



NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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Right to Work Measure to Get House Hearing *Freedom-Loving Members of Congress Boost Forced-Dues Repeal Bill*

This month freedom-loving U.S. congressmen, including several members of the House Committee on Education & the Workforce, are holding an extraordinary hearing on legislation that would abolish federally-imposed forced union dues in the American workplace.

This measure, the National Right to Work Act, would repeal all federal labor-law provisions that authorize Big Labor to force private-sector workers, unless they are protected by one of the 22 state Right to Work laws, to pay union dues as a condition of employment.

Recent National Poll Shows Overwhelming Public Support For Right to Work Bill

Public opinion overwhelmingly supports the Right to Work Bill, according to a scientific poll conducted March 16-18 by Research 2000. This Maryland-based polling firm is known as a leader in its field.

Its president, Del Ali, has analyzed more than 1500 political races.

Research 2000 found that 79% of probable voters in this year's elections support a person's right to hold a job "regardless of whether or not he or she belongs to a union."

While a majority of federal elected officials continue to flout public opinion and carry water for forced unionism, support for the Right to Work Bill is growing on Capitol Hill.

The bill's House version, known as H.R.391, now has 127 cosponsors.

However, until recently the House bill's progress has been stalled by Congressman John Boehner (R-Ohio), chairman of the Education & the Workforce Committee.

Mr. Boehner formerly claimed to



Assisted by National Right to Work Committee members, Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colo.) and a number of

her House colleagues are holding an extraordinary hearing on Right to Work legislation this month.

support hearings and votes on the Right to Work Bill, and at one time he even cosponsored it. But over the past two years he has become its principal roadblock and is now opposed to any action on Right to Work.

Comparative Pay Data Reinforce Case For Forced-Dues Repeal

Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colo.) and a number of other majority members of the panel are puzzled by Mr. Boehner's

turnaround.

Last fall, Mrs. Musgrave and pro-Right to Work Reps. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.), vice chairman of the Workforce Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations, and Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), as well as H.R.391 lead sponsor Joe Wilson (R-S.C.), tried to break the impasse by making public, written requests for an H.R.391 vote.

Unfortunately, Mr. Boehner dismissed

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Vote Needed on Right to Work

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the views of his Republican colleagues on the committee. He dug in his heels and reiterated his defeatist stance on Right to Work legislation.

But Mrs. Musgrave, Mr. Wilson and other pro-Right to Work members of Congress are so convinced of both the merits and the political appeal of H.R.391 that they finally decided to schedule a hearing on their own.

At press time, National Right to Work Committee members are helping these freedom-loving congressmen to assemble the witnesses and evidence they need to make this unusual hearing a success.

(A full report on the hearing will appear in next month's Newsletter.)

"The evidence that government-authorized forced union dues harm many independent-minded workers and suppress economic creativity keeps mounting," noted Mr. Mix.

"The latest data from the respected Bureau of National Affairs (BNA) in Washington, D.C., show that nearly four million private-sector unionized employees nationwide work in sectors for which the mean earnings of unionized employees are *lower* than the mean earnings of union-free employees.

"And the BNA data aren't even adjusted for cost of living, which is on average far higher in heavily unionized regions.

"Looking at the BNA data alone, many unionized workers in sectors like manufacturing or wholesale and retail trade have good reason to suspect their real take-home pay is lower than it would

be if they were union-free.

"Why on earth should Congress force such workers to pay union dues, just to keep their jobs?"

Simple justice and respect for each employee's ability to make a personal decision about whether he or she truly benefits from union representation are key arguments for national Right to Work legislation.

Personal Income Growth Significantly Faster In Right to Work States

But the contrasting economic experience of the 22 states that already have Right to Work laws barring forced union dues and "fees" and the 28 non-Right to Work states is also persuasive.

According to data issued just last month by the U.S. Commerce Department, Right to Work state residents' aggregate real personal income grew nearly twice as fast (1.5% vs. 0.8%) as did the income of forced-unionism state residents in 2003.

And the latest data clearly reflect the long-term trend.

Between 1992 and 2002, real personal income in Right to Work states grew by 39%, compared to just 26% growth in non-Right to Work states, according to the new Commerce Department revision of previous reports.

