



NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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House Panel Considers Right to Work Measure *Mark Mix 'Optimistic' Hearing Will Ultimately Lead to Floor Votes*

At 10:30 A.M. on September 8, a U.S. House Small Business panel is holding a hearing on H.R.500, the National Right to Work Act.

And National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix said late last month he is "optimistic" that the hearing will ultimately lead to recorded floor votes on national Right to Work legislation.

For decades, federal labor law has authorized and promoted the firing of private-sector employees for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union. But H.R.500 and its Senate companion, S.370, would delete all forced-dues provisions from the national Labor Relations Act (NLRA) and the Railway Labor Act (RLA).

It would thereby protect private-sector employees' Right to Work in all 50 states.

Right to Work Leader Will Testify at Hearing

Currently, NLRA-covered employees working in one of the 28 states without a Right to Work law may be forced to fork over dues to Big Labor as a job condition. And RLA-covered workers in all 50 states, including Right to Work states, may be compelled to pay union dues.

Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colo.), chairwoman of the Small Business Committee's Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment and Government Programs, scheduled the H.R.500 hearing at the request of a number of freedom-loving constituents and other Americans.

Along with Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.), lead sponsor of H.R.500, and employee, small business, and expert witnesses, Mr. Mix will testify before Mrs. Musgrave's



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A September 8 House hearing on national Right to Work legislation gives freedom-loving Americans a

special reason to celebrate this Labor Day. But recorded votes will be genuine cause for a parade.

subcommittee in support of H.R.500.

Also invited, though not yet confirmed as attending at Newsletter press time, are the top bosses of four large international unions and John Sweeney, president of the AFL-CIO union conglomerate. (For details, see the related story on page two.)

Hearing Will Be Packed With 'Useful Information'

"Regardless of whether the five invited union officials decide to attend and share publicly their rationalizations for forced unionism, I expect the hearing to be packed with interesting and useful information," predicted Mr. Mix.

He noted that Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-

Ill.), the panel's ranking minority member, is himself a vociferous proponent of compulsory unionism and is sure to invite a Big Labor zealot to testify against H.R.500.

"This will be a direct confrontation over the Right to Work principle. And I hope it will inform House Speaker Dennis Hastert [R-Ill.] and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist [R-Tenn.] about how such political confrontations help Right to Work proponents," Mr. Mix continued.

"The history of how a number of state Right to Work laws were passed shows that, by holding votes on H.R.500 and S.370 now, even if those votes are

See **Recorded Votes** next page

Union 'Splitters' Invited to Testify on H.R.500

House Panel Gives Them Chance to Explain Apparent Double Standard

Top officials of four big international unions who have pulled their assets and forced dues-paying members out of the AFL-CIO union conglomerate are now being given a chance to explain on Capitol Hill why workers should not have the right, as individuals, to pull themselves out of unions.

On August 19, U.S. Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colo.), chairwoman of a House Small Business panel that will hold a hearing on national Right to Work legislation September 8, invited the four top AFL-CIO "splitters" to participate.

As this month's Newsletter goes to press, the four union officials: Service Employees International Union (SEIU) czar Andy Stern, Teamsters kingpin Jim Hoffa, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) chief Joe Hansen, and Carpenters union don Doug McCarron, have yet to respond to her invitations.

But Mrs. Musgrave, a Right to Work stalwart, continues to hold out hope that Mr. Stern, Mr. Hoffa, Mr. Hansen, and Mr. McCarron will agree to come and discuss the apparent double standard they hold for themselves and for workers.

She has also invited AFL-CIO ruler John Sweeney to participate in the exchange.

'Why Can't the Union Rank-And-File Disaffiliate From Your Union?'

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commended Mrs. Musgrave for heeding the requests of freedom-loving constituents and other Americans to hold a congressional hearing on Right to Work legislation.

