

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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National Right to Work Measure Returns *Will Republican Congressional Leaders Seize This Opportunity?*

Joined by 29 original cosponsors, Virginia Congressman Bob Goodlatte (R) reintroduced the National Right to Work Act (H.R.1109) in the U.S. House of Representatives March 20.

A companion Right to Work Bill is expected to be introduced in the Senate within a few weeks.

Under six National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) and Railway Labor Act (RLA) provisions, workers can now be fired for refusal to pay dues or “fees” to union officials whom federal bureaucrats have certified as their “exclusive” (monopoly) bargaining agents.

Right to Work Supporters’ Hopes For Floor Votes Are Now Far Higher

Like other Right to Work measures introduced by Mr. Goodlatte since 1995, his new bill would repeal all of these forced-dues provisions.

National Right to Work Committee hopes for congressional floor votes on forced-dues repeal are far higher now than in previous years, since President George W. Bush and the leaders of both chambers of Congress are all on record in favor of this measure.

With the White House’s backing, congressional Right to Work supporters now have a window of opportunity to initiate a debate over the basic moral issue of whether federal labor policy should favor compulsory union membership.

That’s a debate Right to Work supporters are sure to win, no matter what the outcome of House or Senate floor votes.

But this window may not be open much longer.



Emulating Leonid Brezhnev’s exile of Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, UAW union bosses are sending uncooperative

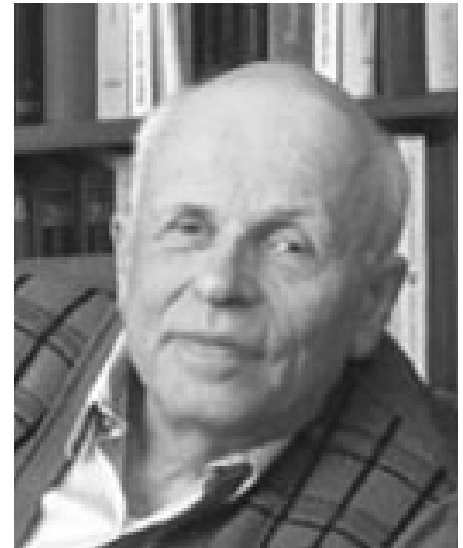
Monopoly-Bargaining Agent Pins ‘Crazy’ Tag on Worker Who Dared to Challenge Him

Compulsory union dues are only half of Congress’s double-pronged attack on employee freedom.

By denying individual employees the freedom to represent themselves in negotiations with their employers, and instead maintaining the union monopoly-bargaining privilege in labor law, Congress puts countless thousands of workers out in the cold.

Several examples were recently cited by United Autoworkers (UAW) union local official Gregg Shotwell.

Writing in the December 2000 issue of the unofficial union publication *Labor Notes*, the independent-minded Mr. Shotwell described how three Ford



autoworkers on “psychiatric leave” while Congress forces them to pay for UAW rule’s “benefits.”

autoworkers who had refused to kowtow to their local UAW brass were recently put on involuntary “psychiatric leave.”

According to Mr. Shotwell, none of these workers had threatened or harmed anyone, or even been examined by a mental-health professional, prior to being put on “leave.”

In all three cases, he wrote, “union officials supported, assisted, and/or instigated the action.”

One employee that Mr. Shotwell described as an “easy going, even tempered” middle-aged man, who intended to run for union office, quickly consented to a psychological evaluation in order to be permitted to return to work.

The psychiatrist found nothing wrong, but the man was still not allowed to return to his job for another three months.

See **Americans** page 3

Union Bosses Rush to Rewrite Electoral History

But Record Shows Big Labor-Appeasing Candidates Hurt Themselves

As the actual results of Election 2000 begin to recede in the collective memory of politicians Inside-the-Beltway, AFL-CIO czar John Sweeney is busily engaged in myth-making about what happened.

Of course, Mr. Sweeney and his cohorts really do have plenty to brag about.

Wielding an estimated \$800 million in union treasury funds, which are derived overwhelmingly from dues and “fees” that workers are forced under federal and state law to pay as a job condition, they nearly installed union puppets as U.S. Senate and House leaders and came within a few votes of electing Al Gore as President.