"Right to Work advocates have the facts on their side. And elected officials like Marilyn Musgrave and Joe Wilson know it," commented Mr. Mix.



Committee President Mark Mix: "Right to Work advocates have the facts on their side."

"There's simply no logical reason for John Boehner to be timid about taking on AFL-CIO President John Sweeney and other top union bosses on the Right to Work issue.

"I hope that this month's hearing will educate Mr. Boehner about how political confrontations on the Right to Work issue help proponents."

Voters Need to Find Out Exactly Which Politicians Kowtow to Union Lobbyists

Mr. Mix pointed out that many state Right to Work laws that are now on the books, including, for example, Oklahoma's and Louisiana's, were enacted only after first being defeated by substantial legislative majorities in recorded votes.

"Although they were at first unsuccessful, the recorded votes in states like Oklahoma and Louisiana gave concerned citizens a chance to see exactly which politicians support Right to Work, and which kowtow to union lobbyists," he explained.

"These votes paved the way for subsequent electoral victories for pro-Right to Work candidates, and, ultimately, for Right to Work legislative victories.

"The same process can unfold in Congress now -- but only if John Boehner joins the battle and allows recorded votes on H.R.391 in the Workforce Committee."

Mr. Mix urged Right to Work members across the country to contact Mr. Boehner's Washington, D.C., office at 202-225-6205. 📞



House Workforce Committee Chairman John Boehner (left) appears reluctant to confront AFL-CIO President John



Sweeney over the Right to Work issue. But other congressmen are stepping up the plate.

White House Operatives Rescue Big Labor Senator

Bush Plug Enables 'Union Stooge' to Edge Out Right to Work Ally

In a frustrating near-miss for freedom-loving Keystone State citizens last month, four-term Big Labor-appeasing GOP U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter (Pa.) eked out a 51%-49% win over his primary challenger, pro-Right to Work Allentown Congressman Pat Toomey.

The senator's many GOP detractors are particularly galled by the Bush White House's aggressive intervention to save Mr. Specter's skin.

Apparently heeding the advice of Washington, D.C.'s GOP establishment, President George Bush visited Pennsylvania a week before Election Day to campaign for Mr. Specter.

And the Specter campaign used a message from Mr. Bush for a statewide phone blitz targeting GOP households the weekend before the election.

As Mr. Specter himself readily admits, the presidential plug made his razor-thin victory possible.

Syndicated Columnist Focused On Mr. Specter's Record as 'Errand Boy to Big Labor'

In a column published just before the April 27 primary, syndicated columnist Deroy Murdock blasted Mr. Specter as a "union stooge" and as an "errand boy to Big Labor." Citing the August 2002 edition of this Newsletter as his source, Mr. Murdock justified the labels:

"Specter was one of only four GOP senators to help 50 Democrats and independent James Jeffords of Vermont kill an amendment by Kentucky Republican Mitch McConnell to require union presidents and secretary-treasurers to certify the accuracy of their financial statements.

"The July 2002 measure also would have made unions audit their financial-disclosure reports using the same guidelines that applied to publicly traded corporations.

"In 2001, Specter was one of the few Republicans to support a proposal by then-Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D., S.D.) to impose 'exclusive' or monopoly collective bargaining on state and local firefighters and cops across America.

"In 1994 and 1992, Specter voted for Massachusetts Democrat Ted Kennedy's so-called Pushbutton Strike Bill that essentially would have forced many companies to choose between accepting



Four-term Big Labor-appeasing Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa., left), is pictured here in a 2003 photo with United

Transportation Union President Byron Boyd. Mr. Boyd has since pled guilty to soliciting bribes.

union demands during strikes and shutting their doors.

"Filibusters by pro-right-to-work senators killed Kennedy's bill both times. In 1994, Specter was one of only three GOP senators to embrace Kennedy's legislation."

Record Suggested Pat Toomey Would Have Prevailed In General Election

In stark contrast to Mr. Specter, challenger Pat Toomey "never has let America's workers down on compulsory unionism" in his six years as a congressman, pointed out National Right to Work Committee Vice President Doug Stafford.