He also commended her for holding top union bosses' feet to the fire



AP/NAM Y. HUH

Chairwoman Marilyn Musgrave would like to ask Teamster union czar Jim Hoffa (pictured) why his right to

"disaffiliate" from the AFL-CIO shouldn't be available to Teamster-controlled workers.

regarding their special privileges.

"Andy Stern, Jim Hoffa, Joe Hansen, and Doug McCarron need to answer the obvious question," said Mr. Mix. "If you can 'disaffiliate' from the AFL-CIO, why can't the union rank-and-file disaffiliate from your union?"

Mr. McCarron and his lieutenants took the Carpenters union out of the AFL-CIO back in 2001. Mr. Stern, Mr. Hoffa, and Mr. Hansen decided to leave the conglomerate in July.

By their own account, the three left because Mr. Sweeney's leadership has been poor, but they lacked majority support among the AFL-CIO brass to

institute a change of direction.

As one supporter of the Stern-Hoffa faction publicly observed back in June, union officials who are frustrated because they are part of the minority within the AFL-CIO can always "leave," because the AFL-CIO is "a voluntary organization."

Mr. Stern, Mr. Hoffa and company still give no sign of seeing the irony of their asserting their right to take themselves and their forced dues-paying members out of the AFL-CIO because they can't beat Mr. Sweeney in an election or force him to adopt their preferred policies. 📌

Recorded Votes Are Critical

Continued from page 1

unsuccessful, Mr. Hastert and Mr. Frist can pave the way for Right to Work legislative victories in the future."

Members May Borrow Videos And DVDs of Hearing From Committee Headquarters

The Committee will purchase video

and DVD copies of the hearing from C-SPAN and loan them out to Right to Work members at their request on a first come, first served basis.

Committee members who are interested in borrowing a copy of the H.R.500 hearing may sign up by e-mailing Linda Staulcup at les@nrtw.org or calling her at 1-800-325-7892.

"Many Right to Work members who don't get a chance to watch the hearing when it airs this month may want to watch it on video or DVD. But while the hearing is valuable, recorded votes are what is most needed now to build Right to Work support in Congress," said Mr. Mix.

He urged Committee members everywhere to contact Mr. Hastert at 202-225-2976 and Mr. Frist at 202-224-3344 and ask them to bring H.R.500/S.370 up for votes in their respective chambers. 📌

Forced Unionism's Ills Difficult to Ignore

Big Labor Researcher: 'Union Jobs Are Vanishing at a Faster Pace'

Employees who are subject to union monopoly control are at far greater risk of losing their jobs.

In sectors in which total employment is declining, job declines are far more severe in unionized businesses than they are in independent businesses.

And unionized workers are being laid off or terminated in large numbers even in some sectors that are experiencing significant overall job gains.

These points were recently made not by a critic of Big Labor, but by the so-called "Labor Research Association" (LRA), a New York City-based nonprofit "research and advocacy organization" whose principal clients are union officials!

In Relatively Stable Trucking Sector, Unionized Jobs Plummeted by 21%!

Of course, the intent of the LRA and its chief, veteran union operative Greg Tarpinian, is not to demonstrate that having a union as his or her monopoly-bargaining agent in contract negotiations greatly lowers an employee's job security.

But in a report issued this summer, the LRA tacitly acknowledges this is the case.

Within the manufacturing sector, "union jobs are vanishing at a faster pace." And this is even truer of the turbulent telecommunications sector.

According to the Washington, D.C.-based Bureau of National Affairs (BNA), between 1999 and 2004 the number of unionized manufacturing jobs plummeted by 31.8% -- double the decline in nonunion manufacturing jobs.

Unionized telecommunications jobs over the same period plunged 27.1%, *more than triple* the 8.2% reduction in nonunion jobs.

Meanwhile, in driver/sales and truck driving, unionized jobs fell by 20.9%, but nonunion jobs *increased* by 2.1%.

'The Number of Union Construction Workers Fell Even as the Sector Grew

The LRA also acknowledges that "the number of union construction workers fell" in recent years, even as construction employment overall grew rapidly.

