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Forced-Dues Repeal Gains Support in Congress

Grass-Roots Activism Will Sway More and More Lawmakers to Sign On

Early this year, the National Right to Work Act, legislation that would eliminate all the current provisions in federal labor law that authorize forced union dues and fees as a job condition, was brought before the U.S. House and Senate.

Since then, the Right to Work Act, respectively introduced in Congress' lower chamber as H.R.785 by Reps. Steve King (R-Iowa) and Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) and in its upper chamber as S.545 by Sen. Rand Paul, has steadily gained Capitol Hill support.

As of the end of May, H.R.785 and S.545 had a total of 67 House and Senate sponsors.

Meetings With Committee Legislative Personnel Have Evidently Had an Impact

Many of these sponsors signed on to forced-dues repeal shortly after they and/or their staff had met personally with National Right to Work Committee legislative representatives.

But other members of Congress are likely to cosponsor H.R.785/S.545 only after receiving extra encouragement from their constituents.

And that's an area where the 2.8 million rank-and-file members of the Committee play a critical role.

"There are a number of excellent reasons why every member of Congress who isn't already in Big Labor's pocket should be eager to put his or her support behind H.R.785/S.545 and push for roll-call floor votes on this legislation," said Committee President Mark Mix.

"But for some House members and senators the case for a national Right to Work law seems to be more convincing when it is presented by a freedom-loving constituent, rather than by a professional Right to Work staff member.

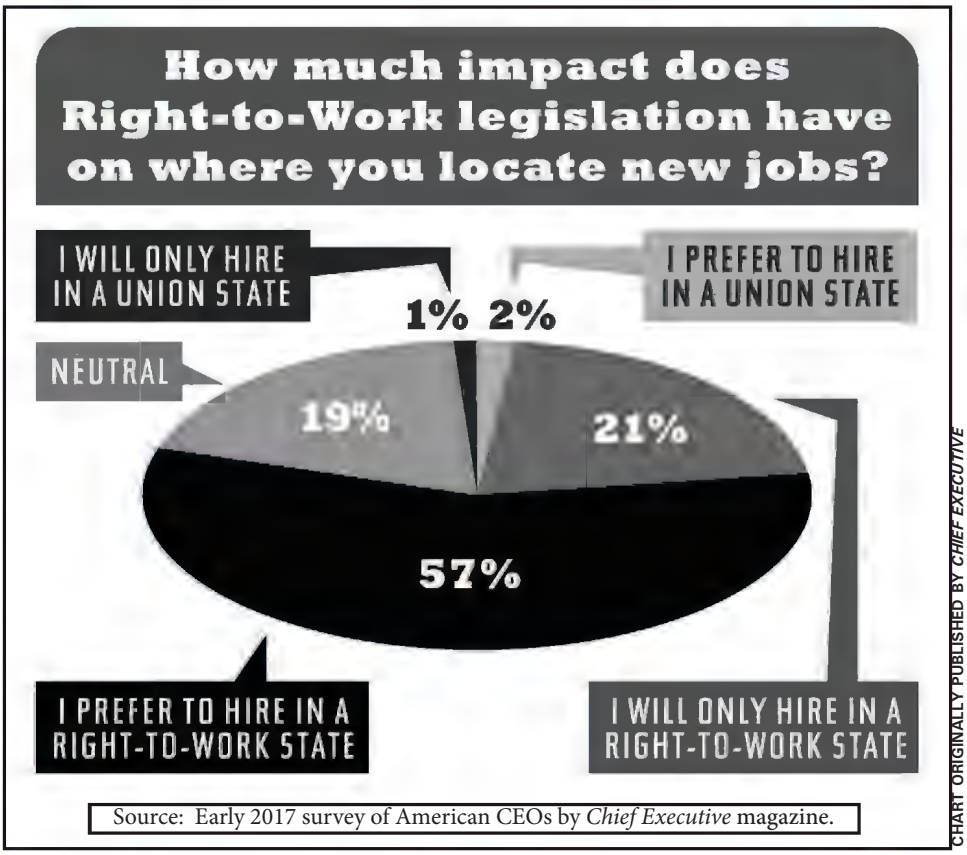
"That's why the Committee, through its publications, strives to help rank-and-file members and supporters be prepared to speak comfortably about the Right to Work issue with their elected officials and with candidates seeking to represent them."

