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Hearing Spurs Hopes For Further H.R.500 Action *Senate Panel Poised to Consider Companion Right to Work Measure*

September 8's U.S. congressional hearing on national Right to Work legislation demonstrated that even some diehard Big Labor apologists are unable or unwilling to defend key principles that underlie pro-forced unionism federal labor policy.

This is encouraging for Right to Work supporters across America.

"Incredibly, former Clinton NLRB [National Labor Relations Board] General Counsel Fred Feinstein conceded at the hearing that union monopoly bargaining, the foundation for compulsory union dues and fees, should perhaps be abolished," noted Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"Moreover, Rep. Dan Lipinski [D-Ill.], the ranking minority member on the panel that held the hearing, said he wouldn't contest employee witnesses' charges that they personally have been harmed, not helped, by being forced to accept a union as their 'exclusive' bargaining agent in contract negotiations.

"If even a union-label politician like Mr. Lipinski and his hand-picked witness find it tricky to defend Big Labor's federally-granted monopoly privileges over workers, congressional leaders shouldn't hesitate to try to roll back these privileges."

'America Was Established As a Free Society'

Mr. Mix commended Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colo.) for heeding the requests of freedom-loving constituents and other Americans to hold a hearing on national Right to Work legislation in the workforce empowerment subcommittee she chairs.

The hearing focused on H.R.500, also



Big Labor Rep. Dan Lipinski (left) seemed shocked after hearing strong testimony in favor of H.R.500. Pro-

known as the National Right to Work Act, which was introduced in February by Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) and 20 original cosponsors.

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).

They would thereby protect private-sector employees' Right to Work in all 50 states. The two measures have a total of 109 congressional sponsors.

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



forced unionism witness Fred Feinstein was surprisingly uneager to defend union bosses' monopoly privileges.

states, including Right to Work states, may be compelled to pay union dues.

"America was established as a free society," observed Mr. Mix in his testimony before the workforce empowerment panel.

Former Top Clinton NLRB Lawyer: Individual Freedom 'An Interesting Proposition'

"And all working Americans should be guaranteed the right to decide for themselves whether a union deserves their financial support," Mr. Mix continued.

He went on to explain how the NLRA today "abuses the freedom of working people to earn an honest living for themselves and their families:

"Under this so-called 'Magna Carta' of

See **Recorded Votes** next page

Recorded Votes Are 'Most Needed'

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workers' rights, employees who never requested union representation are forced to accept a union as their monopoly-bargaining agent."

Then, compounding the injury, "under federal labor policy they are forced to pay for representation they never requested and do not want," he explained.

Mr. Mix and fellow pro-Right to Work witnesses Charles Baird, former Economics Department chairman at California State University, East Bay, and George Leef, author of a recently-published history of the Right to Work movement, proposed repeal of monopoly bargaining as well as forced union dues.

Surprising most of the people gathered in the hearing room in the Rayburn House Office Building, Mr. Feinstein, who zealously enforced pro-forced unionism labor policies as NLRB general counsel from 1994 until 1999, allowed in his reply that monopoly-bargaining repeal is "an interesting proposition."

Similarly surprising was Mr. Lipinski's response to pro-Right to Work testimony by Michael Butcher of Issaquah, Wash., an engineer for Boeing since 1986, and George Galley, an engineer for Colt Manufacturing in Hartford, Conn., since 1961.

Both Mr. Butcher and Mr. Galley are currently forced to pay fees to a union they want nothing to do with in order to keep their jobs.

Labor Law Assumes Workers Aren't Qualified to Decide If Big Labor Benefits Them

Mr. Butcher testified: "[I]t's been my experience that the union has only been a detriment to my career, and the services they claim to provide are of absolutely no value to me."

Mr. Galley put it this way: "Federal labor law continues to force me to fund an organization that purports to provide services -- services that I don't want."

Mr. Lipinski bluntly admitted to Mr. Butcher and Mr. Galley that he was in no position to dispute what they had reported about their personal experiences.

