

# Union Thugs Bully Volvo Employees in Virginia

## *Even in Right to Work States, Federal Law Spurs Strike Violence*

Dublin, a town of fewer than 3000 people located in Pulaski County in western Virginia, is normally a very peaceful place.

However, in February and March, people who left their cars parked in Dublin risked getting their windshields smashed and their tires slashed. On their way to and from work they were stalked, threatened, and insulted with obscene gestures.

Even schoolchildren were menaced by the thugs who were terrorizing the town.

When such ugly incidents suddenly become routine in what has been a nice community, there is generally one explanation:

Big Labor bosses have ordered all the rank-and-file employees at a business out on strike, but some of those employees are defying the order. And union toughs are resorting to intimidation tactics to get the defiant employees back in line.

That's what happened in Dublin.

On February 1, officers of Local 2069 of the United Auto Workers (UAW) union ordered employees at Dublin's Volvo Trucks North America plant to go on strike.

However, UAW bosses have no legal right to demand that employees who aren't members of their union join a strike.

And because Virginia has a Right to Work law protecting employees' freedom to refuse to join or pay dues or fees to a union, many of the Volvo plant's roughly 2700 rank-and-file employees aren't union members.

### **'They Have Put Sugar in the Gas Tank of My Boat'**

Although they knew they would face union militants' hatred and harassment, a number of workers who disagreed with the strike decided to stay on the job.

But the Big Labor retaliation turned out to be even more vicious than anyone had anticipated.

"I expected them to call me a scab. I expected that," said Volvo worker Dreama Dominguez to a reporter last month. "What I didn't expect was some of the men . . . to grope themselves as I drove by."

When she had left for work earlier that morning, she added later, "my driveway was full of nails."

Abe Street, another nonstriking worker, reported that union zealots had tried to wreak severe damage on his



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**The power-hungry bosses of UAW Local 2069 in Dublin, Va., recently incited violence against nonstriking**

**employees by keeping a makeshift open coffin with an intimidating sign outside the union hall.**

property: "They have put sugar in the gas tank of my boat."

Even as they unconvincingly denied responsibility for the nastiness, vandalism and violence, Local 2069 union bosses openly egged it on.

They kept a makeshift open coffin outside the union hall with a large sign featuring an arrow pointing into the coffin and the inscription: "ALL SCABS Welcome Here."

### **'It's Not So Surprising That Union Bosses Think They're Above the Law'**

"Ordinary Americans who have never before personally seen a strike in action are often shocked to find out how vicious union bosses and their fanatical followers can be," commented National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"But it's not so surprising that union bosses think they're above the law.

"Even in Right to Work states like Virginia, federal labor policy grants them

the unique, monopolistic privilege to 'represent' employees who don't wish to join the union as well as those who do in contract negotiations with the employer.

"Having wielded their monopoly-bargaining privilege for decades, union bosses now take it for granted.

"And they think, if under federal law they have uncontested power to negotiate the terms and conditions of employment for union nonmembers, why shouldn't they also have the power to force them to obey strike orders? And why shouldn't they be allowed to get rough if union nonmembers don't obey?"

"Attorneys for the Committee's sister organization, the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, are working with victims of UAW thuggery to try to get the perpetrators brought to justice.

"But the long-term remedy for Big Labor lawlessness is to take away union bosses' federal monopoly-bargaining and forced-dues privileges. And that's a job that Congress is obliged to do." 📞