



NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 65, NUMBER 11

www.nrtwc.org

November/December 2019

Virginia Democrat Politicians Embrace Big Labor *State Right to Work Law's Fate May Hinge on 2019 Election Returns*

A state Right to Work law that enjoyed strong bi-partisan support for many years is now in danger of being effectively destroyed as soon as early next year.

At first, the rising threat to Virginia's 72-year-old ban on forced union membership, dues and fees may seem hard to fathom.

Over the course of decades, citizens across the state have again and again voted to keep in office the politicians who have supported the Virginia Right to Work law and oust those who have sought to undermine it.

That's why, for many years, all Old Dominion governors of both parties -- including Democrats like Mark Warner, Tim Kaine, and Terry McAuliffe -- publicly supported keeping Virginia's Right to Work law as it is while they were campaigning and for as long as they continued to hold state office.

['Monopolistic] Unions Are the Backbone' of The Democrat Party

The dismaying reason for the evaporation over the past three or four years of the Old Dominion's consensus that unionism should be voluntary is actually simple:

Big Labor is now demanding that, even in staunchly pro-Right to Work states like Virginia, politicians must support compulsory unionism to receive its backing.

"There is no doubt that a rising share of elected officials in Virginia are dependent on the Big Labor machine to get in power and stay in power," noted National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"Nowadays, left-wing activists around



Credit: Jack Knox/Nashville Banner

Big Labor is now demanding that, even in staunchly pro-Right to Work states like Virginia, politicians must support compulsory unionism to receive its backing. Consequently, Virginia employees' personal freedom is in deep jeopardy.

See *Forced Union Fees* page 2

Forced Union Fees in Virginia?

Continued from page 1

the country, and in Virginia specifically, who personally aren't union officials advise their favored candidates that they must get on board with forced unionism because they cannot win electorally without Big Labor money and manpower.

"In the words of Virginia Democrat strategist Pete Davis, monopolistic 'unions are the backbone of our party . . . ' That's why, he suggests, Democrat politicians 'across the state' are committed to rewriting state employment laws according to Big Labor bosses' wishes."

Of course, seasoned Big Labor operatives aren't advising union-label politicians who represent jurisdictions in Virginia and other adamantly pro-personal freedom states to commit political suicide by openly advocating the abolition of Right to Work laws.

The union hierarchy is fully satisfied when its puppet politicians back measures that formally leave existing Right to Work laws in place, but render them almost meaningless by inserting pro-forced unionism "amendments."

Virginia Congressman Leads Charge For Evisceration Of Right to Work Laws

That's precisely the cynical approach to Right to Work protections taken by Virginia Congressman and U.S. House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Bobby Scott (D) in H.R.2474, his mislabeled "Protecting the Right to Organize," or PRO Act.

The PRO Act (also introduced in Congress' upper chamber as S.1306 by Big Labor Washington Democrat Sen. Patty Murray) is, as Mr. Mix puts it, a "smorgasbord of special-interest delights for the union hierarchy."

Among all the provisions in the PRO Act, the single most outrageous one would amend the National Labor Relations Act to empower private-sector union bosses in all 50 states, including the 27 erstwhile Right to Work states, to force employees to pay union fees against their will.

The PRO Act does not directly repeal Section 14(b) of the 1947 Taft-Hartley Act, which explicitly authorizes states to prohibit within their jurisdictions the very forced-dues and forced-fees job requirements that federal labor law generally authorizes and promotes.

Instead of eliminating 14(b), the Murray-Scott bill throws in a provision stating that the extraction of forced fees

from employees for union monopoly bargaining, regardless of whether it benefits or hurts them personally, shall be "valid" notwithstanding "any State or Territorial law."

Seven U.S. House Members From Virginia Now Ready to Cut Heart Out of Right to Work

"Nearly half of all U.S. House members, including 70 from Right to Work states and all seven Democrat politicians in Virginia's House caucus, have now formally gone on the record in support of the aggressively anti-Right to Work PRO Act," said Mr. Mix.

"The good news is that, with union bosses wielding operational control over just the House at this time, and with Donald Trump in the Oval Office, the PRO Act is almost certainly not going to become law in the short-term future.

"But Right to Work protections for Virginia employees could unfortunately be eviscerated as soon as early 2020, depending on the outcome of the November elections."