One very significant point in favor of Right to Work legislation, albeit not the most important one, is it fosters the creation and retention of high-paying, family-supporting jobs.

Business Leaders Lopsidedly Prefer to Hire or Only Hire In Right to Work States

As regular readers of the National Right to Work Newsletter know, there

See **'Salt'** *page 2*



By an incredible 26-to-1 margin, CEOs prefer adding jobs in Right to Work states over forced-unionism states, according to a nationwide survey of hundreds of CEOs conducted early this year by *Chief Executive* magazine.

‘Like Pouring Salt in a Wound’

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is a mountain of evidence indicating that legislation barring compulsory union financial support as a job condition is economically beneficial.

One especially powerful example is the survey of CEOs from around the country that *Chief Executive* magazine annually conducts.

The survey asks business leaders to grade all 50 states in three general categories that businesses invariably consider when they are contemplating where to make job-creating investments.

In early 2017, CEOs were once again asked to draw upon their direct experience to rate each state for a) taxation and regulations, b) workforce quality, and c) living environment.

In its May/June issue, *Chief Executive* published its survey results for this year, based on responses received from more than 500 American CEOs.

They show a remarkable 78% of CEOs either “only hire” or “prefer to hire” in Right to Work states. Just 3% of CEOs expressed a preference for forced-unionism states! (See the chart on page one for more information.)

Overwhelmingly through the years, job creators have judged that, in Right to Work states, employees have superior work ethics, real estate costs are relatively low, and public officials have a much more positive attitude toward business.

Conscientious, Talented Employees Usually Hurt by Union Monopoly Bargaining

And every one of the 10 states rated as the “best for business” overall this year is a Right to Work state.

In contrast, forced-unionism states dominated the bottom ranks of the 2017 survey. Not one of the bottom 13 states has a Right to Work law on the books.

“Compulsory unionism is wrong, plain and simple,” Mr. Mix affirmed.

“The fact is, conscientious and talented employees are often economically harmed when they are forced, by government policy, to accept an unwanted union as their ‘exclusive’ bargaining agent on matters concerning their pay, benefits, and working conditions.

“Harvard economist Richard Freeman, arguably the leading academic apologist for monopolistic unionism in the U.S., has actually paid tribute to union bosses’ remarkable success in ‘removing performance judgments as a factor in determining individual employees’ pay.’

“And when unionized employees who would surely get paid more if their employer could take their performance into account are forced to pay dues or fees to the union bosses who prevent the employer from doing so -- that’s like pouring salt in a wound.”

Compulsory Unionism an ‘Economic Albatross’ For Entire Country

“In addition to being morally wrong,” Mr. Mix continued, “forced unionism is an economic albatross for 22 states and for America as a whole.

“As Congress and the White House seek to remove government-imposed impediments that are largely responsible for years of sluggish growth, they can’t afford to overlook the massive burdens federal labor law imposes on business investment.

“Even states that already have Right to Work laws, and so prevent employees from being directly hit by compulsory unionism, suffer a lot of collateral damage.

“Countless Right to Work state-based businesses have major out-of-state suppliers and customers that are hamstrung by compulsory unionism. Such businesses would clearly share the benefits if their partners were freed from the burden of compulsory unionism.”

Mr. Mix urged Committee members and supporters to keep turning up the pressure on their elected officials to cosponsor and seek roll-call votes on H.R.785 and S.545.

“Recorded votes in the House and Senate will advance the Right to Work cause,” he emphasized, “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.”

CREDIT: AP PHOTO/CAROLYN KASTER

As a presidential candidate last year, Donald Trump pledged he would sign national Right to Work legislation if elected and given the opportunity. Vice President Mike Pence is also an avowed foe of compulsory unionism.

Kentucky 'Wouldn't Have Been on the List'

Right to Work Made Job-Creating $1.3 Billion Investment Possible

On April 26, residents of Greenup County in eastern Kentucky got great news.