But Mr. Sweeney is not content merely to impress politicians and their advisors with the extent of his forced dues-fed power.

He wants them to believe that it is futile for any politician to challenge the union hierarchy’s special privileges, especially the federally-granted privilege to get workers fired for refusal to pay union tribute.

Mr. Sweeney’s propaganda is in no way borne out by the 2000 election results, nor by the results of previous elections.

Not One Senator Who Had Voted For Right to Work Bill Was Defeated in 2000

While the Big Labor machine helped oust five incumbent GOP senators last year, not one of these senators had stood up to the union bosses by voting in favor of the National Right to Work Act when it came to the Senate floor in July 1996.

Meanwhile, every one of the eight senators on the ballot (all Republicans) who had voted for the Right to Work Bill, which would repeal federally-authorized forced union dues, won reelection.

The fact is, GOP senators got no quarter from Mr. Sweeney by seeking to appease him. But the senators who had voted for Right to Work could claim the moral high ground as the true defenders of basic rights and freedom.

The 2000 presidential election results demonstrate the same point.

Unlike the GOP presidential nominees in 1992 and 1996, who ran away from the

Right to Work issue, 2000 nominee George W. Bush openly pledged to “work with Congress” to pass the Right to Work Bill.

And in the 12 states with the highest share of unionized workers the Bush-Cheney ticket performed, on average, seven percentage points better than the 1996 Dole-Kemp team and two points better than Bush-Quayle in 1992.

At the same time, Bush-Cheney carried 20 of the 21 states with Right to Work laws on the books, failing to win only Iowa, and falling short there by fewer than 5300 votes.

Candidates Who Stick To Principle Often Defeat Massive Union Machine

The union machine is formidable, and worth far more than Big Labor’s \$83 million in reported contributions to federal candidates and parties in 1999 and 2000.

As noted journalist Victor Riesel, a personal friend of long-time AFL-CIO chief George Meany, showed in a series of syndicated columns in the 1970’s, unreported union campaign expenditures are worth up to 10 times as much as the reported contributions.

That puts the total value of Big Labor’s hidden 1999-2000 federal slush fund at roughly \$800 million!

Unreported forced-dues contributions, explained Mr. Riesel, include “staff time — meaning union officials who are assigned to campaigns for months on end [while remaining on the union payroll],” and also “printing costs, postage, telephone, and various other support services”

There’s no magic formula for a candidate who is opposed by this huge political machine to win an election. But the record in 2000 and in previous elections shows that taking a principled, public stand in favor of Right to Work definitely helps.

Real Problem Is Simple: Union Bosses’ War Chest Comes From Forced Dues

In a recent speech at a Washington, D.C., think tank, Linda Chavez, whose nomination as Bush labor secretary was derailed in January largely because of



Derailed Cabinet pick Linda Chavez: The rub with Big Labor politicking is it’s financed by forced dues.

fierce union-boss opposition, noted that the size of Big Labor’s war chest is not really the issue.

The problem, said Ms. Chavez, is that “[u]nion dues are not really voluntary.

“What should not happen is that [treasury funds], which are not voluntary, be spent on political action and be spent secretly.”

National Right to Work Bill Is True Solution

While Ms. Chavez suggested that political abuse of forced dues could be effectively addressed by regulatory agencies, federal courts have already tried for 40 years to curb forced-dues politicking through case law, with very limited success.

“The true federal solution to the problem of forced union dues in politics is repeal of the provisions in federal labor law that empower union officials to collect forced dues,” said Mark Mix, senior vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

“Passing forced-dues repeal legislation, even with President Bush’s support, is going to be an uphill battle in the current Congress.

“But the mere act of bringing the Right to Work Bill up for floor votes, so that freedom-loving citizens can know exactly who supports it, and who opposes it, will be a big step toward solving the problem.” 📌

Americans Oppose Forced Unionism

Continued from page 1

Later, he discovered that his UAW “rep” had written a statement asserting that he suffered from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder due to his experiences in Vietnam.

