

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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Right to Work Members Churn Up U.S. House *Rank-and-File Congressmen Bolster Drive For H.R.391 Floor Vote*

National Right to Work Committee members' grass-roots campaign to bring a measure repealing federally-imposed forced union dues up for a vote on the U.S. House floor is literally day by day gaining active and vocal support from key members of state congressional delegations -- not only in Right to Work states, but in non-Right to Work states as well.

The measure, known as the National Right to Work Act, or H.R.391, would protect employees' freedom to refuse to join or pay dues to an unwanted union without being fired as a result.

Enactment of this bill would strip Big Labor bosses of their current federal legal privilege to exact a total of \$5 billion a year in forced dues from nearly eight million private-sector employees.

Right to Work Backed by Both Major Parties' Rank-and-File As Well as by Independents

In recent weeks, the Committee has mobilized members across the country to contact their representatives by mail, by phone, and in person and request that they cosponsor and seek recorded votes on H.R.391.

"Right to Work members are demonstrating to Congress that public support for H.R.391 is strong and getting stronger," said Committee President Mark Mix.

"Thanks to this demonstration, the number of House cosponsors has already soared to 97.

"Even more important, several representatives who have an especially keen grasp of the moral value and popular appeal of the Right to Work issue have agreed to help lead the charge for an H.R.391 floor vote."



Florida Congressman Dave Weldon (left), pictured with National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix

(center) and Vice President John Tate, is helping lead the charge for an H.R.391 vote.

Reps. Dave Weldon (R-Fla.), Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colo.), and Right to Work stalwarts in several other state delegations are now helping the Committee to circulate letters asking House Employer-Employee Relations Subcommittee Chairman Sam Johnson (R-Texas) to bring up H.R.391 for a hearing and panel vote soon.

"Mr. Weldon is working to convince his fellow Florida representatives to sign this letter. Mrs. Musgrave is talking to Colorado representatives about it," explained Mr. Mix.

"I'm hopeful the efforts of Mr. Weldon, Mrs. Musgrave, and other steadfast Right to Work supporters will send an unmistakable message to Mr. Johnson and Speaker Dennis Hastert [R-Ill.] that the overwhelming majority of their party caucus members want H.R.391

to move out of committee and onto the House floor.

"Poll after poll shows the Right to Work issue holds a strong appeal, for rank-and-file Democrats and Independents as well as for rank-and-file Republicans."

Constituent Declares: Forced-Dues Shop Ought to Be 'Dropped into the Outhouse'

"However, because the vast majority of federal Democratic officeholders depend on Big Labor's forced dues-funded political machine to stay in power, only a handful of Democratic members of Congress dare to support Right to Work," continued Mr. Mix.

See Unionism next page

'Retired' Senator Mobilizes Committee Members

Serving in the U.S. Senate from 1973 until early this year, Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) demonstrated a commitment to principle and mastery of parliamentary procedure that won him the respect of friends and foes alike.

And time and time again, Mr. Helms put his talents to the service of the Right to Work cause, which he deeply cherishes.

During the 1970's, North Carolina AFL-CIO chief Wilbur Hobby branded Mr. Helms as "Public Enemy #1" because of the senator's effective leadership in successful Right to Work efforts to defeat Big Labor forced-unionism schemes like so-called "common situs picketing" and phony labor law "reform."

But that was only the beginning.

Mr. Helms made his greatest contribution yet to the Right to Work cause during the 1990s, when his letters and recorded phone messages helped the National Right to Work Committee recruit hundreds of thousands of new members.

Today members originally added to the Committee's ranks by Mr. Helms are instrumental to ongoing efforts to pass national Right to Work legislation and defeat new Big Labor power grabs.



For 30 years, U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms was a staunch Right to Work ally. And the issue is so important to Mr.

Helms that he is continuing to send out letters for the Committee, seven months after he "retired."

Although Mr. Helms retired from the Senate seven months ago, he remains as concerned as ever about the enormous damage wrought by government-authorized forced unionism, both to individual workers and the country.

That's why, in a letter mailed out to

tens of thousands of Right to Work members early this month, Mr. Helms is once again mobilizing support for the National Right to Work Act.

Attention, Big Labor bosses everywhere: You can now stop celebrating Mr. Helms' "retirement." 📧

Compulsory Unionism Is Wrong

Continued from page 1

"Therefore, a public battle over H.R.391 would clearly benefit Mr. Johnson, Mr. Hastert, and their party."

