



NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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Right to Work Poised to Make Senate Gains *Pro-Forced Unionism Record Dogging Embattled Minority Leader*

National Right to Work Committee members who are following this year's political campaigns have at least eight close U.S. Senate contests around the country toward which they should direct their energy and attention as Election Day approaches.

Up to now, most news organizations have been fixated on the challenge to GOP President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney by Democratic Sens. John Kerry (Mass.) and John Edwards (N.C.).

There is a clear difference between the Bush-Cheney and Kerry-Edwards tickets on the Right to Work issue. Mr. Bush has publicly said he is willing to sign a national Right to Work law banning forced union dues and "fees" in all 50 states.

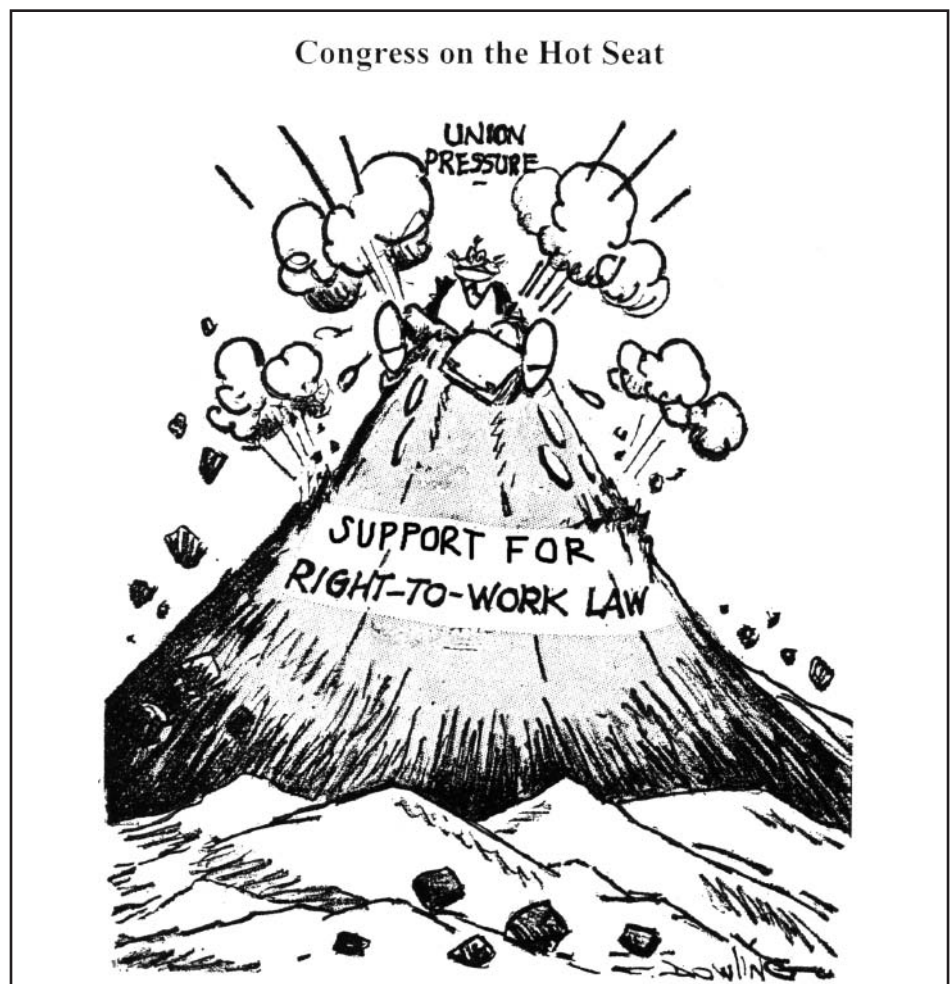
In contrast, Mr. Kerry virulently opposes a national Right to Work law, and the Kerry-Edwards team supports a host of Big Labor power grabs that would make it even easier for union bosses to corral employees into unwanted unions.

'Open' Senate Seats Represent Opportunities For Pro-Right to Work Citizens

By late in September, Mr. Bush was leading Mr. Kerry in most national polls and Electoral College projections, though in some cases by a very narrow margin.