That afternoon, Bluegrass State Gov. Matt Bevin and Craig Bouchard, CEO of Braidy Industries Inc., held a joint press conference in Wurtland, Ky., to announce that the company would invest $1.3 billion to build an aluminum mill off U.S. 23 roughly 15 miles northwest of Ashland.

National Right to Work Helped Kentuckians Ban Forced Union Dues, Fees

Construction will begin in 2018. When the plant is finished, it will hire roughly 550 workers for jobs paying $38 an hour plus benefits.

In speaking to reporters, Mr. Bouchard bluntly stated that Kentucky's adoption of the 27th state Right to Work law in January was a "make or break" factor in his company's decision to locate in Greenup County. Without Right to Work, he said, Kentucky "wouldn't have been on the list."

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen said the selection of Greenup County as the site for the Braidy rolling mill, which will open with a capacity of 370,000 tons per annum, adds to the mountain of evidence that Kentucky's grass-roots foes of forced unionism were right all along.

"Right to Work supporters played a key role two years ago in helping Mr. Bevin, who had pledged to make unionism voluntary, secure the Kentucky governorship by a decisive 85,000-vote margin," recalled Mr. Leen.

"And after Big Labor House Speaker Greg Stumbo [Prestonburg] thwarted Mr. Bevin's efforts to end Kentucky's status as a forced-unionism state in 2016, these same grass-roots citizens ousted Mr. Stumbo from office and reduced overall House Right to Work opposition from an estimated 60-40 majority to a 58-39 minority.

"Throughout the multiyear campaign to revoke Kentucky union officials' forced-dues and forced-fee privileges, the National Committee and its members gave encouragement and counsel to the state's freedom-loving citizens."

Governor Predicted H.B.1 Would Mean 'Incredible New Opportunities' For State

"All these efforts," Mr. Leen continued, "came to fruition this January 7, when Mr. Bevin signed Right to Work measure H.B.1, declaring that it would mean 'incredible new opportunities for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.'

"Not surprisingly, Big Labor politicians scoffed at the predictions of Mr. Bevin and other Right to Work advocates.

"Union-label House Minority Floor Leader Rocky Adkins [Morehead] insisted, without offering any meaningful evidence, that Right to Work would be bad for the 'hardworking middle class.'

"But now even Mr. Adkins acknowledges that the impact of the Braidy facility, which wouldn't have happened without Right to Work, 'will be positive for the region for generations to come.'"

Firm Had Been Considering Twenty-Four Possible Locations Outside of Kentucky

According to a detailed report for the Associated Press by journalist Adam Beam, Braidy Industries had been considering 24 locations, all of them outside of Kentucky, before the Bluegrass State scored, as Mr. Bouchard put it, a "come from behind win."

Mr. Beam explained that Kentucky joined the list of possible sites only after the first week in January, when "the Republican-controlled legislature banned companies from deducting mandatory union dues from employee paychecks."

A separate account for the Ironton (Ohio) *Tribune* by reporter Jeremy Wells cited Mr. Bouchard's plan to be producing 20% of the aluminum going into domestically manufactured automobiles:

"He said that he felt [union work rules] were too rigid for him to be able to run his company as he saw fit and for the flexibility that was needed for his company to succeed."

Given the high wages offered by the firm, especially when Kentucky's low cost of living is factored in, and fringe benefits like a day care facility, fitness centers, and lunches every day for $1, "it's going to be a place you want to go to work," vowed Mr. Bouchard.

"We don't need anyone else telling us how to build that business."

Mr. Leen emphasized that the primary reason why Kentucky and 27 other states have enacted Right to Work laws is to ensure that employees' personal freedom to join or not join a labor union is protected.

"But good jobs are an important additional benefit," Mr. Leen noted. "And the soon-to-be-built aluminum plant in Greenup County, Ky., is a compelling case in point."

CREDIT: AP PHOTO/ADAM BEAM

According to CEO Craig Bouchard (right), until the first week of January, no Kentucky locations were being considered for his firm's planned aluminum plant. Then Gov. Matt Bevin (left) signed the state's Right to Work law.

