

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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Right to Work Bill Introduced in Senate *Supporters Energetically Recruit Cosponsors Across Capitol Hill*

Legislation backed by the National Right to Work Committee that would repeal federally-imposed forced union dues is moving forward in both chambers of Congress.

In the Senate, forced-dues repeal, officially known as the National Right to Work Act, was introduced May 14 by Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), joined by original cosponsors Tim Hutchinson (R-Ark.), Bob Smith (R-N.H.), and Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.).

And this month, Right to Work members are joining in a nationwide grassroots lobbying campaign to secure more cosponsors for the Right to Work Bill (H.R.1109/S.873), whose House version is now located in a key House panel chaired by Rep. Sam Johnson (R-Texas).

Federal Authorization For Forced Union Dues Curtails All Citizens' Freedom

As a strong Right to Work supporter and the new chairman of the Employer-Employee Relations (EER) Subcommittee of the House Education & the Workforce Committee, Mr. Johnson has expressed interest in holding a hearing on forced-dues repeal.

Because of the steady growth in Capitol Hill support for H.R. 1109/S.873 which now has 45 House and three Senate cosponsors, Right to Work hopes for floor action continue to grow.

Mark Mix, the National Right to Work Committee's senior vice president, succinctly explained the need for H.R.1109/S.873:

"The right to do something becomes coercion if it is not accompanied by a corresponding right to refrain."

"As long as the law of the land explicitly denies employees the right to



Forced union dues pay for phone banks, mailings, etc., that benefit politicians, such as House Minority Leader Dick

Gephardt (D-Mo., at podium), whom many forced dues-paying workers would never back voluntarily.

refuse to associate with or financially support a union, all Americans' freedom will be threatened."

Measure Would Remove Forced-Dues Provisions In Both NLRA and RLA

Under the National Labor Relations (NLRA) and Railway Labor (RLA) Acts, workers can currently be fired for refusal to pay dues or "fees" to union officials whom federal bureaucrats have certified as their "exclusive" (monopoly) bargaining agents.

Through the NLRA and RLA monopoly-bargaining provisions, Congress has stripped millions of employees who aren't union members, or wouldn't be if they had a real choice, of any freedom to negotiate on their own behalf over wages, benefits, etc.

H.R.1109/S.873 would not prohibit union monopoly bargaining, but it would greatly mitigate its harmful effects.

It would free millions of employees to penalize negligent, arrogant, or corrupt union officials by resigning their membership and withholding their dues.

How? H.R.1109/S.873 would simply repeal the six provisions in the NLRA and RLA that authorize forced union tribute.

Forced-Dues Money Bankrolls Special-Interest Politics

Forced-dues money pays for union actions that range from guerrilla warfare with management to systematic harassment of individual workers and "sweetheart" deal-making that protects

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Americans Oppose Forced Unionism

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union officials' privileges at most workers' expense.

It also pays for special-interest lobbying and partisan phone banks, get-out-the-vote drives and mailings.

Union-"represented" employees such as Gordon Merkley, who works at the Vulcan Materials Co. cement factory in Bakersfield, Calif., know this all too well.

Though Mr. Merkley is not a union member, to keep his job he is forced to pay monthly tribute to officers of International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 87, who wield monopoly-bargaining privileges at his workplace.

But in 1999 Mr. Merkley thought he could at least exercise his legal right, established in a number of U.S. Supreme Court cases won by the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, to stop the misuse of his forced dues for Teamster-boss politics.

Citing the Supreme Court's *Hudson* decision, he resisted paying any more union tribute until union bosses furnished him an independent audit of their books so that he could identify any activities that union nonmembers may legally refuse to bankroll.

At first, Teamster Local 87 bosses didn't respond at all.

Finally, after over a year's delay, last October they bluntly demanded that Mr. Merkley immediately pay 16 months' worth of forced "fees" — or be fired.

