



# NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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## Time 'Running Out' For Action on S.370, H.R.500 *Right to Work Lobbying Blitz Increases Pressure For Floor Votes*

The National Right to Work Committee is escalating its campaign to convince U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) and House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) to schedule recorded votes on national Right to Work legislation.

In a mailing posted early this month, Committee President Mark Mix urged Committee members nationwide to sign and return to Right to Work headquarters petitions for Mr. Frist, Mr. Hastert, and their own senators and congressmen.

The petitions point out that nearly 80% of Americans "want Congress to pass" a national Right to Work law, and President Bush has agreed to sign one.

### **Why Would Majority Leader, Speaker 'Choose to Ignore People Who Supported Them'?**

"In the interest of a strong economy, workers' freedom, and more jobs," the petitions urge Mr. Frist and Mr. Hastert to "schedule a roll-call vote on the National Right to Work Act."

S.370 and H.R.500, the identical Right to Work measures now pending in the Senate and House, would repeal the provisions in federal labor law that currently authorize the firing of employees for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union.

Mr. Mix pointed out that the case for holding roll-call votes on these two bills is simple and compelling:

"The Right to Work legislation wouldn't add a word to federal law.

"It simply eliminates the parts of the National Labor Relations Act and Railway Labor Act that authorize and promote forced union dues.

"Elected officials have had plenty of time to consider this issue. The Right to



**As Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (left) and House Speaker Dennis Hastert ought to know, every time a**

**vote is held on the Right to Work issue, union-boss candidates take a beating in the next elections.**

Work Act was introduced in both the Senate and House in the 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, and 108th Congresses, and is now pending again in the 109th.

"Hearings have been held in the Senate and in the House.

"The nearly 80% of citizens who support the Right to Work principle have a right to know where their elected officials stand.

"But despite receiving thousands of petitions, letters and phone calls from pro-Right to Work constituents and other concerned Americans, Majority Leader Frist and Speaker Hastert have so far failed to act.

"Now time is running out.

"Without a doubt, the Americans who elected the congressional majorities who

have put Mr. Frist and Mr. Hastert in leadership positions support Right to Work even more overwhelmingly than the public as a whole.

"Why would Mr. Hastert and Mr. Frist choose to ignore people who supported them?"

### **Strategy of Confrontation Helps Right to Work Cause**

Holding recorded floor votes on S.370 and H.R.500 should be an easy decision for Mr. Frist and Mr. Hastert. Mr. Frist has previously cosponsored Right to Work legislation. And Mr. Hastert has in the past publicly stated his support for

*See History next page*

# History Makes Case For Roll Calls

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Right to Work and his opposition to forced unionism.

And every time in the past four decades that there has been a public vote on forced unionism in Congress, opponents of worker freedom have gone down in flames in the next election.

In 1965 and 1966, the Committee led the fight to save state Right to Work laws from destruction by blocking repeal of Taft-Hartley 14(b), which recognizes the authority of states to enact such laws.

In the 1966 elections, 39 House members who had voted against Right to Work were defeated, but not one House member who had voted to save 14(b) was beaten by a 14(b) opponent.

The Committee led another successful campaign in 1977-78 to stop the union bosses' so-called Labor Law "Reform" Bill, which would have imposed harsh penalties on employers who resisted the forced unionization of their employees.

Sixteen congressmen who voted for Big Labor's phony "reform" went on to lose their re-election bids in 1978. Only two congressmen who had voted for Right to Work were defeated.

Meanwhile, Big Labor senators such as Floyd Haskell (D-Colo.), Wendell

Anderson (D-Minn.), Tom McIntyre (D-N.H.), and Dick Clark (D-Iowa) went down to defeat.

The following year, ex-Sen. McIntyre published a book explicitly blaming the National Right to Work Committee and other citizens' groups for union-"friendly" politicians' electoral setbacks.

The labor law "reform" vote continued to plague the re-election campaigns of pro-forced unionism senators in 1980, playing a major role in the defeats of Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), Frank Church (D-Idaho), John Culver (D-Iowa), John Durkin (D-N.H.), and George McGovern (D-S.D.) by Right to Work proponents.

## Votes on Pushbutton Strike, Right to Work Legislation Reconfirmed Power of Issue

From 1991 to 1994, senators and House members both cast multiple votes on Sen. Ted Kennedy's (D-Mass.) Pushbutton Strike Bill, designed to force employers to punish or fire workers who defy union-boss strike orders.

