



# NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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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'

*Continued from page 1*

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."**