But a Bush victory wouldn't in itself sharply improve the prospects of abolishing federally-imposed forced union dues.

Unless Right to Work forces at the same time make significant gains in both chambers of Congress, passing a national Right to Work law will continue to be an uphill battle.



Thanks to the efforts of millions of Right to Work supporters across the country, this year federal candidates

are feeling more intense pressure than ever before to pledge their opposition to forced unionism.

Specifically, if Right to Work advocates can increase their Senate strength by four votes or more, they will be much closer to enacting a national Right to Work law next year if President Bush is reelected.

A net pick-up of at least four Right to

Work allies in the Senate could also avert a legislative disaster should Mr. Kerry, with the help of Big Labor's massive, forced dues-funded political machine, come from behind to win in November.

See **Right to Work** next page

Right to Work State Races Are Key

Continued from page 1

"By increasing our Senate strength, we can put ourselves in a strong position to block pro-forced unionism legislation even if Mr. Kerry prevails," said Committee President Mark Mix.

"And a net Right to Work gain of four or more Senate seats is feasible.

"In a number of Right to Work states and in Colorado, where a formidable grass-roots campaign to pass a Right to Work law has sprouted up over the past few years, Big Labor senators are retiring.

"These open Senate seats represent opportunities for pro-Right to Work citizens."

Pro-Right to Work Candidates Lead in South Carolina, Louisiana, Georgia

According to the latest polls, Senate candidates who are on the record in favor of Right to Work are now leading in open-seat races in South Carolina, Louisiana and Georgia.

In the Palmetto State, U.S. Rep. Jim DeMint (R) holds a modest, but so far persistent edge over South Carolina Education Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum (D).

Mr. DeMint is a cosponsor of the House version of the National Right to Work Act (H.R.391) and the lead House sponsor of the Truth in Employment Act (H.R.1793), a measure that would crack down on so-called "salting" schemes designed to impose forced unionism on

small construction and other firms.

Ms. Tenenbaum is trying to conceal her views on the Right to Work issue, but the fact that she has already gratefully accepted \$163,000 in reported Big Labor PAC money alone, plus hidden, forced-dues funded contributions in the form of union phone banks, mailings, and loaned staff, gives the game away.

The winner in this race will replace veteran Sen. Ernest Hollings (D), an opponent of the National Right to Work Act who has with increasing frequency in recent years toed the union bosses' party line on other issues as well.

In Louisiana's "jungle" primary, staunchly pro-Right to Work GOP Congressman David Vitter is now outpolling the three Democrats in the race, even when their support is combined.

Among the Democrats, the current leader is Big Labor U.S. Rep. Chris John, who is a cosponsor of the House version (H.R.3619) of Sen. Ted Kennedy's (D-Mass.) "Card Check" Forced-Unionism Bill, which is designed to make it even easier for union bosses to secure monopoly-bargaining privileges over workers.

The winner in Louisiana will replace union-label Sen. John Breaux (D). If no candidate tops 50% of the vote in the November 2 primary, then the two leading vote-getters will compete in a run-off election in December.

In Georgia, pro-Right to Work U.S.

Rep. Johnny Isakson (R) is now a strong favorite over forced-unionism apologist Denise Majette (D), who is also a U.S. House member.

The winner in this race will replace retiring Democrat Zell Miller (D), whose record on Right to Work issues has been mixed during the four years since he took the seat of the late GOP Sen. Paul Coverdell in a special election.

Senate Races in Florida And Colorado Are Already Neck-and-Neck

Other possible Right to Work pick-ups include Florida and Colorado.

In the Sunshine State, AFL-CIO-endorsed Democrat Betty Castor, a former state education commissioner, now enjoys a slight lead over Republican Mel Martinez, a Bush Cabinet member until he resigned to run for the Senate in December 2003.

Ms. Castor's own web site actually boasts of her opposition to Right to Work legislation and her support for the Kennedy "card check" scheme. Mr. Martinez pledges 100% opposition to forced unionism, a position that is much more in keeping with public opinion in Right to Work Florida.

The winner in Florida will replace retiring Big Labor Sen. Bob Graham (D).

