

Pro-Forced Unionism GOP Congressman Dumped

Primary Voters, Union Bosses Snub Big Labor-Appeasing Republicans

Capitol Hill Republicans who toe the union bosses' line don't get any respect. Not from GOP primary voters. And not from Big Labor, either.

Witness the recent example of one-term Big Labor-appeasing Rep. Joe Schwarz (R-Mich.).

In the current Congress, Mr. Schwarz is one of just a handful of Republicans to cosponsor Big Labor's cynically-labeled "Employee Free Choice Act" (H.R.1696 and S.842).

This legislation is sponsored by union-label Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.) and notoriously pro-compulsory unionism Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.).

It would greatly expand Big Labor's power to use so-called "card checks" to force employees to accept a union as their monopoly-bargaining agent and pay union dues, or be fired from their jobs.

This summer, as Michigan's August 8 primaries approached, the National Right to Work Committee repeatedly mobilized its members and supporters throughout Mr. Schwarz's southern Michigan district to contact him and ask him to stop supporting forced unionism.

But Mr. Schwarz chose to ignore his pro-Right to Work constituents' pleas. And on Election Day, he paid a price for siding with Big Labor against Right to

Work members and members of other grass-roots citizen groups.

Former state lawmaker Tim Walberg, who has pledged to support Right to Work 100% if elected to the U.S. House, defeated Mr. Schwarz by 53% to 47%, or roughly 3800 votes.

Erstwhile GOP 'Allies' Get The Back of Big Labor's Hand

Of course, unlike Mr. Schwarz, most anti-Right to Work Republicans did not have serious primary challengers this year.

But that hardly means they are home free. Union political strategists sense a growing opportunity to help Big Labor Democrats regain control of Congress, and thus install union lackeys like Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.) in majority leadership positions.

As part of their bid to grab power, union officers are now openly targeting for defeat this fall a number of Republicans who have long track records of supporting forced unionism.

Last month, for example, the New York AFL-CIO union hierarchy endorsed the opponents of Big Labor-appeasing Empire State GOP Reps. John Sweeney

and Sue Kelly.

Like Mr. Schwarz, Mr. Sweeney is a cosponsor of the Kennedy card-check coercion bill. And earlier this year Ms. Kelly teamed up with veteran Big Labor Congressman Jerry Costello (D-Ill.) to introduce legislation that would greatly expand federal union bosses' monopoly-bargaining powers over air traffic controllers.

These prominent GOP "friends of [Big] Labor" have now been cast aside.

The union machine is already pouring huge amounts of PAC cash and hidden, forced dues-funded, "in-kind" support into the campaigns of Democrats Kirsten Gillibrand (who is challenging Mr. Sweeney) and John Hall (who is challenging Ms. Kelly.)

Other GOP appeasers of Big Labor who are in ungrateful union bosses' gun sights this fall include Pennsylvania Congressmen Curt Weldon and Don Sherwood.

What Will It Take to Arouse Big Labor Appeasers From Their Chronic Stupor?

"This year, GOP politicians around the country are finding out the hard way that they only incur rank-and-file voters' wrath and union bosses' contempt when they try to buy off Big Labor by supporting forced unionism," said Matthew Leen, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"But this fact should hardly come as a surprise. The GOP establishment has already had many chances to learn its lesson.

"In the 2000 elections, for example, five GOP U.S. senators were tossed out by their constituents after having heeded Big Labor orders to filibuster to death national Right to Work legislation in 1996.

"Meanwhile, every one of the eight senators on the ballot who had voted in favor of national Right to Work legislation won reelection.

"Unfortunately, many Republican elected officials obviously still haven't learned the lesson of 2000. That's why I urge pro-Right to Work citizens to keep reminding their politicians of this history, over and over again, until the message finally sinks in." 📣



Last month, pro-Right to Work primary voters in Michigan helped defeat GOP Congressman Joe Schwarz

(right) after he had repeatedly ignored their pleas to stop kowtowing to power-hungry union bosses.