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Right to Work Issue Aids Three White House Bids *Failure to Back Forced-Dues Repeal Hurt Romney, Giuliani Efforts*

Back in September 2007, the National Right to Work Committee launched its 2008 presidential survey.

In mailings to both GOP and Democratic primary candidates, the Committee asked that they vow, if elected President, to support Right to Work and oppose forced unionism.

Right to Work Measure Would Abolish Federally- Imposed Forced Union Dues

Most important of all, the survey urged each candidate to pledge that, if nominated, "you, as leader of your party,

[will] insist both publicly and privately that your party's congressional leadership support a roll-call vote on the National Right to Work Act"

This important, common-sense bill, which has been introduced in the current Congress as H.R.697 and S.1301, would repeal the federal labor-law provisions under which American workers are forced to pay union dues, or be fired.

The principle behind this legislation is that Congress should not authorize a labor union or any other private organization to compel financial support from people who don't want to be members.

"Congress has no business corralling

employees into unions," said Committee President Mark Mix.

"The individual worker is in a far better position than Congress to assess whether union 'exclusive,' i.e., monopoly, bargaining results in more or less job security, a safe or shaky retirement plan, and pay that reflects or doesn't reflect his or her performance."

Several GOP presidential candidates quickly went on record in support of the Right to Work Bill.

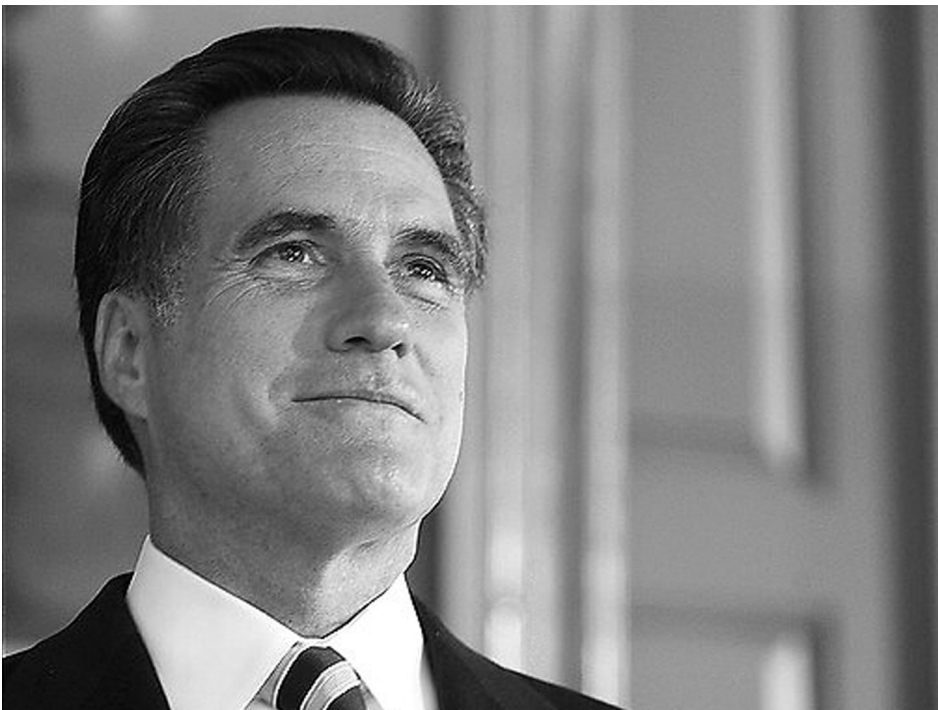
John McCain, Mike Huckabee, and Ron Paul All Support Right to Work

In fact, all three of the candidates who remain in the race as this month's Newsletter goes to press in early March -- U.S. Sen. John McCain (Ariz.), former Gov. Mike Huckabee (Ark.), and U.S. Rep. Ron Paul (Texas) -- have pledged 100% support for Right to Work.

"As Committee members and other Americans who follow politics know, Sen. McCain, Gov. Huckabee, and Congressman Paul disagree on many issues," commented Mr. Mix.

