NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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New Right to Work Laws Already Boosting States

But Missouri Job Creation Thwarted by Big Labor Obstruction

From February 2012 through February 2017, American employees enjoyed the most rapid expansion of Right to Work protections since the 1940's, with six additional states prohibiting forced union dues and fees as a job condition over the course of just five years.

The primary purpose of state Right to Work laws, now 28 in number, is to protect the employee's freedom as an individual to join or financially support a union, or refuse to do either.

But the recently enacted Right to Work laws are also fostering faster growth in jobs and rising living standards in the states where they have taken effect.

Unfortunately, protections for employees' personal freedom have yet to become effective at all in Missouri, where legislators adopted the 28th state Right to Work law a year ago last month.

Though Kentucky's Right to Work law was signed by Gov. Matt Bevin barely more than a year ago, the Bluegrass State is already becoming an outstanding example of how prohibiting compulsory unionism helps enhance communities' ability to attract job-creating and income-raising business investments.

Credit: Bill Estep/Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader

BOURBON AND BATTERIES: Gov. Matt Bevin thanked EnerBlu executives for bringing good-paying jobs to Pike County, Ky., then handed them a bottle of whiskey's "sweet spot," for which the Bluegrass State is world-famous.

Right to Work 'Translating' Into More and More 'Wins For Communities Across the State'

On December 30, the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development (KCED) announced that the state had attracted a record $9.2 billion in "corporate expansion and new-location projects in 2017, bringing commitments to create more than 17,200 jobs," the most since 2000.

In his account of the KCED's year-end report, Jonathan Green of CNHI Kentucky emphasized how rural counties and urban counties alike are benefiting from the Bluegrass State's investment boom:

"Rural counties attracted 166 [private-sector] projects, while 167 went to the 10 most-populated counties . . . ."

Mr. Green also specified that the top five sectors for investment in Kentucky in 2017 were "motor-vehicle related, high technology, advanced manufacturing, distribution and logistics, and primary metals." These are all sectors that typically offer good-paying, family-supporting jobs.

And according to KCED Communications Director Jack Mazurak, his agency has been seeing more inquiries, requests for proposals and site visits from companies ever since the state became Right to Work in January 2017.

Right to Work has translated and "will continue to translate into more wins for communities across the state, new-location projects, and existing-industry expansions that create jobs and boost the economy," said Mr. Mazurak.

See '**Cutting Edge**' *page 2*

‘Cutting Edge’ Kentucky Tech

Continued from page 1

Among the employment technology opportunities now headed Right to Work Kentucky’s way are an estimated 875 manufacturing jobs at a $372 million lithium battery plant to be built in Pikeville, an Appalachian town of 7100.

On December 15, executives of EnerBlu, a two-year-old company based in Riverside-San Bernadino, east of Los Angeles, announced plans to move, “lock, stock and barrel,” from forced-unionism California to the Bluegrass State.

The million-square foot Pikeville plant, which is expected to open in 2020, will be the first in the U.S. to make lithium-titanate oxide batteries for transit buses and commercial and military vehicles.

Laws Help Raise Living Standards Partly by Cutting the Cost of Living

EnerBlue simultaneously announced it would locate its new $40 million headquarters, with a projected employment of 110, in Lexington, Kentucky’s second largest city.

As urban policy analyst Wendell Cox has noted, EnerBlu’s major investment in Pikeville “could indicate the potential for ‘cutting edge’ technology to find a home in small towns.”

And small towns in Right to Work states clearly have the advantage over their counterparts in forced-unionism states when it comes to attracting such jobs.

In addition to helping states attract job-creating investments, Right to Work laws help increase families’ real purchasing power. As decades of academic research by economists such as Thomas M. Carroll and Richard J. Cebula have shown, Right to Work laws can improve living standards in part by reducing the cost of living in jurisdictions where they are in effect.

Indiana, which became a Right to Work state six years ago, is a case in point. Indices calculated and published by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) show that in 2011, the year before Indiana adopted its Right to Work law, the Hoosier State was 20.2% less costly to live in than forced-unionism states on average.

