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Why Hand Even More Power to Crooked Union Dons? *Presidential Challengers Ignore Rampant Big Labor Corruption*

Two years ago this month, the Detroit *Free Press* published a report on the national scourge of union corruption after extensively reviewing U.S. Labor Department documents and interviewing experts in law enforcement and labor-management relations.

According to the *Free Press* exposé, authored by award-winning veteran journalist Phoebe Wall Howard, in 2016 and 2017 alone, “more than 300 union locations . . . discovered theft, often resulting in more than one person charged in each instance . . .”

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented: “Ms. Wall Howard’s stellar reporting illustrates 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 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, missile range workers and bricklayers.’”

Reports of Outrageous Abuses of Big Labor Power Keep Piling Up

Over the past two years, reports of outrageous Big Labor greed and criminality continued to pile up. Here is just a small sampling of the union corruption news reported in the fall of 2019:

••• United Auto Workers union President Gary Jones and his immediate

predecessor as UAW chief, Dennis Williams, were accused by federal prosecutors of conspiring to embezzle more than \$1 million in union dues. Many autoworkers are still forced to fork over such dues as a job condition. Mr. Jones was forced to take a leave of absence, and later had no choice but to resign. Two other UAW officials, including former Vice President Joe Ashton, became the 12th and 13th persons charged in a metastasizing corruption scandal implicating several auto company executives as well as union bosses.

••• Glenn Blicht, the corrupt president of New Jersey-based Local 1964 of the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA), pleaded guilty to taking over \$150,000 in bribes from an employer in exchange for the union boss’s not filing arbitration complaints on behalf of rank-and-file workers.

••• Frank Cognetta, the mob-connected former secretary-treasurer of Brooklyn, N.Y.-based Local 1D of the United Food and Commercial Workers, received a two-year prison sentence for, among other things, “soliciting and accepting bribes and steering” nearly \$500,000 in union benefit funds to a crony “in exchange for kickbacks.”

Additional Audits Would Almost Certainly Uncover Far More Widespread Theft

Mr. Mix commented that, as shocking as the arrests, convictions, and sentencings of crooked union bosses and staff members reported by the Labor Department would be to most ordinary Americans if they were aware of them, they almost certainly represent only the tip of the iceberg.

See Corruption page 2

CHIROPRACTOR PAID \$3.9 MIL

\$250,000 KICKBACKS

CONSTRUCTION COMPANY PAID \$250,000

FRAUD, MONEY LAUNDERING

JOE ASHTON

INTERIM UAW PRESIDENT DISCUSSES CORRUPTION AS 13TH EXECUTIVE IS CHARGED IN FEDERAL INVESTIGATION

WXYZ DETROIT

Credit: WXYZ (ABC) TV, Detroit, Mich.

If presidential wannabes like Joe Biden and Liz Warren have their way, autoworkers in current Right to Work states like Michigan and Tennessee will be forced to bankroll the shady UAW union, or be fired.

Right to Work Curbs Corruption

Continued from page 1

He explained:

“Only a tiny portion of the Labor Department, known as the Office of Labor-Management Standards [OLMS], is charged with uncovering union-boss corruption. 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, which at \$44 million currently is 26% lower than it was in FY 2007, after adjusting for inflation.”

A paucity of investigators is one possible explanation for the apparent slowness of the OLMS in following up on leads such as the one furnished in early 2019 by Roderick Bennett, former chief of staff for the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA).

After being indicted a couple of years ago, and later pleading guilty to financial wrongdoing, Mr. Bennett volunteered to turn over additional information showing that a host of other high-ranking LIUNA officers and staff have grossly misused workers’ dues money to buy luxuries for themselves.

The purchases on a LIUNA credit card over a three-year period ending in December 2016 include a \$4,491.48 tab for one night at a tony D.C. seafood restaurant, two \$1,874.50 airline tickets to Germany for persons not believed to be employed by LIUNA, and an \$11,515.52 bill for a dinner at a D.C. steakhouse!

At this writing, all the LIUNA bigwigs documented by Mr. Bennett to have lived the high life using workers’ dues money apparently remain on the union payroll.

