



# NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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## Eagerly Awaiting a Biden Justice Department? *Shady UAW Dons Evidently Holding Out For 'Friendlier' Prosecutors*

On June 3, high-living union honcho Gary Jones became the 10th senior official of the United Auto Workers (UAW, AFL-CIO) to plead guilty to federal crimes since 2017 in connection with an ongoing probe into embezzlement, racketeering, and labor law violations.

As recently as November 2019, Mr. Jones was the UAW union's general president.

According to the Jones plea agreement, the union kingpin's crimes spanned from 2010-19, a period during which he rose from heading a union regional office near St. Louis to the UAW's highest office.

In the words of Detroit *News* reporter Robert Snell, Mr. Jones "admitted to scheming with at least six" other "senior union officials" to spend more than a million dollars in union treasury money, much of it forced dues extracted from employees in non-Right to Work states.

The luxury items included "more than \$750,000 spent on private villas, cigars, golf equipment and apparel, meals and liquor -- including \$400 bottles of Louis Roederer Cristal Champagne and Canadian vodka served in a crystal skull."

In a bid to reduce his sentence, Mr. Jones is cooperating with ongoing investigations of other top UAW officials.

### Current UAW Head's Ties to Union Vendor, Kickbacks Allegedly Being Probed

He is reportedly providing information about current UAW President Rory Gamble, as well as Mr. Jones' immediate predecessor as UAW chief, Dennis Williams, and former Vice President Jimmy Settles.

According to a mid-May report in the *News*, investigators are "probing allegations of strip club payoffs in



Credit: YouTube

**The National Right to Work Committee has just called on presumptive Democrat presidential nominee Joe Biden to repudiate the forced dues-fueled political support he is now receiving from ethically challenged UAW officials.**

exchange for contracts to supply union-brand merchandise, . . . as well as financial ties" between Mr. Gamble, Mr. Settles, "and one of the union's highest paid vendors."

And workers employed in states that still lack Right to Work protections for employees, such as Ohio, Illinois and Missouri, can still be forced to pay Mr. Gamble's ample salary while the FBI investigates him.

U.S. Attorney Matthew Schneider, who heads the ongoing investigation into corruption among UAW bosses and auto industry executives, has publicly suggested again and again that unless Mr. Gamble and his lieutenants become substantially more cooperative, a government takeover of the union is likely. But top UAW bosses are reported to be holding out.

They may be calculating that the enormous coerced-dues political clout

they wield will enable them to escape without either genuinely cooperating or being taken over.

### Corruption Prosecutor Likely To Be Replaced if Joe Biden Wins in November

As *News* Associate Business Editor Daniel Howes observed in a June 9 column, Mr. Schneider is a Trump political appointee who "stands to lose his job" if Mr. Biden wins in the fall "and January brings a new Democratic administration presumably more friendly to the UAW" brass and Big Labor in general.

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented:

"As Mr. Howes put it, a federal takeover of the corruption-ridden UAW would surely entail 'the early retirements

See **Beholden** page 2

# Beholden to a Crooked Union

*Continued from page 1*

of a cadre of union officials.’

“That’s what happened just over 30 years ago when the feds took over the mob-infested International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

“The ‘stalling’ by UAW officials is a signal they expect Donald Trump to be replaced soon by pro-forced unionism challenger Joe Biden, whose Justice Department will let them off the hook.

“Mr. Howes considers it to be an excessively risky strategy, because a Trump second term is a ‘distinct possibility given the dynamics of the economy’ and other salient factors.

“But that is a risk the UAW hierarchy seems willing to take.”

## **Biden Justice Department ‘Will Be Tainted From Day One’**

Shortly before this Newsletter edition went to press in early July, Mr. Gamble finally did hold a meeting with

investigators after months of putting them off, but little progress is reported so far to have resulted from it.

“Ordinary Americans have ample reason to suspect,” charged Mr. Mix, “that there is a connection between Boss Gamble’s enthusiastic endorsement of Joe Biden’s presidential bid on April 21 and his nonchalance in the face of U.S. Attorney Schneider’s warnings about a federal takeover of the UAW.

“The UAW’s political operatives can be expected over the next few months to deploy millions of dollars in coerced dues for schemes to elect Mr. Biden and other pro-union monopoly candidates -- unless these politicians speak out now, repudiating the support of what is evidently a criminal enterprise.”

