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Corruption Highlights Forced-Dues Injustice *National Right to Work Legislation Introduced in U.S. Senate*

According to a February 1 article by Detroit *News* court reporter Robert Snell, federal criminal charges could be filed against the United Auto Workers (UAW) in connection with a widening corruption scandal.

U.S. attorneys have already repeatedly labeled the UAW union, along with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) and a worker training center jointly operated by the two entities, as a “co-conspirator” in a scheme to pilfer millions of dollars from the center.

Three ex-UAW bosses have already pleaded guilty to participating in the looting. And, as Mr. Snell and other journalists have noted, multiple additional former and current UAW bosses are now under investigation by the FBI for misappropriation of training center funds and other crimes.

Funds Designated For Workers Paid For a \$30,000 Bash Honoring UAW Honcho

Meanwhile, federal labor law continues to force tens of thousands of auto-assembly and auto-parts manufacturing workers in states like Missouri, Ohio and Illinois to pay dues or fees to the UAW brass as a condition of employment.

If they refuse, they will be fired.

According to a prosecutor who spoke with Mr. Snell, former UAW Vice President Norwood Jewell is one of “lots of individuals and entities” who are currently under criminal investigation.

Among the acts for which Mr. Jewell potentially faces an indictment is the tapping of money from the FCA/UAW National Training Center (NTC) to “pay for more than \$10,000 worth of golf resort accommodations” in Palm Springs, Calif., and tickets for Disney World in Orlando, Fla.



Credit: uaw.org

Even as the FBI investigates Norwood Jewell (pictured at right) for allegedly living the high life with money that was supposed to benefit workers, he is eligible to collect a pension derived from workers’ forced dues and fees.

The Palm Springs discovery is “part of a broader focus on how UAW officials spent training funds” and worker union dues (largely involuntary) in this desert resort city.

Prior to ascending to the UAW presidency in June 2018, union Region 5 Director Gary Jones held annual conferences in Palm Springs.

The FBI is also looking into the alleged expenditure of \$30,000 in NTC money to throw a party for Mr. Jewell.

According to a June 2018 article for the *News* coauthored by Mr. Snell, party guests were served “ultra-premium” liquor.” “Strolling models” lit union officials’ cigars.

And a \$3,000 tab was racked up in order to buy “wine in bottles with custom labels” that featured Mr. Jewell’s name.

Under Investigation, But Still Eligible For a Forced-Dues-Funded Pension

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented:

“Many auto-industry workers across the U.S. are surely unhappy about the fact that, as a consequence of the pro-union monopoly National Labor Relations Act [NLRA], they must remain subject to the

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Right to Work Advocates Mobilize

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rule of a union that the FBI labels as a ‘co-conspirator’ in years of criminal activity.

“Despite the legal jeopardy faced by the UAW and a number of its current and former officers, workers are still being forced by federal law to accept UAW bosses as their ‘exclusive’ bargaining agent on matters concerning their pay, benefits and work rules.

“And auto workers employed in states that still lack Right to Work protections for private-sector employees can still be forced to pay for Norwood Jewell’s pension and retirement health benefits while the FBI investigates him.

“On the other hand, FCA, GM and Ford employees in Right to Work states like Michigan, Texas, Kentucky and Indiana are free to protest allegedly rampant corruption by resigning from the UAW and cutting off all financial support for it, without having to lose their jobs.”

Kentucky Senator Introduces Measure That Would End Forced Union Dues and Fees

Mr. Mix continued:

“Big Labor corruption cases like the outrageous misuse of worker training center money to which several UAW bosses and their FCA cohorts have already confessed highlight the injustice of forced financial support for unions, which is propped up and promoted by the federal government.

“No American worker in any state should be forced by law to pay money to a union that may be corrupt, counterproductive, ineffective, or all three, simply in order to get or keep a job.

“Fortunately, on February 14, U.S. Sen. Rand Paul [R-Ky.] and 16 original cosponsors introduced S.525, the National Right to Work Act, on Capitol Hill.

