

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 47, NUMBER 9

www.nrtwc.org

September 2001

AFL-CIO Bosses Scorn Views of Rank-and-File *Increasingly Obvious Rift Presents Opportunity For Right to Work*

As fall arrives, Big Labor-orchestrated lobbying campaigns appear poised to kill nascent initiatives by the Bush Administration to get the stagnant national economy moving again and reform the fiscally troubled Social Security program.

Union bosses' government-granted privilege to get workers fired for refusal to pay union dues or so-called "agency fees" enables them to maintain a huge political war chest and reign as the most powerful special interest in Washington, D.C.

That's why they may well soon deal a series of stinging defeats to GOP President George W. Bush.

President Bush and Allies Have Opportunity To Promote Right to Work

However, such Big Labor attacks also create an opportunity for Mr. Bush to advance the Right to Work cause.

A number of surveys recently taken by respected pollsters, including even the firm of regular AFL-CIO consultant Peter Hart, show that most union-"represented" workers and other workers don't agree with Big Labor czars about taxes and Social Security.

By calling the public's attention to the increasingly obvious rift between union officials and the workers for whom they claim to speak, and by citing this rift as evidence of the need for national Right to Work legislation, Mr. Bush could put the union bosses on the defensive.

"Unionized workers should have the same right as other Americans to make personal choices about which



Although most unionized workers favor the President's investment tax relief and Social Security reform plans,

AFL-CIO czar John Sweeney (right) is spending massive amounts of workers' forced dues to kill them.

politicians and public policies they support or oppose," said John Tate, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"President Bush should take advantage of this opportunity to explain to the public the need for a National Right to Work law, which he has already publicly indicated he favors."

Plurality of Union Members: Country 'Better Off' Today Because of Al Gore's Defeat

As Newsletter readers surely recall, for months last year AFL-CIO international President John Sweeney ran his giant forced-dues political machine at full blast to defeat Mr. Bush and elect then-Democratic Vice President Al Gore as President.

Since this effort failed by the thinnest of margins, Mr. Sweeney and his cohorts have spent countless additional millions in forced dues on

ads and other publicity attacking the new Administration's policies.

But most of the workers who are being forced to bankroll the AFL-CIO's crusade against Mr. Bush don't agree with it.

A survey released in July by well-known pollster John Zogby, for example, found that a 42% to 39% plurality of union members, including both voluntary members and those corralled into an unwanted union, believe the country is "better off today" because Mr. Bush beat Mr. Gore.

Most Union Members Backed Big Labor-Opposed Tax Cut

AFL-CIO PR specialists have sought to explain away such polls by claiming that rank-and-file unionized employees who back Mr. Bush are merely bedazzled by his "personal charm."

But other recent polls show that

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Forced Dues Used Against Workers

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most union members and other working Americans actually favor key elements in Mr. Bush's program that the AFL-CIO hierarchy has fought and continues to battle.

A Zogby survey released in March found that a 55% to 34% majority of union members supported Mr. Bush's \$1.6 trillion personal income tax-cut plan. The plan was enacted June 7, in somewhat watered-down form, despite Big Labor's virulent opposition.

The Bush Administration is now reportedly preparing a new proposal to reduce tax rates on businesses and investment, which were left unchanged by its original tax cut.

Pollster Scott Rasmussen released a national survey in early August that found Americans favor quick passage of another tax cut by a two-to-one margin. This poll did not ask about union affiliation.

But historically unionized workers' views match the general public's very closely on tax issues.

Nevertheless, union lobbyists are already close to lining up sufficient votes in Congress to block any additional tax relief.

"Many economists believe that reducing taxes on business investment is critical for preventing or at least shortening a national recession," said John Tate.

"Clearly, most rank-and-file unionized workers agree. But Big Labor is now using their forced-dues money to keep such taxes high."

Union Bosses Also Scorn Views of Workers On Social Security Reform

Another Bush proposal over which forced dues-paying workers sharply disagree with union officials is the President's plan to allow working Americans to invest a portion of their Social Security taxes into their own private accounts.

An April 2000 Zogby poll found that 66% of union members would be "likely to support" a reform that allowed them to take their "Social Security money and invest it in a retirement account" of their own choosing.

Another poll released last month that was financed by the AFL-CIO

hierarchy itself and conducted by Peter Hart Research inadvertently supported this finding.

According to Hart pollsters Geoffrey Garin and Guy Molyneux, "Most working people say they would take advantage of an option to invest a portion of their payroll taxes, including many who oppose privatization."