Teacher Union Chieftains Push Through Pay Cut

Educators at Maryland High School Cry Foul, Plea For Help

When Free State science teacher Angela Ross accepted a job at Annapolis High School (AHS) roughly a decade ago, special bonuses then available to teachers who were willing to work at that troubled institution were a critical factor in her decision.

As Cindy Huang of the *Capital Gazette*, Annapolis' principal newspaper, reported in March, the AHS educator bonuses were the result of a "state approved plan by former Superintendent Kevin Maxwell to make dramatic improvements in a school" struggling to make academic progress.

Soon after the plan was rolled out, student achievement at AHS did indeed begin to improve.

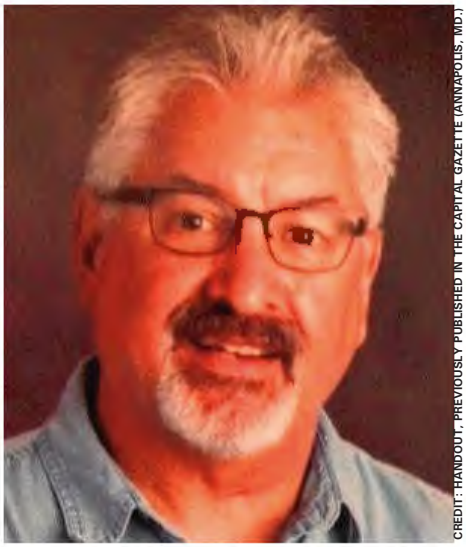
Unfortunately for AHS teachers, as well as for the students and parents who depend on their services, soon after Ms. Ross was hired, education officials began caving in to teacher union boss pressure to whittle away the AHS incentives.

And early this year, union officials prevailed upon school authorities to scrap the remainder of them over the next two years.

Union Bosses Insist Only Seniority, Paper Credentials Should Determine Teacher Pay

Compared to other high schools in the Anne Arundel County Public Schools system, AHS has, to quote Ms. Huang, "a large population of students struggling with poverty or learning English."

Unless such schools are able to offer experienced teachers special incentives to educate their students, they tend to be staffed almost entirely by less experienced teachers.



CREDIT: HANDOUT, PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED IN THE CAPITAL GAZETTE (ANNAPOLIS, MD.)

Math teacher Robin Schmidt wants to get his school's staff out from under an entrenched union hierarchy's control.

That's why Mr. Maxwell sought and obtained authority to offer teachers bonuses for taking a job at AHS, for helping students reach certain standards, and for staying on.

But government union bosses like Bill Jones, chief of the National Education Association (NEA)-affiliated Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County (TAAAC) union, insist teacher pay differentials should be based exclusively on seniority and paper credentials.

That's why it's not surprising Mr. Jones and his TAAAC cohorts began working to water down the AHS incentives and ultimately eliminate them almost as soon as they were implemented.

This year, as Ms. Huang reported in early May, "tensions have been rising between" AHS "teachers and union [officials] because of pay disagreements."

Pleas From Dozens of AHS Teachers Were Ignored

Dozens of AHS teachers pleaded in writing to the TAAAC brass to preserve the incentives for their school that had not previously been eliminated.

Now that their pleas have been ignored, a number of AHS educators are backing a request by math teacher Robin Schmidt to the Maryland Public School Labor Relations Board.

Mr. Schmidt is asking either that the current officers of the TAAAC union be ordered to resign, or that AHS teachers be allowed to break away from the Anne Arundel County "bargaining unit."

Speaking of Mr. Jones, the TAAAC director, and his associates, Mr. Schmidt told an interviewer, "They don't have my back."

Educators Forced to Bankroll The Very Union Bigwigs Who Engineered Their Pay Cuts

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Mary King observed that what is happening in Anne Arundel County, a jurisdiction located south of Baltimore, is a typical consequence of government-authorized monopolistic unionism.

"Today more than 30 states have laws on the books empowering government union bosses to speak for all public servants who choose not to join their organizations, as well as those who do, in discussions with the employer regarding working conditions," said Ms. King.

"Many teachers, such as those who are qualified for teaching positions that school administrators normally have trouble filling, routinely get paid less due to union monopoly bargaining.

