



NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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Compulsory-Unionism Issue in the Spotlight *Rivals in Key Senate Races Have Opposing Views on Right to Work*

With the 2006 U.S. Senate and House elections just a few weeks away, American employees' Right to Work is in peril.

As this month's Newsletter goes to press, 261 senators and House members have formally signed on to union boss-endorsed legislation that

is clearly designed to corral millions of now-independent workers into unwanted unions.

Sponsored by Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), this legislation is cynically labeled as the "Employee Free Choice Act" (S.842 and H.R.1696).

Bill Would Facilitate Imposition of Forced Unionism on Employees

It would greatly expand Big Labor's power to force a business's employees to accept a union as their "exclusive" (monopoly) bargaining agent.

In non-Right to Work states, the Kennedy bill would also make it far easier for Big Labor to browbeat employers into consenting to fire employees who refuse to join or pay dues or fees to a union.

Under current law, union bosses are already able to acquire monopoly power to negotiate employees' pay, benefits, and

See Card-Check next page



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This fall, tens of thousands more autoworkers found out their jobs will soon disappear, largely as a

consequence of union monopoly bargaining. Now Big Labor politicians want to spread this destructive system!

Right to Work Candidate Survey Results Mailed Out

Enclosed with this month's Newsletter is a detailed report letting you know how your congressional candidates responded to the National Right to Work Committee's federal Survey 2006.

In addition to Newsletter readers, hundreds of thousands of other identified Right to Work advocates around the country are receiving similar reports regarding their candidates.

Please review your report immediately, as well as the accompanying

letter urging you to contact the candidates, especially those who are concealing their position on Right to Work.

There's not much time left for freedom-loving Americans like you to convince these candidates to change course and make public pledges to support Right to Work 100%.

Experience shows that candidates are much more likely to heed the vast majority of Americans who

support Right to Work and pledge across-the-board opposition to compulsory unionism now, before Election Day — not after they are safely elected or reelected.

With AFL-CIO czar John Sweeney and other union dons spending more than a billion dollars to dominate this year's federal elections, it's critical for Right to Work supporters to turn up the pressure on their candidates now.

Card-Check Power Grab Advancing

Continued from page 1

work rules solely through the collection of signed "union authorization cards."

Consequently, individual workers under the peering eyes of union organizers may be intimidated into signing not just themselves, but all their nonunion fellow employees, over to union-boss control.

By their own admission, in recent years private-sector union officials have overwhelmingly focused their organizing campaigns on efforts to cudgel employers into consenting to card checks and related schemes rather than on making reasoned appeals to employees.

"Organize employers, not employees," a slogan apparently coined several years

ago by union strategist Joe Crump in an influential labor journal article, has become the mantra of union bosses across the U.S.

Kennedy Power Grab Could Be Enacted in Near Future

However, as stacked as current law is in favor of Big Labor's forced-unionism power, employers nonetheless retain the right to stand up for their independent employees against union-boss intimidation tactics.

But the Kennedy bill would empower union bosses to impose forced unionism through card check automatically, with

no recourse for any pro-Right to Work employee or employer.

And with President Bush's approval ratings consistently under 50% and the strong possibility that a Big Labor Democrat will be elected to the White House in 2008, Right to Work proponents know that soon they may not be able to count on a presidential veto to stop the Kennedy scheme.

Therefore, unless Right to Work proponents at least maintain their congressional strength in next month's elections, union lobbyists could ram it into law by early 2009.

Forced-Dues Political Machine Machine Takes Aim at Four Right to Work-Held Seats

"National Right to Work Committee members face a serious challenge over the next few weeks — especially with regard to U.S. Senate races," said Committee President Mark Mix.

"Until Election Day, Committee members need to do everything possible to bring the Right to Work issue to the forefront in four states with Senate seats that are currently held by strong Right to Work advocates, but are up for grabs this year.

"Union strategists have openly targeted all of these seats — in Montana, Arizona, Virginia and Tennessee — for takeover."

In Montana, Big Labor-backed Democratic challenger Jon Tester is now leading three-term pro-Right to Work GOP Sen. Conrad Burns in most polls.

As the current president of the Montana state Senate, Mr. Tester has repeatedly voted to expand union officials' monopoly-bargaining privileges in the Treasure State.