But John Sweeney and other international union leaders, again displaying a deep disdain for the ability of unionized workers to make their own political decisions, are leading a nationwide propaganda and lobbying blitz to kill the plan.

Last month, social-democratic magazine editor Bob Kuttner, a close Sweeney ally, confidently claimed that the Bush Social Security proposal was "bombing."

If Mr. Kuttner turns out to be right, Big Labor's forced dues-funded juggernaut will surely be the principal reason.

Hundreds of Millions Of Forced-Dues Dollars Funneled Into Politics

"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 Mr. Tate.

"More unabashedly than they have in the past two decades, union bosses are now working against the clearly expressed views of the majority of unionized workers on the issues of tax relief and Social Security reform.

"Regardless of the ultimate success of President Bush's efforts to cut taxes on business investment and reform social security, he should take the offensive on Right to Work.

"Now is the time for him to reiterate and emphasize his support, expressed during last year's presidential campaign, for repeal of the federal labor-law provisions that authorize Big Labor to get workers fired for refusal to pay union dues."

Forced-dues repeal legislation, known as the National Right to Work Act (H.R.1109/S.873), is now pending on Capitol Hill and has 78 House and Senate cosponsors.

"In explaining why Congress should



A plurality of union members agree America's "better off" because Big Labor-backed Al Gore lost.

take up this issue, Mr. Bush could call attention to the fact that the union political machine spends hundreds of millions of forced-dues dollars each year on controversial causes and candidates," continued Mr. Tate.

Right to Work Can Level Legislative Playing Field

"Forced dues pay for phone-bank, get-out-the-vote, and leafleting campaigns designed to further Big Labor's agenda," Mr. Tate added.

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

"It's time to vote on the National Right to Work Act.

"Even if this legislation is defeated, the union hierarchy will be forced to explain why they think workers aren't qualified to decide what's in their best interest.

"That in itself will be an eye-opener for many Americans."

National Right to Work Committee members who wish to contact Mr. Bush regarding Mr. Tate's suggestion can do so through the White House comment line, 202-456-6213.

Members are also urged to contact their representatives and senators in support of H.R.1109/S.873 by using the congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3121. 📞

National Union Bosses Wage War in Oklahoma

Multi-Million-Dollar Blitz Spreads Confusion About Ballot Initiative

Working closely with the Oklahoma City-based group Oklahoma Freedom to Work, the National Right to Work Committee is now intensifying its all-out mobilization effort in support of Question 695, a Right to Work ballot initiative. Sooner State citizens will vote on September 25.

The two groups are blanketing the state with mail and phone calls to their thousands of Right to Work members.

Right to Work proponents face an uphill, though potentially winnable, battle to pass Question 695.

It's true that, for decades, polls have shown that roughly 70% or more of Oklahomans support the principle behind this Right to Work Amendment to the state constitution, which would protect employees from getting fired for refusal to pay union dues.

Furthermore, since 1993, Oklahoma Freedom to Work and the Committee have mobilized nearly 100,000 citizens statewide to get actively involved in the fight for a Right to Work law.

Union Distortion Campaigns Often Succeed in Confusing Ballot-Initiative Voters

However, because voters who are called upon to legislate at the poll booth are naturally cautious, union officials almost always succeed in protecting the forced-dues status quo when Right to Work comes up as a ballot initiative.

Big Labor strategists know they can't shake the public's solid belief in the Right to Work principle, no more in Oklahoma than they have in previous battleground states, or convince voters of the truth of their assertions.

But all union propagandists need to do to win is raise doubts!

Of the 21 state Right to Work laws now on the books, 10 have been enacted since 1950. But only one, the 1958 Kansas law, was approved through a ballot initiative – and that after a multi-year citizen mobilization program had already secured substantial majority votes for a Right to Work law in both legislative chambers.

Only a veto by a governor who had broken his pledge to sign a Right to Work Bill kept the law from being adopted legislatively.

While adopting a Right to Work law by a ballot initiative has proven almost impossible, history shows it's far less difficult to protect existing Right to Work laws from repeal by a Big Labor-launched ballot referendum. *In fact, Right to Work forces have never lost such a battle!*

After learning about Right to Work laws' benefits by living under one, even for a short period of time, citizens who might otherwise be confused by Big Labor propaganda see through it easily.

That's what happened in Idaho, where a two-thirds majority of legislators passed a Right to Work law in 1985. A union-boss repeal referendum was soundly defeated in 1986.