More Resources For Union-Corruption Watchdogs Unlikely To Materialize Soon

“Increasing the OLMS staff and the number of audits substantially would undoubtedly help curtail rampant Big Labor corruption to some degree,” said Mr. Mix.

“Unfortunately, with Big Labor water carrier Nancy Pelosi [D-Calif.] calling the shots in the U.S. House of Representatives, more resources for the union-corruption watchdogs at the OLMS are extremely unlikely to be coming any time soon.

“Moreover, 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.

“The freedom of the individual employee to refuse to bankroll corrupt union officials serves as a significant, albeit far from sufficient, check on union bosses who are inclined to spend workers’ dues for their personal benefit.

Lust For Big Labor Campaign Support Evidently Overrides All Other Considerations

“This freedom,” Mr. Mix continued, “is now protected in the public sector in all 50 states thanks to the Supreme Court’s 2018 *Janus* decision, argued and won by National Right to Work Foundation Staff Attorney Bill Messenger.

“In 27 states, this freedom is protected in the private sector as well thanks to state Right to Work laws, which the Committee has been actively involved in helping pass since its founding in 1955.

“Unfortunately, Right to Work protections are now being targeted by all of the leading candidates for the 2020 Democrat presidential nomination. If such politicians get their way, it will be even easier for shady union bosses to abuse

employees.

“Specifically, all of the current contenders to lead the Democrat ticket have endorsed gutting or completely destroying Section 14(b) of the federal Taft-Hartley Act as soon as they get a chance to do so.

“This would make forced union fees as a job condition permissible in the private sector in all 50 states.

“White House candidates like former Vice President Joe Biden and U.S. Sens. Bernie Sanders [I-Vermont] and Elizabeth Warren [D-Mass.] have also viciously denounced *Janus* and indicated they would appoint Supreme Court justices who would vote to overturn this landmark ruling.

“Mr. Biden, Mr. Sanders, and Ms. Warren have also pledged to do everything they can, if nominated and victorious in the general election, to rewrite federal labor law in order to make it almost impossible for independent-minded employees to prevent union bosses from getting monopoly control over their workplace.

“Somewhere in their heart of hearts, Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and the rest must know that forced support for an organization like the UAW, which is credibly alleged to be criminal, is wrong.

“But their lust for Big Labor campaign support evidently overrides all other considerations.” 📌



Under pro-union monopoly federal labor laws, when one corrupt official like longshore boss Glenn Blicht (pictured) is removed another soon takes his place. The remedy: Liberating the individual worker from union monopoly control.

Accelerating Chicago's Slide Into Insolvency

Deal Makes Taxpayers Liable For an Additional \$1.5 Billion

The Chicago Public Schools (CPS) system was already headed for bankruptcy before radical government union bosses launched a strike that shut it down for 11 days in October.

As City College of New York professor Daniel DiSalvo pointed out in a *Wall Street Journal* op-ed published just before the strike began, the Windy City's government-run schools "have a pension shortfall of \$12 billion."

Retirement costs, continued Dr. DiSalvo, already "devour more than 25% of the money the system receives" from the forced-unionism state of Illinois, which is itself in dire financial straits."

'There Is No More Money' to Be Squeezed Out of Taxpayers

The deal cut by Democrat Mayor Lori Lightfoot on Halloween to end the K-12 school strike ordered by militant Chicago Teachers Union (CTU/AFT) bosses will add an estimated \$1.5 billion to CPS's operating costs over the next five years.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Mary King commented:

"Back in October, Mayor Lightfoot warned Jesse Sharkey, the avowed socialist who currently heads the CTU, and his lieutenants that 'there is no more money' to be squeezed out of already overburdened Chicago taxpayers.

