



NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 52, NUMBER 2

www.nrtwc.org

February 2006

Right to Work Is 'Engine of Economic Recovery' *But National Law Is Needed to Protect All Employees, Businesses*

Over just the past couple of months, the federal labor-law provisions that authorize the firing of roughly 7.3 million American employees should they refuse to pay union dues or fees as a job condition have gotten even harder to defend.

At the end of October, the U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released a report showing that between 2000 and 2004 the combined real output of states with Right to Work laws barring all forced union dues grew by 3.0% a year.

Had Whole Country Grown At Right to Work Pace, GDP Would Be \$232 Billion Higher

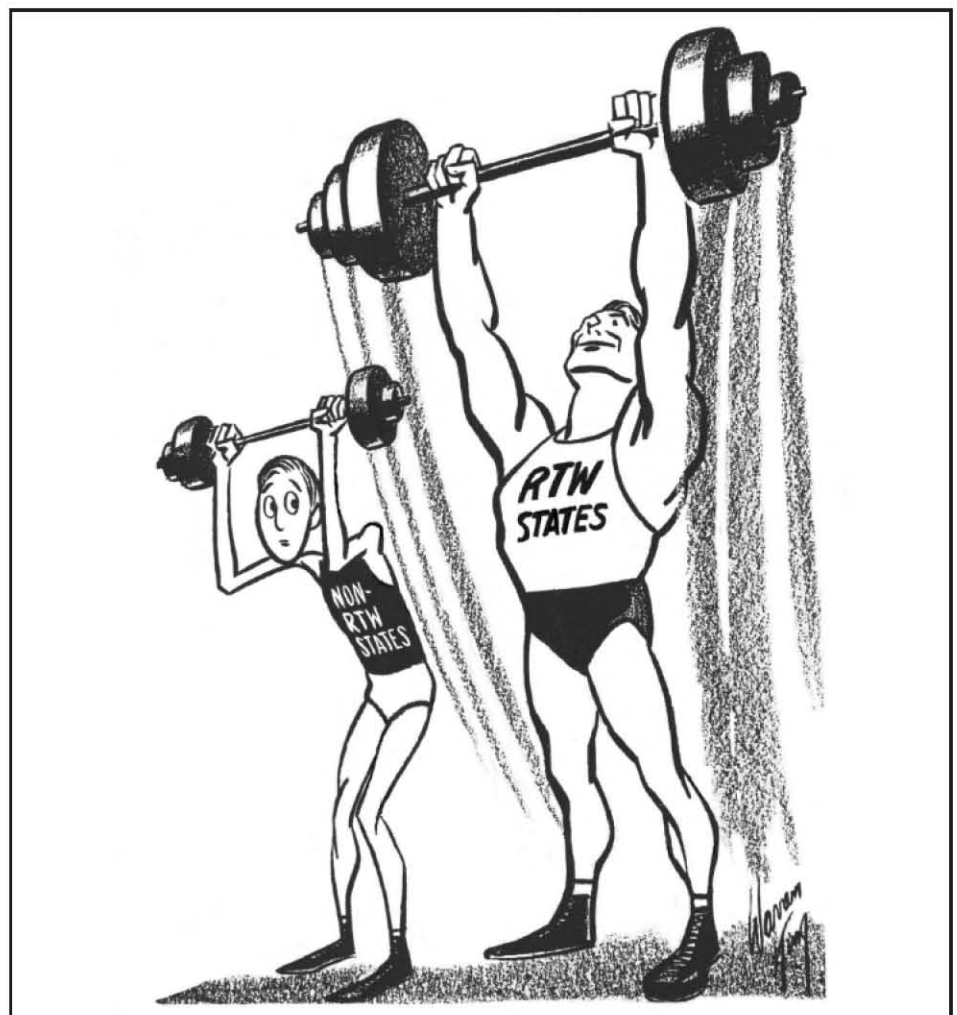
That's roughly half again as fast as the combined real annual output growth of states that do not protect employees from federally-imposed forced union dues.

