

Forced-Unionism Abuses Exposed

The facts Big Labor bosses would rather you didn't hear about.

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Compulsory unionism breeds corruption. In each issue of "Exposed," the National Right to Work Committee will highlight yet another example of union-boss abuse spawned and perpetuated by Big Labor's government-granted privilege to force workers to pay union dues, or be fired.

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Jon Corzine Not the Only U.S. Senator Who's in Bed With Big Labor

At the beginning of this month, U.S. Sen. Jon Corzine (D-N.J.) was hit with an ethics complaint regarding his alleged failure to disclose a \$470,000 mortgage loan in 2002 to his then-girlfriend, Communications Workers of America (CWA) union czarina Carla Katz. The multi-millionaire senator is the former chairman of the investment firm Goldman Sachs.

Mr. Corzine, who in 2002 was still married to his wife of 33 years, but is now divorced, forgave the loan to Ms. Katz last year, just days before he announced he was running for New Jersey governor. Subsequently, CWA Local 1034, which wields "exclusive" (monopoly) bargaining power over roughly 9000 New Jersey state government employees and which Ms. Katz heads, endorsed Mr. Corzine for governor.

Carl Mayer, the New Jersey attorney who filed the complaint against Mr. Corzine, charges that the senator's loan to Ms. Katz, which ultimately became a gift, constitutes a bribe. The senator's office retorts that both the loan itself and his decision to forgive it were "of a personal nature" and therefore didn't need to be disclosed.

Mr. Corzine also insists that his history with Ms. Katz, a romance that flamed out last year, "will not sway his judgment on issues affecting union pay, benefits and pensions if he is elected governor," according to the *New York Times*.

Whether or not the ethics complaint holds up, Mr. Corzine is already feeling the heat regarding his unseemly dealings with Local 1034 President Katz, and his gubernatorial campaign may suffer grave damage. But in all fairness to "Sugar Daddy" Corzine, he is far from the only U.S. senator who's in bed with Big Labor.

Just consider the fact, for example, that as of the end of last month 37 senators, as well as 200

U.S. House members, were already cosponsors of the cynically labeled “Employee Free Choice Act” (S. 842/H.R. 1696).

Co-authored by Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Congressman George Miller (D-Calif.), this legislation would effectively ban employee secret-ballot elections over unionization and replace them with “card-check” organizing.

Card-check organizing is already a favorite Big Labor tactic, but isn’t mandated by federal law right now. It empowers union officials to force a business’s employees to accept a union as their “exclusive” bargaining agent solely through the acquisition of signed union authorization cards.

In the card-check system, individual workers under the watchful eyes of union organizers are routinely intimidated into signing not just themselves, but all their nonunion fellow employees, over to union-boss control. And many employees report that union organizers have sought to deceive them by telling them it’s safe to sign cards even if they oppose unionization, because they can always vote differently in the election. Only later have employees found out there wasn’t going to be any election.

In case after case, when workers who have signed cards under false pretenses or duress seek to get them back so that they and their fellow employees won’t be saddled with an unwanted union, union bosses simply ignore the requests.

Clearly, S. 842 cosponsors like Sens. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.), Joe Biden (D-Del.), Patty Murray (D-Wash.), Evan Bayh (D-Ind.), Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.), and John Kerry (D-Mass.), along with Mr. Corzine, are in bed with Big Labor. So are Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.).

Moreover, in addition to bill author Ted Kennedy and the 37 current cosponsors, there are at least a dozen other senators who would, based on their pro-forced unionism records, almost certainly vote for S. 842 should it come to the Senate floor. Several other senators are on the fence.

Reports about Jon Corzine’s personal relationship with a union official have raised eyebrows in the Garden State and across America, but the real threat to the public interest, including first and foremost the freedom of independent-minded working citizens, is his and many other elected officials’ political relationship with union officialdom.

Americans who support employees’ Right to Work without being forced to join or pay fees to an unwanted union should visit <http://thomas.loc.gov> on the web site of the Library of Congress to see if their senators and congressmen are cosponsors of S. 842 or H.R. 1696. If so, they should contact their politicians through the congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3121, and tell them to break up with Big Labor!

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