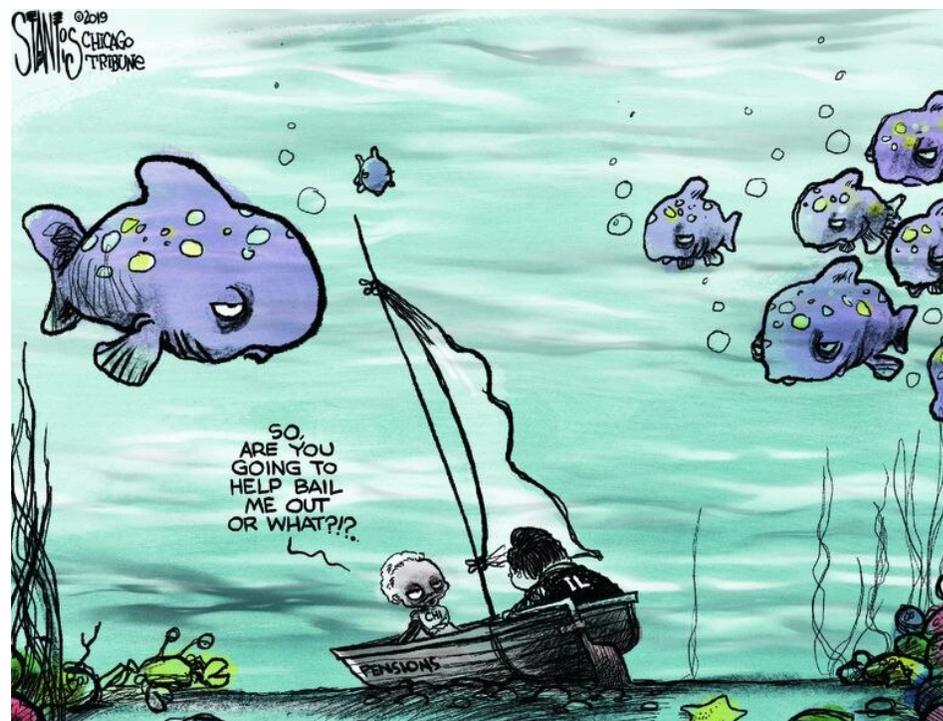
"Nevertheless, the mayor didn't take long to acquiesce to a host of union-boss demands that will jack up pension costs and an array of other costs without doing anything significant to improve educational outcomes."

Pro-Union Monopoly State Labor Policy Is Primary Cause of Taxpayers' Plight

"After the strike ended," Ms. King continued, "Ms. Lightfoot turned on taxpayers across the state of Illinois, stating that they should pay for the improvident bargain she had made with the CTU brass.

"But given that Illinois taxpayers are already forking over in excess of \$10 billion a year, or more than a quarter of the state budget, to cover government worker retirement debts, it seems highly unlikely she will get much additional money from Springfield."

An array of factors have contributed to Illinois's extraordinary misgovernance, observed Ms. King, but the primary reason



Credit: Scott Slantits/Chicago Tribune

The city of Chicago and the entire state of Illinois are both drowning in debt, principally as a consequence of a 1983 law authorizing and promoting union monopoly bargaining in the government sector.

the finances of the state itself as well as Chicago and many other municipalities are in shambles is a 37-year-old law mandating union monopoly bargaining in public employment.

Under government-sector monopoly-bargaining laws, civil servants are prohibited from dealing directly with their employer on workplace matters.

Government union officials alone have the power to join with public employers to determine what wages, benefits, and work rules will be.

Workers who would prefer to negotiate on their own behalf are prohibited from doing so.

At the same time, elected officials and their appointees lose, to a substantial degree, the authority to allocate government resources in a way they believe is in taxpayers' best interest. Union bosses have an effective veto power over elected officials' decisions.

States That Bar Monopolistic Government Unionism Would Be Wise to Stay the Course

Not surprisingly, the growth of government spending and taxes typically skyrockets when state monopoly-bargaining laws are adopted and

implemented.

"Over the years, Illinois union bosses have wielded their government-granted monopoly privileges and the political clout that springs from them to erect and entrench a dumbfoundingly expensive and counterproductive K-12 pension system," said Ms. King.

"According to an analysis published on October 22 by Wirepoints, a public-policy research nonprofit based in Wilmette, Ill, under this system, a 30+-year CPS retiree can expect to collect a total of \$2.2 million in taxpayer-financed pension benefits.