The union bosses openly admitted to charging Mr. Merkley for politics, PR, and other activities for which, according to the High Court, he cannot be forced to pay.

Mr. Merkley, aided by Foundation attorneys, is suing to stop the Teamster bosses from demanding his firing and to force them to return any forced dues

illegally taken from him and other employees.

But for most dissenting workers such obstructionist union-boss tactics render even the limited protection they have under court precedents meaningless.

Beck Rights Are Mostly Theoretical, Not Practicable, Under Current Labor Law

"In *Hudson, Beck*, and other decisions, the Supreme Court intended to protect the individual employee's freedom of political speech, while refusing to protect his or her right to refuse to bankroll a union," noted Mr. Mix.

"These decisions were steps in the right direction, and they have helped thousands of employees.

"But the 'remedy' of authorizing forced dues while seeking to regulate their diversion into politics is fundamentally flawed, as Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black recognized 40 years ago in his prophetic dissent in *Machinists v. Street*.

"Justice Black explained that this 'remedy', 'with its attendant trial burdens, promises little hope for financial recompense to the individual workers whose First Amendment freedoms have been so flagrantly violated. . .

"I cannot agree,' Justice Black continued, 'to treat so lightly the value of a man's constitutional right to be wholly free of governmental compulsion in the expression of opinions.'"

"The harsh experience of Gordon Merkley and thousands of other employees shows that exercising your *Beck* rights entails a serious risk of getting fired," said Mr. Mix.



Mark Mix: Under current labor law, exercising your *Beck* rights entails a serious risk of getting fired.

"That means under current labor law those rights are mostly theoretical, not practicable."

"As Justice Black saw, the true solution to union officials' political abuse of workers' forced dues is to make union dues fully voluntary.

"That is, in fact, the sole purpose of H.R.1109/S.873."

Right to Work Members Urged to Authorize Mailgrams to U.S. House

The nationwide Right to Work mailing posted early this month urges members to authorize the Committee to send mailgrams to their U.S. representative and to EER Chairman Johnson.

The mailgrams call on each House member to cosponsor H.R.1109 and, if he or she has already done so, to request House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) to allow a hearing on this legislation in Mr. Johnson's subcommittee by Labor Day.

Each new cosponsor helps pave the way for a House floor vote on H.R.1109 that would let all pro-Right to Work citizens know where their House members stand on the forced-unionism issue.

"Poll after poll has shown that nearly four out of five Americans agree that no one should be forced under federal law to affiliate with a union in order to hold a job," noted Mr. Mix.

"As the leader of a heavily pro-Right to Work legislative caucus, Mr. Hastert should have no trouble recognizing that a floor vote on H.R.1109 is a valuable opportunity."

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Striking Union Militants Endanger Sick Elderly

Connecticut Labor Strife Also Jeopardizes Mentally Ill, Retarded

Patients in 39 Connecticut nursing homes became pawns in strikes called by hospital union officials this spring to get state “taxpayers . . . to write them a blank check,” as an aide to normally pro-forced unionism Gov. John Rowland (R) described their demands.

Early last month the strikes spread to 17 group homes for the mentally ill and the mentally retarded before ending late last month.

To convince union bosses to allow employees to return to work, leaders of the Big Labor Democrat-controlled Legislature agreed to add \$21 million to Mr. Rowland’s proposed \$68 million hike in the state’s two billion-dollar biannual taxpayer subsidies for private nursing homes.

Interestingly, the 4.5% hike is expected to cover pay increases of only roughly 2.5% a year.

But Big Labor-influenced legislative leaders continue to pressure nursing-home operators to increase the number of nursing-home employees who pay forced union dues as a job condition to hospital union officials.

State Attorney: Patient ID Bracelets Were Removed, Medical Charts Jumbled

The strikes began March 20, as 4000 nurses, nursing assistants, dietary and maintenance workers followed Big Labor orders to walk out in a “one-day” job action that dragged on for nearly a week at many homes.