A recent letter to the Vero Beach (Fla.) *Press Journal*, written by a constituent of Mr. Weldon's in response to a news story regarding H.R.391, illustrates the political potency of the Right to Work issue.

Retiree Ed Waltman wrote that he was "appalled and angered" to discover that the "antiquated-pre-historic rule enforcing the closed shop is still in existence. That is forcing employees to pay dues to the union regardless of whether they belong or not or want the union or not."

He recalled how the western Pennsylvania steel town in which he grew up was ravaged by union violence and later decimated because union bosses wielded their monopoly-bargaining power to bar implementation of new, more efficient technologies.

"I'll admit that I was not an active

supporter of Dave Weldon politically, but I certainly support him on this and hope that such a ridiculous and unfair practice is dropped into the outhouse where it belongs," Mr. Waltman concluded.

"Nearly four out of five American voters agree with Ed Waltman that it's wrong to force workers to pay union dues, or be fired," noted Mr. Mix.

Right to Work Also Good For the Economy

"And millions of these pro-Right to Work Americans have such strong feelings about this issue that their opinion of an elected official can change enormously when they find out where he or she stands on it," he continued.

"However, for the issue to have its full impact in congressional races, Speaker Hastert and [Senate] Majority Leader [Bill] Frist [R-Tenn.] must first be willing to raise its profile by holding votes on Right to Work legislation."

Though most Right to Work supporters are motivated first and foremost by principled opposition to forced unionism, the record of rapid economic progress in the 22 states that already protect employees' freedom to refuse to join a union makes the case for H.R.391 even stronger.

Between 1992 and 2002, Right to Work states' aggregate real personal income grew by 37.3%, nearly 50% faster growth than in forced-unionism states.

"An H.R.391 floor vote would demonstrate to Americans across the country what's most important to their elected officials," said Mr. Mix.

"Concerned citizens would get to see exactly which politicians support Right to Work, and which are willing to keep real incomes depressed just to please Big Labor lobbyists.

"And that will pave the way for many Right to Work electoral victories in 2004 and beyond."

Right to Work members and supporters are urged to call Chairman Johnson at 202-225-4201 and Speaker Hastert at 202-225-2976 and ask them to hold panel and floor votes on H.R.391. 📧

Closing the Union-Violence Loophole

By Deroy Murdock, Scripps-Howard News Service, June 5, 2003

NEW YORK -- Armed militants advance their agenda by bombing their opponents' property, assaulting their persons and even attempting to murder them. This is a case for the Department of Homeland Security, right?

Wrong.

Though they sometimes resemble terrorists, these non-state actors enjoy legal protection. Federal law lets Big Labor zealots threaten and commit violence that promotes sanctioned union goals.

In the 1973 *U.S. v. Enmons* case, the Supreme Court exempted unions from the 1946 Hobbs Anti-Extortion Act, which forbids the obstruction of interstate commerce through violence or blackmail.

Thugs With So-Called 'Legitimate' Objectives Get Special Treatment

Thanks to the *Enmons* loophole, however, organized labor can escape federal Hobbs Act prosecution, provided its mayhem furthers "legitimate union objectives," such as higher wages.

At least 15 states similarly shield labor brutality.

Unions thus rain terror upon their enemies, primarily lawful strike-replacement workers and salaried staffers. Unfortunately, those who feel union muscle often remain unavenged.

As Stan Greer of the National Institute for Labor Relations Research (NILRR) explains, "the failure of overwhelmed or politically neutralized (local) police and prosecutors to enforce the law against union militants" leaves labor's victims hungry for justice.

The Institute has found that victims of union henchmen rarely get satisfaction in local, state or federal criminal courts.

According to media accounts the Institute has analyzed, 2,193 incidents of union violence occurred nationally between 1991 and 2001. Only 62 individuals were arrested and 10 people punished for these promised or actual attacks on people and property, yielding a reported conviction rate of just 0.45 percent. (Events the media missed would boost these figures.)

Consider these examples:

Labor Ready manager Matthew Kahn directed replacement workers to

Hollander Home Fashions after the UNITE textile union struck its Los Angeles plant in March of 2001. He was attacked in a parking lot in May of that year, suffering a concussion and multiple head lacerations. Charges were dropped against a union organizer arrested in the attack.