"The employee can reap this windfall after having personally contributed an aggregate of just a little more than \$35,000 to the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund.

"The exorbitant amount of money such pensions cost would be far better spent on higher salaries, particularly for educators who do an excellent job and/or are qualified for hard-to-fill teacher positions.

"But CTU bosses are adamantly opposed to such reforms and prepared to kill them at the bargaining table and politically.

"Illinois's bitter experience illustrates why states that currently have union monopoly-bargaining laws must roll them back, and why states that don't have them, such as Virginia and North Carolina, would be wise to stay the course." 🇺🇸

Girded For Battle in Right to Work Virginia

'Compulsory Unionism Is as Unpopular as Ever in the Old Dominion'

Boosted by ample Big Labor money and manpower flowing into their campaigns from out of state, union-label Democrat politicians have seized control of the Virginia General Assembly.

Almost as soon as the November returns were in, vocal proponents of forced unionism, whose views are shared by only a small minority of Virginians, immediately began calling on incoming legislative leaders to seize the chance to destroy the Old Dominion's 73-year-old Right to Work law.

As this National Right to Work Newsletter edition went to press early in December, Gov. Ralph Northam (D) was refusing to give a straight answer to questions about whether he would sign legislation eliminating Virginia employees' treasured freedom to get and hold a job without bankrolling an unwanted union.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President John Kalb commented:

"Clearly, Gov. Northam knows that the army of Big Labor political operatives who invaded Virginia last year, financed primarily with forced-dues money extracted from employees in the 23 states where such coercion is still permissible, made the difference in helping his party take over the General Assembly.

"He undoubtedly hopes he and his fellow Democrat politicians will continue to benefit from the union bosses' campaign largesse in the future.

"That's why, at a meeting last July with state AFL-CIO chief Doris Crouse-Mays that was secret at the time, Mr. Northam was reportedly ready to discuss a 'potential rollback of right-to-work,' along with other Big Labor policy objectives.



Credit: Steve Helber/AP, Shutterstock

Gov. Northam is still refusing to give a straight answer about his stand on Right to Work.

"But Mr. Northam also clearly knows compulsory unionism is as unpopular as ever in the Old Dominion.

"That's why he is desperate to prevent any forced-fee scheme that may come up in the 2020 legislative session from being exposed as repeal of the Right to Work statute that has been on the books since 1947 and has long enjoyed bipartisan support in Richmond. In this dangerous time, freedom-loving Virginians must prepare for an all-out fight."

Vocally Supporting Right To Work Helped 2019 Candidates Win Close Races

Mr. Kalb noted that, even though GOP candidates in the Old Dominion faced a hostile political climate, a number of those running in challenging districts prevailed thanks in part to their unabashed support for Right to Work.

For example, state Sens. Siobhan Dunnivant (R-Henrico County) and Jen Kiggans (R-Virginia Beach) defeated Big Labor-backed opponents in districts lost by GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump in 2016 and GOP gubernatorial candidate Ed Gillespie in 2017.

In House races, pro-Right to Work Dels. Roxann Robinson (Chesterfield County), Dave LaRock (Loudon County), and Glenn Davis (Virginia Beach) won despite being outspent by union boss-favored candidates.

For months prior to the fall elections, the National Right to Work Committee, which is based in northern Virginia, contacted legislative candidates, urging them to complete and return a candidate survey.

'Cautiously Optimistic' Right to Work Law Can Be Defended This Winter

The survey specifically asked 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.

"Thanks to the Committee's candidate survey and our extensive efforts to mobilize citizens, freedom-loving residents of districts with closely-contested races were well-informed about where their candidates stood in November," said Mr. Kalb.

"Consequently, even though union-label Democrats Dick Saslaw and Eileen Filler-Corn [both Fairfax County] will respectively be Senate majority leader and House speaker this year, Big Labor lobbyists may not be able to collect sufficient votes to ram through a Right to Work destruction scheme.