Unfortunately, Mr. Lipinski and Mr. Feinstein continue to defend the NLRA and RLA, which assume employees such as Mr. Butcher and Mr. Galley are in fact not qualified to decide whether they benefit from union monopoly bargaining

and must consequently be forced to pay union fees, like it or not.

Mr. Mix called on Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) to hold a House floor vote in the near future on what the Right to Work leader has labeled the "Lipinski proposition."

"If Dan Lipinski is correct that, as a member of Congress, he has no right to tell individual workers whether or not they benefit from being unionized, then Congress has no business authorizing union bosses to collect forced dues and fees," said Mr. Mix.

"By holding a roll-call floor vote on H.R.500, Mr. Hastert can help Americans everywhere find out whether or not their representative purports to know more about a worker's personal business than the worker does."

HELP Chairman Has Expressed Interest in Hearing on S.370

In addition to pressing for floor action on H.R.500, Right to Work officers and members are also seeking a hearing on S.370, the Senate Right to Work measure introduced by Trent Lott (R-Miss.).


On September 7, Mr. Mix and Committee Vice President Doug Stafford met with Sen. Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.), chairman of the HELP Committee, to discuss the possibility of a hearing on S.370.

As this month's Newsletter goes to press, Right to Work officers are consulting with legislative aides of Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.), chairman of the HELP Committee's Subcommittee on Employment & Workplace Safety, regarding potential dates and witnesses for a hearing.

But in the Senate, just as in the House, the Committee's fundamental goal is a recorded floor vote.

"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 unsuccessful, House and Senate leaders can pave the way for Right to Work legislative victories in the future," commented Mr. Mix.

"While last month's hearing is valuable, recorded votes are what is most needed now to build Right to Work support in Congress."

Mr. Mix urged Committee members everywhere to contact Speaker Hastert at 202-225-2976 and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) at 202-224-3344 and ask them to bring H.R.500 and S.370 to the floors of their respective chambers. 



National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix told the House panel that federal labor policy "abuses

the freedom of working people to earn an honest living for themselves and their families."

Union 'Splitters' Duck Invitation to Testify

Rather Than Answer Awkward Questions, They Skip H.R.500 Hearing

Top officials of four big international unions who had pulled their assets and forced dues-paying members out of the AFL-CIO union conglomerate passed up a chance last month to explain on Capitol Hill why workers should not have the parallel 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 three weeks later held a hearing on national Right to Work legislation, invited the four top AFL-CIO "splitters" to participate.

But not one of the four union officials showed up. Service Employees International Union (SEIU) czar Andy Stern, Teamster kingpin Jim Hoffa, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) chief Joe Hansen, and Carpenters union don Doug McCarron all made excuses or simply ignored Mrs. Musgrave's invitations.

Also ducking an invitation from Mrs. Musgrave to participate in the exchange was AFL-CIO ruler John Sweeney.

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

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commended Mrs. Musgrave for holding top union bosses' feet to the fire 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 three months ago.

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



JSOONLINE.COM

Teamster czar Jim Hoffa is one of several top union bosses who went into hiding rather than explain why their

right to "disaffiliate" from the AFL-CIO shouldn't pertain to Big Labor-controlled workers.

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.

(On September 13, two more international union bosses, Bruce Raynor and John Wilhelm, co-presidents of UNITE HERE, the garment and hotel workers union, disaffiliated from the AFL-CIO and became full-fledged members of the Stern-Hoffa "Change to Win Coalition.")

Workers Have Plenty of Good Reasons to Question How Unions Are Being Run

"The fact is, workers have plenty of good reasons to challenge how the 'Change to Win' bosses are running their unions, just as a number of union bosses have challenged Mr. Sweeney," noted Mr. Mix.

"For example, many SEIU-'represented' workers have actually already publicly charged that SEIU bosses' frequent resort to 'top-down' organizing deals goes against worker

interests.

"Many other SEIU-controlled employees are outraged by the union hierarchy's admitted expenditure of \$65 million, mostly union dues and fees that employees are forced to pay as a condition of employment, on partisan politics in 2004.