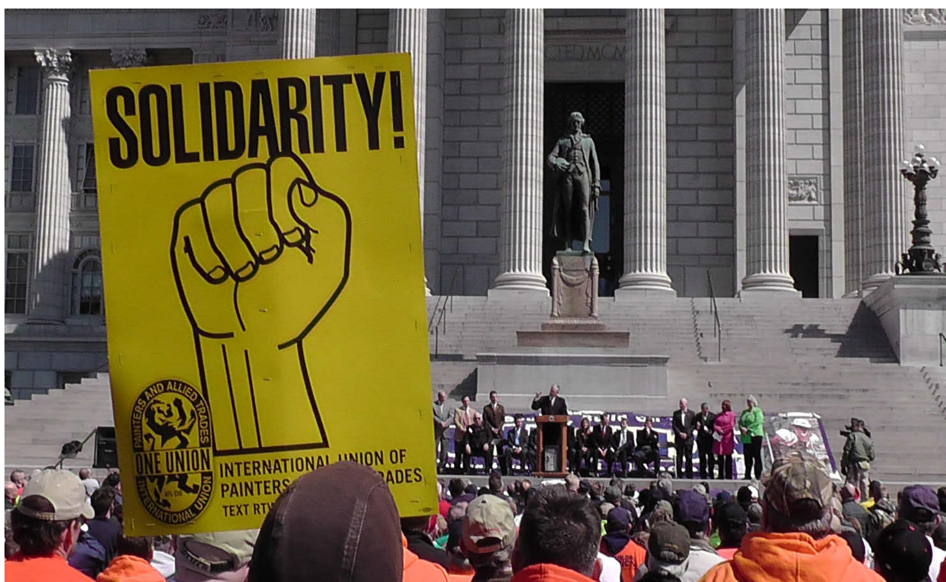
With differences in the cost of living accounted for, Indiana’s per capita disposable income was roughly $1360 higher than the average for Big Labor dominated states.

By 2016, the average annual cost of living in Indiana was 24.9% below the average for compulsory-dues states.

And Indiana’s cost of living-adjusted per capita disposable income was more than $3800 higher than the average for forced-unionism states.

Until 2013, Michigan’s Workforce Seemed Doomed To Continue Shrinking

The record indicates Right to Work laws can help even states with deeply troubled economies get back on their feet.



Ignoring impressive economic gains in states where recently adopted Right to Work laws have been allowed to take effect, Missouri union bosses and their allies are wildly claiming disaster will ensue if their anti-Right to Work blockade is lifted.

In 2012, three years into the national recovery from the recession of 2008-2009, Michigan’s workforce was 230,000 smaller than it had been three years earlier.

Then, in December 2012, Michigan legislators finally heeded the pleas of their freedom-loving constituents by sending to Gov. Rick Snyder’s desk a Right to Work measure, which he promptly signed. It took effect in 2013.

And by the end of 2013, for the first time since 2005, Michigan’s labor force was larger than it had been the year before. The expansion continued in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Over the past five years, Michigan has chalked up an absolute gain in payroll manufacturing jobs far greater than any other state, while widening its advantage over the remaining forced-unionism states as a group with regard to real earnings per worker in the sector.

Missouri Workers Miss Out As Right to Work Law Remains in Abeyance

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented that anyone who takes a careful and unbiased look at the economic records of Indiana, Kentucky and Michigan since they became Right to Work can see that Big Labor propaganda claims about the impact of prohibiting forced union fees are false.

Mr. Mix surmised that is a key reason why union bosses seeking to kill Right to Work laws invariably aim first, through litigation or other means, to prevent them from taking effect at all.

“Wisconsin and West Virginia have undoubtedly benefited less from their recently-enacted Right to Work laws than they otherwise would have because Big Labor managed temporarily to block them from taking effect through court injunctions issued by union boss-‘friendly’ judges,” said Mr. Mix.

“And in Missouri, sadly, Right to Work freedoms are still in abeyance today as a consequence of union officials’ exploitation of an obscure provision in the state legal code to block the statute from taking effect.

“Now the only way freedom-loving Missourians can ever enjoy the benefits of their Right to Work law is by defeating an upcoming Big Labor-backed ballot initiative to reinstitute forced union financial support permanently.”

Mr. Mix vowed that Committee leaders and members would do everything reasonably possible to help Missouri citizens get back their Right to Work.

Xavier Becerra: Monopolistic Unions Are a Boon

Does California Attorney General Love Union Don-Created Chaos?

Burdened by a dumbfounding $13.6 billion in unfunded retiree health-care liabilities, the Los Angeles Unified School District desperately needs to reform the way teachers and other school employees are compensated early this year in order to keep the LAUSD from sinking even deeper into a hole.

On paper, it seems like the LAUSD ought to be able to curtail its health-care expenditures substantially without causing hardship among district staff.

With a payroll of fewer than 26,600 active teachers, the LAUSD now spends $1.1 billion a year on health care, and annual health-care expenditures have been increasing more than twice as fast as the consumer price index.