“This Valentine’s Day gift to the millions of American workers who are still being forced to fork over dues or fees to a union they never supported, or no longer support, would repeal all the provisions in federal labor law that authorize compulsory payments to unions as a condition of employment.

“In an age of legislative overreach, S.525 is one of the shortest bills ever introduced.

“It does not add a single word to federal law. Instead, it simply removes the handful of passages in the National Labor Relations Act [NLRA] and the Railway Labor Act [RLA] that give union officials

the power to extract dues or fees from workers who wish to be union-free, or get them fired if they refuse.”

It’s Washington, D.C.’s Responsibility to Fix Problem That It Created

Although the NLRA does allow states to enact Right to Work laws, and 27 states have already taken advantage of that prerogative, the federal government is responsible for creating the problem of private-sector forced unionism.

In fact, the forced-dues amendment to the RLA adopted by Congress in 1951 actually blocks state Right to Work laws from protecting employees in the railroad and airline industries.

As a consequence of the RLA, tens of thousands of railroad and airline industry employees who hold jobs based in Right to Work states can still be fired for refusal to pay union dues or fees, despite what the labor laws of their own states say.

Moreover, thousands of additional defense, health-care, and other industry employees who work at military bases, centers for disease control, national parks, and other jurisdictions in Right to Work states that are regarded as “exclusive federal enclaves” are currently forced by federal law to bankroll a union.

One important benefit of S.525 is that it would close both the RLA loophole and the “exclusive federal enclave” loophole that currently prevent state Right to Work laws from protecting substantial numbers of employees.


In the weeks and months ahead, Committee members and legislative staff will press hard for hearings and floor votes on S.525 and parallel national Right to Work legislation that is expected to be introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives soon after this Newsletter edition goes to press.

Nearly 80% of Americans Who Regularly Vote Support Right to Work Principle

“After roll-call Right to Work floor votes in the Senate and House, concerned citizens across the U.S. will know for sure which of their federal elected officials support employee freedom of choice, and which are Big Labor stooges,” Mr. Mix explained.

“That alone will make a major difference.

“Poll after poll shows nearly 80% of Americans who regularly vote in federal elections support the Right to Work principle.

“Politicians who ignore what their constituents think and vote to perpetuate forced union dues may well suffer ballot-box repercussions down the road.” 



Credit: Win McNamee/Getty Images

If S.525, introduced by U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, becomes law, workers nationwide will be free both to join and pay dues to a labor union and to resign from and cease bankrolling a union they no longer support.

Right to Work Helps West Virginia Rebound

Incomes Rising, Welfare Dependency Declining in Mountain State

Three years ago this February, pro-Right to Work West Virginia legislators overrode Big Labor Democrat Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin's veto to make the Mountain State the 26th to prohibit union officials from forcing employees to fork over a portion of their paychecks to get or keep a job.

A few weeks earlier, at the time of the Right to Work legislation's original passage by the state Senate, then-Senate President Bill Cole (R-Mercer) declared:

"I believe this is a critical first step toward bringing about the kind of change in West Virginia that is desperately needed to jump-start our economy."

Salary and Wage Income Growing Nearly Thrice As Fast as Inflation

Today mounting evidence indicates Mr. Cole was correct to believe Right to Work would give his state a boost.

As the *Wall Street Journal* showed in an editorial this February 8, West Virginia's formerly weak economy is turning around.

During 2018's first three quarters, reported the editorial, salary and wage income in West Virginia increased by 5.3% on an annualized basis.

That's well above the U.S. average and nearly triple America's nationwide inflation rate of 1.9%, as measured by the urban Consumer Price Index, last year.

Higher incomes, added the *Journal*, have reduced the state's chronically high levels of government dependence:

"Transfer receipts -- e.g. Medicaid, Social Security, food stamps -- during the Obama Administration grew 3.5 times faster than wages [in West Virginia]. Over the last seven quarters, wages have grown 1.8 times faster than transfer receipts. The state's Medicaid rolls have shrunk 6% since December 2016."