So far, he has refused to share directly with Montanans whether he would vote for the Kennedy card-check scheme if elected to the U.S. Senate.

However, his pro-forced unionism track record and the massive, forced dues-funded Big Labor contributions he is now gratefully accepting in the form of union phone banks, mailings, and loaned staff give away the game.

Virginia Senate Candidate: We Need More [Monopoly] Bargaining in This Country'

In Arizona and Virginia, respectively, pro-Right to Work GOP Sens. Jon Kyl

See Survey next page



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KEVIN DUFF

Forced dues-funded candidates (clockwise, from top left) Jim Pederson, Harold Ford, Jim Webb and

Jon Tester appear to be dangerously close to capturing U.S. Senate seats now held by Right to Work allies.

Survey Program Pressures Politicians

Continued from page 2

and George Allen hold relatively small leads over union boss-backed Democratic challengers Jim Pederson and Jim Webb.

Like Mr. Burns, Mr. Kyl and Mr. Allen have consistently voted against forced-unionism power grabs and in favor of Right to Work legislation for as long as they have served in the Senate.

And like Mr. Tester, Mr. Pederson and Mr. Webb are refusing to say how they will vote on the Kennedy card-check bill and other items on Big Labor's wish list, even as they rake in unreported but massive amounts of "in-kind" support from the union bosses' forced dues-stocked general treasuries.

For his part, Mr. Webb recently came close to letting the cat out of the bag when he boasted to an audience in McLean, Va., about the amount of support he is getting from the union hierarchy.

Mr. Webb declared: "We need more collective [i.e., monopoly] bargaining in this country."

Race For Tennessee 'Open' Seat Is Neck-and-Neck

Meanwhile, in Tennessee, pro-Right to Work GOP businessman Bob Corker and pro-forced unionism Democratic Congressman Harold Ford are now locked in a close race for the seat held by Republican Bill Frist, the retiring Senate majority leader.

Mr. Corker has responded to his 2006 Committee candidate survey by pledging he will support Right to Work 100% if he is elected to the Senate.

Mr. Ford has refused to answer his survey.

But his cosponsorship of the Kennedy card-check bill and his long record of endorsing a wide array of other Big Labor power grabs make it clear where he stands.

Published polls on the Tennessee Senate race have been consistently close, with the candidates often trading leads, since Mr. Corker emerged as the victor of the GOP Senate primary several weeks ago.

Evidence of Union Monopoly's Ill Effects Is Everywhere; Why Vote to Expand It?

"This year, evidence that union monopoly bargaining hurts employees and businesses keeps making headlines across the country," said Mr. Mix.

"Tens of thousands of workers at Big Labor-controlled companies like Ford and GM are learning their jobs will soon disappear."

"There's simply no question about the fact that the monopoly-bargaining system promotes adversarial labor-management relations.

"And even Bob King, the United Autoworkers union vice president for organizing, recently acknowledged: 'We [the UAW hierarchy] believe adversarial relationships drive manufacturing jobs out of the country.'

"It's simply incredible that 261 current members of Congress and candidates like Jon Tester, Jim Peterson and Jim Webb would now move to foist the monopoly-



Committee President Mark Mix urges members to keep raising the pressure on the candidates.

bargaining system on millions of additional workers. But that appears to be the case."

Right to Work Leader: Candidates Still Have a Chance to Change Course

"Of course, Committee members are determined to stop card-check forced unionism, and ultimately to forge pro-Right to Work majorities in Congress," Mr. Mix continued.

"That's why the Committee is now pouring our resources into our federal Survey 2006 program, which puts pressure on candidates from both parties to support Right to Work.

"In the current, final phase of this program, the Committee is reporting back to our members and friends at the local level about how candidates have responded.

"We will be intensifying the heat on non-responsive candidates until Election Day to take a clear stand for Right to Work.

"If they hear from huge numbers of Right to Work supporters now, Senate candidates who have supported forced unionism or concealed their stand up to now, but are in close races, can potentially be persuaded to support Right to Work.

"No matter what state you live in, it's important for you to contact your candidates today — especially those candidates who are still refusing to respond to Right to Work's Survey 2006."