"And in Maryland and roughly a dozen-and-a-half other states that authorize compulsory union dues and fees in the government sector, educators who get paid less as a consequence of being unionized actually have to bankroll the Big Labor bosses who are cutting their compensation.

"Elimination of union bosses' monopoly-bargaining and forced-dues privileges is essential for meaningful education reform."

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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@nrtw.org

Contact the Membership Department by phoning 1-800-325-RTWC (7892) or (703) 321-9820, or faxing (703) 321-7143, if you wish to:

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Big Labor Stranglehold Over Maine Is Loosening

Committee Vice President Testifies Before State Lawmakers

Just since the beginning of 2012, the National Right to Work Committee has helped grass-roots activists in Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, West Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri pass state laws prohibiting the exaction of forced union dues and fees from employees as a job condition.

Thanks to these victories, the total number of states with Right to Work protections for employees has risen from 22 to 28 over the past five-and-a-half years.

But Committee officers, members and supporters won't be satisfied until employees in all 50 states have the legal right to join and financially support a union, or refuse to do either, without facing termination as a consequence.

Recently, the Committee has been expanding its operations in a number of states where Big Labor's monopoly privileges seemed not long ago to be thoroughly entrenched.

Labor Federation Founder: 'No Lasting Gain Has Ever Come From Compulsion'

One important case in point is Maine, where Committee Vice President Greg Mourad testified on May 8 at the state capitol in Augusta in support of state Right to Work legislation.

In urging members of the Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development Committee to vote for L.D.65, a ban on forced union dues and fees sponsored by Rep. Larry Lockman (R-Amherst), Mr. Mourad emphasized that compulsion "sets the stage for most of the abuses of union power."

Such Big Labor abuses "work to the detriment of all segments of the American public," not just the independent-minded workers who are typically union bosses' direct targets.

The philosophy of today's Right to Work supporters, Mr. Mourad added, is nothing other than what American Federation of Labor (AFL) founder and President Samuel Gompers espoused for the union movement in calling for "devotion to the fundamentals of human liberty – the principles of voluntarism."

"No lasting gain has ever come from compulsion," added Mr. Gompers. "If we seek to force, we but tear apart that which, united, is invincible."

Mr. Mourad commended Mr. Lockman for pushing for recorded House and Senate roll-call votes on Right to Work.

Despite Governor's Strong Support, Right to Work Unlikely to Pass This Year

He also applauded GOP Gov. Paul LePage for carrying on a persistent and principled fight against forced unionism throughout his years as Maine's chief executive.

As this Newsletter edition goes to press at the beginning of June, no floor action on L.D.65 has been scheduled, but it is virtually certain lawmakers in both chambers will be required to go on record in support of or opposition to Right to Work before the end of the session.

Unfortunately, Right to Work proponents in Maine face a steep uphill battle in 2017 to get L.D.65 approved by the Legislature and sent to Mr. LePage's desk.

"In the 151-member House of Representatives," explained Mr. Mourad, "the 77-member Democrat majority caucus will almost certainly vote as a bloc against Right to Work, as a consequence of the extraordinary power Big Labor wields over Democrat politicians in Maine.

"Democrat votes alone would suffice to stall L.D.65 in the House this year. Moreover, several Big Labor-appeasing Republican House members are likely to join up with the Democrats in opposing Right to Work."

'Compulsory Unionism's Days Are Numbered in The Pine Tree State'

Mr. Mourad added that, although the immediate outlook for Right to Work legislation in Maine isn't bright, proponents have ample reason to hope for success within the next few years.

"From 2006 to 2016," Mr. Mourad noted, "the number of people employed in Maine actually fell by 0.8%, even as aggregate employment rose by 8.1% in Right to Work states.

"Politicians who vote to continue denying Mainers the superior job growth and higher real employee compensation that come with Right to Work do so at their peril. Compulsory unionism's days are numbered in the Pine Tree State."

CREDIT: BOB PALMER CARTOON ADAPTED BY NRTWC

For decades, ordinary Mainers have been able to see right through Big Labor bosses' flimsy excuses for compelling workers to support unions financially. But too many state lawmakers are still tunnel-visioned forced-dues apologists.

