

# New Bill Would Ban 'Card Check' Forced Unionism

## *Committee Endorses H.R.874 as a 'Step in the Right Direction'*

The National Right to Work Committee has endorsed and is seeking recorded votes this year on legislation that would begin to roll back Big Labor's congressionally-granted monopoly privileges.

On February 17, Congressman Charlie Norwood introduced H.R.874 in the U.S. House of Representatives.

This bill would bar union bosses and (typically intimidated) employers from cutting deals to impose forced unionism on employees through so-called "card checks."

Card checks empower union bosses to force a business's employees to accept a union as their "exclusive" (monopoly) bargaining agent solely through the acquisition of signed "union authorization cards." Ultimately, workers are typically also forced to pay union dues, or be fired.

Unfortunately, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has long sanctioned this procedure.

### **Law Benefits Union Bosses Who Use Fraud, Intimidation To Obtain Signed Cards**

Independent-minded employees and National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation attorneys representing them have put intense pressure on the Bush NLRB to curtail card check-related abuses, but the NLRB will probably not fundamentally change its approach unless Congress changes the law.

In the card-check system, individual workers under the watchful eyes of union organizers are routinely intimidated into signing not just themselves, but all of their nonunion fellow employees, over to union-boss control.

Card checks frequently go in tandem with misleadingly named "neutrality agreements," which typically require employers to help union officials secure monopoly-bargaining power.

Union bosses know full well that it is far easier for them to obtain monopoly control over a group of employees through cardcheck/neutrality schemes than through reasoned appeals to employees.

In fact, AFL-CIO spokesmen admit that card checks and/or neutrality deals have been instrumental in the vast majority of their recent successful efforts to corral additional groups of private-

sector workers into monopoly-bargaining units.

The record shows that Big Labor resorts to a wide array of fraud and intimidation to get workers to sign cards.

In testimony before a U.S. House panel last year, attorney Clyde Jacob cited the AFL-CIO-affiliated Offshore Mariners United (OMU) union's bid to win monopoly-bargaining privileges over employees of Trico Marine Services in 2000.

According to workers' testimony, union representatives specifically told employees they shouldn't hesitate to sign cards even if they opposed unionization, since they could vote differently in the election.

The fact is, the OMU brass had no intent of seeking an election and proceeded to use the cards for a PR campaign to force Trico Marine to grant them monopoly-bargaining privileges without an election.

And in case after case, when workers who have signed cards under false pretenses or duress seek to get them back so that they and their fellow employees will not be saddled with an unwanted union, union bosses simply ignore the requests.

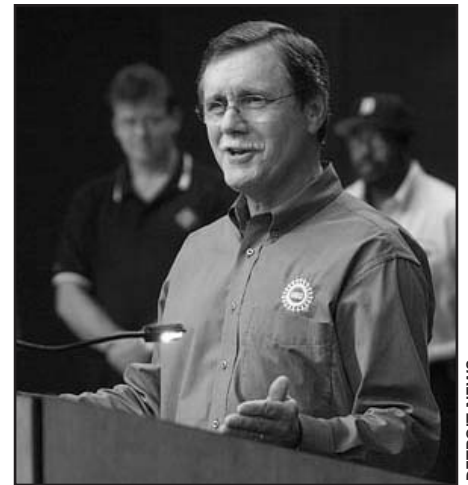
Mr. Jacobs attached as an exhibit to his testimony a letter from an NLRB bureaucrat to an offshore vessel employee admitting that the NLRB has no authority to require the return of his signed card, nor to rectify union misrepresentations!

### **Big Labor Bosses Enraged By All Challenges to Card-Check/Neutrality Schemes**

Top union bosses see card checks and neutrality deals as essential to their plans to collect billions of extra dollars in forced union dues and "fees," above and beyond the \$7 billion unions already report collecting on federal disclosure forms.

That's why they are enraged by all challenges to such deals.

Just last month, the Right to Work Foundation put the home of its client Jeff Ward under 24-hour security after they had successfully challenged card check-imposed union monopoly bargaining at the Thomas Built Buses factory in High Point, N.C.



**Union bosses like UAW czar Ron Gettelfinger count on card checks to boost their forced-dues revenue.**

(The irregularities in the Thomas Built card-check deal were so blatant that even NLRB bureaucrats couldn't ignore them.)

The Foundation acted because menacing flyers had been circulated at the plant that listed Mr. Ward's phone number and directions to his home. The flyers read: "Jeff Ward lives here. Go tell him how you really feel about the union."

### **Committee Recruits House Cosponsors, Urges Senate To Introduce Companion Bill**

Interviewed by the Associated Press, United Autoworkers (UAW) union bigwig Gary Casteel attempted to justify the intimidation, even as he indicated the UAW wasn't responsible. Mr. Ward "put himself in the limelight," claimed Mr. Casteel.

As this month's Newsletter goes to press, 47 House members have cosponsored the Norwood Bill.

In a recent letter urging other congressmen and women to sign on to H.R.874, Committee President Mark Mix called it "a step in the right direction."

"It bans one especially egregious means of foisting union monopoly control on workers," Mr. Mix explained.

Mr. Mix promised that the 2.2 million Committee members and he would do everything possible to help Mr. Norwood pass H.R.874. He also vowed to help recruit a pro-Right to Work senator to introduce companion legislation in Congress's upper chamber. 📌