Mr. Toomey also pledged to continue giving 100% support for Right to Work if elected to the Senate, added Mr. Stafford.

And Mr. Toomey's strong electoral track record in his Lehigh Valley home district, which includes the traditional Big Labor strongholds Allentown and Bethlehem, strongly indicates he could have prevailed against Big Labor Montgomery County Congressman Joe Hoeffel (D) in the general election.

In 2000, for example, Congressman Toomey beat back a well-financed

challenge by Democrat and Steelworkers union boss Ed O'Brien, 53%-47%.

This occurred even as Al Gore carried Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley district over George W. Bush, 49%-48%, with most of the rest of the presidential-race votes going to forced-unionism extremist Ralph Nader.

"The fact is, even after being outspent three-to-one, and with a President who remains very popular with Republicans campaigning for his opponent, Pat Toomey came within a hair of defeating Arlen Specter in the primary," observed Mr. Stafford.

"Mr. Toomey has once again demonstrated that it's politically smart to take strong, uncompromising positions on issues like Right to Work.

"And that's increasingly true even in Pennsylvania, the longtime stalking ground of Big Labor-appeasing Republicans like Mr. Specter and the late Sens. John Heinz and Richard Schweiker.

"With 'a little help from his friends,' Arlen Specter managed, just barely, to fend off last month's challenge. But the future belongs to pro-Right to Work statesmen like Pat Toomey.

"And it's too bad that a number of White House advisors appear to be stuck in the past." 📌

Big Labor Boss 'Inadvertently' Tells the Truth?

Gabby Firefighters Union Chief Precipitates Pittsburgh Brouhaha

While speaking at a recent international forum on labor law in Miami, economist Charles Baird pointed out that American union bosses who wield government-granted monopoly power to negotiate employee contracts almost always do so behind closed doors.

Dr. Baird is the chairman of the Economics Department at California State University, Hayward, and a staunch opponent of government-imposed forced unionism.

In his April 23 presentation, Dr. Baird emphasized that behind-closed-door deals between union monopolists and employers are standard operating procedure even in the "public" sector, where taxpayer interests are at stake.

Meanwhile, several hundred miles to the north, a scandal involving a rust-belt city mayor and the boss of a local firefighters union was illustrating why government union bosses treasure their privilege to wheel and deal in secret.

'The Mayor Says . . . "Joe, I've Got 10 to 12 Million to Spend. You Tell Me Where"'

The scandal broke April 12, when Joseph King, president of Local 1 of the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) union, sent a furious letter to Pittsburgh Mayor Tom Murphy (D), accusing him of renegeing on a deal they had cut three years ago.

So bent on punishing Mr. Murphy for his alleged double-cross was Mr. King that he appeared to expose himself as well as the mayor to possible prosecution for bribery.

In May 2001, Mr. Murphy faced a stiff challenge for his party's nomination for a second term as mayor from then-City Council President Bob O'Connor.

And the IAFF Local 1 hierarchy had endorsed Mr. O'Connor.

According to Mr. King's letter, to secure his reelection Mr. Murphy promised the union \$10 to \$12 million in contract "goodies" (the term used by the Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette*).

"If you have any credibility, tell the truth about 2001, when you had me diversify \$10 to \$12 million in my contract," wrote Mr. King.

"The only condition was to have the contract awarded by arbitration, so as you stated: The other unions cannot



Union boss Joseph King says Mayor Tom Murphy (pictured, foreground) secretly gave him up to \$12 million in

contract plums in exchange for union political support. But Mr. King insists it wasn't a "bribe."

know that you/I agreed to these economic conditions."

After the alleged deal was cut, Mr. King promptly switched Local 1's endorsement to Mr. Murphy, who went on to win the primary by fewer than 700 votes.

Interviewed by the *Post-Gazette* April 14, Mr. King told the same story:

"The mayor says to me, 'OK, Joe, I've got 10 to 12 million to spend. You tell me where to put it in the contract.'

"Then Murphy says expenses are far exceeding revenues. If he knew this, then why did he make this deal with me?"