Despite Obstacles, Committee Vice President Hopeful Of Oklahoma Victory

Aware of this history, leaders of Oklahoma Freedom to Work and the Committee have consistently supported efforts by Oklahoma legislative allies to pass a Right to Work law before the issue came up on a statewide ballot.

Even Big Labor-backed Oklahoma

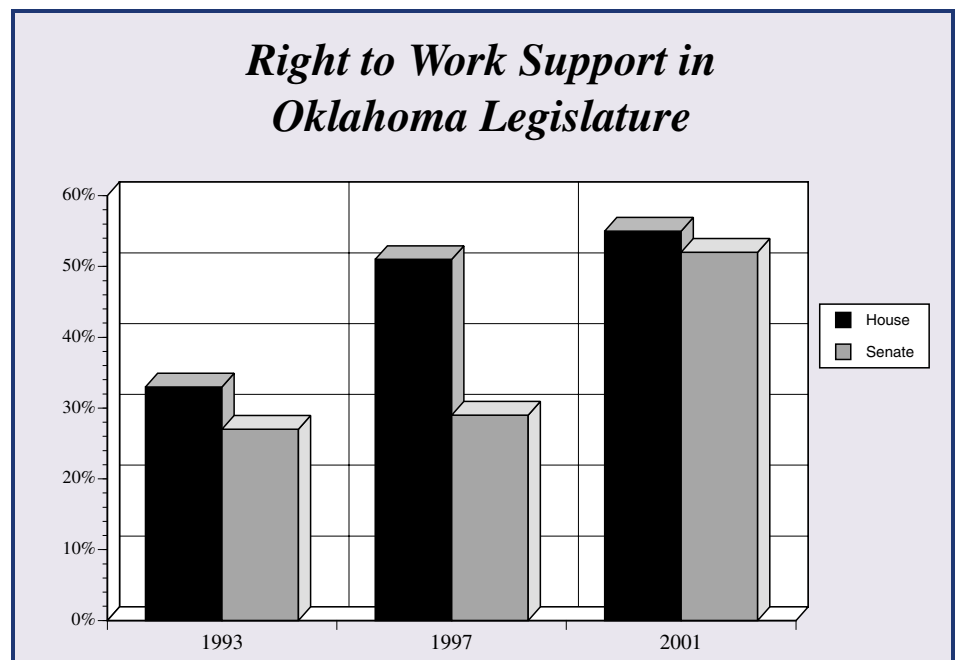
Senate President Pro Tempore Stratton Taylor (D-Claremore) admits that Right to Work legislation now has majority support in both chambers of the Legislature as well as the support of Gov. Frank Keating (R).

However, once legislative leaders, including both friends and foes of Right to Work, agreed this spring to put Question 695 on the ballot in a September special election, Oklahoma Freedom to Work and the Committee lent their full support to the initiative.

"Despite the obstacles, the Committee is hopeful of victory this month," said Committee Vice President Matthew Leen.

"No matter how many millions of dollars in workers' forced-dues money Big Labor spends to defeat this initiative, they will not have justice or the facts on their side," he noted.

"That's why I urge Right to Work members across the state to do everything they can to get like-minded friends, relatives and coworkers to the polls to vote on Question 695 September 25." 🗳️



Thanks to effective mobilization of Right to Work supporters by the Committee and its Sooner State allies

over the past decade, most Oklahoma legislators now favor a state Right to Work law.

Laborers Kingpin Convicted of Mail Fraud

John Serpico Used Forced-Dues Funds as Collateral For Personal Loans

After years of investigating rampant corruption in the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA/AFL-CIO), in late 1994 the Justice Department served Arthur Coia, then-LIUNA executive president, with a draft racketeering complaint.

Among the 212-page complaint's charges was that Mr. Coia "associated with and [was] controlled by Organized Crime."

Mr. Coia was also accused of employing "the wrongful use of actual and threatened force, violence and fear of physical and economic injury" against workers who are forced under federal law to pay union dues to LIUNA as a job condition.

But the voluminous complaint -- the product of an eight-year probe starting in Chicago -- was never finalized or filed.

Instead of indicting Mr. Coia, the Clinton Justice Department negotiated a highly controversial deal under which the politically active labor boss was not merely allowed to keep his office, but actually entrusted to "clean up" the union!

In the years since, apologists for the Clinton Justice Department have implausibly claimed that the crooked Mr. Coia, who finally was forced to "retire" in 2000 after pleading to felonious tax evasion, really did carry out a "housecleaning."