The Old Dominion is one of a handful of states in which state legislative elections regularly occur in odd-numbered years like 2019.

This year, all 40 seats in the Virginia Senate and all 100 seats in the Virginia

House of Delegates are potentially up for grabs.

For months now, the Committee, which is based in northern Virginia, has been contacting legislative candidates, urging them to complete and return a candidate survey.

The survey specifically asks candidates to "oppose all efforts to weaken or repeal Virginia's Right to Work Law," as well as other bids to grant new monopoly privileges to Big Labor.

Pressure on Nonresponsive Candidates Will Keep Mounting Until Election Day

"It seems many state politicians in Virginia are now succumbing to Big Labor pressure to help them destroy the Old Dominion's Right to Work law," said Mr. Mix. "They are telegraphing their intentions through their ongoing refusal to answer their Committee candidate surveys.

"Fortunately, thanks primarily to Committee members who have heeded Right to Work requests to contact their politicians again and again, 44 candidates in the 47 key legislative races on which we are focusing this fall have by now gone on the record in 100% opposition to forced unionism.

"The pressure on nonresponsive candidates will keep mounting until Election Day. They can pledge to reverse course and support Right to Work in the future, or face the potential political fallout." 🗳️



Credit: WYDaily (Williamsburg, Va. photo, courtesy of Elaine Luria for Congress)

If Rep. Elaine Luria and the six other Virginia Democrats currently in the U.S. House have their way, employees in their districts will suffer devastating losses of personal freedom in the workplace and job opportunities.

Support For Forced-Dues Repeal Escalating *Congressional Sponsorship of S.525 and H.R.2571 Approaches 100*

Thanks largely to aggressive grass-roots activism by members of the National Right to Work Committee, the number of congressional cosponsors of the forced-dues repeal legislation introduced in the U.S. House and Senate early this year continues to rise.

S.525 and H.R.2571, respectively introduced early in the 2019-20 Congress by Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.), had a combined total of nearly 100 sponsors as this Newsletter went to press in early October.

These essentially identical bills would not add a single word to federal labor law.

Instead, they would simply repeal the current provisions in the federal code that authorize and promote the termination of employees for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union.

“When S.525 or H.R.2571 becomes law, private-sector employees in all 50 states will have the freedom to choose as individuals whether or not to join or bankroll a union,” explained Right to Work President Mark Mix.

“No employees covered by federal statutes will face job loss as a consequence of their decision to refuse to pay dues or fees to a union they would never join voluntarily.”

Mr. Mix added that there is every reason to expect a national Right to Work law would benefit employees financially in addition to protecting their personal freedom.

Four Top-Ranking States For Private-Sector Job Growth All Have Right to Work Laws

As an illustration, Mr. Mix cited U.S. Commerce Department Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) data gauging nonfarm, private-sector employment growth over the past decade.

(Unlike the payroll jobs data reported by the U.S. Labor Department, BEA jobs data include self-employment and contractual employment.)

“All of the four top-ranking states for 2008-18 private-sector employment growth, in percentage terms, are Right to Work states,” said Mr. Mix. “Meanwhile, five of the six lowest-ranking states for job growth are today and have for many decades been forced-unionism.”

(Since Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, West Virginia and Kentucky all adopted



Mark Mix: Recorded votes “will make it clear exactly which politicians support employees’ personal freedom of choice, and which are Big Labor stooges.” And roughly 80% of Americans who regularly vote support the Right to Work.

Right to Work laws between 2012 and 2017, they are excluded from this analysis.)

Overall, BEA-reported private-sector employment in Right to Work states grew by 17.2% over the past decade. That increase is a third larger than the average for forced-dues states.

“Making the private-sector Right to Work protections now in effect in 27 states nationwide would, of course, create many more opportunities in our country for investors to put their money to work on job-creating projects,” commented Mr. Mix.

“That’s why, of all the economic reforms Congress may consider in its 2019-20 session, the National Right to Work Act would surely have the strongest positive impact for jobs and incomes.”

He vowed that, throughout the rest of this year and the next, National Right to Work members would continue to encourage Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) to allow hearings, debate, and roll-call votes on S.525.

Poll After Poll Shows Lopsided Public Support For Right to Work Principle

Meanwhile, pro-Right to Work House members are being encouraged to look for a chance to secure roll-call votes

on H.R.2571 as an amendment to other legislation.