But the LAUSD has been unable to implement even very modest reforms. At best, it hopes merely that it will be able to hold health-care costs stable over the next couple of years.

Unfortunately, as a consequence of the Rodda Act, a four-decade-old California law that authorizes and promotes union monopoly-bargaining control over public school employees, it is now highly unlikely the LAUSD will even be able to prevent its out-of-control healthcare costs from soaring even higher.

‘Next Year-and-a-Half Must Be Founded Upon Building Our Capacity to Strike’

Under the Rodda Act, elected officials and their appointees can’t do anything significant to rein in spiraling employee benefit costs without government union officials’ aquiescence.

And the monopoly-bargaining system is so slanted in Big Labor’s favor that irresponsible union bosses like Alex Caputo-Pearl, president of the United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA/NEA/AFT) union, are encouraged not to give an inch.

In a fiery summer 2016 speech at a gathering of union militants, Mr. Caputo-Pearl vowed to go to war with the LAUSD rather than accept any meaningful reform of K-12 employees’ exorbitantly expensive and taxpayer-funded health-insurance plans: “The next year-and-a-half must be founded upon building our capacity to strike, and our capacity to create a state crisis, in early 2018.”

As a December 2017 government union strike in Oakland, California’s eighth largest city, confirmed, this was no idle threat. According to one newspaper account, the Oakland strike halted basic city functions like “checks of building plans, fire inspections, parking enforcement and street sweeping” while also closing services like “senior centers, libraries, recreation centers, and after-school programs.”

Credit: Katie Falkenberg/Los Angeles Times Insert Credit: Diego M. Radzinschi/ALM

According to California Attorney General Xavier Becerra (inset), statutes empowering government union kingpins like Alex Caputo-Pearl to create state crises serve “important interests of public employers across the nation.”

Regardless of what they think about labor unions in general, most Americans would surely agree that a system that empowers a special-interest group to prevent schools from doing what they deem necessary to serve schoolchildren, their parents and other taxpaying citizens is not a good one.

How Does Assisting Union Radicals Like Alex Caputo-Pearl ‘Serve’ Taxpayers’ Interests?

But Xavier Becerra, California’s union-label attorney general, has an altogether different perspective.

According to Mr. Becerra, empowering government union kingpins like Mr. Caputo-Pearl to create state crises serves “important interests of public employers” in California and other states, as he and attorney Aimee Feinberg recently wrote in a commentary they coauthored.

Indeed, Mr. Becerra and a number of other Big Labor state politicians go so far as to contend that government-sector union monopoly bargaining is a “vital public interest.”

And in briefs filed this winter with the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the landmark National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation case *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31,* Mr. Becerra and other likeminded politicians go even further. They actually claim it is constitutionally acceptable to force unwilling public employees to pay for union monopoly bargaining, or be fired.

‘Xavier Becerra Illustrates How Political Self-Interest Can Warp a Person’s Judgment’

John Kalb, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee (the Right to Work Foundation’s sister organization) commented: “I think the experience of California and many other states actually shows government-sector union monopoly bargaining is a detriment for taxpayers, and not a benefit at all.

“But even if corralling public servants into unions whether they personally want them or not did somehow help taxpayers, it still would not justify trampling on the First Amendment freedom of union non-members not to bankroll Big Labor advocacy with which they disagree.

“Ordinary Americans have no trouble recognizing this fact. But Xavier Becerra illustrates how political self-interest can warp a person’s judgment.”

Fewer 'Needy' Families in Right to Work States

People Thrice as Apt to Be on Welfare in Forced-Unionism States

Last fall, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, released data for March 2017 regarding participation in all 50 states in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

Among other things, the ACF reported the total number of residents of each state who as of March 2017 were dependent on cash payments from the TANF program to get by.

On Average, Cost of Living-Adjusted Poverty Lower In Right to Work States

As they consistently have done in the past, the latest available ACF data for the 50 states show that residents of states lacking Right to Work protections for employees are far more likely to rely on TANF money than are residents of states where the Right to Work is protected by law.

To be precise, an average of 11.6 per 1000 residents of forced-unionism states were TANF recipients at the end of last winter, compared to an average of just 3.9 per 1000 in states wherer employees can't be fired for refusal to join or bankroll a union.

Ten of the 11 states with the highest TANF dependency ratios lack Right to Work laws, and the sole exception, Kentucky, was still a forced-unionism state as of the end of 2016.