In reality, the man graduated from high school in June 1974, more than two months after U.S. military involvement in Vietnam had come to an end.

Forced Dues Promote Big Labor Indifference, Hostility Toward Individual Employee’s Needs

Now that he is back on the job, the autoworker, who understandably wishes to remain anonymous, is still being denied access to most areas of the plant, according to Mr. Shotwell.

This case, the two other similarly outrageous cases cited by Mr. Shotwell, and many others demonstrate that Congress has no business corralling employees into unions “for their own good.”

“The individual worker is in a far better position than Congress to assess whether he or she would benefit from union representation,” noted Mark Mix, senior vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

“Furthermore, once workers are in a union, Congress should not restrict their

freedom to penalize union bosses financially for negligence or abuse of office by resigning and withholding their dues.

“Passage of the National Right to Work Act is a key step toward a new labor-law system designed to protect workers’ dignity, not union officials’ institutional interests.”

Why Miss Opportunity To Bring Up Politically Potent Right to Work Issue?

Most Americans don’t have any trouble seeing that federally-imposed forced unionism is wrong.

Poll after poll has shown that registered voters nationwide agree, by at least a three-to-one margin, that no one should be compelled to pay union dues to get or keep a job.

And every time Congress has voted on a forced-unionism issue, going back more than 35 years, the result has been a gain in support for Right to Work after the next election cycle.

For example, in 1996 the Senate voted on the National Right to Work Act.

Although the measure was defeated and Big Labor went on to spend an estimated half-a-billion dollars or more trying to buy the 1996 elections, the end



Mark Mix: Every new cosponsor reinforces the message that Right to Work is a key issue.

result was a net gain of five Right to Work supporters in the Senate within less than a year.

“Votes on the Right to Work Bill in this Congress would likely prove even more effective at mobilizing freedom-loving citizens, because we now have a President who is publicly committed to signing such legislation,” noted Mr. Mix.

“House Speaker Dennis Hastert [R-Ill.] and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott [R-Miss.], who both lead heavily pro-Right to Work legislative caucuses, would miss a valuable opportunity if they refused to bring up forced-dues repeal for votes.”

Members Urged to Contact Their U.S. Representatives

Mr. Mix urged Right to Work supporters around the country to contact their congressmen and women urging them to cosponsor and seek roll-call votes on the National Right to Work Act.

“Every new cosponsor will reinforce the message for Speaker Hastert and Majority Leader Lott that Right to Work is a key issue that they need to address in this session of Congress,” he said.

“Whether or not their representatives have been Right to Work supporters in the past, Committee members should contact them this month and tell them that support for Mr. Goodlatte’s bill is a matter of common sense and fundamental fairness.”

Right to Work supporters may reach their representatives’ Capitol Hill offices through the Capitol switchboard, 202-225-3121.



WILLIAM JORDAN

The vast majority of Americans agree that Congress should not restrict union members’ freedom to penalize union

bosses financially for negligence or abuse of office by resigning and withholding their dues.

Union Officials' 'Power Grab' Goes On

By Reed Larson

After playing a central, but largely unrecognized role in creating the ongoing California energy crisis, building-trades union officials are now on the verge of exploiting it to seize even more power over the Golden State's economy.

A radical measure (S.B.33) supported by Gov. Gray Davis that now appears poised to pass the union boss-friendly state Senate would turn California's privately-owned power grid and some 32,000 miles of power lines into state government property.

As critics charge, this hare-brained scheme would do nothing to solve the crisis. It wouldn't add to the power supply or reduce demand.

But S.B.33 would make building-trades union officials happy since, in California, taxpayer-funded construction is virtually always Big Labor-controlled.

S.B.33 would reward some of the very people who helped produce the crisis.

More than a decade ago, San Mateo union lawyer Thomas Adams and plumbers and pipefitters' union officer Thomas Hunter developed a novel strategy to force California power producers to discriminate against nonunion contractors and their employees.

As San Francisco labor attorney Mark Thierman reported in the January 29 *Engineering News-Record* (for the entire column, see www.enr.com), Mr. Adams and Mr. Hunter began to file environmental

protests on power projects as a means of securing union-only construction deals.