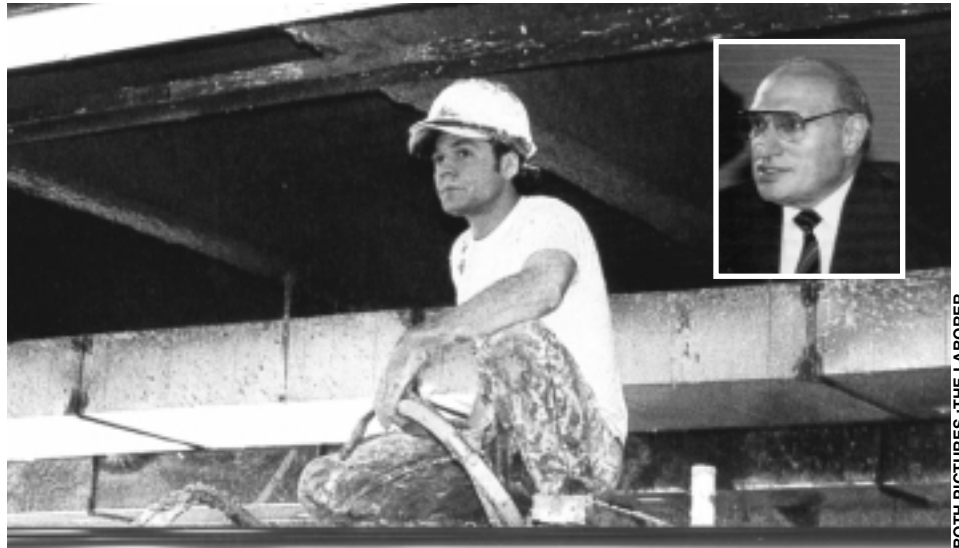
But the recent trial and conviction of former LIUNA Vice President John Serpico, a longtime powerhouse in the very Chicago locals where the Justice Department's probe was launched, clearly indicate Mr. Coia's "clean-up" was actually a whitewash.

After Mobbed-Up Boss's 'Ouster,' His Mistress Took Over His Offices

More than 15 years ago, Mr. Serpico admitted to the President's Commission on Organized Crime that he had maintained "friendships" with a long list of notorious Chicago mobsters, including Joseph Aiuppa, Joseph Ferriola, and "Rocco" Infelice.

In early 1995, almost immediately after Mr. Coia cut his deal with the Justice Department, Mr. Serpico was suspended from his LIUNA offices.

But a federal court trial that began in



For years after he was "ousted" as part of a so-called union "housecleaning," Mob-friendly Laborers' boss John

Serpico (inset) retained control over tens of millions of dollars in workers' benefit and forced-dues funds.

May demonstrated that, despite his "ouster," Mr. Serpico retained control over tens of millions of dollars in LIUNA-"represented" workers' pension and benefit funds and forced dues and "fees."

Until his conviction in July, Mr. Serpico was retained as a \$50,000-a-year "consultant" to the so-called "Central States Joint Board" (or CSJB), an amalgamation of LIUNA Local 8 in Chicago and several other unions.

Furthermore, LIUNA official Maria Busillo, Mr. Serpico's mistress and his partner in crime, succeeded him as president of the CSJB and other unions!

On July 16, Mr. Serpico and Ms. Busillo were convicted of using \$20 million in workers' forced dues and benefit funds as effective collateral to obtain \$5 million in personal loans, all on sweet terms, and some otherwise completely unsecured.

At the same time, Mr. Serpico and former city Housing Commissioner Gilbert Cataldo were convicted of sharing in kickbacks of \$330,000 after helping to divert \$6.5 million from union treasuries into a troubled hotel project in Champaign, Ill.

"Top-down 'clean-up' operations, whether they are managed by union-boss appointees or government officials, are not the answer to pervasive union corruption," said Reed Larson, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

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


"This summer's LIUNA convictions are only the latest illustration of this approach's futility," Mr. Larson continued.

"Union corruption is an inevitable byproduct of pro-forced unionism federal labor policy. As distinguished U.S. Sen. John McClellan [D-Ark.] said over 35 years ago, 'Compulsory unionism and corruption go hand in hand.'

"Because of federally-imposed forced unionism, dissenting workers can be perfectly aware that crooked union officials are ripping them off, but powerless to fight back by withholding their dues money.

"If they try, the law actually gives the crooked union boss the power to order their employer to fire them!