"Thanks to Committee members' generous support for our 2019 candidate survey and citizen mobilization, Right to Work Virginia is already girded for battle against Big Labor if and when a campaign to push forced-unionism legislation through the General Assembly is launched.

"The vast majority of rank-and-file Republicans, Democrats and Independents from all walks of life and all regions of Virginia understand it's just plain wrong to force any employee to bankroll a union he or she doesn't want, just to get or keep a job. I'm cautiously optimistic their common sense will carry the day." 📣

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'If You Can't Beat 'Em . . . Buy 'Em!'

Union-Impaired Firm Acquires 49.9% Stake in Union-Free Competitor

Three months ago, the National Right to Work Newsletter reported on the remarkable success of a five-year-old, union-free steel mill located in Right to Work Arkansas.

Citing an August 2019 report for *Forbes* magazine by business journalist Jonathan Ponciano, the Newsletter noted that the annual cash flow per employee at the Big River Steel (BRS) Flex Mill™ in Osceola, Ark., is “a dumbfounding \$557,000.”

That's roughly nine times as great as the \$61,000 cash flow “per union-impaired employee” at troubled U.S. Steel (USS).

A large share of the cash generated as a consequence of BRS's extremely high productivity goes straight into the pockets of front-line employees.

In 2018, according to Mr. Ponciano, the average BRS production worker earned \$129,000, including bonus pay, in a state where the cost of living is 12% below the national average, according to the nonpartisan Missouri Economic Research and Information Center.

“The future of American metal production is located” in Right to Work states like Arkansas, concluded the report appearing on page three of this publication's October edition.

The managers of USS, headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pa., apparently agree. Soon after the October Newsletter went to press, they announced their plan to acquire a 49.9% stake in BRS.

Inefficient Big Labor Work Rules Often Discourage Firms From Making Investments

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen explained that USS, whose production employees are subject to the monopoly control of United Steelworkers (USW/AFL-CIO) union bosses on matters pertaining to their jobs, has been struggling for decades, and its plight has recently worsened:

“Over just the three months that ended September 30, USS lost \$84 million, and sales plunged by 16% compared to the same quarter in 2018.

“A key problem for the company has been its heavy reliance on older blast furnace technology.

“Its facilities are as a consequence only profitable when they are operating at full capacity.

“And since the worldwide demand for steel is highly cyclical, USS mills very frequently aren't operating at full capacity, and bleeding red ink.

“In theory, USS could set itself right by retooling its mills in forced-unionism Pennsylvania and other historic USW stronghold states to make them more flexible.

“In reality, however, employees hamstrung by counterproductive USW and other union work rules are often unable to make a successful switchover to new technology. Well aware of the pitfalls, companies can and often do opt to invest in a new facility in a Right to Work state instead of retooling an existing unionized operation.”

'Manufacturing in General Has Moved' Away 'From the Influence of Labor Unions'

Reporting for the Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette*, the daily newspaper for the metropolitan area where USS's Mon Valley Works, Edgar Thompson Works, and Clairton Coke Works are located, journalist Daniel Moore offered a Pennsylvanian's perspective on the BRS acquisition.

To offset the substantial borrowing costs it is incurring due to its \$700 million investment in BRS, USS is rolling back

its previous plans to spend \$2 billion to refurbish aging plants, wrote Moore in an early November story.

For example, previously announced 2020 expenditures of \$400 million in the Mon Valley Works were being slashed by 50%.

Mr. Moore bluntly continued:

“Manufacturing in general has moved . . . away from the influence of labor unions. . . .

“Arkansas has a right-to-work law, which means any employee can opt out of joining and paying dues to a labor union.”

Next Stop For BRS: Right to Work Texas

Since the effective partnership with USS was announced, BRS CEO David Stickler has reinforced the implicit message that his company regards Right to Work protections for its front-line employees as critical for its success.

In a mid-October interview with *S & P Global Platts* that only became public in November, Mr. Stickler said the company is “just now aggressively ramping up efforts for a second flat-rolled mill” in Brownsville, Texas.