According to charges by nursing-home operators that were later confirmed by Chief State’s Attorney John Bailey, at least 10 homes were hit that day by strike-related vandalism and sabotage.

Mr. Bailey found that Alzheimer patients’ ID bracelets had been systematically removed, drugs were missing or left in disarray, narcotics regimens for patients were switched and put out of order, and a door to a supply room containing oxygen had been glued shut. Providentially, no one died.

Mr. Bailey also reported that sterile medical supplies had been tampered with, medication cards were missing, shower stalls were smeared with feces, and bolts were loosened on patient lifts.

In callous disregard for medical protocol, even “Do Not Resuscitate” stickers were

removed from several patients.

Although Mr. Bailey cautiously declined to suggest that union officials had approved the criminal sabotage in advance, saying only that the damage was widespread, local hospital union President Jerry Brown immediately decried the investigation as a “witch hunt.”

And Mr. Brown has so far refused publicly to offer any help for police investigating crimes allegedly committed by union militants in March or in the second round of strikes that began May 1.

Only one arrest of a union militant has been made in connection with the March incidents. Investigators complain that a “wall of silence” among union partisans has made it almost impossible to identify the culprits.

Federal Labor Law Fuels Crisis in U.S. Health Care

Mr. Brown is czar of New England Health Care Employees, District 1199, a division of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), soon expected to surpass the Teamsters to become the second largest union in the AFL-CIO conglomerate.

Mr. Brown and other SEIU officials’ power to wreak havoc in hospitals and nursing homes has been fueled over the past-quarter century by Congress’s 1974

decision to impose the federal forced-unionism system on most nonprofit health care employees.

Under the monopoly-bargaining law passed by Congress and signed by then-President Richard Nixon (R), even health-care employees who choose not to join a union must work under contract terms negotiated by union bosses — or be fired from their jobs.

The law also authorizes union officials to exact forced union dues from members and nonmembers alike.

Big Labor’s use of rigid work rules and cultivation of the “hate the boss” mentality to cement its power over health-care employees are the predictable results of the 1974 expansion of the pro-forced unionism National Labor Relations Act (NLRA).

“Unless Congress begins now to change course and roll back federally-imposed forced unionism, Americans’ health care could go the way of our domestic auto, steel, rubber and other industries ravaged by misguided labor laws,” predicted Mark Mix, senior vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

“That’s a key reason why the Committee is fighting so hard to secure roll-call votes on and ultimately to pass the National Right to Work Act [H.R.1109/S.873], which would repeal federally-imposed forced dues.” 📧



At least 10 Connecticut nursing homes endured strike-related sabotage, including the removal of Alzheimer

patients’ ID bracelets. Union bosses’ cavalier response to the incidents is offensive to conscientious employees.

New York Union Corruption Has Deep Roots

After 30 Months of DC 37 'Clean-Up,' Indictments Continue

Under a four-decade-old New York state policy, 125,000 public employees are forced to pay roughly \$90 million in dues and "fees" each year to District Council 37, New York's biggest municipal union, and its 56 local subsidiaries.

Municipal employees are also forced to accept DC 37 union local bosses "representation" at the bargaining table if they wish to keep their jobs.

DC 37 bosses retain their monopoly-bargaining and forced-dues privileges despite the fact that, over the past two-and-a-half years, 30 council officials have pleaded guilty to or been convicted on embezzlement, vote-fraud, and other charges.

Municipal Workers Forced To Bankroll 'Criminal' Outfit

Big Labor legislators in Albany deny they have any duty to protect school-crossing guards, librarians, janitors, hospital orderlies, and other employees from being forced to bankroll what federal prosecutors have called a "criminal enterprise."

Instead, claim the politicians, workers should put their trust in an internal union "clean-up" job that began in 1998.

But fresh indictments brought down in late April indicate that, even after more than half the union officials who were on DC 37's 28-member executive board three years ago have been ousted and convicted, the union is still thoroughly crooked.