Boston Politicians Did Union Dons' Dirty Work?

Early 2018 Federal Extortion Trial Looms For Two Mayoral Aides

Two appointees of union-label Boston Mayor Martin Walsh are now scheduled to go on trial next January for using illegal strong-arm tactics to prevail upon Crash Line Productions (CLP), the producer of the Boston Calling music festival, to hire nine unionized workers for positions that had already been filled.

Lawyers for the aides, tourism and entertainment czar Kenneth Brissette and intergovernmental affairs chief Timothy Sullivan, have contended that, since their clients did not personally obtain any money, goods, or services through the alleged extortion, they could not be prosecuted for extortion.

Fortunately, this argument did not sway U.S. District Judge Leo T. Sorokin, who refused to dismiss the charges. But defense attorneys will be free to make the same contention at trial.

CREDIT: LANE TURNER/*BOSTON GLOBE* STAFF

Depending on how their case turns out, Boston political operatives Kenneth Brissette (left) and Timothy Sullivan could establish a new means for Big Labor bosses to seize monopoly power over employees through extortion, and get away with it.

'Does Extortion Cease to Be Criminal When It's Done For Political Gain?'

If the Big Labor Boston politicians' legal strategy ultimately works, it will set a disturbing precedent, encouraging rogue union bosses to contract out the task of extorting union-free employers and employees to elected officials and their appointees.

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented: "A federal jury in Massachusetts is now scheduled early next year to hear a case that hinges largely on this question: 'Does extortion cease to be criminal when it's done for political gain?'"

In May and June 2016, respectively, Mr. Brissette and Mr. Sullivan were arrested on charges of "union-related extortion" in connection with the September 2014 Boston Calling music festival.

The indictment stated that officials of Local 11 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, or IATSE, union had attempted to obtain work from CLP since March 2013.

The company repeatedly told Mr. Brissette and Mr. Sullivan that it had already secured all the labor it needed through a union-free contractor. Nevertheless, the Boston politicians stubbornly continued to insist that CLP hire at least nine forced-dues paying members of Local 11.

Meanwhile, the two mayoral staffers delayed, for no legitimate reason, release of the permits CLP needed for Boston Calling to take place.

Finally, just three days before the concert was scheduled to happen, CLP relented, and cut a deal with the Local 11 brass to hire eight additional laborers and one foreman. Almost immediately afterward, the mayor's office released the permits.

The federal Hobbs Act prohibits actual or attempted extortion, i.e., the obtaining of things of value through threats or force, when it affects interstate or international commerce.

Enmons Court Outrageously Exempted Most Big Labor Extortion From Hobbs Act

As a music festival featuring performers from around the U.S. and the world, Boston Calling clearly meets the legal definition of "international commerce," according to both the prosecution and the defense in *U.S. v. Brissette*.

Nevertheless, until a few years ago, unscrupulous bosses of a union like IATSE Local 11 might have felt free to orchestrate direct threats and violence against employees of a company like CLP to bring it to heel.

The reason for union bosses' confidence that they can, in many cases, get away with extortion is the U.S. Supreme Court's outrageous 1973 ruling in *U.S. v. Enmons*. In this case, a 5-4 majority of justices found that threats, violence and vandalism perpetrated to secure "legitimate" union objectives are exempted from the Hobbs Act.

However, over the course of the past two decades, some federal courts have ruled that the *Enmons* loophole does not apply to union militants who are accused of threatening and assaulting independent employees of nonunion businesses that aren't legally required to negotiate with union bosses over anything.

Big Labor Eager to Widen Union-Violence Loophole In Anti-Extortion Law

"If IATSE union bosses and their goons had personally extorted CLP employees, they would surely have mounted an *Enmons*-based defense, with uncertain success," noted Mr. Mix.

"But if the Brissette-Sullivan contention that, because the forced-dues money reaped through their successful shakedown of CLP didn't go straight into the politicians' own pockets, they can't be guilty of extortion prevails next year, the Hobbs Act loophole could be greatly widened.