Under these discriminatory "project labor agreements," or PLA's, nonunion firms must agree to force their employees to adhere to union work rules and fill open positions through union hiring halls in order to submit a bid on a contract.

PLA's, of course, set the stage for Big Labor to force independent workers to pay union dues as a job condition.

'Environmental Protests' Are Dropped in Exchange For Union-Only Hiring Pacts

The group California Unions for Responsible Energy (CURE) — formed in 1997 for the purpose of filing environmental protests — now bluntly tells project owners it will withdraw them in exchange for the "socioeconomic impact mitigation" of a PLA.

You might suppose it would be illegal for union officers to abuse environmental law in this way for extortionate purposes.

But union-influenced government bureaucrats disagree. The state Energy Commission rejected a challenge to CURE's extortion in 1997.

Since then, it's been all but impossible to get permission to construct or upgrade a power plant in California without a PLA.

According to Mr. Thierman, this has led to an average 20% hike in

construction costs due to the exclusion of competitive nonunion bids, Big Labor featherbedding, and strikes called in violation of contract clauses.

Denied the ability to make a profit, in recent years contractors have almost ceased building power plants in California.

Consequently, today California suffers from a massive power supply deficit that can result either in major price hikes — possibly imposed both on power customers and taxpayers — or government rationing.

While economists of various political stripes agree that any short-term solution to the California crisis will involve allowing the price of energy to reflect its actual cost, most Californians know they also need to increase the supply.

For this purpose, the California Legislature obviously needs to overturn the irrational four-year-old bureaucratic ruling that entitles union officials to halt plant construction through blackmail disguised as an "environmental complaint."

To state the obvious, if an environmental complaint has merit, it should be resolved. If not, it should be tossed out.


But no public interest is served when Big Labor gets an environmental complaint, worthy or unworthy, dismissed because a contractor has acquiesced to discrimination against employees on the basis of union status.

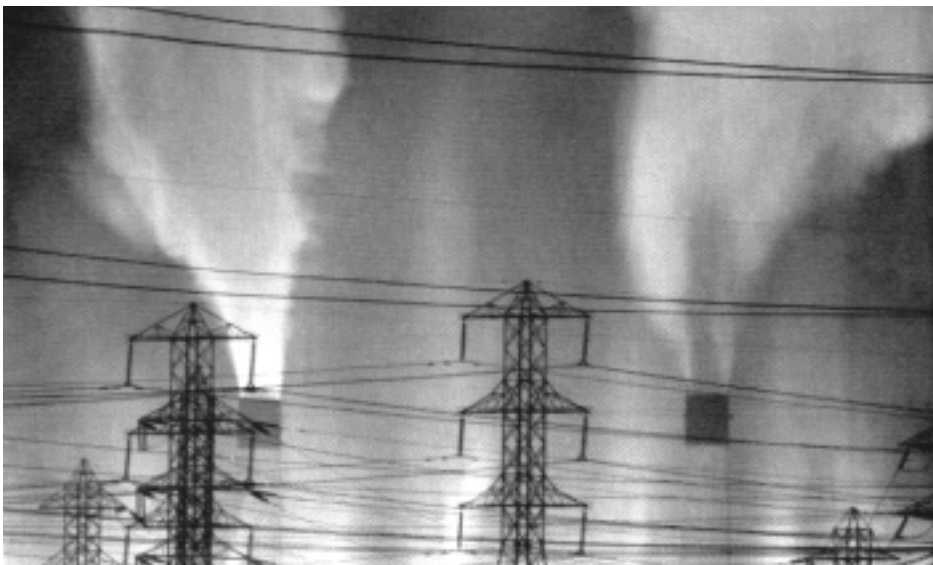
Unfortunately, instead of moving to change this flagrantly absurd state policy, the union-label politicians who run the Legislature are now seeking to ram through S.B.33, Gov. Davis's state takeover of the power industry.

That would further increase building-trades union officials' power to corral workers into unions while burdening taxpayers with a new, multi-billion-dollar, money-losing "investment."