The Teamsters struck Overnite Transportation between October 1999 and October 2002. In Overnite's concurrent RICO lawsuit against the Teamsters, federal Judge Bernice Donald said that 55 shootings and additional brick and projectile attacks against Overnite's non-striking drivers were "related to attempted murder."

Twenty-year Overnite employee William Wonder was shot in the abdomen while driving a company vehicle near Memphis on Dec. 1, 1999.

"Overnite bears a heavy responsibility here," Teamsters president James Hoffa, Jr. said in a statement that seemingly capitalized on Wonder's near-fatal injuries. "Overnite can end this strike at a moment's notice with a binding agreement." No one yet has paid for shooting William Wonder.

As AK Steel's general counsel, David C. Horne, told the House Education and Workforce Committee last Sept. 26, negotiations with the United Steelworkers and AK's Mansfield, Ohio plant faltered in March, 1999.

A company billboard soon sported a poster that read:

"Wanted -- good reliable small arms, unused explosives (C-4 preferred), names and addresses of all salary employees. Payback time!"

Congressman: Union-Violence Loophole 'Instills Fear in the Workplace'

On Dec. 6, 9 and 11, 1999, the home mailboxes of three salaried AK employees exploded. On the 11th, another bomb damaged a truck that indirectly supplied AK scrap metal, injuring Jamie King of Leesville, Ohio, then 22, who was asleep inside the vehicle. She temporarily ended up on crutches.

After additional violence, a union representative anonymously told a reporter in July 2000: AK's "going to get



THE TEAMSTER

Union czar Jim Hoffa "seemingly capitalized" on the near-fatal highway shooting of a nonunion truck driver.

somebody killed by not coming to the (negotiating) table."

Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., has had enough of this.

His Freedom from Union Violence Act (H.R.1870) would end the *Enmons* exemption so the feds may prosecute labor hooligans who abandon peaceful union activism for intimidation and carnage.

"One element of terrorism is instilling fear in the general public," Wilson says by phone. "This loophole instills fear in the workplace."

Will compassionate Democrats help stop this savagery, or will they wink at the thuggery practiced by too many unionists?

After all, [big] labor gave Democrats \$89,882,124 for the 2002 elections, vs. \$6,441,332 to Republicans, reports the Center for Responsive Politics' opensecrets.org campaign finance database.

A vote on Wilson's measure will show Americans which members of Congress still want federal officials to snooze while union hoodlums bust jaws and send blood spurting across picket lines.

(Columnist Deroy Murdock is a senior fellow with the Atlas Economic Research Foundation in Fairfax, Va. This column is reprinted courtesy of Scripp Howard News Service.)

Delaware House Loosens Big Labor Shackles

Bans Union-Only 'PLA' Schemes, Holds Hearing on Right to Work Law

Over the past decade, more and more employees in Delaware have been saying "No" to Big Labor.

Even as the number of non-farm employees across the state grew by 20% between 1992 and 2002, the number of union members fell by 21%.

During the last decade, not one other non-Right to Work state has experienced an equally rapid decline in the share of employees who are union members.

Until very recently, however, it seemed that, in stark contrast to Delaware employees, the legislators roaming the state Capitol in Dover had completely forgotten how to stand up to the union bosses.

April Vote Sent Shock Waves Through State's Union-Boss Establishment

Not only have legislators refused in the past to enact a Right to Work protecting employees from the federal labor-law provisions authorizing termination for refusal to pay union dues; a decade ago, the General Assembly even approved a law explicitly authorizing the seizure of forced dues from teachers.

Fortunately, thanks to the efforts of National Right to Work Committee members and the flourishing Dover-based group Delaware Citizens for Right to Work, the political climate in Delaware is beginning to change.

Last year the Delaware group, with the National Committee's assistance,

From the Newsletter Editor:

The page seven story in the May 2003 National Right to Work Newsletter (Volume 49, Number 5) contained an unfortunate error that may have confused some readers.

The fourth paragraph below the subhead in the second column of the story contained the wrong name. The paragraph should have read:

"The complaint also alleges that union officers were aware of the fact that Mr. [Ramiro] Hernandez had previously been arrested numerous times for strike-related thuggery."