Government-Sector Union Monopoly Bargaining Inherently Corrupt

After reflecting for another day, however, Mr. King publicly announced that any indication in his letter that Mr. Murphy had offered him a bribe for political support, and that he had accepted it, was "inadvertent."

Allegheny County (Pa.) District Attorney Stephen Zappala is now investigating the matter, but there is no word yet about any possible prosecution of Mr. Murphy or Mr. King.

"Judging by news accounts, Mayor Murphy and Mr. King appear to be unsavory characters, but they were only

doing what Pennsylvania's government-sector monopoly-bargaining law encourages them to do," commented National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"Monopoly-bargaining laws in Pennsylvania and more than 30 other states hand politically active union bosses 'exclusive' power to bargain with elected officials or their agents over public employees' working conditions.

"The system practically guarantees that union bosses will regularly be offered more lucrative taxpayer-funded contracts on condition that the union political machine's support is granted in return.

"This looks and smells like bribery.

"But politicians and union bosses virtually never get prosecuted for such transactions because they always are made behind closed doors.

"And proving a *quid pro quo* when neither party owns up to it is practically impossible.

"The Pittsburgh case is unique, it seems, only because the firefighters union boss spilled the beans.

"Bribery is wrong, whether it's prosecutable or not.

"And deterring bribery is one important reason why the Committee is fighting hard to roll back public-sector monopoly bargaining in state legislatures across the country." 📣

Union Corruption 'Still a Growth Industry'

New Monograph Links Big Labor Abuses to 'Monopoly Privileges'

What a back-porch light is to moths, compulsory unionism is to con artists and Mafia bosses, according to a new monograph prepared by veteran journalist Carl Horowitz.

Mr. Horowitz has compiled in one densely-packed volume the shocking facts about many of the union corruption scandals that have come to light over the past five years.

For Decades, Union Crooks Have Had an 'Unwitting Assist From Government'

In the monograph, entitled *Union Corruption in America: Still a Growth Industry*, Mr. Horowitz points out that union crooks, although similar in many regards to other crooks, are unique in that "for decades [they] have had an unwitting assist from government."

Federal labor law authorizes so-called "exclusive" representation, empowering union bosses to speak for all workers in a "bargaining unit," regardless of the workers' personal desires.

It also endorses and promotes Big Labor's privilege "to exact dues from workers, regardless of their willingness to pay, except in states with a Right to Work law."

Government-imposed union monopoly bargaining and forced union dues make it very difficult for honest employees to combat corruption and also artificially enlarge union treasuries.

They thus "increase the temptation for union officials and staffers to steal"

Dozens of Union-Corruption Cases Recounted, Analyzed

The dozens of discrete union-corruption cases examined by Mr. Horowitz involve figures such as:

*** Former Teamsters Local 25 President George Cashman, who during his decade-long reign over this 9000-member union in Boston "ran one of the most feared rackets in the country." In April 2003, Mr. Cashman's guilty pleas to extortion and pension fraud allowed him to avoid prosecution related to years of alleged collusion by Local 25 officers with Mob bosses. Film producers shooting in New England reportedly were intimidated into

hiring union-boss and Mob cronies.

*** Frank Zeuberis, former boss of Local 5 of the Laborers Union in Chicago. In November 2001, he was sentenced to 33 months in prison for giving himself, his wife, and a reputed Mob lieutenant/fellow officer over \$470,000 in unauthorized and/or fraudulent salary increases and benefits.

*** David Feedback, president of Local 69 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees in Secaucus, N.J., until 2002, when he was ousted for allegedly paying \$542,000 in severance benefits to a previous Local 69 president who had been expelled for associating with mobsters in 1996.

*** Joseph Lore, the mobbed-up de facto boss of Local 1588 of the International Longshoremen's Association in Bayonne, N.J., until 2001. In 2002, he was convicted for leading an embezzlement scheme whose total take was between \$1.3 million and \$2.3 million.

Federal Government Has Responsibility to Clean Up Mess It Created

As the chief instigator of the problem of compulsory unionism and its attendant corruption, the federal

government has the responsibility to offer more than cosmetic remedies.