Between 1999 and 2004, the number

Monopoly Unionism Kills Jobs **U.S. Employment Trends, 1999–2004**

Construction

Unionized	-5.1%
Nonunion	+25.8%

Driver/Sales & Truck Driving

Unionized	-20.9%
Nonunion	+2.1%

Manufacturing

Unionized	-31.8%
Nonunion	-15.9%

Telecommunications

Unionized	-27.1%
Nonunion	-8.2%

Source: Bureau of National Affairs

A recent report issued by a Big Labor research outfit inadvertently demonstrates that having a union as

his or her monopoly-bargaining agent in contract negotiations greatly lowers an employee's job security.

of unionized construction jobs sank by 5.1%. But nonunion jobs in the sector soared by 25.8%.

"Any reasonable observer who looks at this summer's LRA report 'Union Members Hit Harder by Job Losses,' and the BNA and Labor Department data corroborating it, can only reach one conclusion," said Doug Stafford, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"The federal labor-law provisions that promote union monopoly bargaining and forced union dues and fees are destroying businesses and harming the very workers they're supposedly designed to help and should be repealed."

Counterproductive Big Labor Work Rules Render Employees Uncompetitive, Wipe Out Jobs

"Of course, that's not the conclusion the LRA reaches," Mr. Stafford continued.

"Mr. Tarpinian and company urge Congress to hand Big Labor even more coercive power to corral more employees into unions. That would be good for the union bosses' bottom line, but not for employees, businesses, or the American economy."

What is it that makes union monopoly bargaining so detrimental to employees' job security?

Union officials who wield monopoly power to negotiate with employers over pay scales, benefits, and work rules affecting union members and

nonmembers alike frequently use this power to institute rigid job classifications that waste time and money.


Unionized businesses' inability to deploy their labor force efficiently renders them less competitive. When they consequently lose market share for their products, they either go out of business or lay off employees.

Union officials also often wield their monopoly-bargaining privileges to put in place and perpetuate economically unrealistic union pension systems and health plans where waste and high costs eat up revenues the businesses need to be investing in research and development of new products.

When unionized firms invest less in research and development, over the long run the business will be less competitive and employees' jobs will be at risk.

"Both economic logic and experience show that monopoly unionism is detrimental to both employees and businesses," said Mr. Stafford.

"The recent LRA report is only the latest piece of evidence in the overwhelming case for eliminating the pro-union monopoly provisions in federal labor and replacing them with provisions authorizing union officials to negotiate for their voluntary members only.

"As a first step, Congress should approve the National Right to Work Act [H.R.500/S.370], which would prohibit the collection of forced union dues and fees as a condition of private-sector employment in all 50 states." 

Will Congress Stop Union-Only D.C. Stadium Scam?

Constitution Authorizes Pro-Right to Work Federal Intervention

Under Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, Congress is accorded the power to "exercise exclusive Legislation, in all Cases whatsoever," over "such District" as may become "the Seat of the Government of the United States."

Just over three decades ago, Congress approved limited home rule for Washington, D.C., which had become the U.S. seat of government in 1800. But all legislation passed by D.C. government remains subject to the approval of Congress.

Therefore, congressional leaders who affirm their support for employees' Right to Work without being forced to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union have the authority and the responsibility to try to protect that freedom in Washington, D.C.

Unfortunately, employees' Right to Work in our nation's capital has for many years been routinely trampled by Big Labor and its puppet politicians.

And unless avowedly pro-Right to Work members of Congress intervene soon, many employees and firms in the construction industry will soon have even less freedom than they do now.

The threat is a so-called "project labor agreement," or PLA, concocted by union-label D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams (D).

Last November, the *Washington Times* reported the Williams Administration had cut a deal with union bosses to require unionization of workers participating in construction of the taxpayer-funded

Washington Nationals ballpark in Southeast D.C.

Workers and Taxpayers Are Harmed by PLA's

This June, the Big Labor-controlled D.C. Council rubber-stamped the PLA scheme crafted by the Williams Administration.