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Right to Work House Prospects Improving *But GOP Chiefs' Refusal to Hold H.R.500 Vote Limits Progress*

Come Election Day next month, pro-Right to Work candidates may against all odds actually make a modest net gain in U.S. House strength, regardless of which political party captures a majority of seats.

But the now near-certain failure of House GOP leaders to hold a roll-call vote in this Congress on legislation to abolish federally-authorized forced union dues is putting the brakes on a train that might otherwise be at full speed.

As many Right to Work supporters know, House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) has over the years repeatedly stated his opposition to current federal policies that authorize the firing of workers for refusal to pay union dues or fees.

For example, in an October 2004 letter to a constituent about a then-pending national Right to Work measure, Mr. Hastert wrote: "...I believe workers should have the right to decide for themselves whether to join labor unions."

And well over half of Mr. Hastert's GOP party caucus members are current sponsors of South Carolina GOP Congressman Joe Wilson's forced-dues repeal bill (H.R.500, the National Right to Work Act).

Many other members of Mr. Hastert's caucus have publicly indicated they would support Right to Work legislation if it came up for a floor vote.

Politicians Who Support Right to Work Benefit When Issue Is Voted On

Since the 1940's, scientific opinion surveys have consistently shown that most Americans support the Right to Work principle — and that majority has grown increasingly lopsided over time.

For example, a 2004 poll of 1100 Americans who "always or almost always vote when there is a statewide election" found that 79% support a person's right to hold a job "regardless of whether or not he or she belongs to a union."

(This survey was conducted by Del Ali, president of the well-known Maryland polling firm Research 2000. Over the course of his career, he has conducted polls in more than 2000 political races.)

Holding a vote on H.R.500 should thus have been a no-brainer for Mr. Hastert.

The fact is, every time Congress has voted on a forced-unionism issue, going back 40 years, the result has been a significant gain in Right to Work supporters after the next election cycle.

For example, between 1991 and 1994 both chambers of Congress cast a series of votes on Sen. Ted Kennedy's (D-Mass.) Pushbutton Strike Bill, designed to force employees to strike and, ultimately, to pay union dues.

A total of 40 House and Senate members who voted for the Pushbutton Strike Bill were defeated when they ran for reelection in 1992 or 1994.

Why Divert Attention Away From Winning Issue?

Even without a recorded House vote on H.R.500, the National Right to Work Committee's Survey 2006 program is highlighting the issue of forced unionism and putting the heat on Big Labor House candidates this fall.

Through the federal Survey 2006, hundreds of thousands of pro-Right to Work citizens are contacting candidates in


targeted close races, urging them to pledge support for forced-dues repeal and opposition to union-boss power grabs.

Thanks largely to this program, no matter who controls Congress next year, Right to Work advocates may actually emerge from the November 7 elections with a slightly larger number of House allies than they have going in.

However, using constituent pressure to force politicians to take a stand on an issue they have never had to vote on is much more difficult than putting the heat on politicians who have already voted for forced unionism.

Without a vote, there's a real danger that too many citizens' attention will not be focused on Right to Work.

"Allowing the public's attention to be diverted away from your caucus's winning issue is an odd strategy for a party leader," noted Committee President Mark Mix.

"Mr. Hastert may keep his partisan majority. But the question is, how much greater gains would Right to Work have achieved if forced-unionism proponents had had to vote in accord with their unpopular views?" 



Speaker Hastert has harmed many pro-Right to Work candidates' prospects by refusing to allow a vote on H.R.500.

Nevertheless, House Right to Work allies are expected to hold their own next month.

Big Labor Bosses Target Tennessee Firemen

Committee Fights Back With Legislative Candidate Survey Program

This spring, International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) union President Harold Schaitberger came frighteningly close to imposing union monopoly bargaining on firefighters in jurisdictions across Tennessee.

Although from the outset there was strong grass-roots opposition to the monopoly-bargaining legislation, it took a sustained National Right to Work Committee phone mobilization to derail IAFF bosses' scheme as Tennessee's 2006 legislative session concluded.

On May 26, after H.B.2035 and S.B.1116, the Tennessee House and Senate versions of the Firefighter Monopoly-Bargaining Bill, had already been rammed through legislative committees, the entire House rubber-stamped H.B.2035 in a lopsided 67-24 vote. Within hours, the full Senate took up H.B.2035.