National Committee Supporters Deserve Part of the Credit For West Virginia's Success

"The accelerated economic growth West Virginia is now experiencing is typical for states where Right to Work protections have recently been implemented," said National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"And Right to Work members and supporters nationwide deserve part of the



National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix: "The accelerated economic growth West Virginia is now experiencing is typical for states where Right to Work protections have recently been implemented."

credit for these protections now being on the books."

In early 2016, Mr. Mix recalled, the National Committee assisted with an email mobilization of freedom-loving citizens that began soon after it was publicly announced that a Senate committee would vote on legislation letting workers choose for themselves whether to join and pay dues to a union.

The Right to Work mobilization continued until Mr. Tomblin's veto was overridden by the Legislature roughly four weeks later. A total of 24,500 identified Right to Work supporters were contacted during the campaign, many of them multiple times.

Right to Work Attorneys Now Helping West Virginia Employees Vindicate Rights

And independently from such mobilization efforts, Right to Work's research arm, the National Institute for Labor Relations Research, supplied elected officials, journalists, policy organizations, and ordinary citizens with information advancing the moral and economic case for forced-dues abolition.

Right after West Virginia's ban on forced union dues and fees was adopted, the Committee's sister organization, the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, began helping independent-minded employees exercise their freedom under the law.

The Foundation's free legal assistance

enables independent-minded employees to fight back when they face Big Labor retaliation.

For example, when Tammy Hedrick, an employee of Adell Polymers in Petersburg, W.Va., resigned from United Steelworkers (USW) Local 1017 after the Right to Work law was adopted, USW union bosses sought to strip her of her seniority and her overtime pay.

With Foundation attorneys' help, Ms. Hedrick filed an unfair labor practice charge against the union with the National Labor Relations Board.

In January, she won a settlement under which union bosses are required to refrain from seeking demotions or other punishments against Ms. Hedrick and any other employees who exercise their legally protected rights.

In addition to pursuing enforcement cases, Foundation attorneys have filed briefs in support of current Gov. James Justice (R) in a lawsuit filed by Big Labor lawyers seeking to overturn the Right to Work statute in court.

"The example of Tammy Hedrick shows that the battle for individual freedom is never completely won, even after an important victory like passage of a state Right to Work law," said Mr. Mix, who heads the Foundation as well as the Committee.

"Fortunately, the outcome of Ms. Hedrick's case should serve as a valuable reminder to West Virginia workers that union bosses cannot legally retaliate against them for exercising their right not to belong to or bankroll a union."

'The Last Thing Ordinary Nevadans Need'

Monopoly-Bargaining Bill a Bad Bet For Taxpayers, Civil Servants

Early this year, Big Labor-backed Gov. Steve Sisolak (D) announced he is eager to tighten union officials' stranglehold over the provision of public services in Right to Work Nevada.

Mr. Sisolak proposed that government union bosses, who already wield monopoly-bargaining privileges over Nevada teachers and local employees, including police and firefighters, be handed the same power over state government employees.

Now S.B.135, legislation granting Mr. Sisolak's wish that state employees be turned over to union-boss control, appears to be headed to the state Senate floor.

More Coercive Power For Government Union Bosses, Heavier Burdens For Taxpayers

If S.B.135 becomes law, state government employees in Nevada who don't wish to join a union will be statutorily prohibited from dealing directly with their employer on key matters concerning their jobs. This is an assault on civil servants freedom of choice.

And the bitter experience of citizens across the country since monopolistic government unionism became widespread shows that the higher the share of a state's civil servants who are corralled into unions, the heavier the tax burden is for people from all walks of life.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Mary King cited data

furnished by the nonpartisan, Washington, D.C.-based Tax Foundation and other sources to calculate the price for taxpayers when government union bosses gain even more power:

"Each April, the Tax Foundation reports when 'Tax Freedom Day,' the day when the residents of a jurisdiction have earned enough money to pay off their tax burden for the year, occurs nationwide and in each of the 50 states.