The Washington Nationals ballpark project is now valued at \$535 million, but likely to get much more expensive over time.

To bid to participate in the stadium PLA, nonunion companies will have to consent to impose union monopoly bargaining and forced union "agency fees" on their employees and hire workers through discriminatory union hiring halls.

Independent workers, including those who already have their own retirement funds, will also have to contribute to Big Labor-manipulated pension plans.

"The bogus excuse for such flagrant discrimination against independent workers is that PLA's promote 'labor peace' and thus control taxpayer costs for public workers," noted National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"But the history of PLA's is that they promote union-boss featherbedding and cost overruns for which taxpayers usually have to pick up the tab.

"The most notorious example is

Boston's 'Big Dig,' which was finally completed in 2004, six years late and \$12 billion over budget. It then promptly experienced 1400 leaks in its tunnel wall as well as a wide array of other costly-to-repair damage. And PLA's for stadium construction have also gone wrong.

"For example, the union-only PacBell Park deal in San Francisco fell behind schedule and ran up \$70 million in cost overruns. The PLA for Detroit's Comerica Field chalked up \$25 million in cost overruns due to union boss-fueled litigation.

"In contrast, none of the three professional sports stadiums most recently built in Maryland had a PLA, and all were completed on time and within their budgets."

Right to Work President Urges House Speaker, Senate Majority Leader to Act

Early this month, Mr. Mix wrote U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) to ask them to take action to prevent Mr. Williams and the D.C. Council from carrying out their PLA scheme.


Copies of Mr. Mix's letter were distributed to every member of Congress.

As Mr. Mix reminded Mr. Hastert and Mr. Frist, the D.C. Council will finance the Nationals ballpark largely through the sale of municipal bonds, which are exempt from federal taxes.

"Effectively, that means federal taxpayers will be covering a significant portion of the cost of the stadium," he reasoned.

"While the D.C. stadium PLA may not technically be in violation of federal Executive Order 13202, a near-total ban on federal taxpayer-funded PLA's signed by President George W. Bush in 2001, it clearly runs counter to the policies of the United States.

"I urge you to exercise your constitutional powers aggressively to block the union-only D.C. stadium scheme before it's too late."

Mr. Mix urged Committee members to contact their senators and congressmen through the congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3125, and ask that they do everything possible to stop the D.C. stadium PLA. 



WWW.DC.GOV/LATEFMANGUM

Big Labor D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams is about to implement a union-only scheme on a taxpayer-

funded stadium for the Washington Nationals baseball team. But Congress still has time to call a foul ball.

Big Labor Monopoly Has 'No Use Save Abuse'

New Book Recounts 'Crusade' Against Construction Forced Unionism

Over the years, employees and employers in virtually every type of enterprise have made important contributions to the success of the Right to Work movement.

But freedom-loving construction workers, managers, and firm owners deserve special commendation for having perhaps withstood more intimidation and violence from ruthless, forced dues-hungry union bosses than their counterparts in any other industry.

And now attorney Sam Cook, who for more than four decades provided legal representation for Right to Work proponents involved in construction, has written a history of what he calls "merit shop construction's crusade against compulsory trade unionism."

Mr. Cook's history, entitled *Freedom in the Workplace* and published by Regnery, defines the merit shop in this way:

"The term 'merit shop' means that construction projects will be awarded on the basis of merit in open competition to the lowest qualified and responsible bidders working together in harmony, regardless of whether they or their employees choose . . . to work on a non-union or unionized basis."

Nonunion Workers' 'Annual Take-Home Pay Consistently Runs Equal or Higher'

In a key chapter describing the differences in how Big Labor-controlled and independent construction firms

operate, Mr. Cook calls attention to some of the many ways that union monopoly harms both employees and employers.

Union-free construction employees typically have opportunities to master a far wider array of skills than their unionized competitors, who are confined by strict work jurisdiction boundaries.