Union Monopoly Bargaining Puts Workers 'Under Powerful Compulsion to Join'

But by then, thousands of freedom-loving Tennesseans, after being informed of the threat by callers from the Committee's Virginia Beach-area phone center, had already contacted their senators, urging them to oppose monopoly bargaining.

Reluctant to defy openly the IAFF brass, but also concerned about the ongoing Right to Work mobilization, senators finally opted to approve two "killer" amendments proposed by pro-Right to Work Sen. Mark Norris (R-Collierville). H.B.2035 subsequently died without a direct Senate vote.

Monopoly-bargaining laws force employees, including union members and nonmembers alike, to grant union bosses the exclusive power to negotiate their pay, benefits, and working conditions. The individual's right to represent himself is legally nullified; he is effectively at the mercy of union officials.

Although monopoly bargaining alone does not formally force a worker to join a union, it obviously does put him "under powerful compulsion to join," as then-top AFL-CIO lawyer Thomas Harris admitted back in the 1960s.

"At least in Right to Work states, Big Labor can't get workers fired for refusal to join or pay dues to an unwanted



International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) union czar Harold Schaitberger wants to expand his already huge

political machine by winning enactment of more state public-safety monopoly-bargaining laws.

union," noted Committee Vice President Matthew Leen.

"But if state law at the same time grants power to represent the public-safety 'employee' perspective in contract negotiations to union officials alone, firefighters are understandably reluctant to oppose or even question the union.

"Many public employees even formally join the union because they conclude that, practically speaking, they have to."

Now Pro-Right to Work Tennesseans Must Hold Politicians Accountable

"That's why Harold Schaitberger and his lieutenants are determined to get public-safety monopoly bargaining written into the laws of all 50 states," Mr. Leen continued.

"For several years now, Right to Work Tennessee has been one of their top targets. Despite their recent setback in the state Senate, they're not about to give up now.

"This fall, Mr. Schaitberger and the AFL-CIO hierarchy are deploying battalions of paid union staffers for electioneering in Tennessee. Their goal is to install a state Senate that will join the House in sanctioning firefighter monopoly bargaining next year.

"The union bosses know that if they can get monopoly control over firefighters in jurisdictions across the

state in 2007, it will then be much easier for them to mount direct attacks on the state Right to Work law and swing Tennessee for Big Labor presidential candidates in 2008 and beyond."


But the National Right to Work Committee and its Tennessee members and supporters are fighting back.

The Committee has already surveyed every major-party candidate for the Tennessee state House and Senate regarding where they stand on public-safety monopoly bargaining and other Right to Work issues.

And this month, the Committee is informing Right to Work supporters across Tennessee about how their candidates answered their surveys, as well as about their candidates' voting records and other relevant facts.

Because of pro-Right to Work Tennesseans' impressive record of activism, at least one nominee for most of the legislative seats being contested this year has already vowed to oppose schemes like H.B.2035 and S.B.1116.

"The last step, now being implemented, is to mobilize Right to Work supporters to keep increasing the pressure on their candidates until Election Day. I'm confident pro-Right to Work Tennesseans will convince many to oppose public-sector monopoly bargaining consistently in the future," said Mr. Leen.

"Right to Work advocates still have a long way to go before the Tennessee battle is over. But I'm confident it can be won." 

Forced Unionism Linked to Health-Care Ills

Ranks of Privately Insured Grow Rapidly in Right to Work States

On average, residents of Right to Work states have higher real household incomes than their counterparts in non-Right to Work states. And a significantly higher percentage of the jobs created in Right to Work states come with health benefits.

The evidence confirming these two claims comes from a 2005 study by University of Colorado economist Barry Poulson, past president of the North American Economics and Finance Association, and the U.S. Census Bureau.

In his study (available at www.nilrr.org — the website of the National Institute for Labor Relations Research), Dr. Poulson calculated that metropolitan-area living costs average nearly 18% higher in non-Right to Work states than in Right to Work states.

When the number of households in each metro area is factored into the equation, the average cost of living-adjusted household income in Right to Work state metro areas in 2002 was roughly \$4250 higher than in non-Right to Work state metro areas.