"Congress's moral imperative is to side with the union-'represented' workers who are victimized by voting on the National Right to Work Act [S.873/H.R.1109], which would repeal federally-imposed forced union dues."

Mr. Larson urged Right to Work members to contact their senators and congressmen today through the congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3121, to express their support for this bill. 

White House Flip-Flopping on Union-Only Pacts?

House-Passed Energy Bill Discriminates Against Nonunion Workers

Just six months after winning Right to Work supporters' applause by imposing a near-total ban on so-called "project labor agreements" (PLA's) in contracts wholly or partly funded by federal taxpayers, is the White House making a furtive about-face?

National Right to Work Committee members are forced to ask themselves this question now that the U.S. House has passed a version of the Bush energy bill that mandates job discrimination against nonunion workers on new oil-drilling projects in Alaska.

PLA's such as those required by the current Bush energy bill (H.R.4) force employers to fill jobs through discriminatory union hiring halls, penalizing long-term, loyal employees who don't wish to join a union or pay into union-manipulated pension funds.

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

The bogus rationale is that PLA's foster "labor peace" and thus control building costs.

In fact, a 1995 analysis of bids on the PLA for New York's Roswell Park Cancer Institute found that it jacked up overall taxpayer costs by more than 20%. Studies of subsequent PLA's confirm they increase taxpayer expenses by 20% or more.

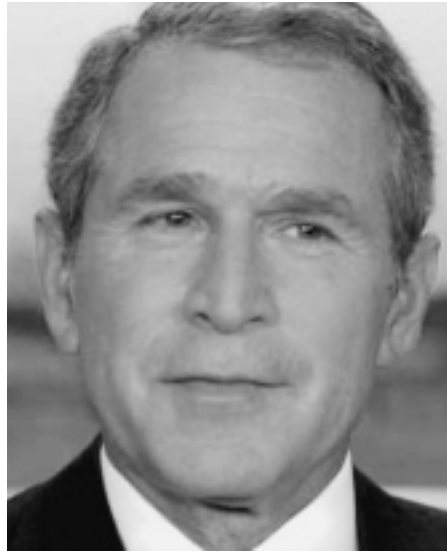
What Price Is White House Paying to Get Teamster Chief Jim Hoffa's Support?

The energy bill that emerged from the House has every appearance of being the product of a backroom deal with union bosses.

"This bill clearly runs counter to Executive Order 13202, issued by the President February 17, which requires that federal-contract policy treat union and nonunion firms and employees equally," said Mark Mix, senior vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

Prior to the introduction of H.R.4, White House representatives held private meetings with Teamster, construction and maritime union bosses as part of an all-out effort to secure their support for the President's energy proposal.

And International Teamster President



AP/KENNETH LAMBERT

In February, President Bush opposed union-only "PLA's" on tax-funded



THE TEAMSTER

construction. But his House-passed energy bill delights Teamster boss Jim

Jim Hoffa and several other union bosses have openly expressed their delight with the bill that emerged.

Under the H.R.4 provision that allows, for the first time, oil and gas exploration in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), energy firms and their employees would be forced to submit to a PLA to participate.

While the White House has refused to say publicly whether it favors or opposes the PLA provision now in the Bush energy bill, Big Labor congressmen are gloating about it.

"Perhaps the President realizes he made a big mistake [in opposing discriminatory PLA's]," chortled pro-forced unionism Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) after the House passed H.R.4 in a 240-189 vote August 2.

Committee Officer Vows To Fight Union-Only Provision in H.R.4

"Committee members will oppose the PLA forced-unionism provision now tucked away in the energy bill every step of the way," said Mark Mix

Right to Work President Reed Larson has already written a personal letter to George Bush urging him not to flip-flop from the position he took against union-only PLA's in February.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mix is working

closely with pro-Right to Work senators who have expressed interest in launching an effort to ensure that the Senate version of the Bush energy plan does not include any PLA provision.

"Ever since PLA's emerged as a major threat to federal and state taxpayers and independent-minded employees on taxpayer-funded public works nearly a decade ago, Right to Work members have been in the forefront of opposition to them," he recalled.

"Rather than try to sell unionism on the merits to the more than 80% of construction workers who are not now subject to a union monopoly-bargained contract, throughout the 1990's Big Labor used PLA's to corral whole groups into unions.

"The fact is, the American people overwhelmingly oppose union-only hiring discrimination.