"In 2017, there were 16 states in which more than 50% of civil servants were under union monopoly control, according to Unionstats.com, a website maintained by labor economists Barry Hirsch and David Macpherson.

"The Hirsch-Macpherson data also show there were 14 states (including Nevada) where between 25% and 50% of public employees were unionized, and 20 states in which government-sector union density was under 25%.

"In the 16 states with the highest union density, Tax Freedom Day 2017 didn't come until May 3, on average."

"That's 14 days later than the average for states with moderate government-sector union density, and 17 days later than the average for low government union-density states."

Special Privileges For Big Labor Ultimately Lower Civil Servants' Job Security

The evidence that monopolistic government unionism is costly to

taxpayers is overwhelming, but most unionized public employees don't come out as winners.

Government union kingpins typically focus their energy on jacking up noncash compensation, especially pension benefits, rather than wages and salaries.

Public employees who have government careers shorter than 20 years (and that's most of them) often don't benefit at all from Big Labor pension deals.

By empowering union dons to block reform of improvident pension schemes, comprehensive monopoly-bargaining laws in states like Illinois, New York and California actually lower public employees' job security.

As Steven Malanga of the Manhattan Institute recently noted, such "legal restrictions" effectively leave "job cuts as the only option" in tough financial times.

Right to Work Mobilizes To Stop S.B.135 From Reaching Steve Sisolak's Desk

Monopoly bargaining also "places additional burdens on the most effective and productive" employees by "favoring and protecting the least effective" employees, according to Massachusetts finance professor Ben Branch.

(Dr. Branch is the lead plaintiff in a National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation-backed judicial challenge to state monopoly-bargaining laws.)

Ms. King cautioned Right to Work supporters that they face an uphill battle in Nevada.

"Since substantial majorities of Nevada senators and assemblymen were elected with Big Labor's assistance, preventing S.B.135 from reaching Steve Sisolak's desk won't be easy," she acknowledged.

"But the Committee and its Nevada members and supporters will do everything we feasibly can to block this power grab.

"The last thing ordinary Nevadans need is for their politicians to replicate the very pro-union monopoly policies that are driving working people and their families out of forced-dues California.

"As L.A. pundit Steve Lopez admitted in 2017, his fellow Golden Staters are fleeing in droves to Nevada so they can 'live the middle class life that eludes them in California.'

"Why should Nevada emulate its Big Labor-dominated neighbor?" 



As pundit Steve Lopez admits, his fellow Golden Staters are fleeing in droves to Nevada so they can "live the middle class life that eludes them in California." Why should Nevada emulate its Big Labor-dominated neighbor?

Let Transportation Workers Vote For ‘No Union’ Bureaucrats Urged to Stop Coddling Airline, Railroad Union Dons

As stacked as federal labor policy is against the rights of individual employees who don't want a union, it does at least allow most employees who are subject to an unwanted monopolistic union to band together with others in the same business to vote it out.

Unfortunately, for decades, American airline and railroad employees who were unhappy with the union that wielded monopoly-bargaining power over them lacked any legally recognized mechanism whatsoever to get rid of it.

Even today, unionized transportation workers who are subject to the jurisdiction of the National Mediation Board (NMB) cannot secure a direct vote to go union-free.

But in the near future, thanks largely to the persistence and hard work of National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation attorneys, Trump appointees on the NMB may at last let transportation employees who are currently under union monopoly control secure an opportunity to vote for “no union.”

To an even greater extent than the over 90% of American private-sector employees who have only limited associational rights vis-à-vis labor unions under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), employees who fall under the federal Railway Labor Act (RLA) are legally unprotected against forced unionism.

State Right to Work Laws Don't Apply to Airline Or Railroad Employees

The U.S. Congress is primarily to blame for airline and railroad workers' plight.

When a Big Labor Congress amended the RLA in 1951 to authorize forced membership in and forced payments to unions, it also included language expressly prohibiting state laws to the contrary.

Consequently, states have no power to stop airline and railroad union bosses from getting employees fired for refusal to fork over money to their organizations.