Largely because they have more diverse training, union-free construction employees are generally also better able to find steady work.

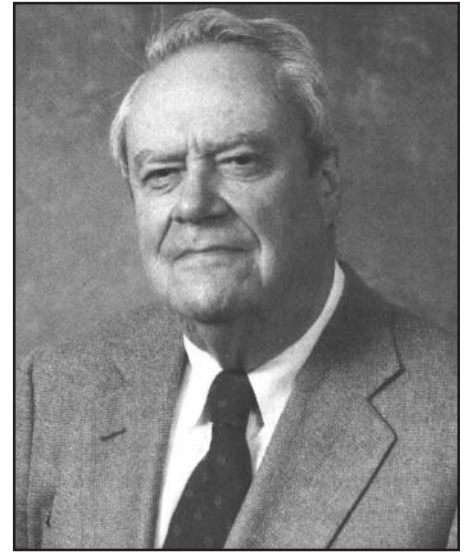
Consequently, writes Mr. Cook, "annual take-home pay consistently runs equal or higher in the non-union sector. . . ."

"[E]ach contractor provides year round employment for its basic workforce even in slow business periods as opposed to the unionized side of the industry, with its uncertainty of placement referrals due to dictatorial hiring hall practices and seasonal workload variances."

Resort to Violence Shows Union Bosses Know They Have Little to Offer Workers

Mr. Cook convincingly argues that the monopoly-bargaining privileges union officials wield under federal law, which empower them to negotiate wages, benefits, and work rules for union members and nonmembers alike, are not in construction workers' best interest.

"'Monopoly has no use save abuse,' an old adage cited in *Freedom in the Workplace*, fits construction union bosses to a T," noted Mark Mix, president of the



"FREEDOM IN THE WORKPLACE"

Author Sam Cook: The Right to Work is "at the foundation of our constitutional heritage."

National Right to Work Committee.


The fact that construction union bosses themselves know they have little to offer workers is demonstrated in Part Two of *Freedom in the Workplace*, entitled "Mobocracy on the Picket Lines."

As Mr. Cook summarizes it, this nearly 200-page section "describes the nationwide conspiracy of coercion and terrorism perpetrated against the rapidly expanding ABC [Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.] and its non-union members in the 1960s and 1970s."

"The bone-chilling incidents of union extortionate violence recounted by Sam Cook illustrate how Big Labor's federally-granted legal privileges have made union office-holding the chosen career of countless unsavory characters," commented Mr. Mix.

"But at the same time, *Freedom in the Workplace* is inspiring, because it shows how thousands of honest citizens, construction employees and employers, successfully stood up to the bullies.

"These heroes set an excellent example for the Committee members and supporters who are today fighting for passage of a national Right to Work law."

Newsletter readers who are interested in obtaining a copy of Freedom in the Workplace are encouraged by Mr. Cook's publisher, Regnery, to visit Amazon.com and search for the book under its title. Would-be buyers without Internet access may call Regnery at 1-888-219-4747. 

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Forced-Dues Electioneering Laid Bare in Denver

Union Political Organizers Charge They Weren't Paid For Overtime

In July 2004, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) hierarchy began deploying an army of more than 2000 political organizers to register and rally voters in the presidential campaign's "battleground" states.

At the time, SEIU President Andy Stern boasted to *Business Week* that roughly \$40 million would be spent on taking these organizers "off the job to go to battleground states, to house them, and pay for salary and health care."

Mr. Stern also acknowledged that 85% of the money that was paying for this giant electioneering scheme came from "regular dues-paying members." Of course, the vast majority of the SEIU's reported 1.8 million "members" are forced by law to pay dues or fees to the SEIU brass, or be fired.

'Organizers Were Required To Spend' Evenings, Weekends On Political Assignments

Ironically, this summer, when Mr. Stern led a clique of international union officials who pulled their unions and their forced-dues money out of the AFL-CIO, they cited the AFL-CIO hierarchy's supposedly "excessive" focus on politics as a key reason!

