

Big Labor Lackey Senators Feel the Heat

Constituents Loudly Air Their Displeasure With 'Card Check' Votes

Democrat Mark Pryor, who represents Right to Work Arkansas in the U.S. Senate, is about to find out, if he doesn't know it already, that he can't have it both ways.

Early this year, pro-Right to Work constituents from all over his home state made it crystal clear to Mr. Pryor that they wanted him to vote against Big Labor's so-called "card-check" legislation (H.R.800 and S.1041) when it came to the Senate floor.

'Our Phones Are Ringing Quite a Bit from Arkansans Who Are Opposed to It'

In April, Tate Heuer, Mr. Pryor's senior legislative assistant, spoke candidly about the powerful constituent opposition to this legislation with former union official Jon Tasini, now a commentator and the head of the Big Labor-funded Labor Research Association:

"It's become a lot more controversial in our state than it was. Our phones are ringing quite a bit from Arkansans who are opposed to it."

Mr. Heuer admitted to Mr. Tasini that constituent calls were running "3-1 against the legislation," which would rewrite federal labor law to make it even easier for Big Labor to grab monopoly-bargaining power over private-sector employees through "card checks."

Mr. Pryor's office was obviously uneasy about flouting the views of his pro-Right to Work constituents.

But the senator also obviously

couldn't stomach defying the demand of the union officials who had bankrolled his successful 2002 bid for a Senate seat, and were already bankrolling his 2008 re-election campaign, that he vote for the card-check bill.

In the end, Mr. Pryor decided to kowtow to the union bosses by voting to cut off debate so that Big Labor Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) could ram H.R.800 through the Senate.

At the same time, Mr. Pryor has publicly suggested that freedom-loving Arkansas citizens shouldn't be too upset with his vote, since, due to strong opposition largely mobilized by the National Right to Work Committee, H.R.800 has so far failed to win Senate approval.

Right to Work Supporters Aren't Buying the 'It Hasn't Passed Yet' Excuse

"Even after hearing from thousands of Arkansans opposed to H.R.800, Sen. Pryor voted for it anyway," noted Committee President Mark Mix.

"And the fact that Big Labor senators like Ted Kennedy [D-Mass.] and Mr. Pryor didn't succeed in June in helping union bosses seize monopoly-bargaining privileges over millions of additional employees doesn't make Arkansans who support the Right to Work inclined to think more highly of them.

"Although more than a month has passed since union-label senators failed to shut down Right to Work allies' extended



Mark Mix is calling on senators to repudiate their votes for so-called "card-check" legislation.


debate against H.R.800, Committee members are continuing to express their intense displeasure with Mr. Pryor in letters, postcards, and phone calls.

"And other senators who voted for H.R.800 despite the fact they represent strongly pro-Right to Work states, including Ben Nelson [D-Neb.], Blanche Lincoln [D-Ark.], and Ken Salazar [D-Colo.], also continue to feel the heat."

To Get Back in Good Graces Of Constituents, Senators Must Change Course

Mr. Mix continued: "The only way for Mr. Pryor, Mr. Nelson, Mrs. Lincoln and Mr. Salazar to get back in the good graces of their pro-Right to Work constituents is for them to repudiate their recent votes for H.R.800 and pledge to oppose all such legislation in the future.

"Right to Work supporters know full well that Big Labor's campaign to give card-check forced unionism a congressional stamp of approval didn't end in June. In fact, this campaign is only just beginning.

"Union-label politicians like Mark Pryor should at least not insult Right to Work proponents' intelligence by pretending the battle is already over." 

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