“Recorded votes in the Senate and House will advance the Right to Work cause,” emphasized Mr. Mix, “even if Big Labor rounds up enough pro-forced unionism and union-boss-appeasing politicians to prevent the legislation from passing either chamber of Congress.

“That’s because recorded votes will make it clear exactly which politicians support employees’ personal freedom of choice, and which are Big Labor stooges.

“And poll after poll shows nearly 80% of Americans who regularly vote in federal contests support Right to Work.”

Mr. Mix added that, even though it’s almost impossible to get them to say it publicly and explicitly, the evidence is clear that union bosses themselves know public opposition to compulsory unionism is massive and intense.

He recalled that, just a couple of years ago, union consultant Gordon Lafer, one of the most prominent anti-Right to Work activists in America, couldn’t help admitting: “Almost every union I know is in a panic about what do about Right to Work.”

“Dr. Lafer ain’t seen nothin’ yet,” said Mr. Mix. “Big Labor’s real time to panic will be after floor votes on forced-dues repeal are held in Congress!” 📌

President Trump Must Act to Defend U.S. Taxpayers

Union Bosses Poised to Feed at New \$287 Billion Federal Trough

The U.S. Senate is expected soon to take up S.2302, a \$287 billion infrastructure package that has substantial support among Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill and about which President Trump has spoken favorably.

Proponents of S.2302, otherwise known as “America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act,” present a plausible case that our nation needs to make major expenditures to refurbish our roads, highways, ports, and other structures. However, S.2302 fails to address one of the major drivers of excessive costs and waste in public works execution: the 1931 Davis-Bacon Act.

This 88-year-old statute effectively mandates that contractors bidding on a federal project must pay a set wage determined by D.C. Beltway bureaucrats. Bureaucrats routinely set the wage at whatever construction union bosses want. And that’s just the beginning.

Bidders Forced to Follow Big Labor Work Rules

By forcing bidders to follow union-boss-dictated job classifications, work rules, and compliance requirements, Davis-Bacon enables Big Labor to feed at the taxpayers’ trough on federal contracts.

Because of Davis-Bacon, open-shop employers cannot work on federal projects without agreeing to operate under inefficient union work rules. They also typically must pay into a pension fund from which few, if any, of their employees will ever receive benefits.

For example, nonunion shops can be forced to abide by a union work rule stating that a worker who swings a hammer isn’t



Credit: AP file photo

An opportunity looms for President Trump to save taxpayers billions. Will he seize it?

allowed to plug in an extension cord.

Most union-free contractors are not set up to work with such anti-productive job restrictions, so they end up losing out on the work, if they even bid at all.

Davis-Bacon was originally enacted at a time when African American workers were routinely barred from joining construction unions.

One undeniable goal of proponents was to quash competition for white unionized workers and their employers from non-union black workers and their firms.

At a February 1931 hearing, American Federation of Labor (AFL) union chief William Green openly suggested legislation was needed to prevent rival shops from employing nonunion “colored labor.”

Today, Davis-Bacon continues to serve a discriminatory function, generally limiting federal projects to politically-connected unionized firms at the expense

of the 87.2% of American construction workers who choose not to join a union.

Independent contractors and subcontractors are left at a deep disadvantage in submitting proposals.

Hundreds of thousands of skilled tradesmen are effectively barred from working on government-funded projects.

Committee Members Call For Davis-Bacon Suspension

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Greg Mourad commented:

“Of course, the firms that participate in Davis-Bacon projects ultimately pass on their compliance costs to the American taxpayer. Davis-Bacon has been estimated by academic and government economists to increase taxpayers’ construction costs by up to 38%.

“Congress has a responsibility to all citizens to ensure their tax dollars are being spent effectively.

“By repealing Davis-Bacon, Congress could potentially fund four projects for every three we can fund under the current regime without increasing spending by a dime. And even if Congress refuses to act, President Trump can. Davis-Bacon itself expressly provides for its own suspension by the U.S. president in times of ‘emergency.’

“Davis-Bacon has already been suspended four times by presidents of both parties.

“Today, there is a widespread consensus that deteriorating roads, bridges and ports are an urgent matter, and 2016 Democrat presidential nominee Hillary Clinton specifically has said ‘the state of our infrastructure’ constitutes ‘an emergency.’