Towards that end, Mr. Horowitz recommends passage of the National Right to Work Act (H.R.391/S.1765), sponsored by Congressman Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) and Sens. Trent Lott (R-Miss.) and Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.).

At press time, H.R.391/S.1765 has a total of 134 House and Senate cosponsors.

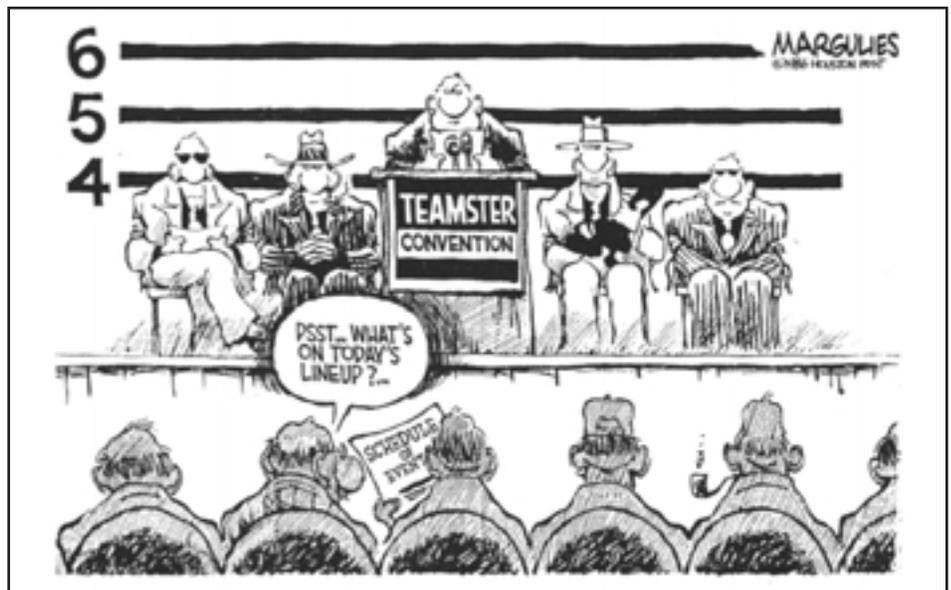
This legislation would subject corrupt union officials to market discipline by empowering union members in all 50 states to resign in protest and cease paying any dues or "fees" as soon as they detect any impropriety.

No law can completely eliminate union corruption.

But passage of the Right to Work Act would help "induce a whole lot of union officials to think twice before engaging in it," concludes Mr. Horowitz.

A PDF version of Union Corruption: Still a Growth Industry may be downloaded from www.nilrr.org -- the web site of the National Institute for Labor Relations Research.

To obtain a hard copy of this study or more information, any interested person can e-mail the Institute at research@nilrr.org or call 703-321-9606 and ask to speak with Senior Research Associate Stan Greer. 📧



Author Carl Horowitz' catalogue of ongoing corruption in several unions, such as the Teamsters, that have spent

years under federal supervision demonstrates the weakness of regulatory solutions to the problem.

Is Corruption an 'Internal Union Matter'?

We Had No Duty to Try to Stop Theft of Forced Dues, Say AFT Dons

For decades, teachers across the nation have been compelled to pay dues to an American Federation Teachers (AFT) union local for the privilege of serving children, parents, and taxpayers in a public school.

And AFT locals have been required under their parent union's constitution to fork over "per capita fees," now roughly \$150, to the AFT for every forced dues-paying teacher on their rolls.

Since the AFT itself doesn't normally bargain over school employees' pay, benefits, or working conditions, many of the 1.2 million AFT members have undoubtedly assumed that the forced dues diverted to the AFT pay for oversight of AFT locals.

However, union lawyers defending AFT Secretary-Treasurer Ed McElroy against a civil suit filed by Nathan Saunders, a teacher in Washington, D.C., recently argued that members making this assumption have been mistaken.

AFT Boss: Local Officers Stole Teachers' Forced Dues, But I'm Not Accountable

In December 2002, FBI raids of the offices of the AFT's affiliate in Washington, D.C., and the homes of the local's former top officers and their relatives and cronies uncovered evidence of rampant embezzlement from union treasuries.