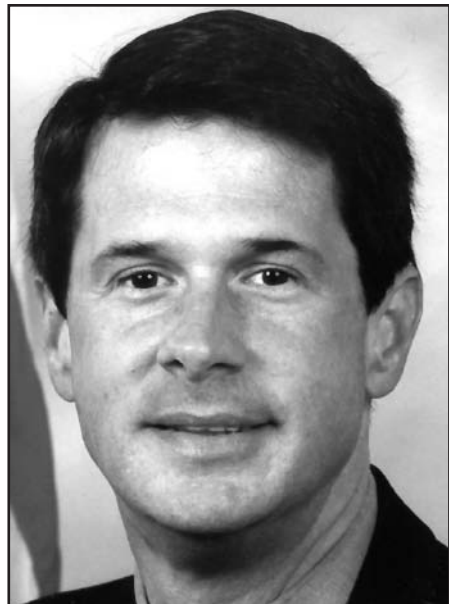
In Colorado, pro-Right to Work businessman Pete Coors (R) is now in a statistical tie with union boss-backed state Attorney General Ken Salazar (D).

Mr. Coors has pledged that if he is

See **Survey** next page



Pro-Right to Work Senate candidates Mel Martinez (R-Fla., left), David



Vitter (R-La., center), and Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) are vying to capture seats that



have long been held by Big Labor senators.

Survey Program Pressures Politicians

Continued from page 2

elected he will consistently vote for Right to Work.

Mr. Salazar is capily keeping quiet about this issue in a state where pro-employee freedom sentiment grows ever stronger, but his Senate campaign has also accepted more than \$179,000 in cash alone from union kingpins.

The contested seat in Colorado is currently held by Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R), one of the diminishing number of anti-Right to Work Republicans left in the Senate.

Up to now, Big Labor-backed Democrat Erskine Bowles has had the edge in the race for the North Carolina Senate seat now held by vice presidential nominee John Edwards (D).

But as of late September, GOP nominee Richard Burr, a staunchly pro-Right to Work five-term U.S. House member, appears to be narrowing the gap in some polls.

Since Mr. Edwards has slavishly supported forced unionism since joining the Senate in 1999, capturing his seat would be a significant gain for Right to Work advocates.

Votes Against Right to Work May End South Dakotan's Long Tenure in Senate

In addition to the six aforementioned Senate races, freedom-loving citizens are paying close attention to embattled Big Labor Democratic Minority Leader Tom Daschle's campaign to win reelection in Right to Work South Dakota.

Mr. Daschle is notorious not only for voting against the national Right to Work measure that came to the Senate floor in 1996, but also for leading a 2001 effort to impose union monopoly bargaining on state and local public-safety employees

nationwide.

Several recent polls show Mr. Daschle trailing or tied with challenger John Thune (R), who compiled a uniformly pro-employee, pro-Right to Work voting record as a U.S. congressman between 1997 and 2003.

Meanwhile, only one Senate seat currently held by a consistent Right to Work supporter (retiring Oklahoma Republican Don Nickles) now appears to be up for grabs in November.

Pro-Right to Work former Congressman Tom Coburn (R) is running neck-and-neck with Congressman Brad Carson (D), a cosponsor of the Kennedy "Card Check" Forced Unionism Bill whose Senate campaign has raked in at least \$250,000 in cash alone from Big Labor.

The Right to Work issue is particularly salient in Oklahoma, since it became the 22nd state to ban forced union dues in September 2001, barely three years ago.

Mark Mix: Now Is the Time When Your Politicians Are Listening to You

"The Committee's goal is to forge a pro-Right to Work majority in the Senate, as well as in the House of Representatives," explained Mr. Mix.

"That's why the Committee is now pouring our resources into the federal Survey 2004 program, which puts pressure on candidates from both parties to make public pledges in support of Right to Work."

The federal Survey 2004 consists of three phases:

In the first phase, candidates received questionnaires asking them how they intend to vote on a number of Right to Work-related measures, including



Several polls suggest Big Labor Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle's reelection bid is in trouble.

national Right to Work legislation.

In the second phase, Committee members called and wrote the candidates, asking them to answer 100% in favor of Right to Work.

