

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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Gloating Union Bosses Demolish Claims of Their Senate Flunkeys

Big Labor bosses and several of the politicians who helped give them 51 votes in support of cutting off debate late last month so that union-label Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) could ram their #1 legislative objective through the U.S. Senate have yet to get their stories straight.

Sens. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.), Ben Nelson (D-Neb.), and Ken Salazar (D-Colo.) all voted for cloture June 26, paving the way for passage of H.R. 800, the cynically labeled "Employee Free Choice Act," but none of the four has openly acknowledged support for this measure or cosponsored its Senate companion, S. 1041.

In fact, Mr. Specter and Ms. Lincoln have both disingenuously protested that their votes to cut off debate on H.R. 800 *shouldn't* be interpreted as demonstrations of support for this bill, which would rewrite federal labor law to make it even easier for union officials to grab "exclusive" (monopoly) bargaining power over private-sector employees.

In his Senate floor remarks shortly before the vote, Mr. Specter claimed that his support for cloture was "procedural only," adding that he would express "no conclusion on the underlying merits in voting procedurally to consider the issue." Similarly, albeit less pompously, Ms. Lincoln asserted through her spokeswoman early last month that she "had not decided whether she would support the bill but had decided to vote for cloture"

And in mid-June, the offices of Mr. Nelson and Mr. Salazar refused to comment when pro-forced unionism commentator and Labor Research Association chief Jon Tasini and his assistant inquired whether or not the two senators supported H.R. 800 and S. 1041.

In brief, Mr. Specter, Ms. Lincoln, Mr. Nelson, and Mr. Salazar have all clearly tried to leave themselves wiggle room so that, when angry pro-Right to Work constituents contact them regarding their votes for cloture on H.R. 800, they can claim that they didn't vote for the bill itself.

Unfortunately for the four senators, immediately after the Senate showdown, top union bosses made a series of public statements exposing as nonsense the claim that a vote for cloture on H.R. 800 materially differs from a vote for the bill itself.

“Today, a majority of the U.S. Senate joined a . . . majority of the House of Representatives in . . . voting *for* [emphasis in the original] the Employee Free Choice Act,” declared Greg Tarpinian, executive director of Change to Win, a conglomerate of seven unions that broke off from the AFL-CIO in 2005.

In a syndicated op-ed, AFL-CIO czar John Sweeney also bluntly stated that H.R. 800 had “passed the House . . . and won a majority in the Senate.” And Teamster kingpin Jim Hoffa issued a statement applauding the “majority Senate vote in favor of the Employee Free Choice Act”

Arlen Specter, Blanche Lincoln, Ben Nelson, and Ken Salazar want to have it both ways.

These senators want to be able to bask in union bosses’ praise for voting for H.R. 800 and expect massive, compulsory union dues-funded Big Labor support for their re-election campaigns as reward for their votes, but at the same time they want to be free to tell their pro-Right to Work constituents that they only seemed to vote for this special-interest scheme.

Fortunately, the four fork-tongued senators won’t fool many, if any, of their freedom-loving constituents. Ordinary Americans know that a vote to cut off debate on H.R. 800, so that Big Labor senators don’t have to explain why they support corralling millions of additional workers into unwanted unions before they rubber-stamp the bill, amounts to a vote for it.

And ordinary Americans also find so-called “card checks,” which H.R. 800 would promote as a means of spreading monopoly bargaining, sinister. Under the card check system, union officials can acquire monopoly-bargaining power solely through the acquisition of signed “union authorization cards.”

Consequently, individual workers under the peering eyes of union organizers may be intimidated into signing not just themselves, but all of their nonunion fellow employees, over to union-boss control.

The National Right to Work Committee and its 2.2 million members are determined to ensure over the coming weeks and months that every senator who voted in favor of the card check bill is held accountable, by freedom-loving constituents, for that vote. And the senators who have the most of all to answer for are those who voted for cloture, but aren’t honest enough to admit that they are supporting the bill.

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