The Newsletter editor regrets that another person was mistakenly named in this paragraph as it originally appeared. 📧

conducted an extensive survey program that put the heat on legislative candidates to take a clear stand in favor of employees' Right to Work.

The program mobilized freedom-loving Delawareans across the state.

They phoned and wrote their candidates to insist that they answer and return their Right to Work surveys. And on April 17, it became clear that the grass-roots effort had paid off.

In a move that stunned the state's union-boss establishment, a 23-17 majority in the state House of Representatives passed H.B.9, a measure banning so-called "project labor agreements," or PLA's, on state- and local-taxpayer-funded construction.

Though George W. Bush heeded the advice of Right to Work supporters and barred federal-taxpayer-funded PLA's in a February 2001 executive order, they present a growing threat to state and locally financed public works.

PLA's effectively exclude nonunion employees from construction projects.

They typically force contractors and subcontractors to fill jobs through discriminatory union hiring halls, penalizing long-term, loyal employees who don't wish to join a union or pay into Big Labor-manipulated pension and insurance funds.

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

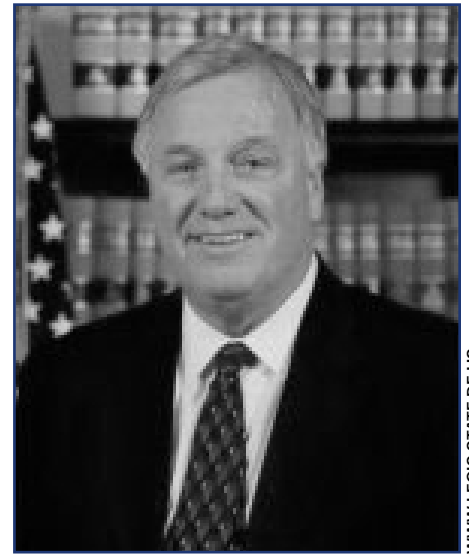
The PLA ban won House approval even though weak-kneed GOP Speaker Terry Spence (Stratford), once a cosponsor, buckled under union-boss pressure and voted against the measure.

And the union-label Democratic majority leadership in the state Senate blocked consideration of H.B.9 in their chamber until it adjourned June 30.

June 11 Hearing Was Another Right to Work Breakthrough

But National Committee Vice President Matthew Leen points out that, all by itself, the House vote banning PLA's ensures that Right to Work will be an important issue in next year's elections, when the governorship, half the Senate seats, and all House seats will be up for grabs.

"Delaware House members have broken a long-standing 'taboo' in the state



WWW.LEGIS.STATE.DE.US

Flip-flopping Delaware GOP House Speaker Terry Spence voted for union-only, tax-funded PLA's in April.

Capitol by voting to reduce Big Labor's forced-unionism privileges," said Mr. Leen.

"And on June 11 there was another breakthrough as the House Labor Committee held its first hearing in two decades on legislation to make Delaware a Right to Work state."

"The winds of change are blowing in Delaware. But victory will not come easy. It will require years of movement building."

Union puppet GOP Labor Committee Chairman Vincent Lofink (New Castle) gave an example of the obstacles that must yet be overcome when he threw his weight around to get Right to Work Bill H.B.177 tabled by his panel immediately after the hearing.

"Turncoats like Speaker Spence and forced-unionism apologists like Rep. Lofink will have to answer for their records during the 2004 campaigns," predicted Mr. Leen.

"The very day the *Delaware State News* reported that Mr. Lofink had torpedoed the Right to Work bill, another story noted that Delaware continues to suffer job losses even as the national economy begins to recover from the recession of 2001.

"Right to Work laws have a proven record of fostering job growth. Delawareans shouldn't continue to be denied the benefits of Right to Work by blinkered, Big Labor-appeasing politicians." 📧

Congress Urged to Curtail 'Salting' Extortion

Committee Campaign Recruits Grass-Roots Support For H.R.1793

This summer the National Right to Work Committee is launching a major grass-roots lobbying campaign to build Capitol Hill support for the a measure that would remove the federal sanction for an increasingly common extortionate Big Labor organizing tactic known as "salting."

So-called "salts" are paid or simply ordered by union bosses to apply for jobs with small firms, primarily but not exclusively in the construction industry, so they can drum up so-called "unfair labor practice" charges and glean information to find and harass targeted firms' customers.