In the final phase, the Committee is reporting back to members and friends at the local level on how their candidates responded, keeping the heat on non-responsive candidates until Election Day to take a clear stand on Right to Work.

"Now is the time when your federal politicians are most interested in what you have to say," said Mr. Mix.

"If they hear from huge numbers of Right to Work supporters now, Senate candidates who have opposed or concealed their stand on national Right to Work legislation up to now, but are in close races, can potentially be persuaded to support Right to Work.

"No matter what state you live in, it's important for you to call your candidates today -- especially those candidates who are still refusing to respond to Right to Work's Survey 2004." 📞

Right to Work Candidate Survey Results Mailed Out

Enclosed with this month's Newsletter is a brief report letting you know how your congressional candidates responded to the National Right to Work Committee's federal Survey 2004.

In addition to Newsletter readers, hundreds of thousands of other identified Right to Work advocates around the country are receiving similar reports regarding their candidates.

Please review your report immediately,

as well as the accompanying letter urging you to contact the candidates, especially those who are concealing their position on Right to Work.

There's not much time left for freedom-loving Americans like you to convince these candidates to change course and make public pledges to support Right to Work 100%.

Experience shows that candidates are much more likely to heed the vast majority

of Americans who support Right to Work and pledge across-the-board opposition to forced unionism now, before Election Day -- not after they are safely elected or reelected.

With AFL-CIO czar John Sweeney and other union dons spending up to a billion dollars or even more to dominate this year's federal elections, it's critical for Right to Work supporters to turn up the pressure on their candidates now. 📞

House Speaker Hinders Pro-Freedom Candidates

Inaction on H.R.391 Makes Close Contests Tougher to Win

In the 1994 mid-term elections, GOP candidates gained a walloping 52 U.S. House seats and eight U.S. Senate seats.

Today political analysts from both major parties agree that the Republicans were able to make such sweeping gains 10 years ago only because they confronted then-President Bill Clinton time and time again on matters of principle.

Every single Republican in Congress voted against the Clinton tax hike of 1993.

Strategy of Confrontation Helped Right to Work Cause

And 90% of Republicans voted against the pro-forced unionism "Striker Replacement Bill" backed by Mr. Clinton and Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.).

Although the tax hike was enacted and the strike bill easily passed the House, the GOP confrontations with Mr. Clinton on cutting issues like Right to Work hurt pro-forced unionism politicians.

As Mr. Clinton himself has conceded, votes like these actually had devastating electoral consequences for Big Labor Democrats.

After the 1993-94 confrontations over issues such as the Kennedy strike bill ushered in a GOP-controlled Congress, pro-Right to Work Americans were eager to continue the battle over compulsory unionism.

In the Senate, then-GOP Majority

Leader Trent Lott (Miss.) held the first-ever vote on national Right to Work legislation in July 1996.

As expected, Big Labor defeated the bill with every Democratic member voting against it.

But in that November's elections and their immediate aftermath, Right to Work supporters picked up a net of five Senate seats, including one incumbent who had voted "no," but switched his position in early 1997.

This occurred even as the Clinton-Gore team was reelected in an Electoral College landslide.

Right to Work Bill Would Repeal Federally-Imposed Forced Union Dues

Unfortunately, GOP House leaders never allowed a parallel vote on the National Right to Work Act, known in this Congress as H.R.391. This bill would repeal all federal labor-law provisions that authorize the firing of employees for refusal to pay dues or "fees" to an unwanted union.

And soon House leaders virtually jettisoned the strategy of confrontation on other cutting-edge issues.

As a consequence, senior National Right to Work Committee officers believe GOP leaders will be lucky not to see their already razor-thin 227-205 House majority trimmed further in next month's elections.

"A roll-call vote this year on H.R.391 would have exposed the anti-Right to Work bias of union-boss owned House incumbents, including several who are in very close races," said Mark Mix, the Committee's president.

No Vote Means Voters Pay Less Attention To Right to Work Issue

"Now I expect the vast majority of endangered Big Labor incumbents to keep their seats in part because they didn't have to vote on H.R.391," he continued.

As examples, Mr. Mix cited Reps. Dennis Moore (D-Kan.), Stephanie Herseth (D-S.D.), Baron Hill (D-Ind.), and Jim Matheson (D-Utah).

