor emeritus Edward Tufte has observed, 'Correlation is not causation but it sure is a hint.'

"I submit that the very strong correlation between Right to Work status and faster job growth, decade after decade, 'sure is a hint' that banning forced union dues is economically beneficial.

"Federal forced-dues repeal would spur faster job growth nationwide. Businesses based in current Right to Work states would share the benefits as their major out-of-state customers and suppliers were freed from the burden of compulsory unionism."



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Written and Distributed by:

**National Right to Work Committee**

8001 Braddock Road  
Springfield, Va. 22160  
E-mail: [Members@NRTW.org](mailto:Members@NRTW.org)

**Stanley Greer** Newsletter Editor

**Greg Mourad** Vice President

**Mary King** Vice President

**Matthew Leen** Vice President

**Stephen Goodrick** Vice President

**Mark Mix** President

Editorial comments only: [stg@nrtwc.org](mailto:stg@nrtwc.org)

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# Fought in Legislatures, Courts

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it finally did succeed in November 1958. Recognizing that the Right to Work movement needed leadership and impressed with Mr. Larson's achievements, the National Committee board invited him to move to Washington, D.C., and head the organization.

The move would be a big risk for the Larsons. Jeanne was then pregnant with their third child. Reed had already put his career as an engineer on hold for more than four years. And he knew the National Committee's treasury had only a few thousand dollars in it.

But Reed and Jeanne were equally sure of the importance of the Right to Work cause. That knowledge helped Reed decide to accept the offer to become the National Committee's leader, a position he would go on to hold for 44 years.

## A Man Who Could 'Frustrate The Best Laid Plans Of Organized Labor'

When the Larsons moved to Washington, D.C., in early 1959, the National Committee was just four years old, and had just 20,000 members and only enough money in the bank to meet its small payroll for a month.

By the time Mr. Larson stepped down from the presidency, the Committee had 2.2 million members, and today membership stands at 2.8 million.

At the state level, under Mr. Larson's watch the Committee assisted successful efforts to pass new Right to Work laws in four states and played a key role in stymieing dozens of full-scale bids by Big Labor to repeal or gut existing Right to Work laws.

At the federal level, the Committee scored a "must-win" victory in 1965-66 over Organized Labor's Capitol Hill campaign to eviscerate all state Right to Work laws through repeal of Taft-Hartley Section 14(b).

Among the other key defensive victories for Right to Work were the defeats of so-called "common situs picketing" legislation designed to corral independent construction employees into unions (1975-77) and legislation to bar employers from offering permanent jobs to workers hired during strikes (1991-94).

In a December 1977 *New York Times* profile, national and financial editor Jerry Flint accurately wrote: "Reed Larson. The name won't have a familiar ring. But

Reed Larson can mobilize [an army] of hundreds of thousands, make Presidents change their minds and frustrate the best laid plans of organized labor."

## In 1968, Mr. Larson Founded Second National Right to Work Group

In 1968, believing that more could and should be done to oppose compulsory unionism through the legal system, Mr. Larson sought and obtained approval from the Committee board to establish the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation.

Subsequently, the Foundation's efforts to defend the First Amendment rights of independent-minded employees bore fruit with incremental U.S. Supreme Court victories such as *Ellis v. Brotherhood of Railway Clerks*, *Chicago Teachers Union v. Hudson*, and *Communications Workers of America v. Beck*.

Respectively, these decisions empowered transportation, public, and a wide range of private-sector employees

to withhold forced-dues payments for all Big Labor activities unrelated to collective bargaining.

"Government-authorized forced unionism continues to do enormous damage, both to individual workers and to the country," said Mark Mix, who succeeded Mr. Larson as president of the Committee and the Foundation in 2003 and still leads both Right to Work organizations today.

## 'I Know He Is at Peace And in a Place That Has Been Prepared For Him'

"But just since the beginning of 2012," noted Mr. Mix, "an additional four states have adopted Right to Work laws. By staying the course and continuing to fight forced unionism head on, just as Reed taught us to do, Right to Work forces will ultimately achieve a total victory. I'm confident of that."

Regarding Mr. Larson's departure from this world, Mr. Mix reflected:

"There is peace in knowing Reed lived a full, fruitful, and successful life.

"And I know he is at peace and in a place that has been prepared for him by his personal Savior."



Journalist Ralph de Toledano, regarding a Reed Larson-led lobbying campaign: "[M]embers of the House and Senate knew that it had been [Right to Work's] David who had brought down . . . the Administration's Goliath."

# Recalling Right to Work Movement's 'David'

## *Consistency and Focus Were Hallmarks of Reed Larson's Success*

Reed Larson, who headed the National Right to Work Committee from 1959 until 2003, died peacefully, with his three daughters at his side, late in the evening on September 17. His beloved wife, the former Jeanne Hess, had passed away in 2010.

In addition to their daughters and sons-in-law, the Larsons are survived by nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

A 1940 graduate of Agra High School

in Agra, Kan., Mr. Larson served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He then returned to the Sunflower State. In 1947, he graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in electrical engineering and got married.

By 1954, Mr. Larson had already been employed at the Coleman Company headquarters in Wichita, Kan., for six years and had a promising future as an engineer. But it was not to be.

In late 1953, International

Brotherhood of Teamsters bosses had instigated a notorious taxi-cab strike in Wichita.

### **Brutal Wichita Strike's Goal Was to Foist Forced Unionism On Cab Drivers**

Their goal was to secure the power to force cab drivers throughout the city to join the Teamsters, or be fired from their jobs.

Hired union goons and munitions experts, who had never driven a cab in their lives and who, in many cases, already had criminal records, carried out a campaign of violence against non-striking drivers and their families.

Rocks, bottles, "stink" bombs and paint and gasoline bombs were hurled at the cabs of drivers who remained on the job. One cab company's dispatch office was dynamited. Firebombs were thrown on porches of non-strikers' homes. Brickbats were aimed at non-strikers' children.

In December 1953, a brutal attack by half-a-dozen goons burst a malignant tumor on the face of one non-striking driver. The injuries suffered by the driver forced the doctors to delay the surgery they had scheduled to remove the malignancy. And the delay ended up costing the driver, a husband and father of two, his life.

The Teamster chieftains' assault on Wichita convinced many people in south central Kansas of the urgency of protecting employees and firms from the federal labor law provisions authorizing compulsory union membership as a job condition. Reed Larson was one of them.

### **'Six Months' Stretched Into Four Years, and Then Into Decades**

In the spring of 1954, Mr. Larson sought and was granted a six-month leave of absence from the Coleman Company so he could dedicate himself full-time to leading the newly formed grass-roots group Kansans for Right to Work.

Their campaign to pass a state Right to Work law barring forced union membership and dues as a condition of employment took far longer than they had originally hoped. But thanks largely to Mr. Larson's determination and his effective mobilization of public opinion,

*See Fought page 7*



CREDIT: MARTIN E. FOX/NRTWC

**In the spirit of Jefferson, who declared "eternal hostility to all forms of tyranny," Reed Larson tirelessly fought for decade after decade to liberate American workers from the tyranny of forced unionism.**