(See the chart below for more information.)

Meanwhile, 12 of the 13 states with the lowest shares of residents receiving TANF payments are Right to Work states.

TANF dependency is on average far lower in Right to Work states for two basic reasons.

First, poverty as gauged by the federal government's supplemental poverty measure (SPM), which takes regional cost-of-living differences into account, is a bit lower in Right to Work states than in forced-unionism states.

And forced-unionism states' disadvantage for SPM poverty is greater once demographic factors such as relative educational attainment and age composition are taken into account.

Right to Work State Residents Are More Hopeful About Improving Their Circumstances

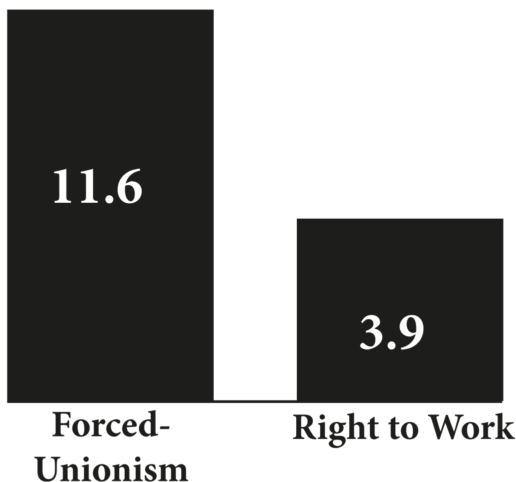
The second key reason why TANF dependency is much higher in forced-unionism states is that members of households in Right to Work states that technically fit the definition of "poor" are clearly far more apt to believe they can advance economically without taking cash from the federal government.

People in Right to Work states are also less inclined to turn for help to Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

These two giant government operations, each far larger than TANF, aim to cover health-care expenses for low-income Americans.

In 2012, the last year for which near-comprehensive data are available, the share of forced-dues state residents that were dependent on Medicaid/CHIP was 2.8 percentage points higher, on average, than in Right to Work states.

Temporary Assistance For Needy Families Recipients Per 1000 Residents, March 2017



'Neediest' States

1. **California**
2. **Kentucky**
3. **New Mexico**
4. **Alaska**
5. **Delaware**
6. **New York**
7. **Hawaii**
8. **Pensylvania**
9. **Rhode Island**
10. **Montana**

(all forced-unionism as of December 2016 -- all except Kentucky forced-unionism today)

Despite the undeniable correlation between forced unionism and dependency on federal welfare programs, union bosses often outrageously claim that corralling workers into unions is somehow a remedy for poverty.

Corralling Workers Into Unions Is No Rx For Poverty, But Union Dons Pretend It Is

Despite the undeniable correlation between forced unionism and dependency on TANF, Medicaid and CHIP, union bosses often outrageously claim that corralling workers into unions is somehow a remedy for poverty.

That is not true.

One example of union-boss cluelessness occurred before Kentucky and Missouri passed their Right to Work laws early last year.

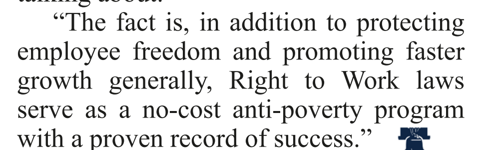
The latest TANF data then available showed that TANF dependency in both states was roughly double the average for Right to Work states.

Yet in testimony before state legislators, Kentucky AFL-CIO kingpin Bill Londrigan and Missouri AFL-CIO chief Mike Louis insinuated struggling residents of their states would somehow be worse off if Big Labor's forced-dues privileges were revoked.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Mary King commented:

"The actual federal data on cost of living-adjusted poverty and the state-by-state TANF and Medicaid rolls showed and continue to show Mr. Londrigan and Mr. Louis had no idea what they were talking about.

"The fact is, in addition to protecting employee freedom and promoting faster growth generally, Right to Work laws serve as a no-cost anti-poverty program with a proven record of success."



Trump Labor Board May Be Hobbled For Years

Most of Obama Appointees' Anti-Right to Work Legacy Safe For Now?

After the U.S. Senate confirmed President Trump's nominations of Marvin Kaplan and William Emanuel to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) last year, Right to Work supporters were hopeful that the reign of Barack Obama-appointed radicals over this powerful agency had finally ended.

Unfortunately, although Trump appointees did help roll back a handful of the Obama NLRB's outrageous pro-union monopoly rewrites of federal labor law in December, it now appears most of the Obama board's anti-Right to Work legacy could continue to be U.S. policy for some time to come.