A recent scientific survey taken by the Research 2000 firm found that 79% of regular voters agree that no worker should be forced to affiliate with a union to get or keep a job. (Research 2000 polls are frequently cited in world-renowned news sources like CNN, the *Washington Post*, and the *Wall Street Journal*.)

However, without a vote on H.R.391, too many citizens' attention will not be focused on Right to Work.


That could also seriously hurt pro-Right to Work nominees in competitive races for "open" House seats, such as Greg Walcher (R-Colo.) and Dave Reichert (R-Wash.).

GOP Leader's Failure To Learn From Experience Difficult to Explain

"Since House GOP leaders' ability to do their jobs is greatly constricted in an almost even-divided chamber, and the vast majority of pro-Right to Work candidates are Republicans, Speaker Hastert's [D-Ill.] failure to act on the popular and politically potent H.R.391 is baffling," said Mr. Mix.

"Mr. Hastert should have known better.

"His own experience during the nineties should have told him it's a foolish strategy to divert the public's attention away from a winning issue that is backed by the vast majority of your party caucus.

"Mr. Hastert and other GOP leaders have a lot to answer for." 



Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) and other GOP leaders have harmed many pro-Right to Work candidates'

prospects by refusing to allow a recorded vote on H.R.391, the National Right to Work Act.

Forced-Dues Money Dumped Into Federal Elections

Estimated Cost of Union Politicking in 2003-4: Nearly a Billion

As many workers across the country know from bitter experience, the hierarchy of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU/AFL-CIO) is determined to squeeze as much forced-dues money out of them as it possibly can.

And some of these workers are fighting back to protect their wallets and pocketbooks. Because federal law empowers union bosses to get workers fired for refusal to fork over forced union dues or "fees," this is an uphill fight.

For example, last November cafeteria worker Arleen DeMaio and 12 of her colleagues at the Yale-New Haven Hospital in New Haven, Conn., filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) accusing New England SEIU bosses of illegally denying them the right to resign from the union.

Union kingpins were clearly loathe to follow the law because forced dues-paying workers who resign from a union have the right, under federal court precedents won by the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, to pay a forced, but reduced, union agency "fee" rather than full forced dues.

With a Foundation attorney's help, Ms. DeMaio and her colleagues eventually succeeded in forcing local SEIU bosses to rescind their unlawful restrictions on the right to resign.

But in most cases SEIU officials undoubtedly get away with lying to workers to extract more forced-dues money from them, because most are unaware of their rights vis-à-vis Big Labor.

'We Need to Dramatically Increase Our Political Activity in Florida'

In recent interviews, SEIU International President Andrew Stern has made it clear why SEIU bosses are so eager to rake in more workers' forced-dues money that they are willing to risk getting caught breaking the law.

"We need to dramatically increase our political activity in Florida [as well as in other "battleground" states in this year's presidential election]," Mr. Stern told the *St. Petersburg* (Fla.) *Times* last month.

According to the *Chicago Tribune*, in July the SEIU brass began deploying an army of more than 2000 political



AFL-CIO czar John Sweeney (pictured) and his lieutenants are spending hundreds of millions of

dollars in workers' forced-dues money to seize control over the White House and congressional leadership positions.

organizers to "register and rally voters in so-called battleground states."

Mr. Stern acknowledged to *Business Week* that roughly "\$40 million will be spent" on taking these organizers "off the job to go to battleground states, to house them, and pay for salary [sic] and health care."

He also admitted in the same interview that 85% of the money that is paying for this giant electioneering scheme comes from "regular [forced] dues-paying members."

Mr. Stern vows to spend another "\$20 million or so" this campaign season on political propaganda mailings, partisan phone banks, and face-to-face electioneering in the workplace.

As a number of Right to Work Foundation cases have demonstrated, SEIU local bosses often tell rank-and-file workers that if they don't become union members and thus bankroll Mr. Stern's political projects, they can legally be fired.

Countless thousands of SEIU-"represented" workers are tricked by this falsehood and pay full dues to save their jobs while the SEIU political empire grows bigger and bigger.