And new Census Bureau data show that Right to Work states, home to just 36% of the U.S. population in 1995, enjoyed 62% of the nationwide increase in workers and family members with employment-based health insurance between 1995 and 2005.

(Oklahoma, which became a Right to Work state in 2001, is excluded from this calculation.)

Growth in Ranks of Insured More Than Thrice as Fast In Right to Work States

Big Labor's allies sometimes concede that states with Right to Work laws, which bar the firing of employees for refusal to pay union dues or fees to their "exclusive" (monopoly) union bargaining agent, enjoy accelerated job creation. Whenever they do, they insist the jobs created are "the wrong kind."

But the fact is, it is in the non-Right to Work states as a group where new jobs are more typically not productive enough to come with important benefits like health insurance.

Runaway costs associated with Medicare and Medicaid, the two largest taxpayer-funded health-insurance programs, are helping to bust the federal



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Between 1995 and 2005, the number of people with job-based health insurance grew by 15.2% in Right to

Work states — compared to just 4.7% in non-Right to Work states. Big Labor can't explain why.

budget and put many state governments deeply in the red.

And the accelerated creation of good jobs that are sufficiently productive to absorb the high cost of family health-care benefits is a key component for resolving the Medicare and Medicaid crises.

Between 1995 and 2005, in forced-unionism states the number of people with employment-based private health insurance grew by just 4.7%, barely more than one-third as fast as the 12.8% U.S. population growth during this period.

Meanwhile, the number of people with employment-based insurance grew by 15.2% in Right to Work states.

Had the availability of job-based insurance in non-Right to Work states increased as rapidly as in Right to Work states since 1995, an additional 11 million Americans would be privately insured today.

Congress Created Problem Of Compulsory Unionism

"Where forced dues are legal, union bosses use their power to dislocate labor markets, jack up costs, and bankroll Tax & Spend, regulation-happy politicians," charged Doug Stafford, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"The evidence indicates fewer jobs

that pay well and offer good benefits are created as a consequence."

Mr. Stafford added that, in the private sector, Congress is clearly responsible for the forced-dues problem:

"Among the roughly seven-and-a-half million non-farm, private-sector workers who are forced to pay union dues to keep their jobs, not one is forced to do so by state law. Congress created this mess; Congress should clean it up."

Though time is running very short, it is still possible before the current Congress formally concludes for the Senate and House to vote on two national Right to Work measures (S.370 and H.R.500) that would repeal all federally-imposed forced union dues and fees.

"Congress should pass the National Right to Work Act, first and foremost because compulsory unionism is wrong," said Mr. Stafford.

"But the sluggish growth in good jobs and the benefits they bring that is associated with compulsory unionism makes the case for this legislation even stronger."

Mr. Stafford encouraged Right to Work members across the country to contact their senators and congressmen through the Capitol Switchboard, 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3121, to urge them to seek roll-call votes on Right to Work legislation. 📞

'Unite Here' Union Lawbreakers Chastised

Ordered to Pay Damages For Defamation, Violating Workers' Privacy

Over the past three decades, union organizing drives have more and more frequently adopted the top-down, or "cram-down unionism," approach.

In such campaigns, union bosses browbeat companies into helping organize employees through accusations of regulatory violations, negative PR campaigns, and other types of pressure.

The union bosses' goal is not only to impose a so-called "neutrality" deal on the company, but also to convey the message to independent-minded employees that all resistance to unionization will be futile.

Union organizer Joe Crump once succinctly explained the cram-down strategy in an influential labor-journal article:

"Employees are complex and unpredictable. Employers are simple and predictable." Hence the strategy of lies and intimidation to impose top-down deals on companies.

California Jury: Union Organizers Made False Charges In Order to Scare Patients

As they risk losing customers who may be misled by Big Labor propaganda and having their reputations dragged through the mud, employers are under extreme pressure to acquiesce to "neutrality" deals.

However, in those cases where employers do fight back against forced unionism, Big Labor bullies' ugly tactics

often backfire. California's non-profit network of doctors and hospitals Sutter Health is a case in point.

Last spring, the hierarchy of the 450,000-member union conglomerate Unite Here viciously attacked Sutter for contracting out its laundry services to the St. Louis-based Angelica Textile Services Inc.