As they often openly admit, salts do not intend to help the business run successfully and profitably.

Instead, their avowed goal is to bully the employer into foisting union monopoly bargaining and, where state law permits, forced union dues on longtime, loyal employees.

However, current federal law bars "discrimination" against union militants who openly intend to put a firm out of business if it doesn't corral independent employees into a union.

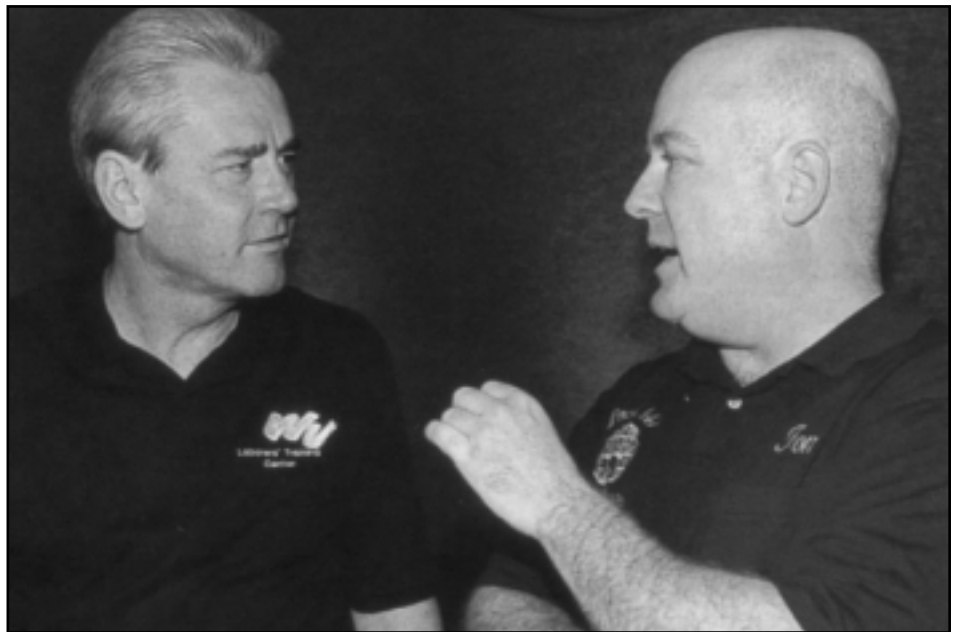
The Right to Work-backed Truth in Employment Act, or H.R.1793, would reform the law so that saboteurs targeting small firms are no longer granted this special privilege, simply because they are in the union-organizing business.

Congressmen Asked: Would You Hire Someone Who Backs Your Electoral Rival?

"Between 1989 and 2002, the number of American construction jobs grew by a healthy 24%, according to the Bureau of National Affairs [BNA] in Washington, D.C.," noted Committee Vice President Doug Stafford.

"But during the same period, the BNA reports that construction jobs controlled by building-trades union officials increased by just 2%, less than one-tenth as much. Today less than 19% of the nation's 7.2 million hard hats are union members. How is Big Labor reacting to this trend?"

"Instead of offering construction workers better services to attract more of them into unions, union bosses are relying more and more heavily on the special privileges they enjoy under



THE LABORER

Union bosses like Laborers Union General President Terence O'Sullivan (left, shown with a pal) frequently resort

to "salting" as a means of foisting unwanted unions on independent-minded construction workers.

National Labor Relations Board and court decisions to corral unwilling workers into unions."

H.R.1793 is sponsored by pro-Right to Work Congressman Jim DeMint (R-S.C.). It now has 33 cosponsors.

In a recent letter to his fellow U.S. House members, Mr. DeMint explained the issue in terms easily understood by politicians:

"Imagine if a supporter of your opponent in a Congressional election walked in one day and demanded that you consider him for a job in your Congressional office?"

"Would you want to hire that person, knowing that he was seeking the job not to help you draft legislation or provide constituent service, but to help your opponent defeat you in the next election?"

"Of course you wouldn't. And fortunately, as Members of Congress, we are not forced to confront this hiring dilemma. But as ludicrous as it may seem, this kind of activity occurs regularly in the private sector -- particularly in the construction industry.

"Only there, it is done in the guise of 'union organizing.'