One reason why this is sadly the case is that, prior to his NLRB appointment, Mr. Emanuel was an attorney for the major employment law firm Littler Mendelson, which has legally represented more than 160 companies that have recently been involved in cases within the NLRB's jurisdiction.

Under longstanding federal ethics rules, for his first two years on the board Mr. Emanuel will have to recuse himself from all cases involving companies that were Littler Mendelson clients while he worked there, even if they were not his own clients.

Credit: Reuters

Last fall, Trump appointee William Emanuel recused himself from 98 cases now before the NLRB.

Big Labor Radicals Unlikely To Lose Controversial NLRB Votes at This Time

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen recalled that, as a consequence of his Littler Mendelson ties, late last November Mr. Emanuel announced he would recuse himself from 98 cases currently before the board.

"A few weeks later," Mr. Leen added, "Philip Miscimarra, the sole remaining Obama NLRB appointee who did not display an intense bias in favor of expanding union bosses' special coercive privileges, left the board as his term expired.

"Since the President had yet to nominate any replacement for Mr. Miscimarra when the latter left the board on December 16, what remained was a four-member panel.

"It was made up of two Trump appointees publicly committed to enforcing federal labor statutes as they are written and two unabashed proponents of compulsory unionism with established track records of 'reinterpreting' federal labor law to expand union bosses' special privileges."

As this Newsletter edition goes to press in early February, the Miscimarra seat remains vacant.

Until this seat is filled, if the full board considers a case, as usually happens when a controversial and potentially precedent-setting issue is at stake, Big Labor radicals will be virtually guaranteed a tie vote, and could have a majority if Mr. Emanuel has to recuse himself.

Latest Trump NLRB Nominee Will Also, if Confirmed, Likely Often Have to Recuse Himself

While the White House was considering whom to nominate to fill the NLRB vacancy, Committee officers counselled Trump staff members not to choose for the slot another management attorney who would have to recuse himself or herself potentially from vast numbers of cases involving clients of the attorney's former employer.

This advice went unheeded.

On January 12, the NLRB nomination of John Ring, a partner at the employment law firm Morgan, Lewis and Bockius, whose client list is even longer than Littler Mendelson's, was announced to the press.

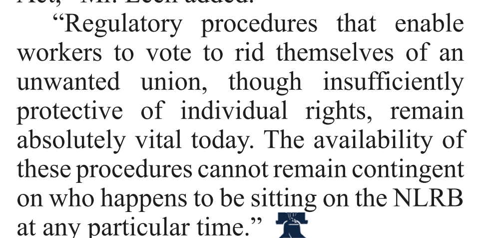
"If John Ring's nomination is soon confirmed, as expected, then for the next year and a half two of the three NLRB members who aren't profoundly biased in favor of forced unionism may have to recuse themselves from multiple cases," said Mr. Leen.

"Recusals could make it virtually impossible, until late 2019 or even 2020, for the board to revisit any more of the dozens of radical, precedent-smashing decisions issued by the Obama NLRB."

Legislative Fixes Needed

"The strong possibility that Chairman Marvin Kaplan's NLRB will be hobbled until the next presidential election year is one of several reasons why the Committee is aggressively lobbying Congress to adopt measures that would overturn Obama NLRB power grabs legislatively by amending the National Labor Relations Act," Mr. Leen added.

"Regulatory procedures that enable workers to vote to rid themselves of an unwanted union, though insufficiently protective of individual rights, remain absolutely vital today. The availability of these procedures cannot remain contingent on who happens to be sitting on the NLRB at any particular time."



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‘Embezzlement Plagues Union Offices’ Around U.S.

Obama Administration Slashed Funding For Corruption Watchdogs

After reporting for several months on a still-unfolding scandal that involves the alleged misappropriation of millions of dollars meant for worker training by crooked union bosses and auto-company executives, the Detroit *Free Press* recently decided to investigate just how widespread Big Labor corruption is.

On January 7, the *Free Press* shared with its readers its finding that, as the report’s headine put it, “embezzlement plagues union offices around the country.”

U.S. Labor Department documents reviewed by the publication showed that theft has been uncovered in “more than 300 union locations” nationwide just since the beginning of 2016.

Victims Are Nurses, Engineers, Firefighters, Teachers, Film And TV Artists, Musicians . . .

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Greg Mourad commented:

“The *Free Press* exposé of Big Labor corruption, written by award-winning veteran journalist Phoebe Wall Howard, shows why no employee subject to union monopoly bargaining anywhere in America should feel comfortable assuming his or her dues money is in good hands.