The policy of the NLRA, in contrast, is and always has been to allow states to protect employees' Right to Work.

Since 1951, the NMB bureaucrats who are charged with implementing the coercive RLA have made matters even worse by prohibiting “decertification” elections.

Such elections, which are allowed



Credit: Wikimedia Commons

Will Trump-appointed NMB Chair Kyle Fortson help make it less hard for employees to oust a union?

under the NLRA, allow employees who are under the control of a union they don't want to vote to have “no union” instead.

‘Straw Man’ Procedure Cumbersome, But Better Than Nothing at All

Thanks to *Russell v. NMB*, a 1983 federal appellate court decision won on behalf of independent-minded Texas railroad employees by Right to Work Foundation attorneys, there is now a way, albeit a peculiar one, for RLA-covered employees to oust a labor union they don't want.

Overtaking an astonishingly anti-worker NMB decision, Russell found that employees under the RLA may oust a union by designating, in its place, an individual who has already made it clear

he or she does not intend to exercise monopoly-bargaining privileges over them.

“Russell is a groundbreaking employee rights case that finally forced NMB bureaucrats to give the workers in their domain a means to go union-free,” said National Right to Work Committee Vice President Greg Mourad.


“But the ‘straw man’ procedure the NMB recognizes is cumbersome. It's an unjustifiable hurdle for workers who are shackled to a union that isn't acting in their best interest.”

Bill Now Pending in Senate Would Protect RLA-Covered Workers From Forced Dues

Mr. Mourad continued: “Fortunately, the President Trump-appointed majority on the current NMB recently issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that seeks to create a ‘straightforward election process’ for union decertifications.

“If the NMB stands up to Big Labor bosses and adopts the proposed rule, airline and railroad employees who are subject to union monopoly bargaining, but don't want to be, will finally be able to vote, simply and directly, for ‘no union.’

“This spring, the Right to Work Foundation is submitting comments in support of the change, which is a step in the right direction.

“Meanwhile, the Right to Work Committee is pushing for passage of S.525, federal forced-dues repeal. If S.525 becomes law, airline and railroad employees, along with other private-sector employees, will have the Right to Work in all 50 states.” 

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Right to Work States Are Far More Affordable

Banning Compulsory Union Dues Makes Your Dollar Go Further

Late this winter, the Jefferson City-based Missouri Economic Research and Information Center, a state government agency, published its annual comparative cost-of-living indices for 2018.

As MERIC explains on its website, it “derives the cost of living index for each state by averaging the indices of participating cities and metropolitan areas in that state.”

(The city/metropolitan area indices are derived from an ongoing nationwide survey conducted by the nonpartisan, Arlington, Va.-based Council for Community and Economic Research.)

Overall Cost of Living 27.6% Higher in Forced-Unionism States

For years, MERIC has regularly updated its indices to estimate the current cost of living for each state.

The National Institute for Labor Relations Research uses these data to calculate average annual costs of living for Right to Work states as a group and forced-unionism states as a group.

As of the beginning of last year, 27 states had already adopted and implemented Right to Work laws

protecting employees from federal labor law provisions authorizing forced union dues and fees.

The 27 Right to Work states combined had a population-weighted cost of living 6.1% below the national average in 2018. The 23 forced-unionism states combined had a population-weighted cost of living 19.7% above the national average.

(MERIC itself does not weigh states based on population size in calculating its indices. For that reason, the national average for population-weighted states does not equal 100.)

On average, forced-unionism states were 27.6% more expensive to live in than Right to Work states last year.

The correlation between forced-unionism status and a higher cost of living is robust.

Not one of the 14 highest-cost states in 2018 has a Right to Work law. But 13 of the 14 lowest cost-of-living states protect employees’ Right to Work.

Correlation does not equal causation, but there is a compelling case to be made that compulsory unionism actually fosters a higher cost of living.

Union officials wielding forced-dues privileges funnel a large share of the conscripted money they reap into efforts

to elect and reelect politicians who favor higher taxes on and heavier regulation of businesses.