I urge freedom-loving Californians to contact their state senators at 916-445-4311 to urge them to oppose S.B.33 on all votes.

And also urge your senators to support legislation that bars the dismissal of environmental complaints as a quid pro quo for discriminating against nonunion employees.

This op-ed was distributed to nearly 380 California newspapers March 22. 



NEWSMAKERS

Assisted by California bureaucrats, union officials used extortion to secure near-monopoly control over energy-

related construction. Then Big Labor featherbedding sent costs so high that such construction virtually ceased.

Union Bosses Lead Charge Against Bush Tax Cut

But New Poll Shows Most Union Members Support President's Plan

Ignoring the results of a new national survey by respected independent pollster John Zogby that shows a solid majority of union members support George W. Bush's proposed tax cut, AFL-CIO czar John Sweeney is mobilizing his compulsory dues-financed political army to defeat the President's tax-relief measure.

Last month Mr. Zogby, whose breathtakingly accurate calls on the 1996 and 2000 presidential races have been widely hailed, released the results of a nationwide poll on the Bush tax-cut plan, which included a cross-tabulation of union members.

Union members (including both voluntary members and many others corralled into an unwanted union) support the President's proposal by a hefty 55% to 34% majority, with the rest unsure.

Boss Sweeney: 'We Will Not . . . Allow the Bush Tax Cut to Become Law'

That's right in line with the overall 57% to 33% nationwide support for the Bush tax cut found by Mr. Zogby.

It's not so surprising that most unionized workers would favor this income-tax plan.

If it is passed as proposed and fully implemented, then a two-income family, union or nonunion, earning a total of \$60,000 a year, with two dependent children and \$12,000 in itemized deductions, will see its tax bill go down from \$4520 to \$2545.

Nonetheless, Mr. Sweeney is unabashedly digging deep into union treasury funds filled with unionized workers' forced dues and "fees" to bankroll a full-scaled campaign against a plan that is strongly favored by those workers.

"We cannot — and together we will not — allow the Bush tax cut to become law," snarled Mr. Sweeney in a March 1 speech.

Workers' Forced Dues Pay For Pro-Tax Rallies, Tendentious 'Studies'

Mr. Sweeney later vowed to deploy his political machine "for the defeat of senators who fail to do the right thing," that is, vote to kill any budget plan that



Heeding Big Labor orders, politicians like Sen. Ted Kennedy (Mass.), Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (S.D.),

and House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt (Mo.) are opposing President Bush's tax-relief plan.

offers more than token, temporary relief for federal income taxpayers.

The AFL-CIO hierarchy's pro-tax rallies, petition drives, and tendentious "studies," churned out by an Inside-the-Beltway union front group that is misnamed "Citizens for Tax Justice," are all financed by workers' forced dues.

Under federal and state law, an estimated 12 million workers are forced to pay an average of \$600 annual tribute as a job condition to the union officials whom government bureaucrats have certified as their "exclusive" union representatives.

While union bosses cannot legally give this money directly to their pet federal candidates, they can and do funnel a huge share of it into electioneering efforts such as partisan phone banks and into lobbying for Big Labor's pet causes.

"It's outrageous that John Sweeney and his cohorts are using workers' forced dues and 'fees' to defeat a tax cut that the majority of the workers support," said John Tate, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"And right now there appears to be a strong possibility that Mr. Sweeney will succeed in killing meaningful tax relief.

"This is another powerful example of

why America needs more state Right to Work laws and a national Right to Work law, which would repeal the federal labor-law provisions that authorize Big Labor to get workers fired for refusal to pay union tribute."


National Right to Work Bill Was Reintroduced In U.S. House Last Month

As this month's Newsletter cover story reports, a forced-dues repeal measure, known as the National Right to Work Act, was reintroduced in the U.S. House as H.R.1109 last month, and will be reintroduced in the Senate soon.

Mr. Tate urged Right to Work members everywhere to contact their representatives and senators in support of this bill by using the congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3121.

"American workers and their families should be able to decide for themselves whether they want to take action in support of the Bush tax cut, oppose it, or stay on the sidelines.