A total of 40 senators and House members who had voted for the strike bill were defeated when they sought

reelection in 1992 or 1994. In 1994, not a single strike bill foe was beaten by a strike-bill proponent.

In 1996, lobbying by Committee members finally brought federal Right to Work legislation to the Senate floor.

Although the measure was defeated, Right to Work allies quickly picked up a net of five Senate votes for the 1997-98 Congress.

## Failure to Hold Votes Benefits Only Union Bosses And Their Lackey Politicians

The 1996 vote continued to benefit Right to Work proponents in subsequent elections. For example, in 2000 it helped challenger George Allen (R-Va.) defeat Big Labor Sen. Chuck Robb (D), and in 2002 it helped challenger Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.) defeat pro-forced unionism Sen. Max Cleland (D).

The 2004 election results were yet another demonstration of, in the words of the influential *Wall Street Journal* editorial page, "the power of the argument that the forced collection of union dues is wrong."

In that year's most high-profile race, freedom-loving constituents came to see Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle's (D-S.D.) vote against the Right to Work Bill as part of a long pattern of his kowtowing to Big Labor. In the end, he was narrowly defeated by pro-Right to Work GOP challenger John Thune.


Unfortunately, no Big Labor senators first elected in 1996 or later and no Big Labor House members at all have ever had to vote on national Right to Work legislation.

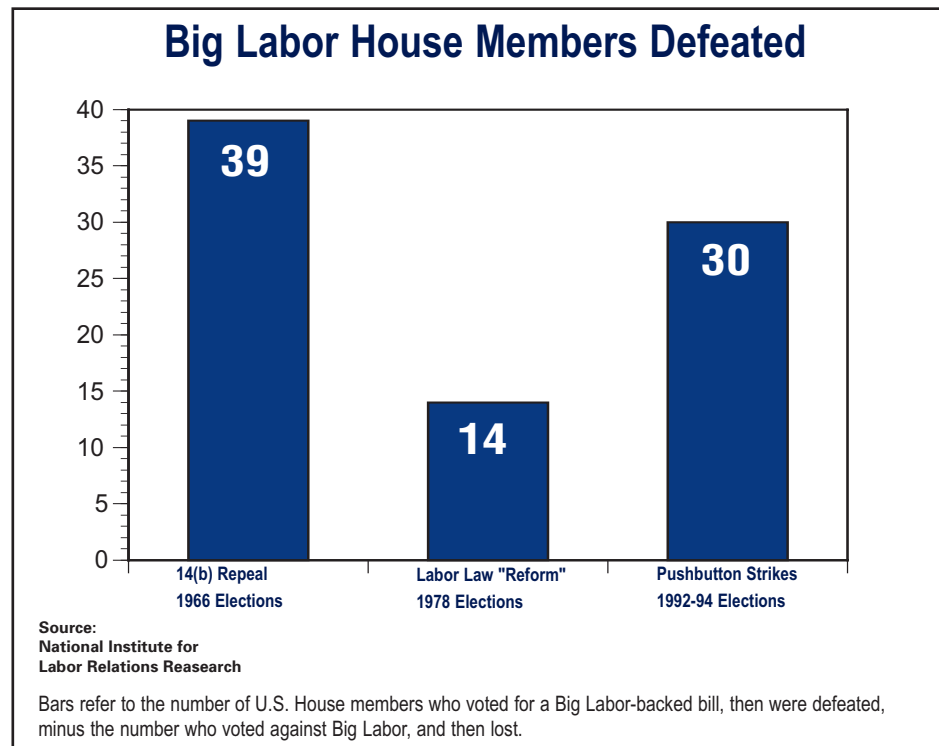
Therefore, dozens of cynical, union boss-backed politicians have been able to get away with telling their constituents they really do support employees' Right to Work without being forced to pay union dues.

By bringing S.370 and H.R.500 up for floor votes before the November elections, Mr. Frist and Mr. Hastert can end such politicians' free ride.

"If Congress fails to vote on the National Right to Work Act this year, only union bosses and their lackey politicians will benefit," said Mr. Mix.

Right to Work members are urged to call Majority Leader Frist (202-224-3344) and Speaker Hastert (202-225-2976) immediately.

Ask them to schedule roll-call votes on S.370 and H.R.500 before October 6, Congress' target adjournment date. 



While no one can predict exactly how many Senate and House seats

would cost Big Labor, decades of electoral history indicate the number could be significant.