“Union theft happens ‘in big cities and tiny towns in all corners of the country.’

“The victims,” Mr. Mourad continued, “include ‘nurses, aerospace engineers, firefighters, teachers, film and TV artists, air traffic controllers, musicians, bus inspectors, bakery workers, roofers, postal workers, machinists, ironworkers, steelworkers, dairy workers, plasterers, train operators, plumbers, stagehands, engineers, electricians, heat insulators, missle range workers and bricklayers.’”

Examples of union officials found guilty of or pleading guilty to financial crimes cited by the *Free Press* include former Laborers Local 657 Business Manager Anthony Frederick. In February 2017, this D.C. union honcho was sentenced to four years in prison for embezzlement and ordered to pay $1.632 million in restitution.

Another culprit mentioned was Ray Ventrone, formerly the business manager for Pittsburgh-based Local 154 of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers. Last September, he pleaded guilty to embezzling roughly $1.5 million, plus tax evasion.

Additional Audits Would Almost Certainly Uncover Far More Widespread Theft

Still others are Allied Novelty and Production Workers union don Johnnie Miranti and Teamster chief Louis Smith, both of New York City. In August 2016, they pleaded guilty to soliciting and receiving kickbacks “to influence the operation of an employee benefit plan and commit theft of $1 million.”

Mr. Mourad commented that, as shocking as the *Free Press* article undoubtedly was to many readers, it almost certainly grossly understated the actual amount of corruption in Organized Labor in contemporary America.

He explained: “This report relied exclusively on cases of corruption uncovered by the Labor Department’s Office of Labor-Management Standards [OLMS]. And during the 10-year period ending in 2016, the OLMS staff shrank by 44%, even as other Labor Department divisions expanded.

“Acting at its Big Labor allies’ behest, the Obama Administration slashed OLMS funding, even though OLMS audits have an excellent track record of uncovering crimes.

“In 2016, for example, nearly 20% of OLMS audits of labor unions led to criminal investigations. By comparison, in Fiscal Year 2014 the IRS audited almost 1.4 million tax returns, but just 0.3% of these audits resulted in a criminal probe.”

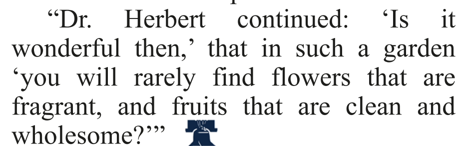
Monopolistic Unionism Is the Real Problem

“Increasing the OLMS staff and the number of audits substantially would undoubtedly help curtail rampant Big Labor corruption to some degree, and Congress and President Trump ought to do that in the coming fiscal year,” Mr. Mourad continued.

“But government-authorized monopoly bargaining, which makes employees almost completely dependent on union officials for their job security and pay increases, and forced union dues are the main sources of union corruption.

“Monopolistic unionism is a classic example of the state-sanctioned compulsion in which, to borrow the words of 19th Century British philosopher Auberon Herbert, the individual employee who opposes a union boss is ‘made to serve his ends, if he can get enough power to force these ends upon him.’

“Dr. Herbert continued: ‘Is it wonderful then,’ that in such a garden ‘you will rarely find flowers that are fragrant, and fruits that are clean and wholesome?’”



Credit: KDKA-TV (CBS), Pittsburgh

According to federal prosecutors, Pittsburgh union boss Ray Ventrone used workers’ forced dues to buy gym and nautilus equipment, sport tickets and multi-thousand-dollar restaurant meals. He ultimately copped to stealing $1.5 million.

Speedy Trump Action Essential

Continued from page 8

Bacon repeal remains an uphill battle.

Any attempt to revoke this special-interest law would be opposed by virtually all Democrat politicians and by a significant number of weak-kneed Republican elected officials.

Fortunately, as Mr. Mix noted in his op-ed, the Davis-Bacon Act itself "expressly provides" for its own suspension by the President of the United States in times of "emergency."

Would President Donald Trump be criticized by Big Labor politicians for declaring there is an infrastructure emergency?

Of course he would. But given that Hillary Clinton, Mr. Trump's opponent in the 2016 general election, herself said publicly during the campaign that the "state of our infrastructure is an emergency," the partisan criticism would ring hollow.

Indeed, over the years, Davis-Bacon has already been suspended four times during emergencies declared by four different presidents, including Democrat Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who declared a purely economic emergency in 1934.