Last month, acting on behalf of Right to Work members and supporters across the country, Mr. Mix wrote to Mr. Biden and other candidates who have been endorsed by and/or received cash contributions from UAW kingpins to ask them to disavow those union bosses and return any money



Credit: Sean Proctor/Bloomberg

## **Investigators are reportedly probing ties between Boss Gamble and one of the UAW’s “highest-paid vendors.”**

they have received from them.

“It is especially urgent for Joe Biden to disassociate himself from Rory Gamble and other UAW bosses who potentially face criminal prosecution,” said Mr. Mix.

“Unless he repudiates UAW officials’ support now, if Joe Biden is elected President, his Justice Department will be tainted from day one.” 

# Committee Honors Memory of Frank Maynard *Charitable Bequest Continues to Advance Right to Work Cause*

National Right to Work Committee members have long fought on the front lines in the battle to end forced unionism and the corruption that comes with it. Some have even left a very special and lasting legacy.

One such member is Frank Maynard.

Frank was born in 1928 and learned early on what it means to fight to preserve liberty. Graduating from a high school in Atlanta, Ga., in 1945, Frank went on to serve his country as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Supply Corps for 21 years.

Frank later settled in California. He joined the National Right to Work Committee in 1978, on the heels of the “common situs” picketing battle.

This was the fight in which Committee members rose up to convince a waffling President Gerald Ford to veto a bill that would have given Big Labor bosses iron-fisted control over construction industry jobs across America.

Throughout the Reagan years, from 1981 to 1989, Frank stood shoulder to shoulder with other Committee members in the fight to roll back Big Labor’s unbridled power, including Right to Work’s defeat of repackaged “common situs” legislation.

Things turned dark for the Right to

Work movement during the 90’s. But Frank was there to help again in the fight to stop Ted Kennedy’s Pushbutton Strike Bill, a scheme that would have made winning strikes to impose forced dues and fees “as easy as pushing a button” for union bosses.

In the 2000’s, Frank was there to help by stopping the passage of Barack Obama’s Card-Check Forced Unionism Bill.

## **‘Members Like Frank Are The Backbone . . . of The Committee’s Efforts’**

In fight after fight, Frank was always quietly and tirelessly signing Committee petitions, sending actiongrams, making phone calls on the Committee’s behalf, and contributing his hard-earned money to its work.

He may not have been what some organizations would consider a “major donor,” but over the years he was a consistent giver, fiercely dedicated to the cause and always willing to help in the fight to end compulsory unionism.

Committee Vice President Matthew Leen said, “Members like Frank are the backbone -- the very heart and blood -- of

the Committee’s efforts, and are the reason why the Committee has won so many ‘David versus Goliath’ battles against Big Labor’s multi-billion-dollar forced-dues machine.”

## **Final Gift Speaks Volumes About Donor’s Lifelong Love For Freedom**

Sadly, Frank passed away last year, but it turns out he saved his greatest impact on the cause he dearly believed in for the end.

One day, the Committee received a phone call from a man identifying himself as Frank’s “successor trustee.” He informed staffers that Frank had made the Committee the beneficiary of his life insurance policy, his IRA, and even his final paycheck.

This turned out to be a sizable gift, and one that speaks volumes about Frank’s legacy for the Right to Work cause and his lifelong love for freedom.

Members who are interested in supporting the National Right to Work Committee with a bequest may phone Mr. Leen at 703-321-9820 or email him at [mml@nrtw.org](mailto:mml@nrtw.org). Also see Other Ways to Give -- <https://nrtwc.org/donate/other-ways-to-give/>. 

# Debt Crisis Looms For Big Labor-Ruled States

## Union Dons Push For Even More Spending Amid COVID-19 Recession

State and local pension plans suffered a steep downturn this spring due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the business lockdowns imposed by elected officials to contain its spread.

Of course, government pension underfunding is not a new problem.

In fact, a report issued by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) in June shows that, in FY 2018, long before anyone had ever heard of COVID-19, “unfunded pension liabilities totaled nearly \$5 trillion nationwide.”

The latest ALEC report on unfunded pension liabilities also adds to the mountain of evidence that union officials endowed with monopoly privileges routinely wield them to jack up governments’ long-term spending commitments.