“By declaring an infrastructure ‘emergency’ and suspending Davis-Bacon, President Trump can ultimately 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 dues and fees.

“For more than two years now, the Committee has been mobilizing Right to Work members nationwide to contact the White House, calling for Davis-Bacon suspension.

“With S.2302 poised to sail through Congress, the time for President Trump to act is running short. Further delay could be disastrous.” 📌

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

www.nrtwc.org November/December 2019

Written and Distributed by:

National Right to Work Committee®

8001 Braddock Road
Springfield, Va. 22160
E-mail: Members@NRTW.org

Stanley Greer Newsletter Editor

Greg Mourad Vice President

John Kalb Vice President

Mary King Vice President

Matthew Leen Vice President

Stephen Goodrick Vice President

Mark Mix President

Editorial comments only: stg@nrtwc.org

Contact the Membership Department by phoning 1-800-325-RTWC (7892) or (703) 321-9820 if you wish to:

- Report address changes or corrections
- Receive the NEWSLETTER or request, renew, or cancel Committee membership
- Obtain more information

Because of NRTWC’s tax-exempt status under IRC Sec. 501 (C)(4) and its state and federal legislative activities, contributions are not tax deductible as charitable contributions (IRC § 170) or as business deductions (IRC § 162(e)(1)).

© 2019 by the National Right to Work Committee®. Permission to reprint individual articles granted. Credit requested.

‘Tire Boom’ Underway in Right to Work Tennessee

From 2010 to 2017, State’s Automotive Exports Soared by 59%

With the national media and all too many local news outlets already dominated by angry 2020 presidential campaign rhetoric, stories about how American employees and their employers are succeeding in serving customers and making better lives for themselves often get overlooked.

One heartening story that deserves far more public attention is the transformation, over just the past few decades, of Right to Work Tennessee into a potential future “automotive hub” of the U.S., as industrial journal *Tire Review* has aptly characterized the Volunteer State.

Since January 2011, Nine Tire Companies Have Announced Tennessee Investments

As a recent analysis for this Akron, Ohio-based publication noted, “87 of the 95 counties are home to automotive operations in Tennessee.”

Automotive firms that employ Tennesseans include assembly companies like Nissan and Volkswagen “and over 900” parts suppliers.

And 25 of the more than 900 automotive manufacturing establishments in Tennessee make tires. Just since January 2011, nine tire companies have launched start-ups or expansion projects in Tennessee, resulting in a total of “3,200 new job commitments and \$1.4 billion in announced capital investment . . .”

Tire Review properly cited Tennessee’s Right to Work law, which prohibits “the use of union membership status as a condition for getting or keeping a job,” as one of the key reasons why the state has had “so much growth” in such a short span.

Manufacturing Job Growth More Than Twice as Fast In Right to Work States

“The correlation between Right to Work status and growth in a wide array of manufacturing-sector employment, including automotive manufacturing, is obvious and robust,” said National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen.

“U.S. Labor Department data show that, in 2018, 6.76 million manufacturing jobs, or 53% of all factory jobs across the U.S., were located in the 27 states that had passed and implemented Right to Work



Credit: Erin O. Smith/Chattanooga (Tenn.) Times Free-Press

Now that state-of-the-art manufacturing technology has been installed at Nokian’s new tire plant in Dayton, Tenn., the company’s team has begun making test tires. Commercial production will begin in early 2020.

laws making union financial support and membership completely voluntary.

“Excluding the three states that adopted and began enforcing bans on forced union dues and fees between 2015 and 2017 [Wisconsin, West Virginia and Kentucky], total Right to Work manufacturing employment rose by 425,000, or 7.6%, from 2013 to 2018.

“In absolute as well as percentage terms, those gains are more than double forced-unionism states’ factory job growth.

“The six states with the greatest percentage gains in 2013-18 payroll manufacturing employment (Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Michigan, Nevada and Utah) are all Right to Work. And Right to Work Tennessee’s gain of 10.9% was well over triple the forced-unionism state average.”

One of the ongoing Tennessee projects by tire manufacturing companies is a \$360 million, 830,000 square-foot facility in Dayton, a small town with just over 10,000 residents located 35 miles northeast of Chattanooga.

