

'Purple Army' Conscripts Descend on Harrisburg

Pennsylvania Field Hearing Plugs Card-Check Forced Unionism Bill

In written testimony submitted to U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter's (R-Pa.) labor appropriations subcommittee last month, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) boss Eileen Connelly boasted about the recent victories she and her cohorts have chalked up through "card check" organizing.

Ms. Connelly, executive director of the SEIU's Pennsylvania affiliate, was especially ebullient regarding a recent deal between the SEIU hierarchy and Beverly Enterprises, a major nursing-home company.

Because of this deal, just since January SEIU bosses have successfully used card checks to acquire monopoly power to negotiate employee pay, benefits, and work rules at three Beverly homes.

Card-check organizing empowers union officials to force a business's employees to accept a union as their "exclusive" bargaining agent solely through the acquisition of signed union authorization cards.

Individual workers under the watchful eyes of union organizers may be intimidated into signing themselves, and ultimately all their nonunion fellow employees, over to union-boss control.

Kennedy/Miller Bill Would Make Card-Check Forced Unionism Automatic

Coercive card-check organizing is already a favorite Big Labor tactic, but isn't mandated by federal law right now.

That's why SEIU and other union bosses want to change the law. Mr. Specter, who has frequently supported forced-unionism power grabs, invited several Big Labor militants to testify in favor of mandatory card checks at a July 16 field hearing in Harrisburg, Pa.

Mouthpieces for the SEIU and the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) union demanded that Congress enact the

Card-Check Forced Unionism Bill (S.1925/H.R.3619), which would make card-check organizing automatic. Big Labor bosses would no longer need to browbeat employers into acquiescing to it.

As a leading practitioner of card-check organizing, the SEIU hierarchy has become a top advocate for S.1925/H.R.3619.

For the Specter hearing, Pennsylvania SEIU bosses herded into busses large numbers of rank-and-file hospital orderlies, janitors, security guards, and other workers under SEIU monopoly control, dressed them in identical purple T-shirts, and posed them for photo ops showing "mass" support for Kennedy/Miller.

Monopolistic Unionism Not In Workers' Best Interest

"Few adult American employees, regardless of whether they are janitors or security guards or steelworkers or teachers, aspire to be part of a 'purple army' like the SEIU's," said Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"But the objectives of the SEIU hierarchy sharply differ from those of most workers. And you don't have to take my word for that.

"Last year, veteran pro-forced unionism journalist JoAnn Wypijewski spoke with a number of SEIU officers while preparing an article for the socialist magazine *Counterpunch*. Apparently believing her to be a 'friend,' they were painfully frank.

"As Ms. Wypijewski wrote: 'Some SEIU staff say straight up, "This isn't a workers' organization. If it was left to the workers there wouldn't be an organization.'"

"It is precisely because the SEIU is not a 'workers' organization' that the SEIU brass felt free to cut its recent top down-organizing deal with the for-profit firm Tenet Healthcare Services.

"A four-year contract was signed before



Right to Work President Mark Mix: "We will do everything necessary to defeat the card-check scheme."

any Tenet employees got a chance to vote on whether or not they wanted a union!

"Other signs that the SEIU is not a 'workers' organization' include the union hierarchy's recent announcement it would spend \$65 million, mostly dues and 'fees' workers are forced to pay as a job condition, on partisan politics this year.


"Polls of unionized workers consistently show that, regardless of their political leanings, they overwhelmingly believe granting or refusing to grant financial support for a candidate should be a worker's personal decision.

"The SEIU is a prominent example of why monopolistic unionism is not in workers' best interest."

Right to Work Leads Charge Against Card-Check Scheme

To prevent millions of additional workers from being corralled into unions they don't want, Right to Work proponents are leading the fight against S.1925/H.R.3619.

At the Specter hearing, Right to Work attorney Glenn Taubman and one of his current clients, Ohio factory worker Clarice Atherholt, debunked the Big Labor misinformation about this bill.

And over the past few months letters, postcards, and phone calls from Right to Work Committee members have helped fortify congressional opposition to the Kennedy/Miller Bill. "We will do everything necessary to defeat the card-check scheme," concluded Mr. Mix. 

'This isn't a workers' organization. If it was left to the workers there wouldn't be an organization.'

-- Unnamed SEIU staffers quoted by pro-forced unionism journalist Joann Wypijewski