"As investigative journalist Steve Milloy recently wrote in the *New York Sun*, 'SEIU seems bent on unionizing workers whether they want or need it, and, apparently, will say or do almost anything to make that happen, regardless of who gets hurt.'"

Mr. Mix went on to note that serious questions about mismanagement and highhandedness have also been raised about Mr. Hoffa, Mr. Hansen, Mr. McCarron, Mr. Raynor, and Mr. Wilhelm.

"Workers who disapprove of how their unions are being run, but aren't able to oust the people in charge, should have the right to disaffiliate from the union," he concluded.

"Common sense tells us that the individual worker should be a free agent, just as Andy Stern is a free agent. That's why Congress should take up and approve the National Right to Work Act [H.R.500 and S.370], which would abolish all federally-imposed compulsory union dues and fees." 📣

Anti-Right to Work Rhetoric Runs Into Reality

Union 'Employee Council' Plans to Bargain For Its Members Only

Under federal and state law, employers can be forced to accept a union as the "exclusive" bargaining agent of their non-supervisory employees.

Employees can also be forced to accept union monopoly bargaining if they want to keep their jobs. That means employees lose the individual right to bargain for themselves over their wages, benefits, and work rules, and must allow a union agent to negotiate in their stead, like it or not.

Only the union official is free to choose under the law to refuse monopoly privileges and seek instead to bargain on a members-only basis. Clearly, monopoly bargaining is designed for the benefit of union officials, not employers or the individual employee.

'If You Don't Want Representation, Then Don't Join the Council'

Of course, Big Labor is eager to obscure the facts about monopoly bargaining.

For years, union officials have tried to justify monopoly bargaining by suggesting that members-only bargaining results in "confusion . . . inter-union rivalries . . . [and] dissension."

The AFL-CIO-produced pamphlet *The Big Lie*, which is frequently distributed to fire up militant opposition to state Right to Work legislation and laws, even claims that members-only bargaining runs counter to "the public interest."

The AFL-CIO PR team's gist is that

union bosses are "forced" to represent nonmembers at the bargaining table, so nonmembers must be forced to pay union dues or fees, or be fired. Even if the premise of this argument were correct, its logic would be dubious. But the premise is utter nonsense.

The fact is, members-only bargaining has always been legal in the U.S. And now Big Labor has actually begun to acknowledge it.

In recent months, anti-Right to Work propaganda has run foursquare into reality.

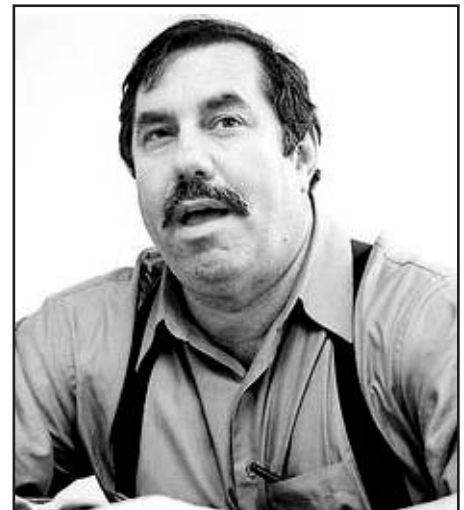
More and more officials of large AFL-CIO-affiliated and other unions admit they are eager to engage in members-only bargaining in businesses where, despite their federal legal privileges, they are unable for the time being to impose monopoly bargaining.

Leading the charge for members-only bargaining are United Steelworkers of America (USWA/AFL-CIO) President Leo Gerard and Organizing Director Mike Yoffee.

A flyer produced for a West Newton, Pa.-based "Employee Council," which is supervised by Mr. Yoffee, baldly announces that the organization plans to represent "only those employees who wish to join."

The flyer continues: "It's simple. If you wish to have [union] representation then join the Council. If you don't want representation, then don't join the Council."

Mr. Yoffee's best-publicized members-only organizing target is a Dick's



TEPEITIMES.COM

Union czar Leo Gerard has inadvertently refuted the AFL-CIO's favorite anti-Right to Work pamphlet.

Sporting Goods distribution center in Smithton, Pa.