Employees Care About What Their Paychecks Can Buy

And many economists credibly argue that excessive government regulation is a major factor behind high housing, energy, and other costs in forced-unionism states like California, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Moreover, decades of academic research by economists such as Thomas M. Carroll and Richard J. Cebula have shown that one side benefit of state Right to Work laws is that they help reduce the cost of living in the jurisdictions where they are in effect.

John Kalb, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee, commented:


“Even in the highly unlikely event it could be established that forced unionism did not cause higher living costs, the strong correlation between forced unionism and higher costs would still be relevant in assessing the economic impact of Right to Work laws.

“What matters most to employees seeking better lives for themselves and their families, and employers seeking to attract and retain good employees, is not nominal wages and salaries.

“It is what those wages and salaries can buy in the location where the employees and their families live.

“That’s why honest efforts to make comparisons of annual wages and salaries and other types of income in Right to Work states versus forced-unionism states must always be informed by MERIC’s or some other nonpartisan comparative cost-of-living index.

“For example, in 2017 the real average annual compensation per private-sector employee in Right to Work states was roughly \$1,750 higher than the average per employee compensation in forced-unionism states, using MERIC’s indices to adjust for regional cost-of-living disparities.

“Unfortunately, state income data cited by Big Labor propagandists frequently do not factor in cost-of-living differences at all. And even when they are incorporated, cost-of-living differences are grossly and arbitrarily understated.” 

Value of a Dollar in America's Most And Least Affordable States, 2018

Most Affordable

Least Affordable

Mississippi	\$1.17	Hawaii	\$0.53
Oklahoma	\$1.14	California	\$0.72
Arkansas	\$1.13	New York	\$0.74
Missouri	\$ 1.13	Massachusetts	\$0.75
Michigan	\$1.12	Maryland	\$0.76
Alabama	\$1.12	Oregon	\$0.76
Tennessee	\$1.12	Alaska	\$0.77
Kansas	\$1.11	Connecticut	\$0.78
Indiana	\$1.11	Rhode Island	\$0.82
Wyoming	\$1.10	New Jersey	\$0.82



Right to Work States



Compulsory-Unionism States

Source: Missouri Economic Research and Information Center.

Thirteen of the 14 most affordable states have Right to Work laws on the books. But not one of the 14 least affordable states has one. (Shown above are the 10 most/least affordable states.)

Compulsion Breeds Corruption

Continued from page 8

headquarters, federal, state and local Big Labor politicians continued, right up to the day of the indictments, to court them.

As Jeremy Roebuk and David Gambacorta observed in a report on the indictments for the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, the Local 98 machine is “the biggest independent source of campaign money” in Pennsylvania:

“Union money and manpower [financed mostly with dues workers are forced to pay, or lose their jobs] have helped elect mayors, City Council members, county commissioners, members of Congress, state legislators, governors, and more than 60 judges . . .”

To show their gratitude for Local 98 union bosses’ cash contributions and their forced-dues-funded electioneering activities, Big Labor politicians ranging from Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf (D) to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) have frequently paid their respects when they visit Philadelphia.

Nancy Pelosi Schmoozed With Local 98 Officer While FBI Was Investigating Her

Just last summer, for example, Ms. Pelosi schmoozed with Local 98 Political Director Marita Crawford at a Democrat congressional fundraiser in a posh restaurant on North Broad Street. (Ms. Crawford is one of the Local 98 officers

who were indicted on January 30.)

And since federal prosecutors unveiled their massive case against Johnny Doc, Marita Crawford, and the rest, politicians such as Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney (D) have been extraordinarily reluctant to distance themselves from their longtime patrons.