Now a lawsuit filed by current and former paid staffers of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 7, based in Wheat Ridge, Colo., has once again laid bare Big Labor's misuse of employees' forced dues and fees to bankroll electioneering schemes.

The 14 named plaintiffs, plus "others similarly situated," seek reimbursement, damages, and attorneys' fees from Local 7 officials for "unpaid wages and compensation," including "unpaid overtime work."

The plaintiffs all allege that the union broke federal labor law provisions requiring they be paid overtime for work in excess of 40 hours a week.

Furthermore, many of the plaintiffs allegedly "were required to spend substantial amounts of their time, whether evenings, weekends or holidays, on mandatory detailed assignments for UFCW Local 7 on behalf of specific political candidates endorsed by the union.

"These required duties included manning phone banks, disseminating



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UFCW Local 7 staffers allege they worked long hours, while collecting forced dues-funded wages, to elect Big

Labor candidates like the Kerry/Edwards ticket. And union lawyers seem unlikely to contest this fact.

campaign literature, participating in voter registration drives, attending political rallies and other activities. Attendance at these events was mandatory"

National Right to Work Law Needed to Protect Employees' Political Freedom

"At this time, it seems unlikely Local 7 union lawyers will even contest their current and former staffers' charge that they spent 'substantial amounts of their time' on partisan political assignments in 2004," observed Matthew Leen, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"Instead, the only dispute is likely to be over whether union organizers and union representatives were entitled to compensation at one and a half times their regular pay for political and other work in excess of 40 hours a week.

"One way or the other, union-'represented' employees shouldn't be forced to pay for activities designed to

elect candidates they may oppose with their dues money.

"If only 20% of union staff time was spent on politics last year -- and that's a very low estimate -- that alone adds up to \$600 million in mostly forced dues-funded political activities that were not officially reported.

"Since it is Congress that granted Big Labor its forced-dues privileges in the first place, Congress has the responsibility to put a stop to this outrage.

"And Congress can put a stop to it by passing pending legislation, known as the National Right to Work Act, or H.R.500/S.370, which would prohibit all forced union dues and fees in the private sector.

"Combined with the enactment of more state Right to Work laws barring public-sector forced unionism, the National Right to Work Act can protect employees' personal right to support only those candidates who they believe merit their support."

Fauquier Times-Democrat

The Family Hometown Newspaper of Fauquier County Since 1817.

Wednesday, August 24, 2005 A15

Byrne would end Right to Work law

After considering either economic data and/or their own personal experience, most Virginia workers reasonably conclude that in their case at least, union representation is a detriment, not a benefit.

Under our state's cherished RTW law, they have the right to join or not to join, or pay dues to a labor union. A strong bipartisan coalition in Richmond has kept this vital law on our books for nearly 60 years.

But according to Leslie Byrne, the Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor in Virginia's November 8 state elections, no employee is qualified to make such a decision for himself or herself.

Byrne, blinded as she is by her obedience to her Big Labor allies, insists employees be forced to pay union dues or fees in order to keep their jobs — like it or not.

Byrne has made no secret of virulently opposing Virginia's 58-year-old Right to Work law, which bars the firing of employees for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union.

In a taped interview with United Mine Workers (UMW) union officials August 8, Byrne was asked whether she would "do away" with Virginia's Right to Work law, granted the opportunity. Her response was blunt: "Absolutely."

Of course, Ms. Byrne's blind allegiance to Big Labor ignores the facts about forced unionism.

According to the Bureau of National Affairs (BNA) — a respected Washington, D.C.-based research group whose data are cited in many forums, including the AFL-CIO web site

THE FORUM

Mark Mix

— last year non-union manufacturing workers earned a nationwide average of \$19.24 an hour.

Meanwhile, unionized manufacturing workers earned significantly less, an average of \$17.95. That comes to a deficit of nearly \$2,700 a year for unionized workers who are employed full time. BNA data also show that, while overall U.S. manufacturing employment fell by roughly 3.5 million between 1994 and 2004, unionized jobs suffered a percentage loss more than three times as severe as the decline in nonunion jobs.