Not just SEIU bosses, but bosses of many of the 59 other AFL-CIO-affiliated national and international unions are spending tens of millions of dollars apiece from forced-dues treasuries to influence federal elections.

The AFL-CIO umbrella organization itself has publicly admitted it will "spend \$45 million on the [2004] campaign," not including its reported PAC and 527 group contributions.

'With Everything We're Doing . . . We Can Get This Sucker Out'

Back in March, AFL-CIO Political Director Karen Ackerman boasted: "With everything we're doing, along with what the locals are doing, we can get this sucker [President Bush] out."

Altogether, Organized Labor's reported and unreported federal political spending this year will come to \$925 million, or nearly a billion dollars, according to a conservative estimate recently made by the National Institute for Labor Relations Research.

(For details, see "The Union Political Machine in 2004" at www.nilrr.org -- the Institute's web site.)

"Government imposed forced union dues are corrupting American politics and undermining our democratic institutions," charged Doug Stafford, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"To solve this problem, forced dues must be abolished. This can be done through congressional approval of H.R.391/S.1765, the National Right to Work Act, and through enactment of state Right to Work laws in all 50 states."

Teacher Union Bosses Prepare For Illegal Strike

Independent Kentucky Teachers Oppose 'Holding Children Hostage'

After holding a late-night, behind-closed-doors meeting in Frankfort, Ky., the top bosses of the Kentucky Education Association (KEA/NEA) school union voted in the wee hours September 18 to give Gov. Ernie Fletcher (R) an "ultimatum."

According to Associated Press reporter Joe Biesk, KEA union President Frances Steenbergen unabashedly used this label for what Mr. Biesk described as "a list of demands that if not met could result in a strike by teachers and other school employees."

The teacher union brass's strike threat is their angry response to a new plan by the governor to get control over rapidly rising taxpayer costs for teachers' and other public employees' health care.

Many private-sector businesses across Kentucky and the rest of America have already implemented similar changes in order to leave more resources available for wage and salary increases while keeping their overall expenditures in check.

Do Teacher Union Bosses Care That Striking Public Schools Breaks Kentucky Law?

Union bosses apparently don't care that the changes envisioned by Mr. Fletcher are common in the private sector, or that Kentuckians may be reluctant to pay higher taxes for public schools when taxpayer spending on education has already gone up 121%, *nearly triple the rate of inflation*, since 1990.

Nor does the hierarchy of the KEA, a subsidiary of the 2.7 million-member National Education Association union, seem to care that striking public schools is illegal in Kentucky.

At a September 24 rally held well after school hours, but attended by scarcely one in 10 of the Fayette County Public School system's 4650 full-time employees, Fayette County teacher union chieftain Mattie Katz claimed it was her prerogative to take "desperate measures."

Unless the governor caves in, Ms. Katz and her cohorts insist they will send teachers across the state out on strike, with no date set for returning to classes, on October 27.

Because many local school boards across the Bluegrass State have



Mattie Katz (left) and other Kentucky teacher union bosses have presented Gov. Fletcher (right) with a "list of



demands that if not met could result in [an illegal] strike by teachers and school employees."

previously acquiesced to KEA bosses' demands to be recognized as teachers' "exclusive" (monopoly) bargaining agents in contract negotiations, teachers will be under heavy pressure to obey strike orders -- even though the strike will be illegal.

Many teachers who do not want to strike want even less to cross KEA officials, who wield monopoly power to negotiate with school boards over teachers' pay, benefits, and working conditions.

However, a coalition of independent-minded teachers who oppose union monopoly bargaining is standing up to the KEA bosses.

Echoing the views of thousands of Kentucky teachers, the Lexington-based Kentucky Association of Professional Educators (KAPE) issued a statement in response to the KEA bosses' strike threat that read, in part:

"KAPE does not support holding children hostage to get better health insurance rates. KAPE believes teachers deserve better rates, but teachers should not walk out on those who look up to them for guidance and example."

Lack of Statewide Monopoly-Bargaining Law Could Be KEA Bosses' Achilles Heel

While the outcome of the showdown between scofflaw teacher union bosses and the Kentucky governor is still in doubt as this Newsletter goes to press,

one factor is working against Ms. Steenbergen, Ms. Katz and company.