"It would be both wrong and politically foolish for Mr. Bush to flip-flop and join with union-label Democratic and union boss-appeasing GOP congressmen and senators to give federal sanction to union-only PLA's.

"I urge Right to Work members everywhere to contact Mr. Bush through the White House comment line, 202-456-6213. Ask him not to make such a serious mistake." 📧

Teacher Union Bosses Charged With Tax Evasion

Leaked Report Details How Forced-Dues Millions Build Political Empire

Over the past quarter-century, the National Right to Work Committee has amassed a mountain of evidence regarding National Education Association (NEA) teacher union officials' political abuse of school employees' forced union dues.

Briefings by Right to Work officers have helped inform major publications such as *Forbes*, *Reader's Digest*, and *The Wall Street Journal* about the workings of the NEA union machine, which diverts tens of millions of dollars in forced dues into politics each year.

Moreover, in a third of the 500 cases the Committee's sister organization, the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, is now litigating, its attorneys represent educators victimized by teacher union-boss abuses.

Two Foundation-won Supreme Court precedents, *Hudson* (1986) and *Lehnert* (1991), are now helping thousand of teachers.

This spring the normally Big Labor-friendly Federal Election Commission (FEC) confirmed Right to Work's charges about large-scale and apparently illegal forced-dues electioneering by NEA union bosses in a report whose primary focus is coordinated campaigning in 1996 by the AFL-CIO and Democratic National Committee operatives.

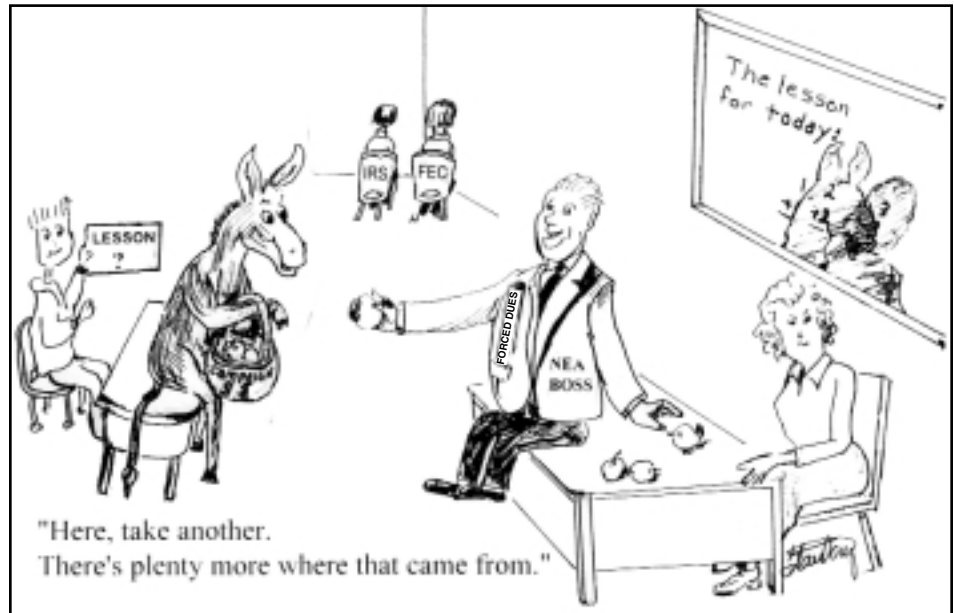
The report, which a Big Labor-friendly federal judge sought to put under wraps July 16 at the request of AFL-CIO and DNC lawyers, is still being made publicly available by the Herndon, Va.-based Landmark Legal Foundation.

'Army of Political Organizers' Is Top Item in NEA Budget

The FEC found that in 1995-96 NEA bosses regularly joined in meetings of the so-called "National Coordinated Campaign Steering Committee" (NCCSC) at DNC headquarters.

As the Clinton-Gore campaign admitted, the NCCSC's purpose was to "register and turn out Democratic voters on behalf of the entire Democratic ticket in the general election."

Forbes reported that much of the NEA hierarchy's support for such political activities is covered under the national union's massive, forced dues-funded UniServ budget, which came to \$57.5 million last year. That's the largest single



After four decades of government-imposed union monopoly, public schools have become more notable for

their role as teacher union political bosses' cash cow than for sending out competent, clear-thinking graduates.

item in the NEA budget.

As *Forbes* pointed out, UniServ constitutes "the largest army of paid political organizers and lobbyists in the U.S."