"Congress shouldn't empower John Sweeney or anyone else to decide for them which side they're on.

"It's time to pass a national Right to Work law." 

Forced Dues Bankroll Union Political Army

Thousands of Union ‘Organizers’ Electioneered Full Time in 2000

A key provision in the so-called campaign-finance “reform” measure (S.27) that a team of Big Labor politicians and others who seem to be simply misguided are trying to ram through the U.S. Senate this spring would bar reported, voluntary “soft” money contributions to political party committees.

As many Newsletter readers know, under current federal law, “soft” money can finance phone banks, get-out-the-vote drives, and mailings designed to help a political party’s candidates, but cannot be channeled into a particular candidate’s coffers.

Union-label Sen. Russ Feingold (D-Wis.) and usually pro-Right to Work Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), S.27’s lead sponsors, would stamp out this form of voluntary contribution.

But Mr. Feingold and Mr. McCain don’t appear to have anything against phone banks and get-out-the-vote drives per se.

Not, that is, as long as they are bankrolled by compulsory union dues and so-called “agency fees” that union nonmembers are forced under federal and state law to pay in order to keep their jobs.

S.27 is not designed to stop Big Labor from commandeering workers’ forced tribute for electioneering activities.

In fact, Section 304 of the bill would actually eviscerate the very limited power objecting workers now enjoy under U.S. Supreme Court precedents to stop union officials’ misuse of their forced dues for politics.

Union Bosses Tacitly Admit Politics Consume Much Of Their Paid Staff Time

When confronted about their bill’s favoritism toward forced due-funded electioneering activities, S.27 proponents often try to minimize such activities’ cash value.

But a host of recent public statements by union officials themselves confirm that a large share of paid union staff time, whose total value for private-sector unions alone exceeds \$2.4 billion a year, is devoted to partisan politicking and lobbying.

In January, for example, several AFL-CIO officers told *The New York Times*, in effect, that thousands of union organizers ceased their organizing activities for



According to Dr. Leo Troy’s (left, with Reed Larson) formula, the value of unreported forced-dues support for

1999–2000 candidates was at least 75% greater than reported “soft” contributions to either major party!

several months in 2000 to focus solely on electing and reelecting their puppet politicians.

As veteran labor reporter Steven Greenhouse summarized their admission, “[U]nions organized fewer members last year because they threw so much money, energy and manpower into electoral politics.”

Any observer who considers just the forced dues-funded salaries of union staff while they are on political assignments can see that the total value of Big Labor’s federal slush fund each election year is at least several hundred million dollars.

In fact, Rutgers University economist Leo Troy, the leading academic authority on U.S. labor unions, estimates that union bosses’ forced-dues “in-kind” spending on federal campaigns is three to five times higher than reported union PAC expenditures.

For 1999–2000, that would put the value of Big Labor’s estimated “in-kind” contributions at least 75% higher than the reported, voluntary “soft” money contributions received by the GOP or the Democrats.

Forced-Dues Repeal Necessary For Genuine Campaign-Finance Reform

Under *Beck* and related Supreme Court rulings won by National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation attorneys, workers who object currently have the legal right to stop the misuse of

their forced dues for any kind of politics or lobbying.

Since a recent poll indicated 60% of union-“represented” workers don’t want any of their dues spent on politicking, the potential universe of objectors among the eight million private-sector forced-dues payers alone is nearly five million.

However, scofflaw union bosses have successfully used cover-ups, stalls and threatened firings to suppress *Beck* objections.

As a result, the number of workers who are actively exercising their *Beck* rights is in the thousands, not millions.

And a well-intentioned February executive order by President Bush that is now being implemented to promote awareness of the *Beck* decision can’t be expected to lead to any dramatic change, since knowing your *Beck* rights usually isn’t sufficient to exercise them.

“As long as federal law continues to grant Big Labor the raw power to seize tribute from workers, union bosses will hold the advantage in legal disputes over how forced dues are spent,” noted National Right to Work Committee President Reed Larson.

“And that’s why any true campaign-finance reform package would have to begin with the National Right to Work Act, which would abolish the forced-dues provisions in federal labor law.