Unlike 34 other states, Kentucky has no statewide law setting conditions under which all school districts must acquiesce to teacher union monopoly bargaining.

KEA and other union lobbyists have tried time and again to browbeat the state Legislature into enacting such a law. But freedom-loving citizens, mobilized by Kentucky members and supporters of the National Right to Work Committee, have always beaten back such schemes.

Because a substantial number of Kentucky school boards have refused to corral their employees into unions, there are a total of roughly 15,000 Bluegrass State teachers and other school employees who don't belong to any union.

Widespread resistance among these educators may well encourage large numbers of thoughtful KEA members to join in resisting the KEA brass's strike plan. As a result, the union hierarchy may have to back away from its ultimatum.

"The lack of a statewide teacher monopoly-bargaining law in Kentucky could turn out to be the KEA bosses' Achilles Heel," predicted Right to Vice President Matthew Leen.

"But what's really needed to stop illegal and destructive public school strikes is a statewide ban on teacher union monopoly bargaining."

Mr. Leen promised to lend the Committee's full assistance to all Kentucky efforts to enact such a ban.

Right to Work: Magnet For College Graduates

Research Shows Forced-Unionism States Suffer From 'Brain Drain'

Using migration data from the 2000 census, University of Michigan demographer William Frey recently compiled a table showing that a net total of nearly 384,000 college graduates moved from forced-unionism states and Washington, D.C., to Right to Work states between 1995 and 2000.

As Dr. Frey points out, elected state officials recognize that attracting college graduates and retaining them are essential to "enriching their tax bases and staying competitive."

'Many Are Moving Out . . . In Pursuit of . . . Better Economic Conditions'

In an article appearing in the June 2004 edition of *American Demographics*, which he kindly furnished to the National Right to Work Newsletter along with key back-up data, Dr. Frey was blunt:

"Fact is, competition among places for smart migrants . . . creates winners and losers."

The four states suffering the worst losses, in absolute terms, of college graduates as a result of domestic "out-migration" between 1995 and 2000 are New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Not one of these states has a Right to Work law. Furthermore, the share of employees who are forced to accept a union as their "exclusive" bargaining agent in the workplace has regularly ranked far above the U.S. average in all four states.

Meanwhile, the four states that benefited from the greatest net immigration, in absolute terms, of college graduates are Florida, Georgia, Arizona and North Carolina.

All four have state Right to Work laws, which bar the firing of any employee for refusal to join or pay dues or "fees" to an unwanted union.

Author/consultant Joel Kotkin reported on the findings of Dr. Frey and several economists in a September 12 article for the *Washington Post*. As political commentators often do nowadays, Mr. Kotkin referred to states carried by Al Gore in 2000 as "blue" and those carried by George W. Bush as "red" or "scarlet."

He concluded that "educated workers, particularly young families, . . . are moving out of [Big Labor-dominated] blue states in pursuit of the better economic conditions in the [mostly Right to Work] scarlet ones."

As of 2000, fewer than 47 million out of the 281 million Americans counted by the census had a bachelor's degree or more.

Right to Work Leader Urges Congress to Terminate Pro-Forced Dues Policies

"If the trend identified by Dr. Frey continues, the 28 remaining forced-unionism states will lose a net total of nearly 800,000 college graduates to Right to Work states during the current decade," noted Right to Work President



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Demographer William Frey: States need to attract and retain Americans of higher degree to stay competitive.

Mark Mix.

"The reason is clear. Where compulsory dues are legal, union bosses use their power to disrupt labor markets, jack up costs, and bankroll Tax & Spend, regulation-happy politicians.


"As a consequence, employees, especially the younger ones, have relatively few opportunities for advancement and earn wages and salaries that are lower when regional differences in living costs and taxes are taken into account.

"Economic forces that drive people to move from state to state are often benign, or at least cannot be effectively changed by government policy.

"But misguided federal labor policy dating back to the 1930s is responsible for the outflow of young people, especially educated young people, from forced-unionism states."

Mr. Mix called on congressional leaders to bring up for a vote, without further delay, H.R.391/S.1765, which would over time stop the "brain drain" from states like New York and Illinois.