Union bosses had been trying to intimidate Sutter into announcing it would end its relationship with Angelica unless the latter, already a partially unionized firm, consented to a nationwide "neutrality" deal.

When Sutter balked, the Unite Here brass sent out a mass direct-mail hit piece to 11,000 women of childbearing age in northern California, which falsely and recklessly claimed that Sutter hospitals did not ensure their bed linens are free of "blood, feces, and harmful pathogens."

But Sutter refused to be intimidated. Instead, the firm sued for libel.

And in late July, a jury in Placer County, Calif., found that Unite Here organizers had acted with "fraud, malice, or oppression" and ordered union officials to fork over nearly \$17.3 million for harming Sutter Health's business and reputation.

Ruling Exposes Ugly Tactics Of Top-Down Organizing

Just a few weeks after the Sutter Health verdict, the Unite Here hierarchy was again found guilty of unlawful activities connected to a cram-down unionism campaign.

On September 1, the U.S. District Court in Philadelphia ruled in favor of six employees of the Cincinnati-based Cintas Corp. and three of their relatives and friends who had sued Unite Here bosses for illegally violating their privacy.

A few years ago, the employees became alarmed after they or their family and friends began receiving unexpected, uninvited visits from union organizers who had illegally obtained their addresses by using license plate numbers to access DMV records.

At the time, the Unite Here hierarchy had recently announced it would pressure Cintas managers to agree to recognize it as employees' "exclusive" (monopoly) bargaining agent on the sole evidence of signed union "authorization" cards that union organizers could collect at employees' homes.

The court ordered Unite Here bosses to pay \$2500 to each of the Cintas employees who had brought the lawsuit. The court will later decide whether it will award punitive damages and compensation to approximately 2000 other Cintas employees whose personal information was also illegally accessed.

Ultimately, union kingpins may be ordered to fork over millions of dollars in compensation and damages.


Congress Can and Must Act to Curtail 'Top-Down' Organizing Abuses

Union lawyers are expected to appeal both the California and the Pennsylvania cases.

But they already illustrate the need for Congress to crack down on cram-down unionism abuses, said Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"Gross abuses are common in top-down organizing drives," he observed. "But only rarely are union officials held responsible.

"Even in the Sutter Health and Cintas cases, assuming their appeals fail, union bosses will pay the damages mostly with forced-dues money conscripted from workers — not out of their own pockets.

"To rein in abuses, Congress must remove Big Labor's incentive for 'top-down' organizing. And a good first step would be enactment of H.R.874 or S.1173, pending bills that would prohibit union officials from seizing monopoly power solely through the acquisition of union 'authorization' cards." 



A California jury and a federal court in Philadelphia both recently rendered judgments against Unite Here union

operatives for employing illegal tactics to seize monopoly-bargaining power over workers.

Who Will Break the 'Mob That Whacked Jersey'?

Garden State Politicians Enthralled to Government Union Bosses

New Jersey taxpayers have good reason to believe they are being gouged.

Just this year, New Jersey's sales tax was hiked from six to seven percent — putting the Garden State in a four-way tie for the highest state sales tax rate in the country.

New Jersey Property Taxes Are Double National Average

And the \$1.9 billion in tax hikes in the state's 2006 budget represents a 5% increase over last year, far outpacing any other state, according to a study by the National Conference of State Legislators.

But most of all, New Jerseyites hate and fear their property tax assessments. The average Garden State property owner pays nearly \$6000 a year in property taxes, double the national average.

Over the spring and summer, public frustration about New Jersey's heavy and expanding tax burden rose to the boiling point.

That's why, a little over two months ago, legislators at the state Capitol in Trenton set up four special committees to examine ideas on how to reduce property taxes.

But knowledgeable observers of New Jersey politics doubt that any significant tax relief is on the horizon.