One of the officials indicted April 25 was Helen Greene, president of Local 768 of the health services employees union and a vice president of DC 37's parent union, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME/AFL-CIO).

Ms. Greene has been widely viewed by rank-and-file DC 37 dissidents as a favorite of AFSCME President Gerald McEntee and his hand-picked DC 37 "trustee," Lee Saunders.

Dissidents accuse Mr. Saunders of rewriting election rules just hours before an August 1999 ballot in order to get Ms. Greene installed as executive director of the DC 37 board.

Now Ms. Greene is charged with stealing \$8600 by using union credit cards for personal expenses that include a \$780 restaurant tab for her son's 1996



As an officer of the thoroughly crooked DC 37 union empire, Helen Greene (center) may think it unfair to be

indicted for allegedly funneling only \$8,600 from forced dues-funded union treasuries for personal expenses.

wedding rehearsal dinner.

Prosecutors say Ms. Greene falsely claimed on union forms that the charge went to pay for a dinner for retirees.

Over a four-year period, Ms. Greene also used union credit cards to pay for clothes, electronics, and a down payment on a car lease.

Ms. Greene maintains her innocence, though her lawyers refuse to say publicly on what basis.

Will High-Ranked Official's 'Defense' Be: I Didn't Steal As Much as Others Did?

"Perhaps Ms. Greene could claim that, given the history of DC 37 officialdom, she should be rewarded, rather than charged, for allegedly stealing a sum of under \$10,000," speculated Reed Larson, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"After all, Peter Carosella, another DC 37 local officer indicted the same day, is charged with stealing over \$80,000.

"All told, theft, fraud and gross negligence by DC 37 bosses has cost union-'represented' municipal workers countless millions of dollars.

"One DC 37 local alone racked up a \$10 million debt after union treasuries were stolen or squandered by union bosses for maid services, Victoria's Secret lingerie, jewelry, a Manhattan penthouse suite, a plantation-style house in Georgia, etc."

The fact is, especially in the public

sector, forced union representation and forced union dues promote Big Labor corruption by stripping the individual worker of the right to penalize corruption when he sees it.

New York Experience Offers Grim Warning To Other States

Any worker who refuses to let a corrupt union official bargain on his or her behalf or to pay union dues is summarily fired.


Ultimately, as in the case of DC 37, the corruption goes beyond embezzlement and the solicitation of kickbacks from union vendors, as Organized Crime figures infiltrate the union and begin demanding a cut of the graft.

The late U.S. Sen. John McClellan (D-Ark.) observed years ago that, "compulsory unionism and corruption go hand in hand."

New York's original public-sector forced unionism law was enacted in 1961, just two years after the first such state law.

In some states that enacted such laws more recently, the rot is only now beginning to spread.

"States such as Ohio and Pennsylvania still have time to change course by restoring public employees' Right to Work," noted Mr. Larson.

"Otherwise, the DC 37 union-corruption scandal may be replayed in municipal governments across the country over the next few years." 

Union-Violence Bill Introduced in Senate

Would Close Loophole For Union Thugs With ‘Legitimate Objectives’

Joined by two original cosponsors, U.S. Sens. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) and Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) introduced the National Right to Work Committee-backed Freedom from Union Violence Act (S.902) on Capitol Hill May 16.

S.902 was immediately reported to the Senate Judiciary Committee, whose ranking GOP member is Sen. Orrin Hatch (Utah).

This legislation would close the loophole in federal law that currently exempts union boss-orchestrated extortionate violence from prosecution when it is committed pursuant to so-called “legitimate union objectives.”

If S.902 is enacted, Big Labor barons will no longer be able, without fear of federal prosecution, to foment, plan and commit violence against employees of a firm engaged in interstate commerce with the goal of corraling them into a union.

For far too long, independent employees and businesses have been victimized by power-hungry, win-at-any-cost Big Labor bosses who resort to violence, predominantly against workers, as a bargaining tool under the guise of fighting for “worker rights.”