"Depending on how it turns out, *U.S. v. Brissette* could establish a whole new means for Big Labor bosses to seize monopoly power over employees through extortion, and get away with it."

Mr. Mix concluded that the case should at least increase the pressure on Congress to close the current Hobbs loophole by passing legislation that holds scofflaw union bosses who orchestrate threats, vandalism and violence to the same standard as other citizens who commit the same crimes.

Workers, Taxpayers in Jeopardy

Continued from page 8

report, that the law can "raise total construction costs" by up to 38%.

"Davis-Bacon effectively limits federal public works projects to politically connected unionized firms at the expense of the roughly 85% of American hardhats who have chosen to accept a job with an independent construction company," said Mr. Mix.

"That's morally indefensible.

"To make matters worse, one undeniable goal of Davis-Bacon when it was first enacted was to quash competition for white unionized workers and their employers from union-free black workers and their firms.

"At the February 1931 Senate hearings on Davis-Bacon, American Federation of Labor (AFL) union President William Green openly complained about 'colored labor . . . being brought in' for a federal post office job in Kingsport, Tenn.

"Mr. Green suggested the legislation was needed to ensure such things didn't happen again in the future!

"Moreover, although it's been a long time since there was overtly race-based advocacy for Davis-Bacon, the law has continued to serve a discriminatory function that disproportionately harms racial minorities.

"In 1987, future U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas correctly characterized the Davis-Bacon law as a 'barrier' against 'black Americans entering the labor force.'

"Now it's time for President Trump to suspend this unjust law."

Committee Public Mobilization Campaign Began in Early 2017

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

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

As the time approaches for the White House infrastructure proposal to be presented to Congress, the Committee will be monitoring the White House closely, prepared to expand dramatically its public mobilization campaign if necessary.

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

'Job Targeting' Schemes Illustrate the Outrageous Unfairness of Davis-Bacon

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

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

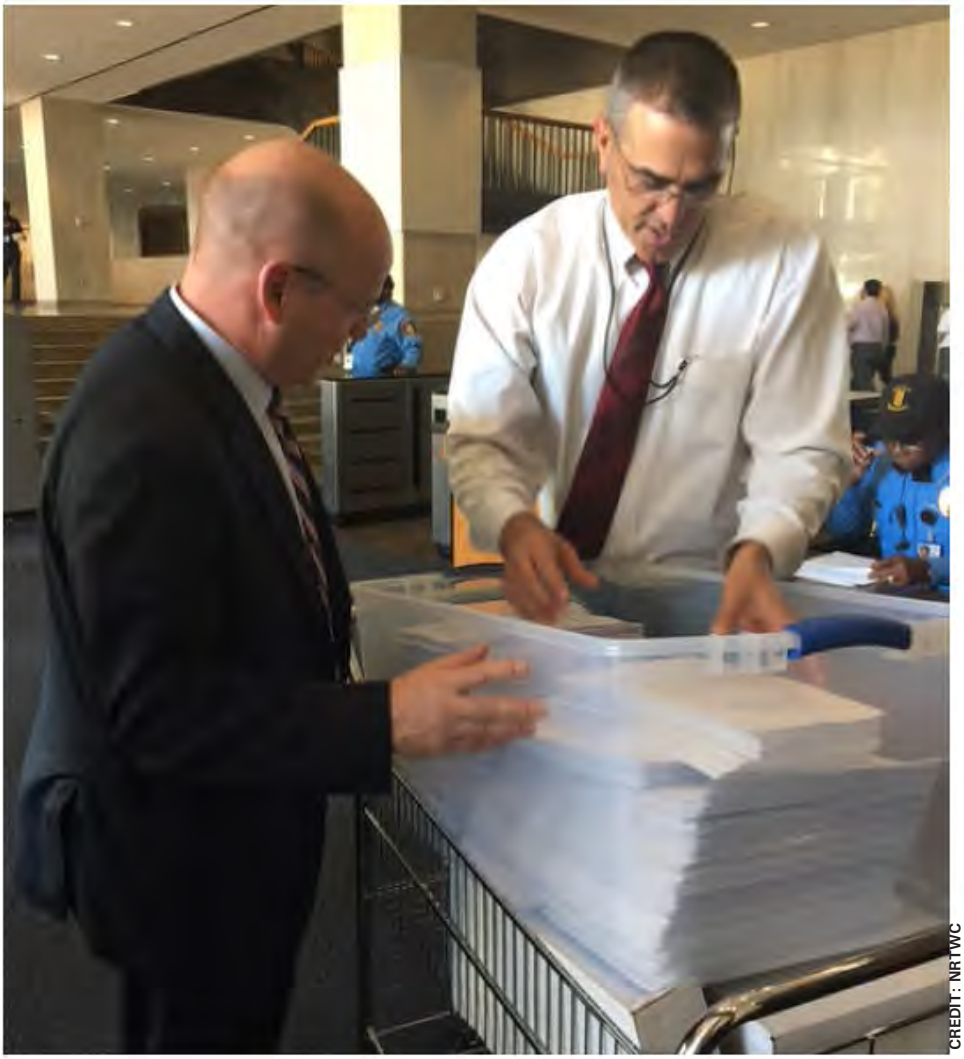
In addition to urging President Trump to declare an infrastructure emergency in order to suspend Davis-Bacon, Mr. Mix advised him to use the bully pulpit to let the American people know how unfair and harmful this law is.