As a consequence of Big Labor’s back-room deals and lobbying blitzes, states that give more special privileges to union officials routinely burden their citizens with more debt as well as heavier taxation.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Mary King explained:

“According to ALEC’s current calculation, unfunded liabilities of state administered pensions add up to \$15,080 for every man, woman and child in the United States.”

“The 23 states that have yet to adopt Right to Work laws prohibiting forced union dues and fees have an average unfunded per capita pension liability of \$19,028. In contrast, the 27 states with Right to Work laws in effect have a large, but more manageable per capita pension liability that is 40% lower.

“All of the seven states with the greatest per capita pension liability -- Alaska, Illinois, Connecticut, Hawaii, Ohio, New Mexico, and New Jersey -- foist forced union dues and fees on employees.”

### Laws Help Keep Politicians’ Irresponsibility From Getting Totally Out of Hand

Ms. King continued: “In contrast, all of the 10 states with the lowest per capita pension liability -- Tennessee, Indiana, Wisconsin, Utah, Nebraska, Florida, Idaho, South Dakota, North Carolina and Texas -- are Right to Work states.”

Expressed as a share of Gross State Product, the average unfunded pension liability for forced-dues states is 27.1%, compared to an average of 21.5% for Right to Work states.

It’s not difficult to see how Right to Work laws prevent politicians’ irresponsibility from getting completely out of hand.

In jurisdictions where forced union dues have been permitted and union monopoly bargaining in the public sector has been authorized for years, government employers negotiate exclusively with union bosses over civil servants’ pay, benefits, and work rules.

Meanwhile, for many years, government union chiefs funneled a large portion of the compulsory dues and fees they collected into efforts to influence the outcomes of state and local elections.

And those outcomes have often determined who represents the public at the bargaining table.

### Union-Label Connecticut Governor ‘Doesn’t Want to Try Very Hard’ For Taxpayers

In 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court threw out a lifeline to fiscally troubled Big Labor stronghold states like Connecticut, Illinois, and New Jersey with its *Janus* decision.

Ruling in favor of independent-minded Illinois civil servant Mark Janus in a case argued and won on his behalf by Right to Work Staff Attorney William Messenger,

the High Court found that extracting forced fees from public employees as a job condition violates the First Amendment.

“*Janus* was primarily a victory for individual rights,” said Ms. King.

“Its potential impact on state budgets is also vast. *Janus* is giving lawmakers in state after state an opportunity to reassert control over how public employees are compensated and protect taxpayers.

“But much remains to be done, as the recent experience of Big Labor-dominated Connecticut illustrates.

“On July 1, 5.5% raises for unionized state employees in Connecticut went into effect, at an additional cost of \$350 million annually to taxpayers, even after many private-sector employees had just lost their incomes due to politicians’ response to COVID-19.

“As Manchester, Conn., opinion writer Chris Powell has pointed out, union-label Gov. Ned Lamont ‘doesn’t want to try very hard for taxpayers,’ because the monopoly-bargaining privileges government union bosses retain in his state make them a political powerhouse.

“Repeal of government-sector monopoly-bargaining statutes and passage of additional state laws protecting private-sector employees’ Right to Work are indispensable parts of public budget reform.”

## Unfunded Government-Pension Liabilities Per Capita

Forced-unionism states shaded in gray. Right to Work states are not shaded.

Source: American Legislative Exchange Council, “Unaccountable and Unaffordable 2019”

	Worst States	Unfunded Liabilities		Best States	Unfunded Liabilities
50	Alaska	\$39,949	1	Tennessee	\$5,454
49	Illinois	\$28,220	2	Indiana	\$6,777
48	Connecticut	\$26,553	3	Wisconsin	\$7,346
47	Hawaii	\$25,831	4	Utah	\$7,681
46	Ohio	\$24,886	5	Nebraska	\$8,170
45	New Mexico	\$23,445	6	Florida	\$8,222
44	New Jersey	\$22,092	7	Idaho	\$8,995

State laws protecting employees’ Right to Work are strongly correlated with better-funded public pensions. On average, unfunded pension liabilities per capita are 40% lower in Right to Work states than in forced-unionism states.