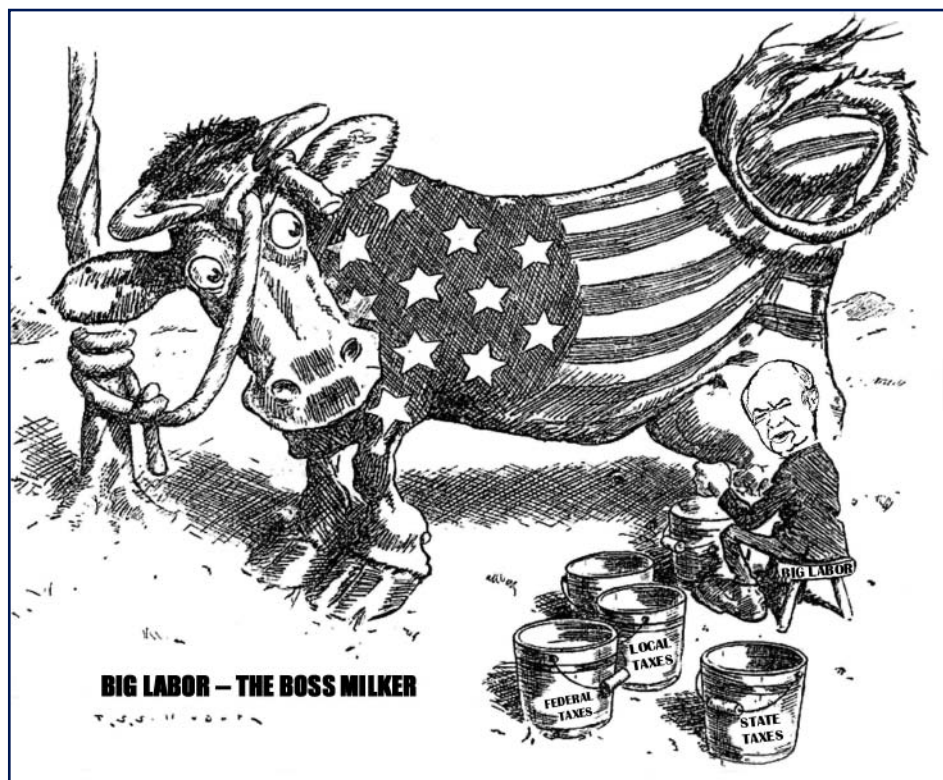
Bigger Government Means More Forced-Dues Revenue For Government Union Brass

That's because Big Labor, by far the most powerful lobby in the state, benefits from increasing taxation and expanding the size of government far more than it is harmed by stagnation in the private sector.

Between 2000 and 2005, according to the Bureau of National Affairs, the number of private-sector Garden State employees who are forced by law to accept union representation as a job condition dipped by 6%, from roughly 428,000 to 403,000.

At the same time, the number of government employees across the state who are corralled into unions soared by 17%, from 362,000 to 435,000.

In short, the higher the share of New Jersey employment that consists of government employees, the greater the



Since 1975, the share of U.S. union members who are on government payrolls has skyrocketed from 21% to

47%. No wonder Big Labor lobbies furiously for higher federal, state and local taxes!

flow of compulsory union dues and fees (roughly \$850 a year per full-time employee) into Big Labor's coffers.

"Since union officials now wield monopoly-bargaining control over 68% of public employees in New Jersey, government union lobbyists represent a formidable army in Trenton," explained Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"It's very unlikely legislators will buck Big Labor, even though there is now a broad public consensus that New Jersey citizens are profoundly overtaxed."

Real Reform Is Possible

Smothered by excessive taxes and government regulation, New Jersey businesses created no net new jobs at all between 2000 and 2005, according to the U.S. Labor Department.

To express pithily the damage wrought on the Garden State economy by government union bosses and their

puppet politicians, New York financial writer Stephen Malanga recently dubbed them "the mob that whacked Jersey."

It is possible to break this Big Labor "mob," but it won't be easy, commented Mr. Mix.

"New Jersey citizens who are fed up with high taxes need to attack the root of the problem by pushing for revocation of Big Labor's monopoly-bargaining power over government employees and its forced-dues power over all employees," he said.

"This would mark a dramatic shift in direction. And for the moment it may seem impossible.

"But more and more New Jersey citizens know their state is in serious trouble. Between 1994 and 2004, its 25-34 year-old population fell by a shocking 13.4%!

"At some point in the not-too-distant future, people who refuse to tolerate the dismal status quo may topple Big Labor's forced-unionism empire in the Garden State." 