". . . [Under current law], employers are faced with a Hobson's choice: Either hire a union 'salt' -- who is certain to disrupt the . . . workplace, and often

makes no bones about his intent to do so -- or deny the 'salt' employment and risk expensive and extended litigation . . .


"Either way, the employer is faced with a hiring decision that may threaten the survival of his or her business."

Enactment of H.R.1793 Could Pave Way For National Right to Work Law

While the Committee mobilized current members in support of H.R.1793 in a mailing sent out this spring, the focus of its efforts in support of this bill is now shifting to small business owners and employees who are not yet familiar with it.

"If we can get the millions of independent construction-industry employers and workers who are threatened by 'salting' involved in the battle to pass H.R.1793, we can carry the day," explained Mr. Stafford.

"But most of these Americans have not as yet even heard of this important reform.

"Contacting them and letting them know they don't have to take on Big Labor all by themselves is the key to enacting H.R.1793 and will also help broaden the coalition actively backing passage of a National Right to Work law." 

Newest Right to Work State Open For Business

Union Lawyers Keep Scheming to Overturn Oklahoma Voters' Verdict

The pro-Right to Work majority of citizens who helped make Oklahoma America's 22nd Right to Work state nearly two years ago are now getting even more than they bargained for.

A statewide poll taken by political consultant Tom Cole (since elected to the U.S. House) a few weeks before Oklahoma's Right to Work Amendment was adopted on September 25, 2001 found the amendment's supporters were typically motivated by moral principle to a greater degree than economic considerations.

Responding to an open-ended question about why people favor Right to Work, Oklahoma citizens were nearly three times as likely to talk about protecting freedom of choice than about the recruitment of businesses and jobs.

Job Announcements by Oklahoma Companies Nearly Doubled Last Year

The simple fact that state law now protects employees for refusal to join or pay dues to an unwanted union, rather than any economic benefits resulting from this reform, is what's most important to most Oklahoma Right to Work supporters.

Nevertheless, the evidence is mounting that Oklahoma businesses and employees are reaping major economic benefits because of the state's Right to Work law.

In March, the state Department of Commerce reported that Oklahoma companies publicly announced the creation of 94% more jobs due to business start-ups or expansions in 2002 than they had in 2001.

Meanwhile, Oklahoma companies publicly announced \$798 million in capital spending in 2002, up 153% over the 2001 total.

Among the companies announcing jobs and investment in 2002 or this year are Cardinal Glass Industries in Durant, Okla., Tracker Marine (boat manufacturing) in Miami, Okla., and Michelin (tires) in Ardmore, Okla.

While many of the publicly announced jobs are being created in smaller towns, the business climate has also dramatically improved in Oklahoma City, the state's capital and largest metro area.

On *Forbes* magazine's index of the



The freedom-loving citizens who celebrated enactment of the Oklahoma Right to Work law in September 2001

won an argument over principle. But the law is also now yielding important economic benefits.

best major metro areas for businesses and jobs, which is based on objective criteria like job and income growth, the available pool of educated workers, and affordable office space, Oklahoma City's ranking has soared from 117th place in 1999 to 18th place this year.

And the most recent available data from the U.S. Labor Department show that real hourly wages of Oklahoma manufacturing workers have soared by 5.2% since September 2001, compared to 3.3% in Right to Work states as a group and just 1.2% in non-Right to Work states.

"The Oklahoma experience clearly shows that protecting the employee's personal freedom to choose whether or not to join a union and economic prosperity go hand in hand," said John Tate, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"National Committee members have always known this. That's why they committed their time and resources to help grass-roots Oklahomans build up their state Right to Work movement in the 1990s, making enactment of the law in 2001 possible."

Big Labor Bosses Still Trying to Overturn Law, Reinstitute Forced Dues

Brushing aside all the evidence that Oklahoma employees are benefiting from their Right to Work law, the union

hierarchy and its lawyers are pursuing a grim crusade to get the law overturned in two separate court cases.

In one case, AFL-CIO Associate General Counsel Larry Gold has already persuaded the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals to issue a novel ruling that the provision in the Right to Work Amendment protecting the freedom to join a union is preempted by federal law with regard to private-sector employees.

Mr. Gold is now trying to persuade the Oklahoma Supreme Court that it must throw out the entire Right to Work law because the freedom-to-join provision is partially preempted.