The Dick's Employee Council has announced that, after a "substantial number" of employees become members, "the Council will request that Dick's management meet and bargain with the Council on behalf of our members . . ."


Hoary Excuse For Forced Union Dues Has Gone 'Poof'

Similar USWA-initiated efforts are already underway in Virginia and Georgia.

A second international union, United Electrical (UE), also reports it has begun members-only campaigns at a truck parts manufacturer in North Carolina and an electric fans and heaters manufacturer in Chicago.

"Just this year, a hoary excuse for forced union dues has gone 'poof,'" announced Doug Stafford, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"All can now see union bosses have the option to do members-only organizing. If they refuse to exercise this option, that's obviously no excuse for forcing workers to pay for an unwanted monopoly union.

"This new development will inspire Committee officers and members to fight even harder for enactment of national Right to Work legislation barring all forced union dues and fees." 

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From Job Liquidation to Job Expansion

State Right to Work Law Helps Reinvigorate Tulsa Fixture Company

Last month, as freedom-loving Sooners were celebrating their state Right to Work law's fourth anniversary, John McNicholas of Tulsa, Okla., visited Washington, D.C., to tell members of Congress about how the law had helped the small manufacturing firm he heads save 250 good jobs and create 250 more.

In September 2001, Oklahoma became the 22nd Right to Work state.

State Right to Work laws prohibit the firing of employees for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union. Nationwide polls consistently show that nearly 80% of registered voters oppose compulsory union affiliation on principle.

But Mr. McNicholas focused on how the Oklahoma law has economically benefited his employees and his business in his September 8 testimony before the U.S. House Small Business Committee's Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment & Government Programs.

'Oklahoma's Right to Work Law Was a Major Factor in My Decision'

Mr. McNicholas was one of several pro-Right to Work witnesses at the panel's hearing on H.R.500, national Right to Work legislation introduced by Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) and sponsored by 91 congressmen and women.

(For more about the hearing, see pp. 1-3.)

In January 2003, the Oklahoma Fixture Company (OFC), which had been making quality millwork products for three-quarters of a century and had been ranked as one of the top five U.S. fixture manufacturers during the nineties, filed for bankruptcy.

The OFC's unionized workers, most employed at the company's main facility in Tulsa, stood to lose their jobs.

But Mr. McNicholas thought perhaps the business and its jobs could be saved and joined a team, now known as Penloyd, to consider acquiring OFC's assets.

"After an extensive due diligence process," he recalled in his testimony, "our team decided the company could become profitable again with good management decisions and some structural changes."

However, before his team could make an investment, they had to "assess risk factors that could cause failure. We



In 2003, John McNicholas (inset) and his partners bought the pictured facility plus two others from the

bankrupt Oklahoma Fixture Company. Oklahoma's Right to Work law was a "major factor" in their decision.

identified the risk that our workforce would not be willing to adapt quickly to changes required to survive international competition" because the workers were saddled with a union monopoly contract.

"I do not believe we would have accepted that risk if Oklahoma were not a Right to Work state," he stated.

Mr. McNicholas reiterated later in his testimony that "Oklahoma's Right to Work law was a major factor in my decision to acquire" the OFC's assets.

Forced Unionism 'Sometimes Leads to . . . Unnecessary Confrontation With Management'

Once Penloyd acquired the OFC's assets in June 2003, it immediately hired most of the business's existing employees. Pay rates were unchanged.

Knowing that employees who were determined to save their jobs could punish them by cutting off their dues if they resisted work-rule changes needed to make the business profitable, union officials did not fight such changes too strenuously.


In contrast, noted Mr. McNicholas in his testimony, forced unionism

"sometimes leads to . . . support of arcane work rules, and unnecessary confrontation with management."

Over time, employees evidently became convinced that Penloyd's management decisions were in their best interest, and moved to oust their "exclusive" union bargaining agents in a National Labor Relations Board-monitored election.