Indicted Union Bosses Experience ‘Outpouring’ of Big Labor ‘Support’ For Them

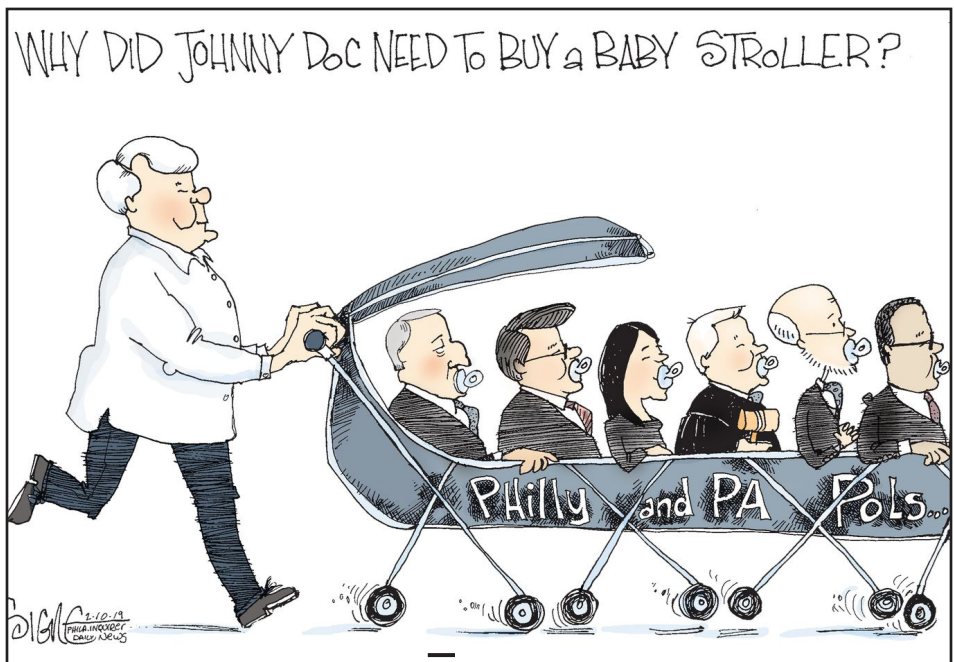
Meanwhile, many of Johnny Doc’s fellow union bosses are going out of their way to express their support for him!

Mr. Mix commented:

“In the alternative world where Johnny Doc lives, it seems, there is nothing wrong with Big Labor bosses using dues and fees that workers are forced to fork over as a job condition to buy political influence and enrich themselves.

“Since the 159-page indictment that painstakingly documents systematic misuse of forced union dues and other union treasury money by Johnny Doc and his cohorts became public, there has actually been an ‘outpouring of support’ for them, according to journalist Bill McMorris of the Washington *Free Beacon*.

“And the support for the indicted Local 98 brass appears to be strongest of all among Philadelphia union officialdom.



For years, Philadelphia mayors and City Council members and a host of other politicians have been beholden to Johnny Doc for forced dues-funded manpower that helps get them elected and reelected. And they know who’s the boss.

“For example, officers of the AFL-CIO-affiliated Philadelphia Building and Construction Trades Council [PBCTC], which along with IBEW Local 98 is headed by Johnny Doc, held their first post-indictment meeting on February 6.

“After the private meeting, union bigwigs who were present assured Juliana Feliciano Reyes of the *Inquirer* that support for Johnny Doc and company is universal.

“Ms. Feliciano Reyes quoted Pat Eiding, secretary-treasurer of the PBCTC and president of the Philadelphia AFL-CIO:

“‘Nobody, and I clearly want to say nobody, asked John to leave the Building Trades.’”

Big Labor ‘Culture of Corruption’ Thrives in Forced-Dues Pennsylvania

“The fact is, the lack of a Right to Work law protecting employees has fostered a ‘culture of corruption’ in Pennsylvania in which many union bosses come to believe, whether they say so openly or not, that it’s okay for them to do whatever they like with money extracted from unionized workers,” declared Mr. Mix.

“Without acknowledging the source, one Organized Labor partisan in the Philadelphia area has decried this culture.