"Suspending Davis-Bacon by executive order . . . [ultimately] could save the American taxpayer hundreds of billions of dollars, and stop billions of taxpayer dollars from being diverted into union coffers in the form of mandatory union dues and fees," wrote Mr. Mix in *The Hill.*

President Can Stop Infrastructure Bill From Bilking Taxpayers

Right to Work leaders and members are currently trying to convince the President to suspend Davis-Bacon before Congress takes up legislation to address what is widely regarded as our nation's infrastructure crisis.

By the time this month's Newsletter edition reaches its readers, Congress is expected to have already received a plan from the Trump Administration calling for the expenditure of a trillion dollars, including at least $200 billion in federal taxpayer money, on infrastructure improvements and modernization. The money would be spent over the next decade.

"There is a widespread consensus across America," observed Mr. Mix, "that the deteriorating state of roads, highways, waterways, ports, and other structures constitutes a national emergency.

"Assuming that is indeed the case, there is all the more reason to ensure that hardworking taxpayers get the biggest possible bang for their buck on federal public works.

"But study after study by independent researchers has shown that Davis-Bacon raises total construction costs substantially. One finding, cited in a 2007 Congressional Research Service report, is that the jack up could be as high as 38%!

"And Davis-Bacon effectively limits federal public works projects to politically-connected unionized firms at the expense of the 85% of American hardhats who have chosen to accept a job with an independent construction company. That's morally indefensible.

"Fortunately, President Trump can stop taxpayers from being bilked and enable union-free construction employees and employers to compete fairly for public works contracts by suspending this unjust law."

Well aware that previous GOP administrations have been willing to cede federal labor policy on issues like Davis-Bacon to a relative handful of union boss-intimidated Republicans on Capitol Hill, the Right to Work Committee began mobilizing public support for Davis-Bacon suspension over a year ago.

Committee Public Mobilization Campaign Began in Early 2017

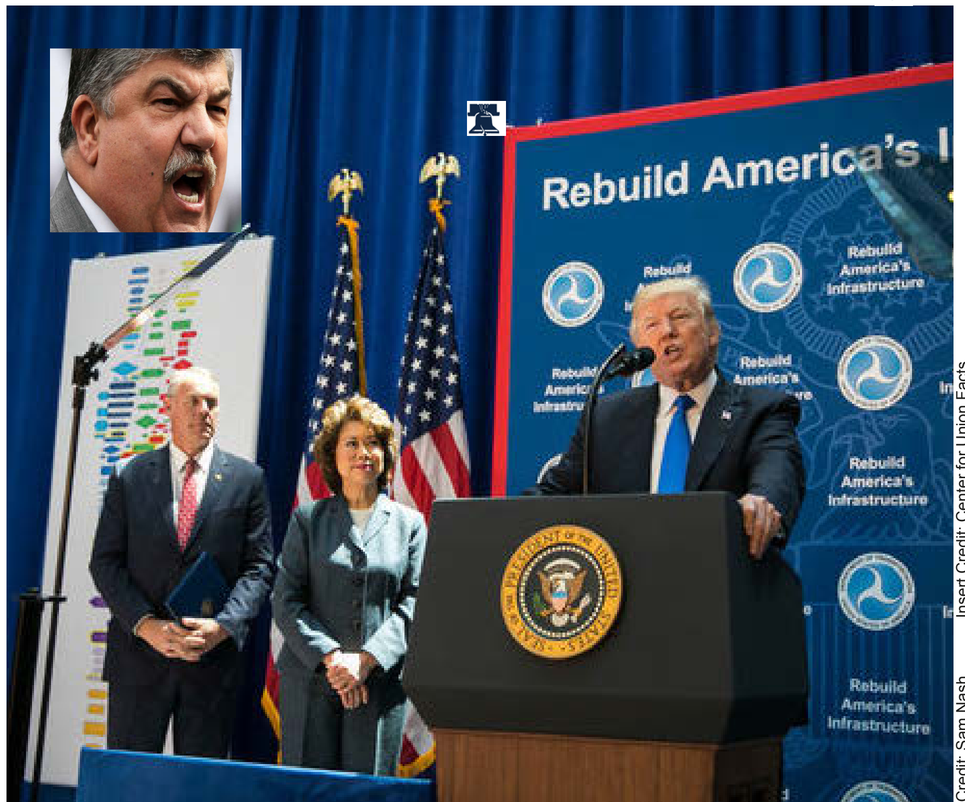
"In 2017, the Committee contacted tens of thousands of identified grass-roots foes of compulsory unionism across America to urge them to sign petitions to President Trump calling for Davis-Bacon suspension," said Mr. Mix.

