

# On 'Card Checks,' John Kerry Speaks in Code

## *Advisors Plainly Aware Big Labor Schemes Are Extremely Unpopular*

Agree or disagree with most agenda items on the "John Kerry for President" web site, you can at least understand them.

But one very important plank in the Kerry platform would certainly be incomprehensible to most Americans:

"John Kerry believes that the card check and neutrality system is the fairest and most equitable way for employees to establish their desire to form a union and for employers to recognize a union and begin negotiations."

Nowhere in the "issues" page where this campaign plank appears -- see [www.johnkerry.com/issues/economy/workers.html](http://www.johnkerry.com/issues/economy/workers.html) -- are the contextual meanings of the words "card check" and "neutrality" explained.

While union bosses and most regular readers of the Right to Work Newsletter understand what Sen. Kerry (D-Mass.) means by the "card check and neutrality system," for the vast majority of prospective voters it's gobbledeygook.

And this obviously isn't a case of careless writing. On this issue, the Kerry campaign would rather not be understood by the vast majority of potential voters.

### **Bill Backed by Kerry-Edwards Ticket Would Grease Skids For 'Card Check' Forced Unionism**

Together, the "card check" language on the Kerry web site and the frequent campaign trail vow by Kerry running mate John Edwards (the North Carolina Democratic senator) to "make card-check neutrality the law of the land" constitute a strong endorsement of the cynically labeled "Employee Free Choice Act."

Coauthored by Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Congressman George Miller (D-Calif.), this bill would effectively ban employee secret-ballot elections over unionization and replace them with card-check organizing.

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

It 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 or tricked into signing themselves, and ultimately all their



**The real aim of the "card check" legislation touted by the Kerry-Edwards ticket is to ensure that**

**millions of additional workers are forced to accept a union as their monopoly-bargaining agent.**

nonunion fellow employees, over to union-boss control.

However, under current labor law union officials need to have employers' acquiescence to deny employees the freedom to reach their conclusions about a union and act on them in private.

The Kennedy-Miller bill would eliminate that small safeguard. Consequently, during unionization drives only the views workers express while being monitored by union officials would count.

Automatic card checks so weaken employers' ability to protect independent-minded employees' freedom to resist unionization that businesses would also more frequently acquiesce to union organizers' demands for so-called "neutrality" deals.

These agreements typically require employers to hold mandatory meetings for employees, during which company spokesmen tell workers of the firm's support for unionization. Supervisors are ordered not to provide employees with information that may sway them to oppose a union.

### **Recent Survey Shows Most Union Members Oppose Card-Check Schemes**

By now, Mr. Kerry's advisors are doubtless aware that union members nationwide were polled on the subject of card checks in late June by the respected firm Zogby International, headquartered in

Utica, N.Y. The poll was commissioned by Michigan's Mackinac Center for Public Policy.

By a 53% to 41% majority, with the rest undecided, union members rejected the notion that having "union organizers ask workers to sign their name on a card if they want a union" was the "fairest way to decide on a union."

Union bosses should at least have to clear the higher hurdle of a secret-ballot election to acquire monopoly-bargaining privileges, said a 53% majority of union members.

"Opposition to card-check schemes is undoubtedly even higher among the general public than it is among rank-and-file union members," noted Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

The Committee has led the opposition to the Kennedy/Miller legislation (S.1925/H.R.3619) since it was introduced late last year.

"The bottom line is, union bosses think it should be even easier for them to obtain monopoly power to negotiate wages, benefits, and working conditions for union members and nonmembers alike," Mr. Mix continued.

"But the vast majority of Americans, including most union members, don't agree.

"And if concerned voters come to understand what John Kerry means when he pledges his allegiance to the 'card check and neutrality system,' it could mean major trouble for his campaign." 