Finnish tire maker Nokian, which previously did not have any plants in North America, announced in 2017 it would make this investment, which is expected to support 400 jobs once it is fully operational.

The annual capacity of the factory will be four million tires, “with further

expansion possible,” according to reporter Mike Pare of the Chattanooga *Times Free-Press*.

With a wide array of opportunities available for manufacturing employees in Tennessee, Nokian managers know they have to go the extra mile to attract and retain talented and reliable team members.

‘We Strive to Be the Employer of Choice in Southeast Tennessee’

Peter Chia, the company’s factory operation director, has said:

“We are committed to giving our workers [in Dayton] everything they need to succeed, including in-depth training, competitive wages and a positive workplace culture . . . We strive to be the employer of choice in Southeast Tennessee . . .”

Mr. Leen commented: “Despite a lot of talk in recent years about the supposed ‘demise’ of manufacturing in the U.S., Tennessee and many other Right to Work states are demonstrating that good-paying, family-supporting factory jobs can still be created and sustained in 21st Century America.

“But painful experience shows such successes are rare when employees and businesses are hamstrung by monopolistic unionism. Congress simply must stop authorizing and promoting it!” 🛑

Right to Work Edge: More Money in Your Pocket

Compulsory Unionism Correlated With Lower Real Compensation

Pro-Right to Work citizens emphatically believe that the individual employee should be free to choose which private organizations, if any, he or she financially supports, regardless of what the government, the business owner, or other employees think.

That's why, for millions of Americans, compulsory unionism is primarily a moral issue.

At the same time, there is ample evidence Right to Work laws are economically beneficial for employees, employers, and practically everyone else.

One key to understanding the connection between Right to Work and higher living standard is awareness of interstate differences in the cost of living.

The fact is, nonpartisan analysts such as the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC), a state government agency, consistently find that compulsory-unionism states as a group have a substantially higher cost of living than do Right to Work states as a group.

MERIC's data show that the 27 states that had Right to Work laws on the books and in effect in 2018 had a population-weighted cost of living that year of 93.9 -- 6.1% below the national average.

The 23 forced-unionism states combined had a population-weighted cost of living of 119.7, or 19.7% above the national average. In short, forced-

unionism states were 27.6% more expensive to live in than Right to Work states last year.

In 2018, Right to Work States' Real Per Employee Compensation Was \$49,089

When considered together with MERIC's cost-of-living data, statistics from the U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) show that the real purchasing power of the average Right to Work state employee's paycheck is greater than it is for the average forced-unionism state employee.

According to the BEA, in 2018 there were 84.493 million full-time and part-time private-sector employees (including contract employees and the self-employed, as well as payroll employees) located in the 27 states that currently have Right to Work laws on the books.

After adjusting BEA data for regional differences in the cost of living with the help of MERIC's indices for 2018, private-sector employees in Right to Work states earned a total of \$4.148 trillion in cash compensation and benefits last year.

That comes to \$49,089 per employee. Meanwhile, the 88.439 million private-sector employees in the 23 forced-unionism states together took in \$4.205 trillion in cash and benefits, or \$47,545

per employee.

Cost of living-adjusted compensation per employee is thus more than \$1,500 higher in Right to Work states.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Mary King commented:

"It makes perfect sense that employees' real purchasing power would be higher in Right to Work states than in forced-unionism states.

"Union bosses funnel a large portion of the forced dues and fees they collect with federal policy's abetment into politics.

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

"The actions of forced dues-funded politicians thus result in slower revenue growth for business, and that generally means slower growth in pay and benefits for employees."

Forced-Dues Repeal Would Spur Accelerated Pay Growth in All 50 States

"Of course," Ms. King acknowledged, "Big Labor does the most damage in states where union bosses rake in the most forced-dues money. But if Congress repealed all the current forced-dues provisions in federal law, this massive impediment to economic growth nationwide would be lifted.

"Employees and businesses based in current Right to Work states would share the benefits as their major out-of-state suppliers and customers were freed from the burden of compulsory unionism. Forced-dues repeal would thus spur accelerated pay growth in all 50 states."

In the 2019-20 Congress, more and more senators and House members are signing on to forced-dues repeal legislation (S.525/H.R.2571) known as the National Right to Work Act.

Committee members will continue lobbying hard this winter to build Capitol Hill support for forced-dues repeal, vowed Ms. King.