In the second case, filed in the Oklahoma State District Court for Tulsa County, construction union bosses and their lawyers are claiming the Right to Work law somehow violates the union's "due process" rights under the state constitution.

An attorney for the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation is now intervening on behalf of three independent-minded employees in the first case and seeking to intervene on behalf of one such employee in the second case.

"Despite Big Labor's sneaky legal maneuvers, the key provisions of Oklahoma's Right to Work law still stand. And Right to Work attorneys and their allies will keep fighting until this victory is fully secure," said Mr. Tate. ☎

Scholars Revisit Oklahoma Right to Work Triumph

'Moral Argument' Prevailed as 22nd State Law Was Enacted in 2001

Back in 1948, Big Labor bosses sent their most aggressive lawyer to argue the *Lincoln* case, designed to overturn all state Right to Work laws, before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The message this union lawyer sent was crystal clear:

"[T]he right to work as a non-unionist," he claimed, "is in no way equivalent to . . . the right to work as a union member; . . . there exists no . . . right to work as a non-unionist on the one hand while the right to maintain employment free of discrimination because of union membership is . . . protected."

Several months later, the Supreme Court unanimously rejected this audacious assertion. And forced-unionism apologists only occasionally make it so explicitly nowadays.

But it continues to be the implicit message of every Big Labor campaign designed to stop passage of or overturn a Right to Work law protecting employees from being fired for refusal to join or pay dues to a union.

Two years ago, as the union bosses waged their \$15 million blitz to block enactment of a Right to Work Amendment to the Oklahoma Constitution, union spokesmen regularly contended, in effect, that workers who favor unions should be first-class citizens, while workers who oppose unions should be second-class citizens.

This was without a doubt an unappealing message.

And had it been Big Labor's only sales pitch, pro-Right to Work forces would have prevailed by a far wider margin in

Oklahoma than ultimately proved to be the case.

Big Labor Propaganda Claims Again Proven Wrong in Oklahoma

In an article appearing this summer in the *Labor Law Journal*, published by CCH Inc. in Riverwoods, Ill., two scholars for the National Institute for Labor Relations Research discuss how the "moral argument" that workers' rights should not hinge upon their views toward unions carried the day in Oklahoma.

Stan Greer, NILRR's senior research associate, recalls how forced-unionism proponents sought to make up for the fundamental weakness of their position by trumpeting the alleged economic catastrophes that would result if Right to Work advocates won.

While Big Labor predictions that a Right to Work law would, for example, "lower wages" in Oklahoma have turned out to be ludicrously inaccurate (as can be seen in the chart above), they did prey on people's fears sufficiently well to make the battle close, Mr. Greer argues.

In the second section of the article, California economist Charles Baird, NILRR's adjunct scholar, puts the Oklahoma battle in context by showing how even the pro-forced unionism framers of the 1935 National Labor Relations Act found it expedient to preserve states' freedom to enact Right to Work laws.

Newsletter readers who wish to obtain a copy of the article by Mr. Greer and Dr. Baird may do so by visiting NILRR's

Growth in Real Hourly Manufacturing Earnings

Sep. 2001 – Feb. 2003

Oklahoma	–	+5.2%
All Right to Work States	–	+3.3%
All Non-Right to Work States	–	+1.2%

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS. NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED.

Big Labor claims that Right to Work would "lower" Oklahomans' wages have proven laughably false.

web site (www.nilrr.org) or dialing 703-321-9606 and asking for Mr. Greer.

Recent NILRR Studies: Forced Unionism Correlated With Lower Pay, Higher Taxes

In addition to the *Labor Law Journal* article, the NILRR web site features a number of recent studies on Right to Work-related topics, including:

*** "Real Earnings Higher in Right to Work States: Evidence From the AFL-CIO Empire" uses an interstate cost-of-living index created by a researcher for an AFL-CIO-affiliated union to show that real average weekly earnings are higher in Right to Work states than in non-Right to Work states.

*** "The Connection: Forced Unionism and High Federal Taxes" documents how Big Labor forced-dues treasuries perpetuate Tax & Spend politicians' power over Congress, even though most rank-and-file unionists want to rein in runaway federal spending.