“In a February 4 article for the *Inquirer*, Ms. Feliciano Reyes quoted Kati Sipp, the editor of the *Hack the Union* blog, regarding her distress about union officials and Big Labor-allied politicians who are either openly supportive of Johnny Doc, or refuse to say anything at all about the indictments.

“Ms. Sipp asked: ‘Is there a [union official] in Philly who will stand up and say, “What Doc is alleged to have done --stealing from the members -- is wrong?”’”

“The unwillingness of any union official in Philadelphia of any stature to say plainly, in the wake of the IBEW Local 98 indictments, that stealing from union members is wrong highlights the glaring need for a Pennsylvania Right to Work law.

“In a Right to Work environment, union members who suspect their dues money isn’t being used for good and proper purposes can fight back by resigning from the organization and cutting off all financial support for it.

“That’s a message union bosses can understand. It undoubtedly helps account for the fact that documented cases of union corruption are far more rare in Right to Work states.”

'Stealing From [Union] Members . . . Is Wrong' *Why Won't Philadelphia Union Officials Simply Admit It Is?*

For years and years, federal investigators have been watching while International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 98 Business Manager John Dougherty and his cohorts seemed to use their union's forced dues-laden treasury as their personal piggy bank.

Two-and-a-half years ago, in the summer of 2016, FBI agents searched Mr. Dougherty's home as well as a number of Local 98 offices and building sites.

But no arrests came, and the Local 98 hierarchy continued to wield extraordinary power over commercial construction jobs in the City of Brotherly Love and act as an electoral kingmaker in local, state and federal politics.

Ordinary Philadelphia citizens had ample reason to suspect that Mr. Dougherty, widely referred to as "Johnny Doc," and other shady construction union kingpins in eastern Pennsylvania were still above the law -- until a few weeks ago.

Indictment Alleges Johnny Doc, Associates Stole More Than \$600,000 in Union Funds

On January 30, Johnny Doc and five other Local 98 officers and staff members were charged in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania with embezzlement, bribery and theft.

Also charged in the 116-count federal indictment were Bobby Henon, a former Local 98 operative who has remained on the union payroll since becoming a Philadelphia city councilman in 2011, and Anthony Massa, a contractor who has long been cozy with Johnny Doc.

According to prosecutors, over the course of roughly six years Johnny Doc and company stole more than \$600,000 in union funds, primarily dues and fees that the employees under their control are forced to fork over as a job condition due to Pennsylvania's lack of a Right to Work law.

The loot was allegedly spent on no-show jobs for relatives and other cronies of Local 98 bosses, multi-hundred-dollar meals at restaurants including the tony Palm Philadelphia, and innumerable retail purchases ranging from big-screen TVs to baby supplies and Lucky Charms cereal.

Local 98 chiefs are also believed to have accepted bribes in the form of hundreds of thousands of dollars in free



Credit: Twitter

Last summer, even as the FBI was investigating her, now-indicted IBEW Local 98 Political Director Marita Crawford (left) schmoozed at a posh Philadelphia restaurant with soon-to-be U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

construction work on their own homes, their other personal properties, and the homes of relatives from Mr. Massa and George Peltz, a New Jersey-based electrical contractor.

Children's Hospital Was Allegedly Threatened by Dougherty-Backed Politician

Yet another charge against Johnny Doc is that he directed his henchman on the city council, Mr. Henon, to threaten a children's hospital administrator for using union-free labor to install MRI machines!

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented:

"No one who had been paying even minimal attention to the activities of the notorious Local 98 brass over the years could have been the least bit surprised to be told that Johnny Doc and his lieutenants

have been feathering their own nests at workers' expense.

"More than a decade ago, unionized Philadelphia contractor Gus Dougherty (who is not related to Johnny Doc) pleaded guilty to bribing the Local 98 honcho in exchange for the latter's looking the other way while he shortchanged Local 98-'represented' employees on their wages and benefits.

"Gus Dougherty went to prison, while no charges were filed against the man he admitted to bribing!"

'The Biggest Independent Source of Campaign Money' in Pennsylvania

Despite the stench of corruption that has long been emanating from Local 98

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