"Congress created the problem of private-sector forced union dues," she emphasized. "It's only fair to press Congress to solve it by passing the National Right to Work Act."

For more about S.525/H.R.2571, see page three of this Newsletter edition. 

States With the Greatest Percentage Losses Of Residents, Aged 35-54, From 2008-18

STATE	ABSOLUTE LOSS	PERCENTAGE LOSS
Vermont	32.7 thousand	19.9 percent
New Hampshire	72.1 thousand	17.3 percent
Maine	69.4 thousand	17.3 percent
Rhode Island	45.5 thousand	14.7 percent
Connecticut	154.6 thousand	14.4 percent
Ohio	430.9 thousand	13.0 percent
Pennsylvania	467.6 thousand	12.9 percent
New York	719.7 thousand	12.6 percent
New Jersey	295.9 thousand	11.1 percent
Illinois	402.4 thousand	10.9 percent

All 10 of these states are compulsory-unionism.

Since Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Kentucky adopted and implemented Right to Work between 2012 and 2017, they are excluded.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Census Bureau data clearly show that, when they have a choice, working-age people prefer not to live in forced-unionism states. Lower cost of living-adjusted compensation is surely one reason they're fleeing.

Politicians Praise Crooked Union

continued from page 8

Mr. Jones survived an attempt to remove him at a high-level meeting of UAW bigwigs at the Westin Detroit Metropolitan Hotel on September 13.

'I'm Joe Biden and I Am UAW'

But suspicions among rank-and-file autoworkers and other observers that Mr. Jones and other ethically challenged union bosses called the GM strike primarily to save their own skins, rather than to secure a better deal for members, are continuing to rise.

Meanwhile, 2020 presidential wannabes like U.S. Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and former Vice President Joe Biden have stepped up their efforts to ingratiate themselves with the UAW hierarchy.

At a September 22 rally outside GM's Detroit-Hamtramck assembly plant, Ms. Warren joined union militants as well as workers who may have only reluctantly been out on the picket line in order to be eligible for \$250 a week in strike pay.

Pretending to be completely unaware of the ongoing criminal investigation of Mr.

Jones and the recent indictment of Region 5 Director Pearson, Ms. Warren insisted the UAW elite had ordered the workers out on strike "to make this America work for everyone."

Other presidential candidates who made pilgrimages to UAW picket lines about the same time, including Mr. Biden, Mr. Sanders, former U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke (D-Texas), Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and others, also ignored the glaring corruption question while offering huzzahs to the UAW.

For example, at a struck GM plant in Kansas City, Kan., Mr. Biden went so far as to proclaim: "I'm Joe Biden and I am UAW."

Lust For Big Labor Campaign Support Evidently Overrides All Other Considerations

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented:

"Today, as a consequence of federal labor policy, the fate of roughly 150,000 GM, FCA and Ford autoworkers across the country is now substantially under

the control of a union so riddled with corruption that it reportedly could soon face federal racketeering charges.

"GM workers especially have ample reason to believe they have been betrayed by, to quote Detroit *News* columnist Nolan Finley, 'indictment-dodging union' officials who cost them 'more than \$1,000 a week to deflect the heat of an FBI probe.'

"All the same, GM, FCA and Ford autoworkers 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 autoworkers employed in states like Ohio, Missouri and Illinois, which still lack Right to Work protections for employees, aren't even 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.

"Somewhere in their heart of hearts, Elizabeth Warren, Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, and the rest must know that forced support for what is credibly alleged to be a criminal organization is wrong.

"But their lust for Big Labor campaign support evidently overrides all other considerations."

Candidates Vow to 'Eliminate' Every State Right to Work Law Currently on the Books

Mr. Mix continued:

"And Elizabeth Warren, Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders et. al. aren't satisfied 'merely' with keeping autoworkers in states like Ohio, Missouri and Illinois chained to the tainted UAW union.

"They are also vowing, as soon as they get an opportunity, to use the power of the federal government to dispose of state Right to Work laws that currently protect unionized GM, FCA and Ford employees in states like Michigan, Texas, Indiana and Kentucky.

"Thanks to their state Right to Work laws, Michigan, Texas, Indiana and Kentucky workers are currently free to protest suspected or confirmed Big Labor corruption by resigning from the union and cutting off their dues payments, without risking unemployment.