Teamster Assault Victim’s Lawsuit Uncovers Officials’ Direct Role in Violence

One example is former Florida truck driver Rod Carter, who in August 1997 was brutally assaulted by union militants when he chose to remain on the job instead of joining Teamster bosses’ nationwide strike against the United Parcel Service (UPS).

After Mr. Carter appeared on the evening news to explain that, although he supported his colleagues’ right to strike, he couldn’t in good conscience support the strike itself, his wife got a threatening phone call from a man calling himself “Benny.”

Phone records later proved that the call had been placed from the home of then-Teamsters Local 769 President Anthony Cannestro Sr.

Mr. Carter’s wife, Earthly, feared for his safety. But he felt duty-bound to continue supporting her and their two young daughters.

Back on the job the next afternoon, he was stopped at a red light when a green



Rod Carter, shown with his family, won an undisclosed sum from Miami Teamster bosses after nearly being

murdered during the 1997 UPS strike. But rank-and-file unionists, not corrupt officials, will finance the deal.

Jeep Cherokee slowly pulled up from behind.

A Teamster thug jumped out, ripped open the door on the UPS truck, and began punching Mr. Carter, who was soon overwhelmed as four other thugs leapt from the Jeep and joined in the beating.

As the beating continued, yet another attacker, Benigno “Benny” Rojas, stabbed Mr. Carter repeatedly with an ice pick.

Assisted by National Right to Work Foundation attorneys, Mr. Carter later filed a state civil conspiracy suit against his assailants, Local 769 officials, and Local 769 itself.

Right to Work attorneys found several witnesses who swore that Mr. Cannestro had, prior to the assault, promised cash for bail bonds and legal assistance to any union militant arrested for any crimes committed against nonstriking drivers.

The witnesses further stated that Mr. Cannestro and two other local officials encouraged union militants to harass nonstriking drivers and to break the law.

One UPS employee stated in his affidavit that he personally witnessed union officials as they threatened to kill workers and rape their wives. He called Teamster bosses’ actions “the epitome of Organized Crime.”

After stalling tactics failed to stop the suit from moving forward, union officials, perhaps fearful of a trial, chose in April to settle with Mr. Carter for an undisclosed sum.

Settlement Helps Carters, But Completely Fails To Restore Rule of Law


Mr. Carter and his family are reportedly pleased with the settlement, as they were earlier by the convictions of the six assailants on the scene. (Only one did jail time for his attempted murder conviction, and he was released after a year.)

But union officials will suffer no criminal penalty for the Carter assault and stabbing, or for the over 100 illegal acts that can be attributed to Local 769 in just the four days prior to the attempted murder.

And, unfortunately, the payment to Mr. Carter’s family comes straight out of Teamster treasuries, which are almost entirely derived from honest rank-and-file workers’ dues and fees.

Because of the union-violence loophole in federal law, Mr. Cannestro and his cohorts cannot be held criminally accountable for the violence that, the evidence strongly suggests, they used as a bargaining tool in the UPS strike.

Right to Work members across the country are urged to contact Mr. Hatch and ask that he push for a series of committee hearings on S.902 to expose the grave threat to the rule of law posed by union violence.

Mr. Hatch can be reached at 202-224-5251. 

Top Wyoming NEA Union Official Talks Turkey

Younger Teachers' View of Unions 'Not Very Flattering,' She Admits

The former head of the National Education Association (NEA) teacher union's Wyoming subsidiary has publicly admitted that the NEA hierarchy's agenda for schools and society at large is wildly unpopular with the new generation of teachers.

Speaking before the Wyoming Education Association (WEA/NEA) union Delegate Assembly in Casper, Wyo., April 7, former WEA President Jean Hayek, now the WEA executive director, summed up younger teachers' view of unions as "not very flattering."

Ms. Hayek's assessment sheds light on why NEA officials support enactment of a new federal law to force all public-school teachers in all 50 states to pay union dues or "fees" as a job condition.