This January, Barbara Bullock, president of the Washington Teacher Union (WTU/AFT) until the fall of 2002, pleaded guilty to mail fraud and conspiracy to embezzle.

Documents indicate that over the course of roughly seven years she siphoned off more than \$2.5 million from union treasuries, mostly forced dues and "fees," for her own personal use. Her cohorts allegedly embezzled additional millions.

This isn't the only recent high-profile corruption scandal in an AFT union local.

Pat Tornillo, who for decades ruled the AFT's huge local in Miami, Fla., pleaded guilty last August to embezzling between \$500,000 and \$800,000 from the union over a six-year period.

But the WTU scandal is especially embarrassing for the AFT brass because the WTU failed to submit any audited or reviewed financial statement to AFT officers between January 1, 1996 and December 2002 -- even though the AFT constitution expressly mandates that audits of locals be received every two years.

Defending AFT Secretary-Treasurer McElroy against Mr. Saunders' charges of "breach of fiduciary duty and breach of contract," union lawyers now claim Mr. McElroy has no duty to monitor the WTU's finances.

Not only did AFT officers never demand a WTU audit; they never even notified WTU forced-dues payers that they hadn't received one.

Instead, they continued to rake in \$700,000 a year in forced dues-financed "per capita" fees from the WTU, knowing, as Mr. Saunders pointed out in his lawsuit, "that they were improperly deducted from Plaintiff and knowing AFT did not provide proper oversight or due diligence."



DCWATCH.COM

AFT Secretary/Treasurer Ed McElroy claims he wasn't obliged to monitor corrupt AFT affiliates' finances.

Last month a federal judge rejected AFT lawyers' motion to dismiss Mr. Saunders' suit. Its ultimate outcome remains in doubt.

Why Should Teachers Be Forced to Pay Dues to Derelict Union Bosses?

But AFT lawyers have already sent a clear message to school employees who pay forced dues to the AFT and its affiliates, argued Matthew Leen, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"If policing corruption is an 'internal union matter,' for which union bosses can't legally be held accountable to the union rank and file, how can forced union dues possibly be justified?" asked Mr. Leen.

"AFT lawyers' arrogant response to Nathan Saunders' lawsuit underscores the importance of the Committee's campaign for repeal of teacher forced-dues laws, currently on the books in 21 states, that authorize the firing of teachers for refusal to pay dues.

"No teacher should ever be fired for refusal to fork over forced dues -- especially to a union whose top financial officer is now asserting his right to look the other way while millions of dollars in teachers' dues money were being embezzled!" 

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Union Front Group Targets Idahoans' Right to Work

AFL-CIO Bosses Masquerading as 'Concerned Citizens' Lead Campaign

National Right to Work Committee members in Idaho and around the country face a potentially grueling and costly battle this year to defeat a Big Labor-led drive to bring back forced union dues to the Gem State.

Nineteen years ago this January, the Idaho Legislature passed a Right to Work law that bars the firing of any employee for refusal to join or pay dues or so-called "agency fees" to an unwanted union.

Big Labor's 1986 Bid To Repeal Law Failed At the Ballot Box

Over the following two years, the Right to Work statute withstood a Big Labor lawsuit designed to prevent it from taking effect and a union boss-instigated statewide referendum intended to overturn it.

And since the Right to Work law was implemented in January 1986, Idaho has enjoyed impressive growth in personal income and employment-based benefits.

According to the latest U.S. Commerce and Labor Department data, since 1986 the Gem State's inflation-adjusted per capita income has grown by 36.1%, compared to 28.6% in the remaining non-Right to Work states.

Idahoans' income growth was far slower prior to passage of the Right to Work law.