UniServ directors coordinate political phone banks, door-to-door canvassing, absentee vote programs, media development, and polling and consulting to benefit NEA boss-backed candidates.

Incredibly, at least since 1994, the national NEA tax returns sent to the IRS ignore all these political activities as well as many other smaller programs and claim that not a dime of the union's general treasuries is spent on politics.

NEA Lawyers Likely to Mount Highly Technical Defense Against Tax-Fraud Charges

Faced with an array of evidence from the FEC and other sources that they have illegally concealed and failed to pay income taxes on multi-million-dollar expenditures from forced-dues treasuries, NEA union bosses are unapologetic.

Should the IRS act on a series of formal complaints filed against the NEA hierarchy over the past year, union lawyers are expected to mount a highly technical defense.

NEA bosses' defense will stand or fall

on whether NEA lawyers can convince the courts that their political machine, admittedly engineered to elect "friendly" politicians and defeat foes, is somehow not "political" under the IRS code.

Forced Unionism Is Root of the Problem

But National Right to Work Committee Senior Vice President Mark Mix said the fundamental issue isn't tax evasion:

"Thirty-four states laws that authorize NEA bosses to act as teachers' 'exclusive,' i.e., monopoly bargaining agents in contract negotiations and 20 state laws authorizing teacher forced dues have turned NEA czars into political potentates.

"At the same time, in state after state, legally-sanctioned teacher union monopoly has resulted in plummeting student achievement and an ever-more bloated taxpayer bill for public schools.

"Even if the IRS at last dares to go after the NEA czars and forces them to pay taxes on the portion of their ill-gotten loot they divert into politics, that will not address the source of the problem.

"The only way to rein in NEA political abuses and make genuine school reform possible is through enactment of more state Right to Work laws and repeal of state monopoly-bargaining statutes."

Anti-Violence Measure Needed

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step aside while up to 400 union militants, including those who were wielding clubs and beer bottles, worked their will on a handful of nonunion stevedores who were unloading a ship.

Because the police refused to follow such a cowardly course, the Big Labor hierarchy blames them for the riot violence.

Self-Righteous Rhetoric Of AFL-CIO Czars Betrays Disdain For Rule of Law

The public record indicates that in reality the South Carolina police were remarkably restrained in the face of persistent, sometimes brutal attacks.

Charleston Police Captain Thomas Robertson needed seven stitches after being struck in the back of the head by a railroad tie. At least one other officer had to be treated for wounds.

And even the virulently pro-forced unionism *Nation* magazine admits that union militants attacked photographers on the scene and smashed the windows of police squad cars.

Meanwhile, videotaped evidence indicates that most if not all of the union militants who were injured, including Local 1422 President Ken Riley, were hit by errant bricks and rocks hurled by their fellow protesters.

"Ignoring the evidence, AFL-CIO

spokesman Bill Fletcher is calling the upcoming trial of five Charleston ILA militants on rioting charges a 'cause celebre,'" noted Mark Mix, senior vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"The AFL-CIO hierarchy is demanding not a fair trial, but that all charges be dropped immediately.

"Countless officers of AFL-CIO subsidiary unions have similarly decried any effort to hold ILA officials or ILA militants accountable for destroying property and hurling bricks and broken railroad ties at police.

"This case shows, more clearly than any we've seen in years, that there is a very widespread view among union officials that they and their henchmen have a 'right' to use violence against employees who refuse to kowtow to Big Labor."

Deficient Federal Law Encourages Union Violence

Unfortunately, union bosses' belief that, in their case, the end justifies the means is supported by deficient federal law.

For decades, the U.S. Congress has refused to close the loophole in federal case law that currently exempts union boss-orchestrated violence from prosecution when it is committed



Mark Mix: Union bosses clearly believe they have a "right" to use violence against disobedient workers.

pursuant to so-called "legitimate union objectives."

The Freedom from Union Violence Act (S.902), a bill introduced by Sens. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) and Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) and now pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee, would close this loophole.

Mr. Mix urged Right to Work members to call their senators through the Senate switchboard, 202-224-3121, to express their support for S.902:

"With union bosses around the country now holding rallies in support of their 'right to riot,' elected officials must make it clear there is no such 'right.' Please ask your senators to cosponsor and seek votes on S.902 today." 📞

'Choose' or 'Have Someone Else Choose For You'?

For Big Labor Propagandists, These Are Interchangeable Concepts

The editors of the national AFL-CIO hierarchy's online newsletter, *Work in Progress*, recently made explicit a presupposition that has long been tacitly held by apologists for compulsory unionism.