In expressing her contempt for the employee's freedom of choice, Byrne not only chose to ignore ample evidence showing that our Right to Work law is beneficial to Virginia workers, she also committed what is, from most politicians' point of view, a far more serious faux pas.

She publicly thumbed her nose at public opinion. For decades, polls have consistently shown more than 80 percent of Virginians support their state's Right to Work law.

State Sen. Bill Bolling (R-Hanover), who is running against Ms. Byrne for lieutenant governor, quickly moved to publicize the fact that she had taken a deeply unpopular position, pledging his unabashed support for Right to Work and charging that his rival is "in the pocket of Big Labor."

At the same time, the two other Democrats on the

statewide ticket ran for cover: gubernatorial nominee Tim Kaine pointedly refused to endorse Ms. Byrne's position on Right to Work, while Creigh Deeds, running for attorney general, flat-out opposed her position.

As a dyed-in-the-wool Big Labor zealot, Byrne almost certainly won't back away from her pro-forced-unionism stand. But she is attempting to do damage control.

Since few other Virginia elected officials are willing to flout public opinion, she claims that she'll never get a chance as lieutenant governor to repeal the Right to Work law — not mentioning that she sees the lieutenant governor's race as a stepping stone to the office of governor.

"The status quo of the law is not going to change," she told the Richmond Times-Dispatch on August 11.

By voicing her disdain for the Right to Work principle, Byrne hasn't merely stated a policy preference that, if implemented, would go against the wishes of the vast majority of voters and hurt the state's business climate.

Whether she realizes it or not, Leslie Byrne has already let employees across the Commonwealth know that she doesn't think much of them. And that's the most important reason why her anti-Right to Work outburst this month seems destined to go down in history as the biggest gaffe of Virginia's 2005 campaigns.

Mark Mix is president of the National Right to Work Committee, based in Springfield, Va.

Newsletter editor's note: Right to Work Committee members in Virginia who would like to find out more about their 2005 candidates' records on compulsory unionism should contact Jedd Coburn at the Committee's Virginia Beach office, jnc@nrtw.org, or 757-552-0350.

Committee Members Fight Union-Boss 'Welfare'

Press For Major Cuts in Taxpayer Subsidies For Forced Unionism

With Congress now about to finalize its Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 budgets for the Labor Department and the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), National Right to Work Committee members are lobbying hard for steep cuts in union-boss "welfare."

Taxpayer funding for the Labor Department and the NLRB effectively subsidizes campaigns to forcibly unionize employees across America.

And these subsidies have soared since the mid-nineties.

Entrenched Bureaucrats Wield Their Power to Advance Union-Boss Agenda

From FY 1996 until FY 2001, the Labor Department's discretionary budgeted skyrocketed by 25%, from \$9.5 billion to \$11.9 billion. By comparison, consumer prices increased by roughly 15% during this period.

The budget for the NLRB, whose entrenched bureaucrats regularly carry water for Big Labor, grew even faster during the late Clinton years, and continued soaring during George W. Bush's first term.

Between FY 1998 and FY 2003, the NLRB budget surged by 37% -- *triple* the rate of inflation.