*** "Contrary to Union Officials' Claims, Federal Law Does Not 'Force' Them to Represent Nonmembers" debunks a favorite Big Labor excuse for forced union dues by showing that union bosses have the legal right to seek and obtain workplace contracts covering union members only. 📞

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Independent Teachers Fight Big Labor Corruption

Miami Group Leader Tells Senators Truth About AFT Union Scandals

At a U.S. Senate hearing June 19, Sandra Feldman, czarina of the giant American Federation of Teachers (AFT) union, brazenly sought to avoid taking any responsibility for the alleged embezzlement in recent years of millions of dollars from union treasuries by bosses of AFT-affiliated local unions.

Only minutes later, Damaris Perez Daugherty, an attorney who is the wife of a public school teacher, the mother of two public school children, and the leader of an independent educator group in Miami, Fla., deftly shredded Ms. Feldman's claims.

The fact that Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Chairman Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) invited Ms. Daugherty to furnish the antidote for the AFT president's miasma of misrepresentations demonstrates the growing importance of such independent groups.

Independent Groups Offer A Constructive Alternative

Ms. Daugherty was already in our nation's capital in mid-June for the annual conference of three national and 29 state independent educator group representatives, sponsored by Concerned Educators Against Forced Unionism, or CEAFU.

Housed in National Right to Work's Springfield, Va., headquarters, CEAFU applies the Right to Work principle specifically to education.

The grass-roots groups brought together by CEAFU this summer represent a combined membership of 130,000.

They are increasingly recognized in Congress and elsewhere as a key part of the national school-reform movement and as a constructive alternative to the radicalism of the AFT and National Education Association (NEA) teacher union hierarchies.

Unlike the AFT and NEA brass, leaders of independent groups do not wish to force any teacher or other school employee to join, pay dues, or accept unwanted "representation" in his or her dealings with school boards.

CEAFU provides a forum for independent groups to share ideas and experiences. It also produces educational materials that expose the harm done to public schools by



Independent teacher leader Damaris Perez Daugherty carefully explained to U.S. senators why she dismisses AFT

bosses' claims they didn't know about rampant misuse of teacher dues by their Miami, Fla., affiliate.

government-imposed forced unionism.

In her Senate testimony, Ms. Feldman claimed, with regard to the nationally publicized union embezzlement scandals that broke in the AFT's Washington, D.C. affiliate last December and in its Miami/Dade County, Fla., affiliate this April:

"I am constantly asking myself: Could we have seen the warning signs sooner? Even if we had, . . . could we have done more?"

Expecting AFT to 'Clean Up' Is 'Like Sending in Castro To Monitor Saddam Hussein'

Ms. Feldman said nothing about the June 11 arrest, for grand theft and mismanagement of roughly \$170,000 in union funds, of still another former AFT affiliate president in Rochester, N.Y.

She may have supposed that senators on the panel hadn't heard about that scandal yet, so why bring it up?

And Ms. Daugherty quickly made it plain that Ms. Feldman's convenient omission of the arrest in Rochester wasn't the only disingenuous aspect of her testimony.

"Counting on the . . . AFT to clean up UTD's [United Teachers of Dade union, UTD/AFT] mess is like sending in Castro to monitor Saddam Hussein on human right issues," she charged.

"AFT . . . knew or should have known about gross fiscal management as

far back as 1999, but did nothing to protect the membership.

"The audited financial records . . . show UTD was \$1.3 million in arrears in its per capita payments [to a statewide Florida teacher union and the AFT]. Furthermore, news stories on the local ABC affiliate exposed questionable practices at UTD as far back as 2001."

The growth of independent educator groups like Ms. Daugherty's Teacher Rights Advocacy Coalition (TRAC) is facilitated by Florida's Right to Work law, which protects public school and other employees from being fired for refusal to join or pay dues to a union.

Data furnished by Florida authorities indicate roughly 6000 Miami/Dade school employees have exercised their freedom under this law to quit the UTD since September 2001, 90% of them leaving the union at a time when Ms. Feldman claims she had no idea anything fishy was going on!

But full protection of teacher rights would require repeal of Florida's teacher monopoly-bargaining law, under which even nonmembers must allow UTD bosses to negotiate "exclusively" their wages, benefits, and working conditions.

"Teacher monopoly-bargaining laws in Florida and 33 other states promote corruption and impede school reform. A key mission of CEAFU is educating elected officials and the public about the damage wrought by these laws," said CEAFU Director Cathy Jones. 