In its July 16 issue, the newsletter claimed that more than 5000 public health-care workers in San Diego, Calif., "chose a voice at work with the SEIU [Service Employees International Union, AFL-CIO] last week."

But what really happened, as the newsletter itself reported a couple of lines further down, is that the bosses of SEIU locals 535, 2028 and 2028/POA used

their monopoly powers to win approval of "an agency shop [forced-"fee"] provision July 7, resulting in the addition of more than 5000 new members and agency fee-payers"

Even Union Propagandists Sense Union Affiliation Should Be a Personal Choice

In other words, union zealots acted to force 5000 workers who had previously chosen not to be members to pay union dues, labeled as "agency fees," to SEIU bosses.

According to AFL-CIO propagandists,

that's the same as: "5000 workers chose a voice at work with the SEIU"!

The fact is, no group of employees, whether they are in the majority or not, should be authorized to order a fellow employee either to pay dues or not to pay dues to a labor union.

Somewhere deep down, even union propagandists sense this is true.

That's why the editors of *Work in Progress* preferred to pretend that the 5000 health-care workers in San Diego all made personal choices to join the SEIU rather than admit straight off that a collective decision was made by union zealots for them. 📞

Union Bosses Glorify Violent Militants

Revisionist History Blames Victims For Charleston Harbor Riot

Early last year, the city docks in Charleston, S.C., erupted in violence as a mob of International Longshoremen's Association (ILA/AFL-CIO) union militants, seeking to force nonunion workers to give up trying to unload a freighter, hurled bricks and broken railroad ties at police who were there to keep the peace.

Eyewitnesses and videotaped evidence strongly implicate five ILA Local 1422 union militants in orchestrating and carrying out the violence.

But the AFL-CIO hierarchy has made the militants' upcoming trial on felony rioting charges a Big Labor "cause celebre."

Top union bosses' willingness to glorify union thuggery underscores the need to eliminate the special exemption Big Labor-orchestrated violence enjoys under current federal anti-extortion law.

Police Presence on Night Of Riot Was a Reaction To Previous Union Violence

Reprising a favorite theme of apologists for union violence, AFL-CIO and ILA officials now claim that the substantial police presence on the docks on the night of January 20, 2000 "provoked" union militants into hurling bricks and swinging pipes at police.

But a cursory look at the record indicates that Charleston's police chief, Reuben Greenberg, dispatched the police in riot gear to protect the rule of law.

Just two-and-a-half weeks earlier, a mob of ILA thugs had rushed past outnumbered police and then violently prevented nonunion employees from loading up a vessel owned by the Danish



CHARLESTON.NETNEWS

To conceal the identities of violent rioters at the Charleston docks, ILA union militants knocked over a police

light, then hurled rocks and broken railroad ties at police who sought to prop it up again.

shipping line Nordana.

Union officials were furious that Nordana had just decided to offer work to nonunion stevedores, even though the firm is a bit player at the Charleston docks, making only two deliveries a month.

On January 2, ILA militants vandalized equipment, beat up two nonunion workers, and forced the vessel to leave half-empty.

After hearing credible reports that union militants planned to escalate the violence the next time a Nordana ship came to port, Chief Greenberg decided the police should not be outnumbered again.

After all, nonunion stevedores had every right to unload ships at the Charleston port -- both under South Carolina's Right to Work law and under generally pro-forced unionism federal

labor laws.

When the next Nordana ship came into port late January 20, more than 600 police officers from around the state were on hand.

'You Learn in a War That You Should Always Have Alternative Strategies'

This time, union goons weren't going to be able simply to rush past police to assault nonunion stevedores who were peacefully doing their jobs.

But ILA union bosses clearly weren't satisfied merely to picket peacefully this tiny challenge to their monopoly control over the Charleston docks.

Just before the union violence broke out, ILA Local 1422 Vice President Robert Ford tipped off reporters: "You learn in a war that you should always have alternative strategies."

A few minutes after midnight, hundreds of ILA militants, some wielding clubs and some obviously drunk, stormed out of the union hall toward the ports authority terminal 200 yards away.

In retrospect, one must conclude that police officers' decision to block union militants' entry onto the port authority's property was fully justified.

But ILA Local 1422 bosses and their champions in the AFL-CIO hierarchy blame the police for the riot that almost immediately ensued.

What Mr. Ford and his cohorts apparently expected the police to do was

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NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

September 2001

Written and Distributed by:

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