# Teamster Bosses Illegally Intimidated Workers

## *Big Labor Notice: Maintain ‘Code of Silence,’ or Be Blacklisted*

For eight-and-a-half decades now, federal law has accorded a relative handful of union officials monopoly power to deal with employers on workplace issues affecting millions of employees. Employees who disagree with union bosses’ positions on such matters are barred from dealing directly with the employer.

Big Labor politicians and other apologists for this regime claim it is for employees’ “own good.” But ample experience shows this just isn’t so.

A recent case in point concerns Joseph Stasko, an employee at the Bemis Company bread-bag manufacturing facility located in West Hazelton, Pa.

Several years ago, Mr. Stasko fell afoul of a vindictive coworker, Dominic DeSpirito, who also happens to be president of Local 735-S of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Mr. DeSpirito evidently believed his position as the top officer of the union local, wielding monopoly-bargaining power over roughly 350 Bemis production employees in West Hazelton, entitled him to harass his fellow employees verbally with impunity.

In mid-December 2017, after witnessing Mr. DeSpirito abuse Mr. Stasko again and again over the course of roughly three months, another employee

at the company, Michael Samsel, submitted a statement to Bemis regarding the Teamster kingpin’s recurrent gross violations of workplace rules.

Mr. DeSpirito was immediately suspended. After investigating the alleged misconduct for several weeks, Bemis determined Mr. Samsel’s statement was substantively accurate and fired Mr. DeSpirito. But the trouble was just beginning for the independent-minded employees who had stood up to him.

### **‘They Were Leaving a Fake Rat, Like Homemade Paper Rats Around the Work Area’**

As he later testified to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), Mr. Samsel began finding items surreptitiously left at his press:

“They were leaving notes. They were leaving a fake rat, like homemade paper rats around the work area.”

When Mr. Samsel complained about the ugly messages he was being sent, Local 735-S Vice President Kevin Davidovich allegedly warned him “it’s going to get worse,” because “Dominic” had told him to “go after the rats.”

Around the same time, 735-S Secretary-Treasurer Lynn Andrews allegedly approached Mr. Stasko in the

breakroom and began yelling at him, “How could we do this to Dominic?”

Subsequently, Ms. Andrews posted on the union bulletin board, located at the breakroom entrance, a memo stating, in part: “Turning in fellow Union members is a violation of the Union by laws and could result in fines and black listed [sic] from all union jobs.”

After blatantly threatening employees like Mr. Stasko with loss of employment for truthfully communicating to Bemis about Boss DeSpirito’s persistent ugly disruptions of the workplace, Ms. Andrews repeatedly pressured Bemis to discipline Mr. Stasko for two minor safety infractions.

As the NLRB ultimately concluded, Bemis routinely handled such isolated infractions by counseling employees rather than disciplining them, and Ms. Andrews’ attempts to cause Mr. Stasko to be disciplined were clearly a means to punish him for activity protected by federal law.

### **Committee Fights to Bar Union Monopoly Bargaining As Well as Forced Dues**

National Right to Work Committee Vice President John Kalb commented:

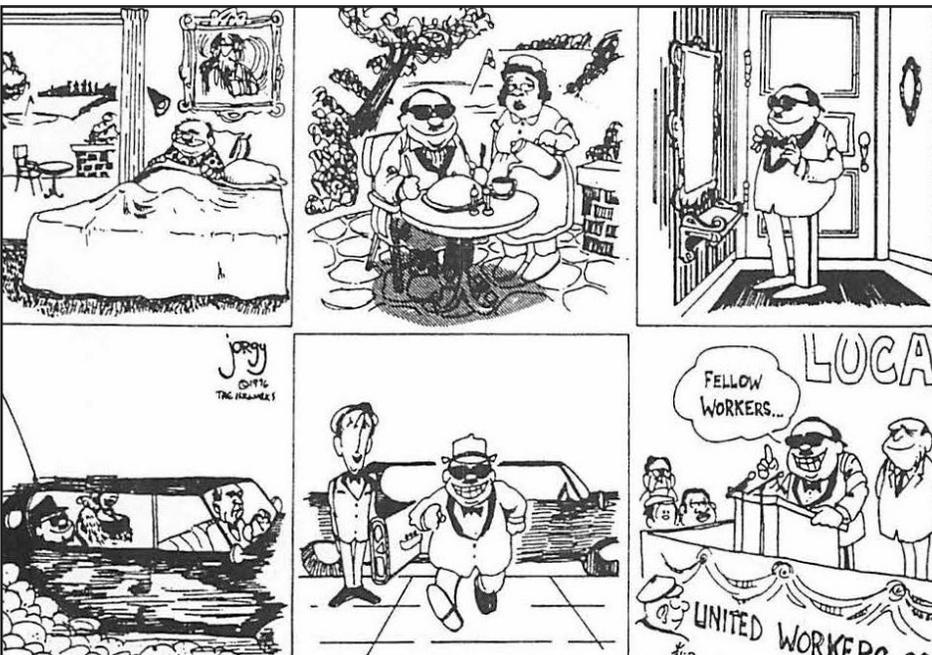
“Because Joseph Stasko and Michael Samsel refused to be intimidated, Local 735-S bosses were finally found by the NLRB to have violated federal labor law.

