

Union–Violence Measure Introduced in House

Would Close Loophole For Union Thugs With 'Legitimate Objectives'

Ever since he secured a U.S. House seat in a December 2001 special election, Congressman Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) has been a strong advocate for the Right to Work cause on Capitol Hill.

Mr. Wilson is currently the lead House sponsor of two key reforms supported by the 2.2 million members of the National Right to Work Committee.

Together with U.S. Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.), Mr. Wilson introduced the National Right to Work Act (H.R.500/S.370) in February. This legislation, which would repeal all federally-imposed forced union dues and "fees," is discussed in the cover story of this month's Newsletter.

Mr. Wilson also worked closely with Right to Work officers and attorneys in drafting the Freedom from Union Violence Act (H.R.239).

Right to Work officers and members are now urging Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) to introduce companion legislation in the Senate this year. In 2004, Mr. Sessions sponsored a bill virtually identical to the union-violence measure Mr. Wilson introduced in January.

Guns, Knives, Slingshots, Rocks, Sledgehammers and Bricks

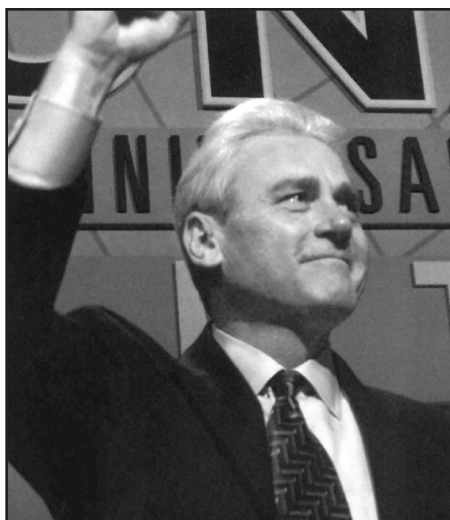
H.R.239 would close the loophole in federal law that currently exempts union boss-orchestrated extortionate violence from prosecution when it is committed pursuant to "legitimate union objectives."

If H.R.239 is enacted, Big Labor barons will no longer be able, without fear of federal prosecution, to foment, plan and commit violence against employees of a firm engaged in interstate commerce with the goal of corralling them into a union.

For far too long, independent employees and businesses have been victimized by power-hungry, win-at-any-cost Big Labor bosses who resort to violence as a "bargaining tool."

Committee Vice President Doug Stafford recalled the deal top bosses of the Teamsters cut in 2003 to avoid being tried on charges that Teamster officers had "condoned" and "ratified" strike violence.

At the time, a pending National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) case alleged that Teamster agents had shot at, beaten, threatened, and destroyed the property of



THE LABORER

Weeks after Laborers local boss Mark Congi (right) was indicted for racketeering, Laborers General



CHANNEL 4 NEWS

President Terry O'Sullivan held a union conclave at one of Mr. Congi's favorite hangouts in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

hundreds of nonstriking Overnite Transportation Co. employees between 1999 and 2002.

Rather than deny that Teamster officers had given the green light to union militants to terrorize Overnite workers, the Teamster brass reached a settlement in which they promised to "cease and desist" from committing and encouraging strike violence!

The Teamster pledge cited a chillingly wide array of weapons, including "guns, knives, slingshots, rocks, ball bearings, liquid-filled balloons or other projectiles, picket signs, sticks, sledge hammers, bricks, hot coffee, bottles, two by fours, [and] lit cigarettes"

NLRB's 'Punishment' For Union Thugs: Promise Not to Do It Again

"Unfortunately, as we saw in the Overnite strike case, union officials who are charged with condoning or orchestrating violence often need only to make the NLRB a hollow promise 'not to do it again,' and then they're back in business," noted Mr. Stafford.

"And horrifying reports of union violence keep coming in.

"In September, nine former bosses and henchmen of Local 91 of the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) are set to be tried in federal court on labor racketeering charges.

"Former local czar Marc Congi, his

predecessors, and his cohorts allegedly orchestrated bombings, beatings, vandalism, and other mayhem in Niagara County, N.Y., for nearly three decades.

"For example, Mr. Congi allegedly watched while up to 20 Local 91 thugs punched and stomped on four tile setters at a Wegmans supermarket construction site in 1998."

Worker Who Fell Afoul of Laborers Union Goons Was 'Kicked Like a Football'

"One tile setter was knocked to the ground and 'kicked like a football.' Two required hospital treatment. The tile setters allegedly got into trouble because they tried to sweep the floors on the site without belonging to Local 91!" continued Mr. Stafford.

"Has LIUNA General President Terry O'Sullivan vigorously denounced such violence? Hardly. In fact, in June 2002, after Mr. Congi and his cohorts had already been indicted, the LIUNA brass held a 'reorganizational' meeting at a favored Congi hangout, Antonio's Restaurant in Niagara Falls."

Mr. Stafford urged Right to Work members and supporters to call their congressmen at 202-225-3121 and urge them to cosponsor H.R.239.

Members are also urged to call Sen. Jeff Sessions at 202-224-4124 and ask him to introduce a Senate version of the Freedom from Union Violence Act. 