"Several outrageous court precedents enable big unionized companies to 'comply' with Davis-Bacon requirements by utilizing so-called 'job-targeting' funds," said Mr. Mix.

"These funds actually kick back a portion of unionized workers' wages to the company, potentially leaving workers with actual take-home pay far lower than the official Davis-Bacon rate.

"Any nonunion firm that did the same thing would be in flagrant violation of federal wage laws, but firms that allow their employees to be corralled into unions can get away with taking 'job-targeting' kickbacks!

"With a massive federal infrastructure program now looming, this corruption will only get worse, unless the President puts a stop to it. He must do so."



CREDIT: NRTWC

On May 2, Mark Mix (left) delivered to the Labor Department signed petitions collected from citizens across America calling on the Trump Administration to suspend Davis-Bacon, which hurts union-free workers and firms and taxpayers.

A Tremendous Deal For Union Fat Cats?

President Can Stop Infrastructure Bill From Bilking Taxpayers

By the time this month's Newsletter edition reaches its readers, the U.S. Congress may well have already received a plan from the Trump Administration calling for the expenditure of a trillion dollars, including $200 billion in federal taxpayer money, over the next decade on infrastructure improvements and modernization.

There is a widespread consensus across America that the deteriorating state of roads, highways, waterways, ports, and other structures constitutes a national emergency. Assuming that is indeed the case, there is all the more reason to ensure that hardworking taxpayers get the biggest possible bang for their buck on federal public works.

That's one key reason why the National Right to Work Committee is now lobbying the White House to exercise its legal power to suspend Davis-Bacon, a wasteful law that puts union-free hardhats at a gross disadvantage in competing for federal contracts, before any infrastructure spending bill is adopted.

CREDIT: LABORPAINS.ORG (CENTER FOR UNION FACTS)

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

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

In a commentary published April 27 by *The Hill*, a daily newspaper that bills itself as "the publication of record for policy influencers inside and outside Washington," National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix explained how Davis-Bacon hurts union-free workers, businesses and taxpayers:

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

The ideal and permanent solution for the unfairness and excessive and unnecessary spending caused by Davis-Bacon is congressional repeal of this Great Depression-era relic, adopted by Congress and signed by Big Labor-appeasing GOP President Herbert Hoover in 1931.

But even with self-avowed opponents of monopolistic unionism now wielding operational control over the House, the Senate, and the White House, Davis-Bacon repeal remains an uphill battle.

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

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

Taxpayers Could Ultimately Save Hundreds of Billions of Dollars

Would President Donald Trump be criticized by Big Labor politicians for declaring there is an infrastructure emergency in order to suspend Davis-Bacon?

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

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

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

Key Original Davis-Bacon Goal Was to Discourage Use of 'Colored Labor'

Regarding the potential taxpayer savings, he drew upon several independent sources, including a finding, previously cited in a Congressional Research Service

See **Workers** *page 7*