“Meanwhile, Right to Work supporters must fight to defeat phony ‘reforms’ like S.27 that would rig federal election law even further in union-label politicians’ favor.” 🗳️

UAW Czars Fail to Quash Workers' Lawsuit

\$550 Million Case Based on Allegations of Rampant Corruption

Last month a federal judge in Detroit rejected a joint bid by United Autoworkers union and General Motors corporate lawyers to squelch a \$550 million civil class-action suit filed by 142 employees against international and local UAW bosses and GM.

The suit alleges that a 1997 strike against GM plants in Pontiac, Mich., was prolonged because union bosses demanded bogus "overtime" pay for themselves and jobs for relatives as a condition for ending the strike.

It further claims that the Pontiac truck plants' nearly 6000 employees lost a total of \$50 million in pay while being kept out on strike to secure UAW bosses' illegal strike demands.

The employees are suing GM for a portion of the \$50 million in compensatory damages because, they argue, the company had an obligation to inform employees in some way about UAW misconduct, but failed to do so.

The suit also seeks \$500 million in punitive damages from UAW bosses.

The charges in this case constitute only one field of inquiry in ongoing investigations by the FBI and the U.S. Labor Department of UAW corruption and nepotism in the Detroit area.

Significantly, GM lawyers have cited union officials' "exclusive" (monopoly) privilege under federal labor law to bargain employee contracts as sufficient grounds for tossing out the case, even if all the allegations are true.

"GM is arguing, with UAW lawyers' consent, that pro-forced unionism labor law gives union bosses immunity from being sued for enriching themselves at workers' expense," said John Tate, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.



DETROIT NEWS

UAW czar Stephen Yokich is refusing to discuss ongoing federal investigations of UAW corruption.

"In effect, the GM and union lawyers are seconding the late U.S. Sen. John McClellan's [D-Ark.] dictum that 'Compulsory unionism and corruption go hand in hand.'"

Charges in Lawsuit May Represent Only 'Tip of the Iceberg'

The suit, for which plaintiffs' attorney Harold Dunne is now seeking class-action status, specifically charges that a "bargaining" team of UAW bosses divvied up roughly \$200,000 in phony overtime payments to which GM ultimately acquiesced in order to end the 1997 truck-plant strike.

Meanwhile, rank-and-file workers in

Pontiac lost \$10,000 to \$20,000 apiece in pay while the strike was prolonged.

According to Pontiac workers who have been interviewed by federal agents, the lawsuit's allegations represent just the "tip of the iceberg" in a large-scale investigation of the UAW hierarchy.

Kalamazoo, Mich., resident Pat Meyer, the widow of one UAW-"represented" worker and the mother of two others and a spokeswoman for the plaintiffs, has said that workers nationwide are sharing information to assist the federal probe.

"The inspector general told me they want [UAW international President] Stephen Yokich and his lieutenants," Ms. Meyer told the *Detroit Free Press*.

Indeed, one of the apparently unqualified UAW-boss relatives who was hired immediately after the Pontiac strike was settled was Jason Beardsley, son of James Beardsley, Mr. Yokich's administrative assistant.

Another apparently unqualified hire was David Shoemaker, son of international UAW Vice President Richard Shoemaker.

David Shoemaker needed to work at a truck plant for a year to qualify for his current \$75,000-a-year UAW job.

Federal Labor Law Serves As 'Silent Partner' Of Corrupt Union Bosses

Federal labor law serves as corrupt union officials' "silent partner" by handing them monopoly power to negotiate workers' contracts and to force workers, if they are not protected by a state Right to Work law, to pay union dues as a job condition.

Because of federally-imposed forced unionism, dissenting workers can be fully aware that crooked union officials are ripping them off, but powerless to get out from under the union monopoly or even to withhold their dues money.

"This year Congress must side with the union-'represented' workers who are victimized and prevented from fighting back by voting on the National Right to Work Act, which would repeal federally-imposed forced dues," said Mr. Tate.

He urged congressional leaders to act promptly on this bill, starting in the House, where it was reintroduced March 20 by Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.).