The Lone Star State has had relatively little flat-rolled steel production until recently, but has had a Right to Work law on the books since 1947. 📌



Credit: Gene J. Puska/AP

Even as the number of steelworkers actively employed in forced-unionism states like Pennsylvania continues to decline, new high-paying metal production jobs are being created in Right to Work states like Arkansas.

Road Worker: ‘The Union Is Using Us as Pawns’

Michigan Strike Spotlights Injustices of Federal Labor Policy

In Michigan, a number of important road construction projects that were supposed to have been completed by now have been put off until this spring as a consequence of a strike that began last summer and was still ongoing when this Newsletter edition went to press in early December.

On July 31, top bosses of Local 324 of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) ordered Michigan employees out on strike against Rieth-Riley, an Indiana-based paving firm.

The key issue in the strike is Rieth-Riley’s refusal to meet the IUOE demand that it “use only union subcontractors or agree to pay an extra \$29 into a union retirement fund for every hour worked by a union nonmember,” as reporter Dawson Bell explained in *Michigan Capitol Confidential* last September.

Scheme Would Cost Taxpayers An Estimated \$100 Million a Year, Without Benefiting Them

In April 2019, facing intense pressure from the IUOE Local 324 hierarchy, most of the unionized road building contractors that currently operate in Michigan acquiesced to foisting on their union-free subcontractors what Rieth-Riley properly denounces as a “\$29.05 per hour taxpayer extortion fee.”

Subcontractors whose employees are not affiliated with or represented by Local 324 bosses and have their own benefit programs will have to deduct this money from their paychecks anyway and send it to the Local 324 pension fund.

Union-free workers will never see a dime of the roughly \$29 an hour forked over by their employer unless they agree to sign up with Local 324 and become vested in its retirement plan.

Rieth-Riley is one of two large contractors that continue to refuse to agree to help Local 324 shake down union-free road construction companies, their employees and, ultimately, taxpayers.

The company estimates that, if the Local 324 extortion fee becomes mandatory for participating in all road and bridge construction in Michigan, it will pile on an additional \$100 million annually to taxpayers’ construction costs, without benefiting them.

Some Rieth-Riley workers who strongly disagree with the strike have resigned from the union so they could



Credit: Ryan Garza/Detroit Free Press

Under pro-union monopoly federal policies, equipment operators who work for one company can be ordered off the job, and road projects can be delayed, because employees who work for other companies authorized a strike!

return to work without being subjected to Big Labor fines.

One of them bluntly explained his stance to Mr. Bell: “The union is using us as pawns in a power play to get their way.”

Former Local 324 Business Manager Went to Prison For Extorting Union Employees

The equipment operator, who has been with the company for more than a decade, also told Mr. Bell that a majority of unionized Rieth-Riley employees opposed the strike, but no vote was held at the July 25 meeting just prior to its commencement.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Greg Mourad explained:

“Local 324 bosses claim a strike authorization vote by Rieth-Riley employees wasn’t necessary, because a vote by the entire local was held back in 2018.

“However, the vast majority of Local 324 members don’t work for Rieth-Riley -- and it is only employees of this company who have been ordered out on strike by the Local 324 brass.”

Top officials of this shady union (whose former chief, John Hamilton, was sentenced to two years in prison in 2018 for shaking down union employees) can get away with pushing around employees who may disagree with their aims because of federal policy’s intense pro-union

monopoly bias, added Mr. Mourad.

“The ongoing Rieth-Riley strike puts a spotlight on how union bosses can and do use their government-granted monopoly-bargaining privileges over employees to benefit themselves and the union itself, and no one else.”

Pro-Right to Work lawmakers in Michigan, which has a state law prohibiting forced union dues and fees as a job condition, have tried to protect union-free construction employees and firms and taxpayers.

Big Labor Governor Is Abetting the Shakedown

Last summer, the National Right to Work Committee distributed a letter in Lansing requesting that contractors who force their nonunion subcontractors to contribute to union boss-controlled fringe-benefit funds be barred from receiving state transportation money.