After the White House infrastructure proposal is presented to Congress, the Committee will be prepared to expand dramatically its public mobilization campaign if necessary.

"The President ran in 2016 on putting Americans back to work, on rebuilding our country's infrastructure to make it serve the needs of 21st Century employees and employers and other citizens, and slashing government waste," recalled Mr. Mix.

"It will be a disaster for our country, as well as the Trump presidency, if the White House allows one of Mr. Trump's signature programs to be commandeered by Big Labor to serve its own agenda over the public interest.

"The Right to Work Committee is determined not to let that happen."



Insert Credit: Center for Union Facts

Credit: Sam Nash

Without prompt preemptive action by President Trump, his massive infrastructure spending proposal has the potential to divert billions of forced-dues dollars into the coffers of union bigwigs like AFL-CIO czar Richard Trumka (inset).

Will Big Apple Subway Fiasco Be Federalized?

President Must Act Soon, or Trump Infrastructure Plan is Doomed

A late 2017 New York *Times* story exposed how extraordinarily counterproductive Big Labor work rules and union featherbedding on construction have helped make the Big Apple subway undeniably the most expensive and arguably the worst maintained public transit system in any wealthy country in the world.

Metro investigative reporter Brian M. Rosenthal's December 29 article, entitled "The Most Expensive Mile of Subway Track on Earth," began with a jarring example of union-boss abuse:

"An accountant discovered the discrepancy while reviewing the budget for new train platforms under Grand Central Terminal in Manhattan.

"The budget showed that 900 workers were being paid to dig caverns for the platforms as part of a 3.5 mile tunnel connecting the historic station to the Long Island Railroad. But the accountant could only identify 700 jobs that needed to be done, according to three project supervisors. Officials could not find any reason for the other 200 people to be there.

"'Nobody knew what those people were doing, if they were doing anything,' said Michael Horodniceanu, who was then the head of construction at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority [MTA], which runs transit in New York. The workers were laid off, Mr. Horodniceanu said, but no one figured out how long they had been employed. 'All we knew is that they were each being paid about $1000 every day.'"

Outrageous Abuses Would Never Happen if Union-Free Hardhats Could Compete Fairly For Jobs

How did the mind-numbing exploitation of New York and federal taxpayers described by Mr. Horodniceanu happen?

The sad fact is, it and countless other similar abuses in public works projects occurred because construction union bosses endowed by public policy with monopoly-bargaining power to negotiate with contractors over terms and conditions of employment wanted them to happen.

And it is largely as a consequence of Big Labor-engineered featherbedding and other wasteful practices that it is now costing taxpayers $3.5 billion per mile for the MTA to bring the Long Island Rail Road to the East Side of Manhattan.

Government construction deals that mandate bizarre union-boss work rules such as requirements for "nippers" to watch items being moved from one place to another and inflate wages to levels that are unheard of outside of government-financed projects bilk taxpayers.

And they leave the MTA without the money it needs to make necessary mass transit repairs and upgrades.

Of course, if the 85% of American hardhats who are union-free and their employers were allowed to compete fairly for MTA and other federal taxpayer-funded public works contracts, construction union bosses would not be able to get away with plundering the people who pay for such projects.

Davis-Bacon Forces Bidders To Follow Big Labor-Dictated Work Rules

Unfortunately, in 2018, a woefully misguided law known as Davis-Bacon, which was signed by Big Labor-appeasing GOP President Herbert Hoover in March 1931 -- 17 months into the Great Depression -- continues to put union-free hardhats at a gross disadvantage in competing for federal contracts.

In a commentary published last spring by *The Hill*, a daily newspaper that bills itself as "the publication of record for policy influencers inside and outside Washington," National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix explained how Davis-Bacon hurts union-free workers, businesses and taxpayers:

"By forcing bidding to follow union-dictated job classifications, work rules, compliance requirements and cherry-picked union pay scales, Davis-Bacon enables Big Labor to feed at the taxpayers' trough on federal contracts."

The ideal and permanent solution for the unfairness and excessive and unnecessary spending caused by Davis-Bacon is congressional repeal of this nearly nine-decade-old relic.

But even with self-avowed opponents of monopolistic unionism now wielding operational control over the U.S. House and Senate and the White House, Davis-

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If the deteriorating state of our nation's infrastructure constitutes a national emergency, as President Trump and many other Americans believe, then executive suspension of Davis-Bacon shouldn't be delayed any longer.