"But this summer, the rabidly pro-forced unionism magazine *In These Times* reported that Elizabeth Warren, Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, and a number of other seekers of the Democrat presidential nomination had already gone on record in favor of 'eliminating' all 27 Right to Work laws currently on the books." 📌



Credit: Laura Ziegler, KCUR 89.3 (Kansas City, Mo.)

Along with the other leading 2020 Democrat presidential hopefuls, Joe Biden believes all union bosses, including shady UAW chiefs, should have the power to extract forced fees from workers in all 50 states.

Presidential Hopefuls Laud Shady Union Bosses

It's 'Pro-Worker' to Court Alleged Embezzlers of Workers' Money??

The stench of corruption has long been emanating from United Auto Workers (UAW) union headquarters in Detroit.

But federal, state and local politicians continue, even today, to plug their noses and court UAW kingpins.

Hopefuls for the 2020 Democrat presidential nomination, in particular, have been remarkably effusive in their praise of the UAW hierarchy since rank-and-file autoworkers were called out on strike against General Motors (GM) in mid-September.

Throughout an ongoing strike that is costing autoworkers an estimated average of 60% to 80% of their weekly income for no purpose both worthy and achievable, Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren, and other Democrat candidates have proclaimed their fealty to UAW “values.”

‘Corrupt Officials’ Have Caused ‘Devastating’ Damage To ‘Our Union’s Reputation’

Union President Gary Jones and his lieutenants launched the nationwide UAW strike against GM at 12:01 AM on September 16, less than four days after a federal complaint detailing Mr. Jones’ alleged extensive involvement in a multimillion-dollar Big Labor/Big Business corruption scandal became public.

Roughly four years ago, the FBI launched a criminal probe into the misappropriation of millions of dollars supposedly allocated for training union members by UAW union bosses and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) corporate executives.

Since the investigation became public in the summer of 2017, federal prosecutors have repeatedly labeled the UAW itself, along with FCA and a number of crooked union bosses and auto executives, as a co-conspirator in a years-long scheme to systematically violate federal labor law.

On September 12, federal agents arrested UAW Region 5 Director Vance Pearson and unsealed a 40-page criminal complaint detailing “an embezzlement scheme whereby UAW officials hid their personal use of UAW money without any legitimate union business purpose.”

Mr. Pearson was the sixth UAW official to be indicted in connection with the burgeoning scandal since 2017. The other five had already entered guilty pleas



Credit for inset: UAW
Credit: Andrew Roth

Elizabeth Warren insists union officers Gary Jones and Vance Pearson (inset left and right), who lived lives of luxury with dues money allegedly embezzled from workers, have workers’ best interest at heart.

by the time of his arrest.

Within the union itself, a growing number of activists admit the UAW as an organization will have little credibility until a thorough housecleaning occurs.

In a recent statement posted on Facebook, for example, two UAW officials in Missouri acknowledged: “The damage . . . corrupt officials have caused to our union’s reputation is devastating.”

Gary Jones, Dennis Williams Allegedly Used Union Treasury Funds to Live Luxuriously

As a Detroit *Free Press* news account detailing the Pearson complaint explained, it shows how current and former UAW bosses “allegedly misspent union money for swanky lodging, expensive cigars and rounds of golf and golf equipment.”

Citing sources close to the investigation, the *Free Press* and the *Detroit News* have both reported that the two union bosses identified in the complaint itself only as “UAW Officials A and B” are, respectively,

Mr. Jones and his immediate predecessor as UAW president, Dennis Williams.

Officials A and B allegedly used union treasury funds, consisting mostly of dues and fees forked over by UAW-“represented” workers, to live lives of luxury, featuring, just for starters, weeks- and even months-long vacation stays at “condominiums and villas with private pools and hot tubs in gated communities.”

A joint FBI/IRS/U.S. Labor Department search of Mr. Jones’ suburban Detroit home conducted late this August allegedly discovered more than \$30,000 in cash and a set of Titleist golf clubs evidently purchased with union treasury money.

As president of the UAW, Mr. Jones is the leader of the 2019 strike against GM. But the evidence federal investigators had amassed against him by the middle of September was so compelling that a significant minority of UAW governing board members had already reportedly concluded he had to go so the union could be salvaged as an institution.

See **Politicians** page 7