Since Penloyd acquired the OFC's assets, it has grown from roughly 250 employees to over 500 employees. Penloyd and its employees are using their proximity to clients like Eddie Bauer, Dillard's, Macy's and Bloomingdale's and their high productivity to compete successfully with Chinese fixture manufacturers.

"The Penloyd success story illustrates why Right to Work laws are sound economic policy as well as morally just," said Matthew Leen, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"It is with both these reasons in mind that Right to Work supporters are pushing hard for recorded floor votes on H.R.500 and its Senate companion, S.370, which would prohibit compulsory union dues and fees in all 50 states." 

Teachers Fight Big Labor Political Scam

California Union Bosses' Forced-Dues Privileges Breed Many Abuses

Early this summer, top bosses of the California Teachers Association (CTA/NEA) union announced a brazen scheme to jack up the compulsory dues and fees that Golden State teachers and other public school employees must pay to keep their jobs by \$50 million over the next three years.

The express purpose for this massive hike, which will increase a typical California teacher's total annual forced-dues burden from \$810 to \$870, is to defeat three propositions, all supported by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R), that are appearing on a statewide special election ballot November 8.

The forced-assessment hike violated the constitutional rights of hundreds of thousands of teachers in California who must pay dues or fees to the CTA/NEA union hierarchy, or be fired.

"Union-boss puppet politicians in California and many other states have enacted laws authorizing the firing of teachers and other public employees for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union," noted National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"But under the U.S. Supreme Court's *Hudson* decision, argued and won by Right to Work attorneys, forced dues-paying teachers at least have the legal right to refuse to bankroll the union ballot electioneering and other political

schemes the CTA bosses are funding with their special assessment.

"Unfortunately, CTA/NEA and other government union bosses routinely violate employees' constitutional rights. To ensure employees' free speech is respected, forced union dues and fees should be abolished, period."

'I Learned About the Union's Plans, More Or Less by Chance'

Last month, a group of California teachers and professors filed a federal class-action suit against the CTA/NEA and the California Faculty Association (CFA) union. Back in May, CFA officers had imposed a forced dues and fees hike earmarked primarily for political and other non-bargaining purposes.

The teachers and professors are being furnished with free legal representation by the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, the Committee's sister organization.

Plaintiffs in the case held a press conference in front of CTA/NEA union headquarters in Sacramento, Calif., September 22 to announce the lawsuit.

The press conference was held on public property. But paid union staff, manifesting their contempt for teachers' First Amendment rights, attempted

throughout the conference to drown out speakers by chanting Big Labor slogans.

Independent-minded California educators wouldn't be shouted down.

Judith Liegmann of Sunnyvale, a fifth grade teacher, shared her experiences:

"I learned about the union's plans, more or less by chance, shortly after their decision in June to charge us even more dues.

"I wrote a letter to the CTA requesting some information on how they planned to handle this extra assessment. I received no response. . . . [Ultimately,] CTA informed me that the \$60 would NOT be rebated to me. They were going to use my additional \$60 for the November election, whether I liked it or not.

"I resent having . . . the CTA announce to me what I think, and then tell me, 'And by the way, we're seizing your money to support what you're supposed to think.'"


Forced Dues-Funded CTA Kingpins Spend \$21 Million On Politics in One Day

The educators' press conference was held just three weeks after the Los Angeles *Times* reported that CTA/NEA officers had poured \$21 million (mostly forced-dues money) into groups opposing the three Schwarzenegger initiatives "in a single afternoon of money transfers."

"Teacher union kingpins' targets for defeat include the 'Live Within Our Means Act,' designed to protect Californians, whose total tax burden as a share of their income is already heavier than for residents of 41 of the 50 states, from future massive tax increases," noted Mr. Mix.

"Not just independent-minded educators, but also taxpayers, business people, and other citizens are outraged by the CTA/NEA hierarchy's political abuse of forced dues and fees.

"In a bid to fend off the lawsuit, CTA/NEA officials are now saying they'll give back at least some of the money they've illicitly confiscated, perhaps as soon as this month.

"But the long-term solution is repeal of teacher union bosses' state government-granted privilege to get school employees fired for refusal to pay union dues or fees. That's the only way of making the CTA genuinely accountable to teachers and the public." 