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Tax Dollars Slated For Tarnished Teamster Brass

GOP Governor Rewards Union Cronies While Feds Investigate Them

Top Teamsters Local 25 officials in Boston face an ongoing criminal investigation into charges that they have used extortion to obtain plum movie-crew jobs for thuggish union cronies, including seven convicted bank robbers, all implicated in a murderous armored car heist.

Meanwhile, Massachusetts Gov. Paul Cellucci (R) has earmarked \$125,000 in taxpayer-funded “worker development” grants for these same Teamster bosses in his Fiscal 2001 budget plan!

Mr. Cellucci’s coziness with union chiefs who are being probed by the feds is raising hackles among his constituents.

The Teamsters Local 25 scandal also raises larger questions about how a gaping loophole in federal anti-extortion law threatens the safety and property not just of Boston movie-industry employees, but of communities across the country.

Boston Teamster Bosses Connected to a Multitude Of Scandal Allegations

Due to space limitations, only a small fraction of the numerous reports of violence and extortion at Teamsters Local 25 can be summarized in this month’s Newsletter.

Local 25 bosses reportedly used threats of work delays and cost overruns to force the producers of many 1990’s films shot in Massachusetts to hire as “drivers” seven convicted bank robbers, all implicated in the 1994 slaying of two armored car guards.

Local 25 bosses reportedly also used similar threats to force producers of the 1994 movie *Blown Away* to rent Mob boss Steve “The Rifleman” Flemmi’s condo to house their electricians and carpenters.

And the FBI is investigating charges that Local 25 bosses used extortion to

force producers to contract with Location Connection, a Boston company that provides movie-set trailers and other vehicles.

This firm is allegedly controlled by James P. Flynn, Local 25’s “transportation coordinator.”

It is alleged that this past summer Mr. Flynn ordered the murder of truck driver Susan Christy of Foxboro, Mass., who was working on the set of an MGM movie, because she refused to give up her snack-truck concession to a Flynn crony.

Local 25 President George Cashman, a Cellucci crony whom the governor has rewarded with a seat on the powerful Massport Board of Directors, was also allegedly involved in this incident.

Mr. Cashman reportedly learned about the plan and nixed the murder out of concern regarding the ongoing investigation.

Instead, Mr. Cashman reportedly agreed to have a Teamster thug “send Christy a message.”

For daring to defy a Teamster boss, Ms. Christy allegedly was “dragged around by her hair, thrown against her truck, and slapped upside the head.”

Are Politically-Connected Union Bosses Above the Law?

Federal anti-racketeering laws are designed to handle situations when state and local authorities look the other way while evidence mounts of systematic extortion and violence.

However, due to a loophole in the law as presently interpreted, union officials such as George Cashman and Jimmy Flynn are exempt from federal prosecution for orchestrating violence that advances so-called “legitimate union objectives.”

Flynn lawyer Richard Egbert gleefully summarizes current federal anti-extortion



AP / LAWRENCE JACKSON

Gov. Cellucci has earmarked \$125,000 in taxpayers’ money for Teamster bosses while the FBI probes them.

law in this way: “There are a lot of threats in this world that there are [sic] absolutely nothing wrong with.”

Next month, U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) will introduce legislation that would close the union violence loophole and allow federal prosecution of union-boss extortion, no matter what its purported motives.

This measure, known as the Freedom from Union Violence Act, would hold union officials who orchestrate beatings, shootings and bombings accountable to the same legal standards as other Americans who commit such crimes.

In early May, the National Right to Work Committee will launch a nationwide lobbying campaign to build Senate and House support for this bill.

Committee President Reed Larson urges members who are contacted to be generous in volunteering their time and, if possible, their financial support for this important effort.

Afterword: At press time, the Bush Administration’s recent nomination of Gov. Cellucci as ambassador to Canada is pending in the U.S. Senate.

While bestowing such an honor on an ethically-challenged Big Labor politician is a somewhat disturbing move by the White House, it may be good news for the people of Massachusetts. 🇺🇸

For daring to defy a Teamster boss, Ms. Christy allegedly was ‘dragged around by her hair, thrown against her truck, and slapped upside the head.’