Also known as the National Right to Work Act, H.R.391/S.1765 would strike all provisions authorizing forced union dues and "fees" from federal law.

"Too many hard-working young Americans are being uprooted from their homes and their parents as a result of compulsory unionism. Congress must stop perpetuating this problem," Mr. Mix concluded. 

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Big Labor Targets Tennessee Police, Firemen

Harold Schaitberger Wants More Conscripts For His Political Army

Harold Schaitberger, president of the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF/AFL-CIO) union, is clearly determined to transform the IAFF into a nationwide political juggernaut on a par with any other union.

More than a year ago, Mr. Schaitberger set out to handpick the next U.S. President.

In September 2003, Mr. Schaitberger became the first national Big Labor boss to put his union's electioneering machine behind U.S. Sen. John Kerry's (Mass.) bid for the Democratic Party's 2004 presidential nomination.

And he makes no bones about the fact that he currently views partisan presidential politics as the number one "job" of IAFF officials, whose salaries are paid largely by dues that public-safety workers are forced to pay as a job condition.

This March Mr. Schaitberger told a conference of union officers:

"Let's continue to work like h*** to elect the Fire Fighters candidate [Mr. Kerry]."

"Brothers and sisters -- if we do our job we will change the occupant of the White House and send George W. Bush back to Crawford, Texas."

More Monopoly-Bargaining Power Means More Big Labor Political Power

Mr. Schaitberger's bid to use firefighters' and emergency medics' hard-earned money to install Mr. Kerry in the White House may or may not succeed.

If it falls short, a key reason will be that the legislatures of 27 states have either flat out refused to grant union officials monopoly power over public employment, or have acquiesced to a somewhat limited form of "exclusive" bargaining.

Monopoly-bargaining laws force public-safety employees, including union members and nonmembers alike, to allow union officials to negotiate their pay, benefits, and working conditions.

Although monopoly bargaining alone does not legally force a worker to join a union, it obviously does put him or her "under powerful compulsion to join," as then-top AFL-CIO lawyer Thomas Harris admitted back in the 1960s.

"At least in Right to Work states, Big



International Association of Firefighters union czar Harold Schaitberger (right) knows that he may build an even bigger

political machine by winning enactment of more state public-safety monopoly bargaining laws.

Labor can't get workers fired for refusal to join or pay 'dues' to an unwanted union," noted Matthew Leen, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"But if state labor law at the same time authorizes union officials to represent the only 'employee' perspective in contract negotiations, the Right to Work is seriously undermined.

"Under such circumstances, the vast majority of firemen and police are understandably reluctant to oppose or even question the union.

"Many public employees join the union even though they don't really want to. Then power-thirsty union bosses like Harold Schaitberger use these workers' dues money to build their political machines in state after state."

Target: Tennessee

"That's why Mr. Schaitberger and his lieutenants are determined to get public-safety monopoly bargaining written into the laws of all 50 states," Mr. Leen continued.

"And right now Right to Work Tennessee is one of their top targets. In the Tennessee Legislature's 2003-2004 session, Right to Work allies blocked a public-safety monopoly-bargaining scheme [H.B.1678] from coming to the state House floor.

"But now Mr. Schaitberger and the

AFL-CIO hierarchy have deployed battalions of paid union staffers for electioneering in Tennessee. Their goal is to install a Legislature that will rubber-stamp public-safety monopoly bargaining next year.

"The union bosses know that if they can get monopoly control over public-safety employees in jurisdictions across the state now, it will be much easier for them to swing Tennessee for Big Labor candidates like John Kerry in the future."

But the Murfreesboro-based Tennessee Right to Work Committee, assisted by the National Right to Work Committee, is fighting back.

The Tennessee group recently surveyed every major-party candidate for the state House and Senate regarding where they stand on public-safety monopoly bargaining and other Right to Work issues.

Because of pro-Right to Work Tennesseans' impressive record of activism, nominees for most of the legislative seats being contested this year have already vowed to oppose schemes like H.B.1678.

"The last step, now being implemented, is to inform Right to Work supporters about where their candidates stand and mobilize them to keep up the pressure until Election Day," said Mr. Leen.

"This is a tough battle, but I'm confident it can be won." 