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## 'We're Going to Move on Card Check' *Legislative Showdown Looms in Wake of Big Labor Election Sweep*

Benefiting both from record, forced dues-funded "soft" campaign expenditures by the union hierarchy and the failure of timid GOP leaders in Washington, D.C., to put forth a pro-Right to Work agenda, Big Labor Democrats swept to victory in the November 7 U.S. House and Senate elections.

Early this year, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney boasted that 2006 would see Big Labor's "largest and most aggressive" ever deployment of its forced union dues-laden treasuries to manipulate the congressional elections in the middle of a presidential term.

It's not yet possible to make a final estimate of how much money Mr. Sweeney and his cohorts siphoned off from union treasuries to bankroll putatively "non-partisan" phone banks and get-out-the-vote drives, propaganda mailings, and the salaries and benefits of full-time campaign "volunteers" this year.

But it's already safe to say that Mr. Sweeney's boast was well-grounded and that Big Labor poured roughly a billion dollars into the 2006 campaigns -- above and beyond its reported PAC expenditures. (For more details, see page three.)

No other interest group can come close to competing with the electioneering expenditures, most of them not officially reported, Big Labor can make as a consequence of its government-granted power to force millions of workers to pay union dues or fees as a condition of employment.

### **Committee Warned GOP Leaders: Burying Right to Work Issue Would Have Consequences**

Nevertheless, many union boss-targeted Republican candidates who went down to defeat this fall might well have prevailed had GOP leaders accepted the advice of National Right to Work Committee members and supporters and brought up forced-dues repeal legislation for recorded House and Senate votes.

"Throughout the 2005-2006 Congress, Right to Work members nationwide pleaded with outgoing House Speaker Dennis Hastert [R-Ill.] and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist [R-Tenn.] to hold roll-call votes on forced-dues repeal measures H.R.500 and S.370," recalled Committee President Mark Mix.

"Their message was simple.

"Nearly 80% of Americans who regularly vote support the Right to Work principle.

"And the purpose of H.R.500 and S.370, the House and Senate versions of the National Right to Work Act, was simply to implement the Right to Work principle by repealing all federal labor-law provisions that authorize the firing of employees for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union.

"Finally, Committee members noted that pro-freedom elected officials and challengers benefit when the Right to Work issue is voted on, regardless of the vote's outcome. Meanwhile, pro-forced unionism candidates benefit when the Right to Work is ignored.

"Unfortunately, Mr. Hastert and Mr. Frist disregarded this message. That hurt the Right to Work cause as well as their own party in November." (For more information on the mid-term congressional elections, see page four.)

At a November 13 reception at AFL-CIO headquarters, incoming House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) presented a startling contrast to the

*See 'Card Check' next page*



AFL-CIO

On November 13, the AFL-CIO hierarchy celebrated its 2006 election sweep. Pictured are AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Rich



AFL-CIO

Trumka and incoming Sen. Jim Webb (left photo), AFL-CIO President John Sweeney and incoming Speaker Nancy Pelosi (center



AFL-CIO NOW

photo), and incoming Sen. Sherrod Brown and AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson (right photo).

# 'Card Check' on Pelosi Agenda

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outgoing GOP leaders who had spent the 2005-2006 Congress dodging the forced-unionism issue.

While being feted along with other Big Labor Democratic leaders and newly elected Democratic congressmen and senators, Ms. Pelosi gushed that AFL-CIO troops had "owned the ground" in many key campaigns and vowed to repay the union brass promptly.

## Incoming-Speaker Pelosi 'Knows Which Side Her Bread Is Buttered on'

"We're going to move on 'card check,' because now we set the agenda and that will be part of it," Ms. Pelosi declared.

By "card check," she was colloquially referring to bills that Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.) and Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) sponsored in the 2005-2006 Congress and cynically labeled as the "Employee Free Choice Act" (H.R.1696 and S.842).

The Miller/Kennedy scheme would greatly expand Big Labor's power to force employees to accept a union as their "exclusive" (monopoly) bargaining agent.

In non-Right to Work states, the card-check measure 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 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.

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

But the card-check 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.

"Obviously, Nancy Pelosi knows which side her bread is buttered on. She knows union political operatives are largely if not primarily responsible for making her speaker, and union officials want votes on card check," observed Mr. Mix.

"Therefore, Ms. Pelosi is seeing to it that card-check forced unionism comes up in the House. And, in all likelihood, incoming Majority Leader Harry Reid [D-Nev.] will do the same in the Senate."

## Committee Will Mobilize Members to Stop Card Check, Other Power Grabs

Mr. Mix vowed that Committee members would lead the fight to block enactment of card-check forced-unionism legislation in Congress.

This won't be easy, because 215 House members and 45 senators are already sponsors of H.R.1696 and S.842, respectively.

In the next Congress, the Committee will have a steeply uphill battle to block the card-check bill in the House, predicted Mr. Mix.

"However, if Committee members can mobilize millions of pro-Right to Work Americans for this fight, I believe the Kennedy bill can be stopped by a full and lengthy Senate debate," he noted.

"A thorough, well-publicized debate will allow the American people to see just how extreme Big Labor's forced-unionism demands are. Once the public understands this, Big Labor senators will likely run for the tall grass.


"Extended debate may also be the Committee's only viable option to block other Big Labor special-interest legislation, such as a measure federalizing union monopoly bargaining over state and local public-safety employees, in 2007 and 2008."

## 'Perilous Times For Right To Work Supporters' Ahead

"The next several months will be perilous times for Right to Work supporters," said Mr. Mix.

"But I know I can count on the Committee's 2.2 million members to do everything possible to stall the Big Labor dynamo before employees' and employers' freedom to resist union monopoly bargaining is crushed.

"In the coming weeks, as Committee officers flesh out our plans to stop the card-check bill and other power grabs in the next Congress, we will be regularly alerting our members and supporters about what they can do to help.

"Together, we can stop the union bosses, and resume progress towards enactment of a national Right to Work law barring all federally-imposed forced union dues and fees." 



JEFF SHEID LAS VEGAS REVIEW JOURNAL

In "card check" drives, cards that workers sign under union organizers' peering eyes count as "votes" for union

monopoly bargaining. Nancy Pelosi has vowed to increase Big Labor's power to exploit this tactic.