In late September, the Legislature adopted S.B.149, a transportation-funding bill that included a provision (Sec.327) with the language recommended by the Committee.

Unfortunately, union-label Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D) promptly line-item vetoed Sec.327.

“The governor’s abetment of the Local 324 shakedown is appalling,” said Mr. Mourad. “But federal policy is the real culprit.” 🗳️

Taxpayers Systematically Abused

continued from page 8

ability to prevent taxpayer abuses on its own definitely is limited by the fact that the Civil Service ‘Reform’ Act [CSRA] of 1978 explicitly authorizes so-called ‘official-time’ deals between managers and union bosses.

“Government union bosses will use their extensive powers under the CSRA, which statutorily imposes union monopoly bargaining over federal employee disciplinary procedures and other work rules, to sabotage E.O.13837 implementation.”

Ultimately, as federal human-resources expert Ralph Smith explained in a November 21 analysis for the FedSmith news service, “the goal of the unions” is to delay implementation until January 2021, when, they hope, a new, Big Labor President will be sworn into office.

At that time, they anticipate, the Trump limitations on union time will be rescinded.

Big Labor’s ability to stall regulatory curtailments of official time is being impeded, to a certain extent, by the ongoing sexual harassment scandal at the AFGE, by far the largest federal union, which became public late in October.

Union-Label Beltway Politicians Eager to Bail Out Federal Union Bosses

President Cox, who reportedly, for example, pressured union staffers to arrange prostitutes for him and suggested to one union employee that they watch porn together in a hotel room, has been forced to take a leave of absence.

According to a November 14 report by Bloomberg’s Josh Eidelson, current and former AFGE staffers say sexual harassment problems went “far beyond” Mr. Cox, and that a number of other high-ranking union officers personally bullied union employees and/or refused to take such misdeeds seriously.

“One might think,” noted Mr. Mix, “that when top officers of a union have just been credibly accused of having systematically abused their monopoly privileges, politicians in Washington, D.C., would be reluctant to help them stop those privileges from being pared back.

“That’s not the case. Currently, hundreds of union-label members of Congress are supporting the adoption of provisions blocking the Trump Administration from curtailing union time and other Big Labor giveaways as part of an FY 2020 spending bill!”

‘Do Your Job Act’ a Step In the Right Direction

“Clearly,” said Mr. Mix, “the CSRA has fostered a corrupt interdependency between power-mad federal union bosses like J. David Cox and all too many members of Congress.

“The sooner the CSRA is gone, the better.

“A good first step would be enactment of H.R.4090, a bill introduced last summer by pro-Right to Work Florida Congressman Francis Rooney.

“Mr. Rooney’s bill, which he aptly calls the ‘Do Your Job Act,’ would repeal the



Credit: Carlos Bongioanni/Stars and Stripes

Veterans Administration Sec. Robert Wilkie: Union bosses using VA facilities should have to pay rent for them.

two provisions in the CSRA that authorize union time and bar federal agencies from paying Big Labor operatives to conduct union business.

“The Committee and its members are currently mobilizing grass-roots support for H.R.4090. This year, we will push for hearings and roll-call votes on this legislation.

“According to the White House’s Office of Personnel Management, in 2016 alone federal employees racked up a total of 3.6 million union-time hours during which they were compensated roughly \$177 million to represent a union rather than do the government job they are paid to do.

“For a host of reasons, including the fact that federal managers don’t always even know when an employee is on union time, these appalling numbers actually understate the scope of the problem.

“It’s time to permanently end the outrageous payment of tax dollars to union officials pretending to be government employees.” 📌

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Continue your legacy of fighting compulsory unionism by naming the National Right to Work Committee as a beneficiary of your IRA, retirement account, or life insurance policy.

Your legacy of support will help keep the fight against compulsory unionism going for future generations.

As a non-profit, the Committee does not pay income taxes when it sells your assets, so 100% of your gift

will go directly to the Committee’s activities.

Each and every one of these gifts is a testament to our members’ love of individual liberty. Together, their collective strength serves as a bedrock for winning an American future where no worker is forced to pay union dues.