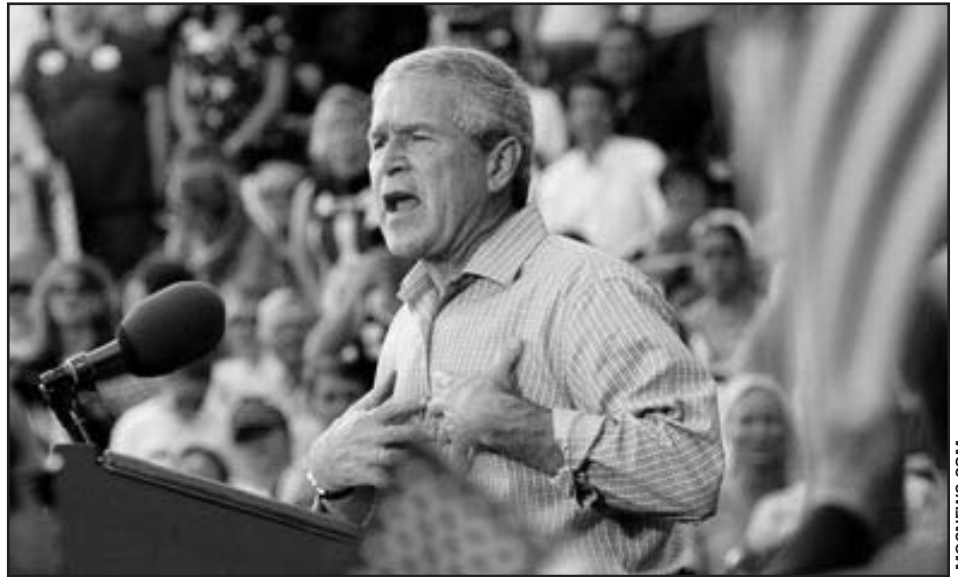
"For many years, Right to Work members have spoken out against Labor Department and NLRB abuses and battled for reforms," commented Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"And the Bush Administration, to its credit, has begun to get the message and moved to rein in these agencies' worst abuses. However, entrenched Big Labor bureaucrats are still using their power and taxpayers' money to advance the union-boss agenda.

"That's why the 2.2 million Right to Work members are calling on Congress to slash Big Labor pork barrel spending, not just trim it here and there.

"If we keep intensifying the pressure on Congress to get rid of welfare for union bosses, the FY 2006 Labor Department and NLRB budgets could turn out to be the start of a major spending reform."

Most Committee members who have received this month's Newsletter in the mail will find enclosed with it a letter



MOSNEWS.COM

The latest Bush Administration budget proposals for the Labor Department and the NLRB aren't "compassionate"

enough toward taxpayers who are fed up with bankrolling forced unionism. But Congress may still improve them.

from Mr. Mix urging them to participate in a last-minute lobbying blitz to press for deep cuts in the pending Labor Department and NLRB budgets.

"It's vital that you and I force Congress to take a strong stand and further cut the budgets of the Department of Labor and the National Labor Relations Board today," explained Mr. Mix in the letter.

'Job Training' Funds Used To Corral the Unemployed Into Forced-Dues Schemes

"The fact is, there's a whole pack of massive bloated agencies used by union bosses to intimidate and coerce workers and employers . . .," he continued.

For example, the Labor Department annually funnels millions of taxpayer dollars into union-boss "job training" programs, which are actually designed to corral unemployed job seekers and welfare recipients into forced-dues arrangements.

Furthermore, the Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) was revealed just a few years ago to have selectively targeted for inspections companies experiencing "union troubles."

And the NLRB has been Big Labor's favorite taxpayer-funded tool, under both Democratic and Republican administrations, twisting federal labor

statutes time and again to exacerbate their pro-forced unionism bias.

Members Urged to Contact Their Congressmen, Senators

"The fact is, freedom-loving workers, as well as taxpayers, would be better off if Congress shut down the NLRB completely and gave federal courts sole jurisdiction over labor law," said Mr. Mix.

In recognition of the mounting public concern about the federal deficit, the Bush Administration has proposed very small real declines in the FY 2006 budgets of the Labor Department and the NLRB.

But these proposals don't go nearly far enough, argued Mr. Mix.

"With more and more Americans recognizing how tax subsidies for forced unionism are harming employees, businesses, and the general public, it's time for Congress to consider cutting the Labor Department and NLRB budgets by at least 30%," he explained.

"To help accomplish this end, I urge every Right to Work member who received my letter regarding these appropriations with this month's Newsletter to sign and return the postcards also included in the package to their congressmen and senators right away." 