“Unfortunately, union bosses often get away with exploiting their monopoly-bargaining privileges to bully and intimidate independent-minded workers.

“That’s one reason why Right to Work’s legislative program is committed to repealing all special-interest laws that grant union bosses ‘exclusive’ power to communicate with the employer over workplace matters as well as laws that authorize forced union dues and fees.

“Just this March, for example, the Committee successfully lobbied on behalf of its South Dakota members for passage of S.B.147, a law that shields faculty and other employees of state universities and branch campuses from Big Labor domination.

“Of course, S.B.147 is just the beginning. Right to Work supporters are pressing for the protection, in the near future, of all South Dakota public employees from union monopoly bargaining.” 📌



Apologists for federally-promoted union monopoly-bargaining control over business employees claim it is for the employees’ “own good.” But ample experience shows money- and power-hungry union bosses are the real beneficiaries.

# Boss Trumka Pledges ‘Aggressive’ Electioneering

## *Boasts AFL-CIO Operatives Will Be Playing Hard For Joe Biden*

As everyone expected him to do, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka is thumbing his nose at the millions of forced dues-paying unionized workers who voted for Donald Trump in 2016 and plan to do so again this year.

In late May, Mr. Trumka announced that the massive political machine he and his lieutenants control would wage, as *Washington Post* presidential campaign correspondent Sean Sullivan characterized it, an “aggressive effort” to make Joe Biden the next President of the United States.

Mr. Trumka is specifically pledging to spend millions and millions of dollars in union treasury money, much of it derived from dues and fees employees are forced to pay, or be fired, to “educate” unionized employees about how they should vote.

### Lies Help Union Bosses Grab Compulsory-Dues Dollars For Electioneering, Lobbying

Federal law grants union officials extraordinary power over individual workers.

Except in Right to Work states, where now roughly half of America’s private-sector employees earn their livings, federal labor law authorizes Big Labor to get front-line employees in practically every private-sector industry fired for refusal to fork over union dues or fees.

But in theory, Big Labor shouldn’t be able to get away with using a worker’s forced-dues money to cancel out his or her own vote, or to help one candidate in a race when the worker favors none.

Under court precedents won by the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, compulsory dues-paying employees who never joined or resigned from a union have the right to pay a forced, but reduced, union fee rather than full compulsory dues.

And objecting workers’ forced fees are not supposed to be spent on politics or lobbying.

However, as countless Foundation cases show, union bosses routinely lie to workers. Workers are falsely told that they have to join the union, or that they can’t automatically resign.

Time and again, workers are tricked by such falsehoods and pay full union dues to save their jobs.

“By exploiting its legal privileges and



Credit: Alex Wong, Getty Images North

**Union bosses like Mary Kay Henry and Richard Trumka are dead set on electing anti-Right to Work politicians.**

intimidating workers, Big Labor can be expected to pour more than \$2 billion into electioneering and lobbying in the 2019-20 campaign cycle,” noted National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix. (Mr. Mix is also president of the Right to Work Foundation.)

### ‘The Road to the White House Goes Through the [Organized] Labor Movement’

Mr. Mix pointed out that Mary Kay Henry, the president of the Service Employees International Union, is openly acknowledging that her non-AFL-CIO-affiliated union alone will spend \$150 million this year, its largest political investment ever, to get out the vote for Joe Biden and other union-label candidates.

Mr. Trumka is so far being less forthright about how much money his union conglomerate will spend on 2020 electioneering, but doesn’t hesitate to say his favored candidates could never win without Big Labor’s forced-dues machine.

