



NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 9

www.nrtwc.org

September 2004

Right to Work Ads Target Speaker's Home Turf *Media Blitz Increases Pressure For Recorded Floor Vote on H.R.391*

Escalating the National Right to Work Committee's campaign to convince Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) to schedule a recorded, roll-call vote on the National Right to Work Act (H.R.391), Committee Director of Legislation Greg Mourad visited Mr. Hastert's home district late last month.

At an August 25 news conference held in Elgin, Ill., Mr. Mourad announced a TV ad campaign targeting the speaker's district, urging Mr. Hastert to schedule a vote on H.R.391.

Why Would Speaker Hastert Choose to Ignore People Who Supported Him?

Mr. Mourad laid out a powerful case for why Mr. Hastert should allow a roll-call vote on H.R.391.

"This bill has been introduced during the last several Congresses and has the support of nearly 80% of the American people, according to the most recent polls," said Mr. Mourad.

"And for the last two Congresses, the votes have been present in the House Education and the Workforce Committee to pass this bill onto the floor of the House for a recorded vote.

"But despite [receiving] hundreds of phone calls, letters, postcards and petitions from the folks in his district and throughout the nation, Speaker Hastert and the rest of the congressional leadership have so far failed to act.

"As I said before, poll after poll shows that nearly eight out of 10 Americans oppose forced unionism.

"Why would Speaker Hastert choose to ignore the will of the people who sent him to Washington?"

After kicking off the Illinois ad campaign, Mr. Mourad subsequently



As a Committee ad targeting Speaker Dennis Hastert's home district has noted, every time a vote is held on the

Right to Work issue, union-boss candidates take a beating in the next election.

visited the home districts of congressmen, such as Rep. Jon Porter (R-Nev.), who have failed to keep earlier campaign pledges to cosponsor national Right to Work legislation.

Strategy of Confrontation Helps Right to Work Cause

"It is time for politicians like Jon Porter to honor their pledges. It is inexcusable for politicians to break their word to the folks they represent," said Mr. Mourad after returning to Right to Work headquarters.

"Sadly, this truth seems to have been forgotten in Washington. But the truth remains unchanged."

The targeted television ads in Nevada

and elsewhere have reminded freedom-loving citizens that "their Right to Work will be at risk as long as politicians are allowed to break their promises and stand on the sidelines of our battle to end forced unionism," concluded Mr. Mourad.

H.R.391 and its Senate companion, S.1765, would repeal the provisions in federal labor law that currently authorize the firing of employees for refusal to join or pay so-called "agency fees" to an unwanted union.

Holding a recorded floor vote on H.R.391 should be an easy decision for Mr. Hastert, who has in the past publicly stated his support for Right to Work and

See Ads next page

Ads Take on Forced Unionism

Continued from page 1

opposition to forced unionism. The bill is sponsored by 131 House members, including a solid majority of Mr. Hastert's GOP caucus.

And every time in the past four decades that there has been a public vote on forced unionism in Congress, opponents of worker freedom have gone down in flames in the next election. The record of House roll calls alone amply demonstrates this fact.

Showdowns on Forced Unionism Led to Big Labor Debacles in 60's, 70's, 90's

In 1965 and 1966, the Committee led the fight to save state Right to Work laws from destruction by blocking repeal of Taft-Hartley 14(b), which recognizes the authority of the states to enact such laws.

In the 1966 elections, 39 House members who had voted against Right to Work were defeated, but not one House member who had voted to save 14(b) was beaten by a 14(b) opponent.

The Committee led another

successful campaign in 1977-78 to stop the union bosses' so-called Labor Law "Reform" Bill, which would have imposed harsh penalties on employers who resisted the forced unionization of their employees.

Sixteen congressmen who voted for Big Labor's phony "reform" went on to lose their re-election bids in 1978. Only two congressmen who had voted for Right to Work were defeated.

In 1991 and 1993, House members voted on their chamber's version of Sen. Ted Kennedy's (D-Mass.) Pushbutton Strike Bill, designed to force employers to punish or fire workers who defy union-boss strike orders.

A total of 37 House members who had voted for the strike bill were defeated when they sought reelection in 1992 or 1994.

Right to Work forces made solid net House gains in both of these years, and in 1994 not a single strike-bill foe was beaten by a strike-bill proponent.

In 1996, lobbying by Committee members finally brought federal Right to Work legislation to the Senate floor.



Committee Director of Legislation Greg Mourad unveiled the Hastert ad at an August 25 news conference.

Although the measure was defeated, Right to Work allies quickly picked up a net of five Senate votes for the 1997-98 Congress.

House Has Never Voted On National Right To Work Legislation

The 1996 vote continued to benefit Right to Work proponents even in the 2000 and 2002 elections. For example, in 2000 it helped challenger George Allen (R-Va.) defeat Big Labor Sen. Chuck Robb (D), and in 2002 it helped challenger Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.) unseat forced-unionism proponent Max Cleland (D).

Unlike the Senate, the House has never voted on national Right to Work legislation.

Therefore, dozens of cynical, union boss-backed politicians have been able to get away with telling their constituents they really do support employees' Right to Work without being forced to pay union dues.

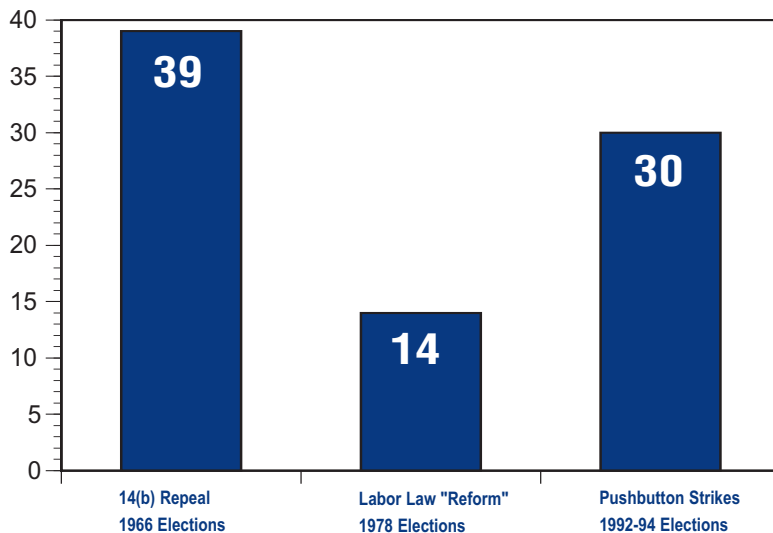
By bringing H.R.391 up for a floor vote before the November elections, Mr. Hastert and other House leaders can end such politicians' free ride.

"Given the proven benefits of holding a recorded vote on H.R.391, even if it doesn't pass into law this year, Mr. Hastert must not miss this opportunity," said Right to Work President Mark Mix.

Right to Work members are urged to contact Speaker Hastert immediately at 202-225-2976.

Ask him to schedule a roll-call vote on H.R.391, the National Right to Work Act, before Congress adjourns. [T](#)

Net Total of Big Labor House Members Defeated After Roll-Call Votes on Forced Unionism



Source:
National Institute for
Labor Relations Research

Bars refer to the number of U.S. House members who voted for a Big Labor-backed bill, then were defeated, minus the number who voted against Big Labor, and then lost.

While no one can predict exactly how many House seats a recorded vote on the National Right to Work Act would

cost Big Labor, decades of electoral history indicate the number could be significant.