Fifth grade teacher Judith Liegmann: "I resent having . . . the CTA announce to me what I think, and then

tell me, 'And by the way, we're seizing your money to support what you're supposed to think.'"

Clinton-Era NLRB Precedents Still Linger

Status Quo Likely to Persist Until Two Board Vacancies Are Filled

Avowed Right to Work supporter George W. Bush moved into the White House nearly five years ago.

Today, every member of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), which wields the power to implement the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), was either originally appointed by Mr. Bush or was reappointed by him.

Nevertheless, on a host of important and controversial labor-policy issues, NLRB precedents set by appointees of GOP President Bush's pro-forced unionism Democratic predecessor, Bill Clinton, remain the law of the land today.

In contrast to federal and state judges, NLRB members are not expected under the principle of *stare decisis* to uphold precedents set by their predecessors unless they have an "extraordinary" reason to overturn them.

When a self-professedly pro-Right to Work Administration is elected, one should expect the NLRB to grant more protection to individual freedom, to the extent that is possible given that the NLRB's mission is to uphold the pro-union monopoly NLRA.

But although Bush appointees have indeed begun to rein in the Clinton NLRB's worst abuses, entrenched Big Labor bureaucrats at the agency are still using their power and taxpayers' money to advance the union-boss agenda.

White House, Senate Both Need to Take Action

For example, so far the current NLRB has maintained the Clinton NLRB's policy of expansively reading union lawyers' claimed "industry or locality" exception to help Big Labor force union nonmembers to pay for union organizing.

Of course, both the NLRA and the Railway Labor Act (RLA) authorize forcing employees to pay union dues or fees as a condition of employment.

But the U.S. Supreme Court has definitively ruled that employees covered under the RLA cannot be forced to bankroll union organizing. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit has held NLRA-covered workers are similarly protected.

Unfortunately, the Bush NLRB has yet to acknowledge that workers under



LABORED RELATIONS BY WILLIAM GOULD

Under Chairman William Gould (right), the Clinton NLRB greatly expanded union bosses' ability to use

deceit and threats to secure monopoly-bargaining power. The Bush NLRB hasn't yet decisively reversed course.

its jurisdiction have this limited right.

The Bush NLRB also has yet to reverse the Clinton Board's sanctioning of abusive tactics to obtain union authorization cards from employees.

In 1997, Clinton appointee Fred Feinstein upheld the validity of "authorization" cards obtained by falsely telling employees they were already under an "exclusive" union contract.

Today, the NLRB continues to abet union organizers who resort to deceit and threats to obtain "authorization" cards that they can use to secure monopoly-bargaining power over employees.

"While current NLRB Chairman Robert Battista reportedly is interested in reversing many of the outrageous Clinton-era precedents that are still intact, he is unlikely to do so until all five NLRB positions are filled," noted National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

Decision Not to Reappoint Arthur Rosenfeld Is a 'Hopeful Indication'

"Currently, two slots are empty and one is filled by a recess appointee. The Bush Administration doesn't even have a nominee for one of the vacancies," Mr. Mix continued.

"It's time for the President to nominate an energetic, pro-Right to


Work public servant for this position, and for the Senate to take up all the President's NLRB nominations so that the agency can set out on a new, more constructive course."

Mr. Mix added that Mr. Bush's decision this summer to heed Right to Work members' postcards, letters and phone calls urging him not to reappoint Arthur Rosenfeld as NLRB general counsel is a hopeful indication that the White House is serious about reforming the NLRB.

By refusing to act, Mr. Rosenfeld perpetuated the Clinton Administration's pro-forced unionism policies, time and again.

Mr. Mix urged Committee members to call the White House comment line, 202-456-1111, to thank the President for denying Mr. Rosenfeld a second term and urge him to do everything possible to get a full, five-member NLRB with a clear pro-Right to Work majority in place as soon as possible.

"The NLRB's history is so bad that, ultimately, the solution for improving implementation of federal labor policy is to shut the agency down completely and give federal courts full jurisdiction over the NLRA," said Mr. Mix.