"However, they have all pledged to support a national Right to Work law and oppose union-boss power grabs that would expand Big Labor's forced-dues and monopoly-bargaining privileges. And their public backing of Right to Work has helped all three secure broader support than they otherwise would have."

In contrast to Mr. McCain, Mr. Huckabee, and Mr. Paul, former Gov. Mitt Romney (Mass.) and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani -- the two putative front-runners at the outset of the GOP



Mitt Romney's failure to pledge to fight for national Right to Work legislation as President sent a

disturbing signal to voters in early caucus and primary states like Iowa and New Hampshire.

CREDIT: WWW.STOUTREPUBLICAN.COM

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Issue-Dodging Strategy Flopped

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contest -- never answered even one of the eight questions on the candidate survey.

Like U.S. Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton (N.Y.) and Barack Obama (Ill.) and the other 2008 Democratic presidential primary candidates, Mr. Romney and Mr. Giuliani chose not to discuss with freedom-loving citizens what they would do about key Right to Work-related issues if they made it to the White House.

Committee Urged Candidates To Oppose Forced Unionism

Because Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Obama, and the other Democratic hopefuls have throughout their political careers depended on the forced union dues-funded Big Labor political machine to obtain and retain office, their refusal to answer their Right to Work surveys was not terribly surprising.

However, many freedom-loving citizens in early primary states were shocked and disappointed to learn that Mr. Romney and Mr. Giuliani were dodging the Right to Work issue.

In early caucus and primary states, the National Right to Work Committee sent a series of mailings to identified Right to Work supporters to let them know which candidates had and hadn't completed and returned their surveys.

The mailings also mobilized Right to Work supporters to turn up the heat on non-responsive candidates.

"Again and again, Right to Work supporters urged Mr. Romney and Mr. Giuliani to change course and pledge 100% opposition to compulsory unionism," recalled Committee President Mix.

"Instead, the two candidates and their staffs chose to stick to a Right to Work issue-dodging strategy -- until both their campaigns expired."

Refusal to Support Right To Work Actively: A Political Mistake

"Of course, pro-Right to Work Americans typically care deeply about a number of other issues, but the fact is, taking a clear public position in favor of Right to Work and against forced unionism has again and again proven to be a campaign plus," explained Mr. Mix.

"For years, scientific nationwide polls have shown that nearly 80% of Americans who regularly vote in federal elections agree that no worker should be forced to join or pay dues to an unwanted union.

"And it is reasonable when committed Right to Work supporters conclude that, if a politician is not willing to stand up to Big Labor special interests, even with nearly 80% of regular voters on his side, then there is probably a broader problem with his character.

"For a politician who isn't personally getting forced-dues support from the union bosses, taking a strong public position in favor of Right to Work should be an easy decision.

"And if you can't trust a politician to do the right thing when it's relatively easy, how can you ever trust him to do the right thing when it's hard?"


"For many primary voters, the failure of Mitt Romney and Rudy Giuliani to pledge their support for Right to Work revealed a

political flaw that called into question their fitness for the White House."

Likely GOP Nominee Will Benefit if He Highlights Right to Work Issue

Mr. Mix continued: "In contrast, Sen. McCain, who is now almost certain to be the GOP presidential nominee from the Right to Work state of Arizona, has repeatedly shown a willingness to confront Big Labor on the Right to Work issue.

"However, as popular as Mr. McCain's pro-Right to Work stance is, and as unpopular as the pro-forced unionism records of his two most likely opponents, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, are, the Right to Work issue will have a limited impact in this fall's presidential race unless Mr. McCain keeps bringing it up.

"Mr. McCain will benefit if he keeps reminding the American people that, while he will do everything within his power to abolish federally-imposed forced unionism, a Clinton or Obama White House will do all it can to add to Big Labor's forced dues-paying ranks." 



Like Mitt Romney, Rudy Giuliani (pictured) sometimes criticized the union bosses on the campaign trail.

But he never had the good judgment to endorse efforts to take away their forced-dues privileges.

CREDIT: WWW.NYMAG.COM