According to Mr. Trumka, “the road to the White House goes through the [Organized] Labor movement.”

Mr. Mix explained: “First and foremost, union bosses are determined to elect and reelect politicians who oppose Right to Work protections for employees.”

To secure Big Labor’s backing, Mr. Mix added, “Joe Biden is vowing to sign, as soon as he gets a chance, legislation effectively destroying all state Right to Work laws and authorizing the extraction of forced union dues and fees from employees across America.”

Mr. Biden has taken this outrageous stance even though the vast majority of current union members, unlike top union officials, support the Right to Work.

This June, a nationwide scientific poll conducted by SurveyUSA for the National Institute for Labor Relations Research found that 85% of current union members agree that workers “should never be forced, or coerced, to join a union or pay dues to a union as a condition of employment.”

“That’s right in line with the 87% support for Right to Work SurveyUSA observed among all registered voters,” said Mr. Mix.

“There’s no conceivable way union members would want Organized Labor to back Joe Biden simply because he plans to destroy Right to Work. Mr. Biden’s obvious aim is to please union bosses, not workers.” 📌

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Written and Distributed by:

**National Right to Work Committee®**

8001 Braddock Road  
Springfield, Va. 22160

E-mail: [Members@NRTW.org](mailto:Members@NRTW.org)

**Stanley Greer** Newsletter Editor

**Greg Mourad** Vice President

**John Kalb** Vice President

**Mary King** Vice President

**Matthew Leen** Vice President

**Stephen Goodrick** Vice President

**Mark Mix** President

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

Contact the Membership Department by

phoning 1-800-325-RTWC (7892) or  
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# Union Thugs Plead Guilty, Anticipate a Do-Over

## *Under Misbegotten 1973 High Court Precedent, They May Get One*

Four-and-a-half years ago, a pack of union goons stormed a union-free worksite at a northwestern Indiana church and brutally assaulted the workers there.

Dyer Baptist Church was building a new facility for its school, Plum Creek Christian Academy. As part of this effort, the church contracted with D5 Iron Works Inc., a small business based just across the border in Illinois.

This did not sit well with the bosses of Iron Workers Local 395, because D5 workers are not forced to accept Big Labor's "representation" as a condition of employment.

According to a court document, Local 395 President Jeffrey Veach and Business Agent Thomas Williamson "gathered up" a gang of union enforcers, traveled to the worksite, and then "attacked the D5 workers and beat them with fists and loose pieces of hardwood, kicking them while they were on the ground."

And as the two union bosses ultimately admitted in court, one D5 worker sustained serious bodily injury in the form of a broken jaw, which required several surgeries, extended hospitalization, and medical treatment.

### **Enmons and the Union Violence Loophole**

Scott Kudingo was one of the nonunion victims of this violent attack. Union thugs were seen "clubbing, kicking and punching" him "in the face, arms, back, and body."

His jaw was "shattered in part" and fractured "in two other places." It is believed that at least some of the attackers were wearing "steel toed boots."

No reasonable person has ever doubted that Local 395 bigwigs are responsible for the attack.

After all, it was Mr. Williamson who told Mr. Veach that they should "go back to old school" to punish the "scab bastards" on the site.

One might ask why justice was so long in coming.

It took more than two years for criminal charges to be filed, and a full four years before guilty pleas were entered.

The answer lies in a 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision called *United States v. Enmons*.

In that controversial 5-4 decision, the Court created a gaping loophole in the Hobbs Act, which prohibits extortionate violence and threats in interstate



**Two Indiana union bosses have admitted to orchestrating a bloody attack on innocent workers, but they still maintain that they cannot be punished for using extortionate violence as an "organizing" tool.**

commerce. *Enmons* declared that Big Labor threats and violence are immune from any Hobbs prosecution as long as they are committed in the pursuit of "legitimate union objectives" -- a term left undefined.

Because of the *Enmons* loophole, Hobbs Act prosecutions of union officials are quite rare. And it is this very loophole that was repeatedly invoked by union lawyers representing Mr. Veach and Mr. Williamson.

They argued that, because the Local 395 thugs attacked the church worksite simply to "secure" jobs for union laborers, their conduct was immune under *Enmons*.

U.S. District Judge Theresa Springmann had other ideas.