(Her remarks were quoted by California-based education journalist Mike Antonucci in his April 16 *Communique*.

See <http://members.aol.com/educintel/eia> to review this column and other investigative reporting by Mr. Antonucci.)

"No wonder NEA autocrats want a new federal forced-dues law for teachers and other school employees, as they brazenly admit on page 322 of the current *NEA Handbook*," said Reed Larson, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

Forced Dues Bankroll 'Collective Negative Action'

"They plainly fear this may soon be the only way to finance their increasingly unpopular agenda in states, such as Wyoming, that have no statute to authorize forcing teachers to accept union 'representation' or pay union tribute as a job condition," continued Mr. Larson.

The bulk of the NEA conglomerate's current revenues comes from the forced dues union officials are already empowered to collect under so-called

"agency shop" laws enacted by Big Labor legislators in other states.

In local, state and federal election campaigns across the country, NEA officials promote their self-interest and their ideology by spending massive amounts of teachers' and other school employees' forced dues.

At all levels, the NEA machine battles reforms that would reward teachers according to their abilities and accomplishments rather than mere seniority and opposes any testing that might result in dismissal of unqualified teachers.

As Ms. Hayek pointed out, younger teachers overwhelmingly disagree with NEA dogma.

They believe that "testing teachers is okay," she said, and that "qualifications and ability are more important than seniority." They see unions "as being about collective negative action."

Wyoming is a Right to Work state that prohibits firing employees for refusal to pay union tribute.

Furthermore, state legislators have refused demands by NEA union bosses to grant them statutory monopoly power to bargain over teacher pay, benefits, and work rules, and thus strip union nonmembers of all freedom to bargain on their own behalf.

Therefore, WEA union officials have no choice but to attend the views of rank-and-file teachers.

Ms. Hayek warned her fellow WEA union officers that they must try to accommodate the wishes of the new generation of teachers.

"If we don't . . . dramatically change our culture, we will indeed slowly starve to death . . .," she concluded.

"Jean Hayek has provided dazzling, though probably unwitting, testimony to the effectiveness of state Right to Work laws," said Reed Larson.

"Nowadays, teacher union militancy is



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Wyoming NEA official Jean Hayek knows: Without forced-unionism powers, you have to listen to teachers.

bemoaned by education observers almost across the political spectrum. More and more see how it results in lower student achievement, wasted tax dollars, and unjust treatment for outstanding teachers.

"But it is really just a symptom.


"Strip them of their monopoly privileges, and NEA bosses will reform themselves.

"This is how Fred Comer, then executive director of the NEA's Iowa subsidiary, explained his group's opposition to national union bosses' controversial 'gay rights month' proposal in 1995: 'Iowa is a Right to Work state; we have to earn our membership.'"

Committee Members Fight To Roll Back NEA Bosses' Forced-Unionism Privileges

Ms. Hayek's words should be an inspiration to the dedicated Right to Work members across the country who are fighting against forced dues and monopoly bargaining in America's public schools, added Mr. Larson.

Because of Committee members' vigilance, only one state has enacted a monopoly-bargaining law affecting school teachers since the mid-eighties. And this law, passed in New Mexico in 1992, was "sunsetting" in 1999 and is no longer on the books.

To learn more about how forced unionism harms schools in your state, contact Right to Work's education branch, Concerned Educators Against Forced Unionism, at (703) 321-9820. 

'Jean Hayek has provided dazzling, though probably unwitting, testimony to the effectiveness of state Right to Work laws.'

— Reed Larson

Why Does UA Union Boss Hate Right to Work?

Obviously, Welders Who Are Free to Withhold Dues Cramp His Style

Flamboyant union boss Marty Maddaloni, the general president of the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters union (UA/AFL-CIO), makes no bones about it: He hates Right to Work laws.