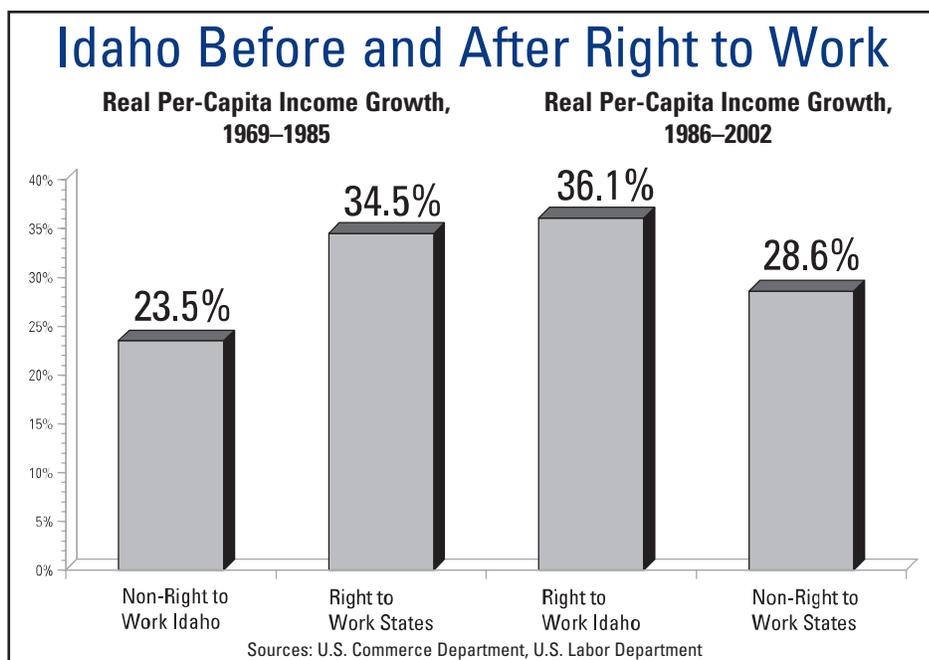
Between 1969 and 1985, the state's real per capita income grew by just 23.5%, well below the national average of 28.3% and far below the 34.5% growth in Right to Work states.

Number of Idahoans With Employment-Based Health Insurance Has Soared

The expansion of job-based benefits in Idaho, as recorded by the U.S. Census Bureau, has been even more outstanding.

Between 1987 and 2002 (the first and last years for which data are available), the number of Idahoans covered by employment-based health insurance soared by 36.9%, nearly triple the 13.5% aggregate increase in non-Right to Work states.

In light of such data, Right to Work repeal proponents' false and malicious claim that the law has somehow lowered incomes and job benefits' availability is flabbergasting.



The record shows that, contrary to the claims of forced dues-hungry union officials, real per-capita personal

income in Idaho has grown far more rapidly since the state enacted its Right to Work law.

Just who are these repeal proponents?

Top organizers of the campaign to put Right to Work repeal on a statewide ballot in Idaho this November bill themselves on their web site merely as "concerned citizens."

Their list of coordinators includes such names as Barbara A. Harris, Randy Spray, Dave Whaley, and Dan Maloney, with no further identification.

The fact that these people are the presidents, respectively, of the North Idaho AFL-CIO, the Lewiston-Clarkston (Idaho) AFL-CIO, the Idaho AFL-CIO, and the Magic Valley (Idaho) AFL-CIO is nowhere to be found on the web site.

"The Idaho AFL-CIO hierarchy obviously knows its credibility is in the gutter with the citizens of the state," noted Committee Vice President Doug Stafford.

"That's why it's trying to conceal, albeit not very well, the fact that it's behind the Right to Work repeal drive. Union bosses hope that that way their absurd claims about the Right to Work law's impact will resonate better."

As this month's Newsletter goes to press, the deadline has passed for Ms. Harris and her cohorts to gather roughly 42,000 anti-Right to Work signatures and submit them to Idaho's secretary of state.

But it won't be known for several

weeks if the "Repeal Right to Work" cabal has gathered enough valid signatures to get its initiative on the ballot this fall.

If Big Labor Measure Gets on the Ballot, Committee Will Fight Back

If that turns out to be the case, the National Right to Work Committee is prepared to do everything necessary to ensure the survival of Idaho's Right to Work law.

"We're taking this threat very seriously," said Committee Vice President Stafford.

"Of course, the vast majority of Idahoans support the Right to Work principle.

"But should union bosses get Right to Work repeal on the ballot, they'll do their best to cloud the issue by inundating the state with misleading and flat-out false claims about incomes and benefits.