She interpreted *Enmons* as protecting union bosses who target a unionized business that resists their demands, and those who target employees who defy strike orders.

But in her assessment it does not protect goons who target nonunion business owners or workers in order to "secure" union jobs.

### **Government 'Acknowledges' Pleders 'Have Not Waived Their Right to Appeal'**

Certain other judges have agreed. But this is a more narrow application than jurists such as Douglas Woodlock of the U.S. District Court for the District of

Massachusetts have allowed.

Mr. Veach and Mr. Williamson have made clear they intend to appeal, explicitly stating in their guilty pleas that they do "not waive" their "right to appeal" their convictions. Furthermore, the pleas specify that the "United States acknowledges" that they "have not waived this right" as well.

Despite their having already entered guilty pleas and recently being sentenced to prison, if these two union bosses can find a different judge willing to say that *Enmons* applies to their case, they will be able potentially to regain their freedom after serving out only a small portion of their sentences.

"It is simply obscene that the organizers of this brutal assault might go free because of a decades-old loophole created by the Supreme Court," said National Right to Work Committee Vice President Greg Mourad.

"Because the Supreme Court in *Enmons* interpreted the Hobbs Act, and not the Constitution, the loophole can be easily closed by an act of Congress.

"That is why Right to Work members are now calling on members of Congress to cosponsor and seek recorded votes on H.R.4256, the Freedom from Union Violence Act.

"This common-sense legislation would close the *Enmons* loophole, making it clear in federal law that union thugs will be held responsible for their violent conduct." 📌

Credit: Scott Hilling for Engineering News-Record

# Bad Apples Don't Get Culled

*Continued from page 8*

owe a debt of gratitude,” said Mr. Mix.

“And there are clearly cases in which the tough decisions police officers have to make in the line of duty are unfairly criticized. That’s one reason why no one should question their right to band together to defend their legitimate interests.

“Unfortunately, laws authorizing and promoting union monopoly bargaining in government that are already on the books in most states can make it almost impossible for police departments and other public agencies to discipline employees for truly reprehensible actions.”

Chief Medaria Arradondo, who heads the Minneapolis Police Department, bluntly stated the problem June 10 as he announced he was withdrawing from negotiations with union officials:

“[T]here is nothing more debilitating” to a chief than having “grounds to terminate an officer for misconduct” while “dealing with a third-party mechanism that allows for that employee not only to be back in your department, but to be patrolling in your communities.”

## Union Bosses Favor Covering Up Allegations of Sex Abuse in Public Schools

Of course, other government-sector union bosses are at least as apt to mount scorched-earth defenses of rogue employees as police union bosses.

For example, in 2016 the president of the Connecticut chapter of the mammoth American Federation of Teachers (AFT/AFL-CIO) union publicly testified in opposition to a proposed law prohibiting settlements between school districts and teachers accused of sexually abusing schoolchildren that keep the allegations secret from state-level education officials.

“Union chief Jan Hochadel had the nerve to suggest reporting requirements designed to protect schoolchildren from being molested are bad because they could lead to some teachers being terminated!” noted Mr. Mix.

## Monopoly Privileges Shield Shady IAFF Union Chief, A Close Biden Ally

Mr. Mix added that enabling misconduct by a small minority of civil servants is just one of a number of ways in which government Big Labor bosses endowed with monopoly-bargaining

power abuse taxpayers, lower the quality of public services, and betray the interests of honest, hardworking union members.

He cited a recent internal union audit charging Harold Schaitberger, the high-living president of the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF/AFL-CIO) and a close Biden ally, with improperly awarding himself a pension to which he isn’t entitled.

“According to a memorandum submitted to the IAFF executive board by IAFF Secretary-Treasurer Edward Kelly on March 20 and reported on later that month by the Washington *Free Beacon*, Harold Schaitberger has inappropriately siphoned close to a million dollars from the union pension fund,” said Mr. Mix.

“For years, thievery by Mr. Schaitberger and former General Secretary-Treasurer Thomas Miller was concealed through ‘systematic misrepresentation in financial reporting,’ according to Mr. Kelly.

“All of this was reported months ago.

“And it is just one of a number of ways in which Mr. Schaitberger is allegedly ripping off the IAFF retirement program and the rank-and-file firefighters who pay for it with their hard-earned dues money.