Not long ago, Mr. Maddaloni penned a nationally distributed op-ed in which he boasted of the UA machine's major role in the "fight against the spread of 'right-to-work.'"

But he also tacitly admitted that many rank-and-file UA-"represented" workers don't support this crusade.

As Mr. Maddaloni obliquely put it, "among our members . . . there are often misconceptions about 'right-to-work.'" That is to say, many UA members don't like being forced under federal law to pay union dues and "fees" in order to practice their trade.

Marty 'Invests' \$800 Million In Workers' Pensions to Build 'A Monument to Himself'

A series of exposés published in the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.) last month clarify why Mr. Maddaloni so vehemently opposes Right to Work laws, which simply protect the individual employee's freedom to refuse to bankroll a union without being fired or blacklisted.

Reporter Jeff Shields found that many

UA-"represented" tradesmen across the country are both alarmed and infuriated by what top UA officials, led by Mr. Maddaloni, are doing with their pension money.

Using a complex scheme to circumvent the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), Mr. Maddaloni and his cohorts took \$40 million in 1997 from the Plumbers and Pipefitters National Pension Fund to buy the Diplomat Hotel in Hollywood, Fla.

Since then, the pension fund — which covers about 40% of the UA's national membership — has poured an additional \$500 million out of its estimated total assets of \$4.2 billion into the Diplomat project.

So far no other investor has put a dime in this project.

The current estimated final price tag is \$800 million. But last fall, even a union-endorsed "independent" appraiser estimated the completed Diplomat's value at \$587 million, over \$200 million less than the cost to pension-fund participants.

Rank-and-file unionists who became aware of this plain abuse of their pension money immediately began to protest.

Charles Zimmer, a pipefitter and welder in Warren, Ohio, wrote to the U.S. Labor Department: "I completely oppose the use of my pension funds for something that is against the law and

against sanity. Please stop these people from taking my money!"

"The union has no business investing other people's money in these bonehead projects," wrote Richard Coburn, a tradesman from Simsbury, Conn.

But Mr. Zimmer, Mr. Coburn, and many other workers in the 29 non-Right to Work states were powerless to stop the union hierarchy's pension scheme.

Because of federal law, dissenting workers would have lost their freedom to earn a living if they had withheld their dues to protest what Maddaloni rival Tommy Pruett, a former high-ranking union officer, aptly calls Mr. Maddaloni's "monument to himself."

Union President Names Glitzy Restaurant, Even Coffee At Hotel Bar After Himself

"It's now clear why Marty Maddaloni is outraged by the prospect of more state Right to Work laws and, ultimately, a national Right to Work law being enacted," said Matthew Leen, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"Making heavy use of workers' forced pension contributions, he's pretending he's Donald Trump.

"When it's completed, the Diplomat boondoggle will feature 'Marty's' restaurant and 'Maddaloni' coffee, with Grand Marnier, Sambuca, and Myers's Rum, at the hotel bar.

"If pension-fund contributors in non-Right to Work states could protest this scheme, which financial experts expect will cost them hundreds of millions of dollars, by withholding their union dues, Mr. Maddaloni would certainly pay a heavy price for his arrogance.

"But for now his only concerns are a Labor Department investigation, which has so far dragged on for two years to little effect, and a quixotic challenge from Mr. Pruett, who has been 'assigned' to Laredo, Texas, which has zero UA members."

To unite protesting workers' hands, Newsletter readers are urged to call their senators and congressmen today at (202)224-3121 or (202)225-3121.

Ask them to sponsor and seek votes on the National Right to Work Act (S.873/H.R.1109), which would eliminate private-sector forced union dues in all 50 states. 📌



Union boss Marty Maddaloni is dumping \$800 million in workers' pension funds into a hotel that is widely

seen as a white elephant. Federal law bars workers from protesting by withholding their union dues.

Big Labor's Permanent Campaign Targets 'Dubya'

To Finance Massive Propaganda Blitz, Forced-Dues Hikes Are Likely

Top bosses of the AFL-CIO gathered in Boston May 1 to map out their militant political agenda.

