

'Card-Check' Bill Nearly Ready For Senate Floor

Majority Leader Harry Reid Eager to Repay Big Labor Sugardaddies

How grateful is Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.) to the Big Labor bosses who helped him become majority leader early this year by dumping an estimated billion dollars or more in union treasury funds, mostly forced-dues money, into the 2006 federal elections?

Let's quote Mr. Reid himself.

Speaking to a packed room of officers of AFL-CIO-affiliated unions and union locals in Washington, D.C., late last month, Mr. Reid gushed: "My presentation starts this morning with six words: 'Thank you, thank-you, thank you.'"

Mr. Reid went on to pledge to fight for enactment of the cynically labeled "Employee Free Choice Act," introduced in the Senate this year as S.1041 by pro-forced unionism Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee Chairman Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.).

To Mr. Reid's pleasure, Mr. Kennedy held a hearing on S.1041 March 27 and has made it clear he will soon ram it through the HELP Committee, paving the way for a Senate floor vote, most likely to occur in mid-May.

Installation of Union Monopoly Through Card-Check Tactics Would Be Made Automatic

And identical legislation, introduced by union-label Congressman George Miller (D-Calif.) and numbered H.R.800, has already been rubber-stamped by the

House of Representatives.

Kennedy/Miller is commonly known as "card check" legislation, a reference to the principal way in which it would make it far easier for Big Labor to obtain "exclusive" (monopoly) bargaining control over employees.

Under current law, union bosses are already able to acquire monopoly power to negotiate employees' pay, benefits, and work rules solely through the acquisition 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 of their nonunion fellow employees, over to union-boss control.

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

But card-check legislation would empower union officials to impose monopoly bargaining through card checks automatically, with no recourse for any pro-Right to Work employee or employer.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Mr. Reid are obviously eager to ram H.R.800 and S.1041 through Congress in order to pay Big Labor back for helping put them in power.

As always, forced dues-financed Big Labor "soft" support for union-label

Democratic politicians took many forms in 2006: putatively "non-partisan" phone banks and get-out-the-vote drives, propaganda mailings, and the salaries and benefits of full-time campaign "volunteers."

As noted above, H.R.800 has already sailed through the House. And union bosses believe they can not only get every Democratic senator to vote with them, but also browbeat enough Republicans into supporting S.1041 to pass the bill!

But even if they can't pull off that feat, their back-up plan is to attach Kennedy/Miller as an amendment to a must-pass bill -- like defense-appropriation legislation.

The chief obstacle Mr. Reid and Ms. Pelosi face in their quest to pay back Big Labor are the National Right to Work Committee and its 2.2 million members.

Committee Leads Nationwide Campaign Against Kennedy Bill

In February, Committee President Mark Mix began contacting tens of thousands of Committee members and supporters nationwide about the then-imminent threat of H.R.800's House passage, using the Committee's state-of-the-art phone-mobilization technology.

For months now, Committee phone messages and mailings have urged members to sign petitions to their congressmen and senators and to President Bush urging them to oppose S.1041 and H.R.800.

Mr. Mix has also asked for members' financial support to help launch a full-scale public-relations effort to "expose the danger of Big Labor's Card-Check Forced-Unionism Bill."

The Committee is optimistic that the combined impact of its grass-roots mobilization and its public outreach can help slow Kennedy/Miller down in the Senate until it withers under public scrutiny.

"This is extreme legislation, and once the public recognizes it as such, even many of Big Labor's habitual Capitol Hill apologists will be hard-pressed to defend it," Mr. Mix noted.

"All that Committee members and supporters and our allies need do is give the American people enough time to perceive what crucial freedoms are at stake." 📞



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Ted Kennedy and his political cohorts are already paving the way for a Senate showdown on the union bosses'

#1 power grab in the 2007-2008 Congress, the "Card-Check" Forced-Unionism Bill.