“But the well over 30 state monopoly-bargaining laws now on the books have helped him consolidate his power to such an extent, it seems, that he is untouchable. Mr. Schaitberger remains firmly in control of the IAFF today.”

## Right to Work Members Are Fighting Back Through Survey 2020 Program

Mr. Mix concluded:

“It is outrageous that Joe Biden, whom Mr. Schaitberger endorsed back in April 2019, before any other national union boss, is eager to reward his patron by signing a law that federalizes monopolistic government unionism and its attendant abuses.

“But the Committee is fighting back.

“Through our Survey 2020 program, the Committee is mobilizing freedom-loving citizens to contact their candidates, including Joe Biden, and encourage them to oppose union monopoly bargaining and forced union dues.

“The Survey 2020 will leave Big Labor candidates like Joe Biden with a choice: Repudiate their records of support for union special privileges, or face the potential political consequences.” 



Credit: John Hanna, Associated Press

**Officers of the American Federation of Teachers, headed by Randi Weingarten, and other teacher unions are experts at mounting scorched-earth defenses of rogue educators. The consequence is that many stay in the classroom for years.**

# Joe Biden Threatens U.S. Communities' Safety

## *Monopolistic Unionism Insulates Abusive Government Employees*

Roughly a decade ago, during President Barack Obama's first term in office, Big Labor came within a hair of achieving one of its most cherished objectives: a federal law mandating union monopoly control over state and local first responders nationwide.

National Right to Work Committee members across the country led the seemingly quixotic, but ultimately successful, charge against this power grab, cynically mislabeled as the "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act" (S.3991).

This bill was sponsored by then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.).

It would have denied localities in all 50 states the option to refuse to grant a single public-safety union the power to speak for all front-line employees, including those who don't want to join, in discussions with their employer regarding pay, benefits, and other working conditions.

Monopoly bargaining, euphemistically labeled as "exclusive representation," would have been foisted on firefighters, police, and other public-safety employees nationwide.

And in most states that already authorize public-safety monopoly bargaining, S.3991 would have widened its scope.

### **Committee Members Flooded Capitol Hill With Letters, Petitions, Emails . . .**

But despite enjoying the enthusiastic support of the Obama White House, the then-Democrat majority caucuses in both chambers of Congress, and half-a-dozen GOP senators who were sponsors of another virtually identical measure, S.3991 never became law.

The measure stalled in the face of persistent and passionate opposition from

well-mobilized Right to Work members, who time and again flooded Capitol Hill with letters, postcards, petitions, emails, faxes, and phone calls calling on Congress not to federalize public-safety monopoly bargaining.

In December 2010, Mr. Reid's last-ditch bid to ram S.3991 through his chamber failed as he came up five votes short of the 60 he needed to achieve cloture, with nine senators who had previously supported the scheme voting "No."

Of course, Big Labor wasn't deterred from trying again.

And this year U.S. presidential challenger Joe Biden, now favored to win in November according to most polls, is backing an even more expansive scheme to enhance the power of government union bosses in all 50 states.

Right to Work President Mark Mix explained:

"A majority of U.S. House members are already cosponsors of H.R.3463, extraordinarily radical legislation that would override state laws and foist union monopoly bargaining on first responders and millions of other front-line public-sector employees across the country.

"And 40 U.S. senators are cosponsors of S.1970, essentially identical companion legislation that would institute nationwide government-sector monopoly bargaining by federal mandate.

"In his eagerness to please Big Labor, Joe Biden has pledged to sign legislation like H.R.3463 and S.1970 as soon as he gets a chance."

### **'Debilitating' For a Police Chief Not to Be Able to Terminate Derelict Officers**

In recent months, a number of well-publicized instances of alleged police misconduct and brutality have focused public attention on the question of how such abuses can best be prevented.

And commentators across the political spectrum have recognized that roadblocks to warranted disciplinary measures and firings erected by government union bosses wielding monopoly-bargaining privileges are a principal reason why cops who have been credibly accused of wrongdoing often stay on the job.

"By and large, American police officers are outstanding citizens to whom we all

*See Bad Apples page 7*



Credit: Jim Mone, Associated Press

**Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo: In practice, monopolistic unionism allows an employee who deserves to be terminated to "not only be back in your department, but to be patrolling in your communities."**