To put it another way, had the entire country grown as fast as Right to Work states did over just this four-year period, by 2004 our national economic output would have increased by an additional \$232 billion in real, 2000 dollars!

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix said that the recent BEA data should embolden the 118 U.S. House and Senate sponsors of national Right to Work legislation in their respective chambers to demand action on these measures.

Forced Dues Not Justified, Morally or Economically

"The House and Senate Right to Work Bills [H.R.500 and S.370] would abolish the federal labor-law provisions that force workers to pay dues to an unwanted union, or be fired," he noted.



LIFTING THE ECONOMY --
Between 2000 and 2004, Right to Works states' combined real economic

output grew by 3.0% a year, nearly half again as fast as forced-unionism states' growth.

"The right to do something becomes coercion if it is not accompanied by a corresponding right to refrain.

"As long as the law of the land explicitly denies employees the right to refuse to associate with or financially

support a union, all Americans' freedom will be threatened.

"Even most forced-unionism apologists sense the strength of this moral

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Right to Work Is Winning Issue

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argument.

"That's why they typically try to change the subject to economics. But the BEA and other federal statisticians keep undercutting this gambit."

Mark Mix: Employees Move To Right to Work States To Get Better Jobs

"The bottom line is that proponents of H.R.500 and S.370 have much to gain, and nothing at all to lose, by bringing these bills up for debates and recorded House and Senate votes," Mr. Mix concluded.

One key reason that Right to Work states consistently grow faster is that they keep attracting employees and small-business owners and their families from forced-unionism states: A net total of roughly two-and-a-half million Americans moved to Right to Work states between 2000 and 2005.

"With national unemployment relatively low in recent years, it's likely that most of the employees who moved to Right to Work states were able to find at least *some* sort of job where they had been living," observed Mr. Mix.

"Clearly, most were lured to Right to Work states by better opportunities and incomes that are higher when regional differences in living costs are taken into account."

Mr. Mix cited a 2005 study by University of Colorado economist Barry Poulson.

Dr. Poulson, a past president of the North American Economics and Finance Association, found that the average cost of living-adjusted household income in Right to Work metropolitan areas was nearly \$4300 higher than the average in forced-unionism state metro areas.

Congressional Debates, Votes On Forced-Unionism Issue Help Right to Work Advocates

"The 22 Right to Work states are now America's engine of economic recovery," Mr. Mix continued.

"But a national law is needed to protect employees and businesses in all 50 states from forced unionism and its excesses.

"That's why Committee members and officers are fighting so hard to bring H.R.500 and S.370 up for recorded floor

votes this year.

"Even if these votes are not successful, they will pave the way for an eventual Right to Work victory by focusing public scrutiny on the politicians who care more about Big Labor special interests than the legitimate interests of employees, business owners and consumers.

"One recent example of how pro-forced unionism votes can backfire on union-label politicians is former U.S. Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle [D-S.D.]."

Anti-Right to Work Votes Contributed to Sen. Tom Daschle's Defeat in 2004

"In 1996, Mr. Daschle voted to filibuster to death a national Right to Work measure rather than allow a straight up-or-down vote by the Senate," Mr. Mix explained.

"In 2001, as majority leader, he carried water for Organized Labor bosses by sponsoring an amendment that would have mandated union monopoly control over state and local police and firefighters nationwide."

"Also as majority leader, he led the 2002 effort to block the creation of a new Homeland Security Department unless President Bush ceded his authority to exempt its employees from union monopoly bargaining.

"Well-informed political observers agree that Mr. Daschle's votes in support of forced unionism were a significant factor in his defeat in 2004 by pro-Right to Work Republican John Thune.

"House and Senate votes on H.R.500 and S.370 this year would similarly give concerned citizens a chance to see exactly which politicians support Right to Work, and which kowtow to union lobbyists.

"And that would lay the groundwork for Right to Work electoral and legislative victories, starting this fall and continuing for years to come." 🇺🇸



LINDA STAULCUP

Committee President Mark Mix (left) is leading the push for floor votes on H.R.500, the House Right to Work Bill

introduced by Congressman Joe Wilson (R-S.C.), and its Senate companion measure, S.370.