The following day, AFL-CIO PR specialist Gerald Shea announced that the giant union conglomerate would spend massive amounts of workers' forced-dues money on a new permanent campaign designed to defeat the Bush Administration's policy initiatives.

Until now, the union political machine has consisted of tens of thousands of union staffers who, during election years, are reassigned to run phone banks, get-out-the-vote, and leafleting campaigns while remaining on forced dues-funded union payrolls.

But now hundreds, and perhaps soon thousands, of these union staffers will do politics full-time, all year round, every year.

Mr. Shea explained the rationale for the permanent campaign by berating the millions of rank-and-file unionized workers who "seem to see [President] Bush . . . as a nice guy."

He also indicated that these workers' reeducation will likely be financed with their own money: that is, a hike in the union dues and "fees" that they are forced to pay under federal and state laws if they wish to keep their jobs.

Mr. Shea reported that his boss, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, had "appointed a committee . . . to make recommendations" about how the new permanent campaign will be financed.

Most of the options he cited involve seizing even more money from the AFL-CIO's estimated 11 million forced-dues payers.

Zogby Poll Shows Most Union Members Support Bush Tax-Cut Plan

Mr. Shea claims that rank-and-file unionized employees who back President Bush are merely bedazzled by his "personal charm."

But recent polls show that most union members and other Americans of ordinary means actually support key elements in Mr. Bush's legislative program that the AFL-CIO's political army is bitterly opposing.

For example, in March respected independent pollster John Zogby released the results of a national survey that

showed a solid majority of union members support Mr. Bush's \$1.6 trillion tax cut (since slashed to \$1.35 trillion by Big Labor senators).

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

Americans of Average Means Also Back President's Social Security Reform

Yet the AFL-CIO hierarchy has lavishly spent tax-cut supporters' forced dues on pro-tax rallies, petition drives, and tendentious "studies," churned out by the misnamed Inside-the-Beltway union front group Citizens for Tax Justice.

Mr. Sweeney and his cohorts have already succeeded in watering down the tax cut (which even in its original form was designed to trim federal revenues by a modest 5-6% over 10 years) and may dilute it still further in the weeks ahead.

Another national poll released last month regarding Mr. Bush's plan to allow working Americans to invest a portion of their Social Security taxes in their own private accounts did not ask about union membership, but did include a subsection of citizens with under \$100,000 in total household assets.

The survey, conducted by the Boston-based financial research firm Dalbar, found that a 53% majority of citizens in this group would open such private accounts if they could.

It also shows strong support for the reform across age, gender and higher-asset groups.

Had the survey included a subsection of unionized workers, it would undoubtedly have shown a majority of them as also interested in participating.

But the AFL-CIO hierarchy is now gearing up for a full-scale, forced dues-funded effort to defeat Mr. Bush's Social Security reform.

Indeed, defeating this reform is clearly one of the top objectives of the AFL-CIO brass's new permanent campaign.

"It's outrageous that John Sweeney and his cohorts are using workers' forced dues and 'fees' to battle policy initiatives that most of the workers support," said John Tate, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.



AP / DOUG MILLS

AFL-CIO czar John Sweeney's agenda is often at odds with the views of forced dues-paying workers.

National Right to Work Bill Would Level Legislative Playing Field

"Unionized workers should have the same right as other Americans to make personal choices about which politicians and public policies they support or oppose," Mr. Tate continued.

"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."

A forced-dues repeal measure, known as the National Right to Work Act, was introduced in the U.S. Senate as S.873 last month.

This bill was previously introduced as H.R.1109 in the U.S. House, where it has 45 cosponsors at press time.

Mr. Tate urged Right to Work members everywhere to contact their senators and representatives in support of S.873/H.R.1109 by using the congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3121.

"Congress shouldn't empower John Sweeney or anyone else to decide for American workers and their families which side they're on," he explained.

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