"Right now, however, the Bush NLRB has a chance to undo the damage the agency inflicted on independent employees during the Clinton years. The White House must seize this chance." 

'It Only Takes Once to Repeal Idaho's Law'

Big Labor Again Scheming to Restore Forced Unionism in Gem State

Twenty years ago this January, the Idaho Legislature, with more than two-thirds majorities in both houses, passed a state Right to Work law that bars the firing of any employee for refusal to join or pay dues or fees to an unwanted union.

Nineteen years ago next month, a solid 54% to 46% majority of Idahoans voted down a union boss-instigated initiative intended to overturn the Right to Work law.

Since then, pro-Right to Work citizens mobilized by the National Right to Work Committee and regional allied groups have time and again successfully lobbied state legislators to reject Big Labor-concocted bills to gut the law.

The Committee's citizen mobilization and educational efforts over the years have clearly helped solidify public opinion in favor of Right to Work in Idaho.

Just last year, AFL-CIO officials' latest scheme to repeal Right to Work through an initiative failed to garner even the roughly 42,000 valid signatures then needed to make the November ballot.

Idaho's Private-Sector Job Growth More Than Double Forced-Dues State Average

But the AFL-CIO hierarchy is determined to prevail, by hook or by crook.

Now AFL-CIO President John Sweeney and Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka, with the help of their lieutenants in the Gem State, are mounting a new propaganda campaign designed to confuse Idahoans about their Right to Work law and its economic impact.

Shedding crocodile tears for employers, AFL-CIO propagandists are suggesting the Right to Work law restricts employer freedom to bargain contracts.

"What the law actually does is stop union officials from imposing contract provisions on employers forcing them to fire workers who refuse to pay dues or fees to a union," noted Committee President Mark Mix.

"That's the only new 'restriction' that was implemented when the Right to Work law took effect. And it's a 'restriction' that enjoys the overwhelming support of Idahoans.

"On the economic front, the fact is,



FTAAIMC.ORG

By painting a grossly distorted picture of Idaho's Right to Work law and its economic impact, AFL-CIO bosses

John Sweeney (left) and Richard Trumka intend to get the law repealed, once and for all.

young employees and entrepreneurs are voting with their feet against forced dues and for Idaho and other Right to Work states," continued Mr. Mix.

"Between 1993 and 2003, the number of 25-34 year-olds increased by 19% in Idaho and by 4% in Right to Work states as a group, but fell by 10% in non-Right to Work states as a group.

"Why are so many young people moving out of non-Right to Work states to accept jobs and start businesses in Right to Work states like Idaho? Unless you're a Big Labor ideologue, you can understand it's because better jobs and opportunities are available in Right to Work states.

"From 1994 to 2004, private-sector jobs in Idaho increased by 28% -- more than double the forced-dues state average.

"Over the same period, real personal income in Idaho grew by 41% more than the forced-dues state average.

"Yet union kingpins claim the Right to Work law has somehow harmed Idaho's economy."

Since this spring, an entire section of the Idaho AFL-CIO's web site has been devoted to union officials' program to get a new Right to Work repeal initiative on

the ballot in November 2006.

As the "Citizens to Repeal Right to Work 06" page correctly points out, no matter how many times Big Labor has been defeated, it "only takes once to repeal Idaho's law"

Committee President Vows To Help Regional Group Defend Idaho Statute

Mr. Mix vowed that the Committee would do everything necessary to help Idaho citizens fend off the latest attack.

"The Committee and its grass-roots ally in Idaho, the Rocky Mountain States Right to Work Coalition, are prepared if necessary to make a major investment to clear the air and get the real record out there.

"Of course, the best outcome will be if the Rocky Mountain group's low-cost educational efforts dissuade sufficient numbers of Idahoans from signing the Big Labor petitions to keep Right to Work repeal off the ballot again."

Mr. Mix urged Idahoans who want to help block Big Labor's forced-dues initiative to call the Rocky Mountain States Right to Work Coalition, based in Meridian, Idaho, at 208-286-9030.