"That's why the Committee and its grass-roots ally in Idaho, the Rocky Mountain Right to Work Coalition, are preparing to make a major investment to clear the air and get the real record out there before Idahoans go to the polls in November."

Committee Members' Free Speech Faces New Threat

Legal Battle May Be Necessary to Stop Proposed FEC Power Grab

Just five months ago, the free-speech rights of issue-advocacy groups of all kinds were dealt a vicious blow as the bitterly divided U.S. Supreme Court issued its 5-4 ruling in *McConnell v. Federal Election Commission*.

Now members of the National Right to Work Committee and other citizens' "lobbying" groups face an even more severe threat to their associational freedom of speech.

McConnell upheld the core provisions of the so-called Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 (or BCRA).

The High Court thus enabled self-serving Capitol Hill politicians to prevent many voluntary organizations from purchasing TV and radio advertising time to lobby Congress during election season.

But Big Labor phone banks, get-out-the-vote drives, and paid campaign "volunteers," which are all funded overwhelmingly by dues that workers are forced to pay as a job condition, remain almost completely unregulated under the BCRA.

Since union bosses' "in-kind" contributions to their favored candidates are hardly ever reported, no one knows their exact value. But they are credibly estimated to be worth up to a billion dollars per federal campaign cycle.

The BCRA is thus already tilting the electoral playing field even further in favor of the union bosses this year.

Proposed Redefinition Of 'Political Committee' Is Flatly Unconstitutional

And this spring, bureaucrats at the Federal Election Commission (FEC) have proposed new regulations that would recast issue-advocacy groups, whose members' privacy is respected under current law, as "political committees."

If these regulations are implemented, the Committee "will face an unacceptable choice," explained Right to Work President Mark Mix:

"Either hand over members' names and addresses for 'public disclosure' and ultimately to union toughs -- which we will never do -- or cease publicly discussing politicians' stands on Right to Work when they are most apt to listen, at election time.

"I repeat, the Committee will NEVER hand over any members' names and



Committee counsel Richard Clair has urged FEC bureaucrats to abandon their scheme to recast issue-advocacy

addresses. And we also refuse to give up our First Amendment freedoms.

"As a consequence, my fellow Right to Work officers and I could end up in jail if the FEC implements its proposal.

"A wide range of legal experts agree that FEC bureaucrats' proposed redefinitions of 'political committee' and related terms are flatly unconstitutional.

"But if FEC lawyers come after the Committee again, as they have repeatedly in the past, it could take us years and cost us millions of dollars to prevail in court."

Mark Mix Asks Members To Help Committee Gird For Protracted Legal War

A mailing posted to Committee supporters nationwide early this month includes a letter from Mr. Mix and a special Membership Authorization Form to be signed and returned.

This form authorizes Committee officers to continue -- despite the serious risk of an FEC lawsuit -- informing the American people as the 2004 elections approach how their congressmen and senators vote on the Right to Work issue.

If the Committee allows itself to be intimidated by FEC bureaucrats and shuts down its lobbying programs during the fall campaign season, warned Mr. Mix, "Big Labor's billion-dollar political

groups, whose members' privacy is respected under current law, as "political committees."

empire will be left unchallenged."

"The union bosses will easily install their handpicked candidates like [presidential hopeful] John Kerry . . . and [Senate Minority Leader] Tom Daschle into top positions of power."

Both Moral and Financial Support Are Much Needed

But Mr. Mix is confident that Right to Work members around the country will give Committee officers the green light to keep fighting the union political machine, and have no fear of FEC bureaucrats' reaction.

"By signing and returning their Membership Authorization Forms, Committee members can help protect their First Amendment rights and ensure that Big Labor's ongoing bid to take over Washington, D.C., will meet stiff resistance," he explained.

"Please verify that you got your letter and form in the mail.

"And then try to return your Membership Authorization Form immediately, so you can't possibly forget.

"We need members' moral support, as well as their ever-more generous financial support, in order to combat effectively the union political machine, which is sure to spend a record amount of forced-dues cash on federal politics this year." 📧