Remember, always consult with your own tax advisor or estate planning attorney before making a gift to ensure that the gift is right for you.

For more information, see Other Ways to Give at <https://nrtwc.org/donate/other-ways-to-give/> or contact Matthew Leen, Vice President of Strategic Programs, at mml@nrtw.org.

Federal Union Bosses Obstruct Trump Reforms

Committee Supports Bill That Would Permanently Curtail Abuses

When Donald Trump first became the U.S. President roughly three years ago, National Right to Work leaders urged him to use his executive power to limit an abusive practice that has unfortunately been pervasive in federal as well as many state and local government workplaces:

For decades, federal policymakers have empowered government union bosses who are also government employees to conduct a wide array of union business activities during working hours while billing federal taxpayers for their time and expenses.

Doing Big Labor business on the taxpayer dime is often euphemistically referred to as “official time.”

A more accurate label is “union time.”

President Trump clearly understands union time is a problem. In May 2018, he signed Executive Order 13837, which aims to lessen the anti-taxpayer impact of union time.

E.O.13837 prohibits lobbying on federal time, prohibits government managers from allowing union bosses to use federal property for free, and prohibits the use of federal time to file union grievances against federal employers.

‘VA Employees’ Main Focus Should Be Providing Veterans The Best Possible Care’

But for well over a year after this order was issued, government union bosses and their lawyers prevented the modest reforms it called for from taking effect.

Just weeks after E.O.13837 was issued, American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) President J. David Cox and other federal union chiefs filed suit against the Trump Administration.

In August 2018, a district judge largely upheld their complaint in a lawless ruling that simply ignored the plain fact that Mr. Cox and his cohorts were required to bring their case before the Federal Labor Relations Authority prior to going to court.

This ruling and an injunction against enforcement of key provisions in E.O.13837 imposed by the same judge bought federal union bosses well over a year’s delay.

Last October 2, a panel for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, having already unanimously overturned the district judge’s ruling and rejected union bosses’ bid for a rehearing, lifted the injunction. Now federal agencies have



Credit: Keith Mellnick, previously published by Federal News Network

Taxpayer-funded Big Labor lobbying and class warfare in the civil service benefit federal union bosses like J. David Cox (right) and union-label politicians like House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. But ordinary Americans are harmed.

finally begun to curtail the completely indefensible misuse of taxpayers’ money for union time.

For example, as Bloomberg Law reported on November 15, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has begun “requiring its employee unions to vacate or pay rent for the use of VA office space and equipment that they previously used for free.”

Moreover, VA employees who moonlight as union officials will now be expected to spend no less than 75% of their paid time “performing VA business or necessary training in most circumstances.”

Shortly before this Newsletter edition was posted, the VA was scheduled to notify union bosses of the rental costs for all union-occupied spaces.

By the middle of this month, officers of the AFGE, who wield monopoly-bargaining power over roughly 250,000 VA employees, are supposed to communicate to the VA “their intent to either vacate or rent each of the VA spaces they currently occupy,” according to Bloomberg Law.

Moreover, VA employees have been instructed to get written permission before going on union time, and will not be able to use such time for “union-specific business such as soliciting union members, holding internal union meetings, electing union officers, or engaging in partisan political activity.”

Trump-appointed VA Sec. Robert Wilkie explained the new policies in a statement issued by the department:

“Common sense dictates that VA employees’ main focus should be providing Veterans the best possible care, benefits and customer service.”

Mr. Wilkie added that it is only fair that union bosses who use VA facilities should have to pay rent for them.

‘Goal of the Unions’: Delay Directives’ Implementation Until 2021

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented:

“Unfortunately, last October’s court decision clearing the way for federal agencies to begin implementing President Trump’s E.O.13837, along with other related administration directives, does not mean that Big Labor politicking and lobbying on federal taxpayers’ dime is actually going to stop any time soon.

“The White House’s efforts to lessen the anti-taxpayer impact of union-time schemes in federal workplaces are commendable, and Right to Work advocates have long championed such measures.

“But the Trump Administration’s

See Taxpayers page 7