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Committee Blocks Government Union Power Grab *Union Bigwigs Vow to Intensify Senate Arm-Twisting Campaign*

Big Labor politicians are clearly well aware that the American people do not support union bosses' step-by-step scheme to establish a new federal mandate imposing union "exclusive representation" (monopoly bargaining) over all state and local government employees nationwide.

Nor does the public support phase one of the union bosses' scheme, pending legislation that would corral into unions state and local firefighters and other public-safety employees across the country.

So early last month, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and his cohorts tried to sneak this legislation through their chamber while attracting as little public attention as possible.

On May 7, pro-forced unionism Sen. Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) filed a so-called "cloture motion" to quick-snap floor

action on H.R.980, the U.S. House-passed version of the police/fire monopoly-bargaining legislation.

Just six days later, after an overwhelming majority of senators went along with Mr. Dodd, Mr. Reid filed a second "cloture" motion to prevent Senate Right to Work allies from waging any substantial debate on H.R.980 before it was rushed through the chamber.

And Mr. Reid and Mr. Dodd undoubtedly would have succeeded in securing a Senate green light for a radical expansion of government union bosses' monopoly-bargaining privileges without facing major resistance -- but for the efforts of the National Right to Work Committee and its 2.2 million members.

On May 8, within just hours after Mr. Dodd had filed his motion to bring H.R.980 up for consideration on the

Senate floor, Committee legislative leaders directed the Committee's phone operation to begin mobilizing opposition across the country.

'National Right to Work ... [Is] Working Hard To Kill This Bill'

In a May 9 mass e-mail message to state and local International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) union bosses, IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger recognized that "National Right to Work Committee" members as well as members of the League of Cities were "working hard to kill this bill."

Meanwhile, Right to Work legislative staffers visited the offices of wavering senators to discuss with them how H.R.980 and its Senate counterpart, S.2123, would harm independent-minded public-safety employees, citizens who depend on their services, and taxpayers.

By Thursday afternoon, May 15, Mr. Reid realized that for now, at least, he lacks the 60 votes he needs to bring H.R.980 up for a final vote while preventing pro-Right to Work amendments from being considered and voted on.

At the same time, he also apparently realized that allowing debates and votes on pro-Right to Work amendments, even if those amendments failed, would be very dangerous for Big Labor senators holding potentially vulnerable seats.

Rather than force union-label Senate Democrats like Mary Landrieu (La.), Max Baucus (Mont.), and Tim Johnson (S.D.) to jeopardize their 2008 reelection bids by casting high-profile



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Union bigwig Harold Schaitberger (left) was the only prominent endorser of Sen. Chris Dodd's quixotic 2008 presidential

bid. Now Mr. Dodd is trying to reward Mr. Schaitberger by helping him corral firefighters into unions.

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votes in support of forced unionism now, Mr. Reid decided to pull H.R.980 from the Senate floor.

Americans Overwhelmingly Oppose Monopoly Bargaining

Of course, Big Labor Senate Democrats are virtually certain to try again this year to ram H.R.980/S.2123 through their chamber. And Mr. Schaitberger continues to thunder that the IAFF brass "will not rest until this legislation is passed . . ."

H.R.980 and S.2123 would force countless policemen, firefighters and EMT's to accept as their monopoly-bargaining agent a union they personally never voted for, and want nothing to do with.

Moreover, H.R.980 and S.2123 do NOT protect the Right to Work without being forced to pay union dues or fees either of the public-safety employees upon whom Congress is imposing monopoly bargaining, or of the public-safety employees who are already subject to it.

"Americans overwhelmingly oppose monopoly bargaining, period," noted Committee President Mark Mix.

"The public certainly has no interest in backing legislation designed to help Big Labor grab monopoly-bargaining privileges over hundreds of thousands of additional employees."

Mr. Mix cited a recent scientific nationwide survey conducted by veteran pollster Del Ali and his firm Research 2000.

The poll found that 81% of Americans who regularly vote in statewide elections believe that employees in unionized businesses should retain the right to bargain for themselves. Just 17% of regular voters believe employees should not have that right, while 2% are unsure.

"Forcing union nonmembers to accept public-safety union officials as their monopoly-bargaining agent is what H.R.980 and S.2123 are all about," explained Mr. Mix.

"Any state law or local ordinance authorizing public-safety union bosses to bargain on behalf of their members only will get tossed in the scrapheap if either measure becomes law.

"This legislation simply can't

withstand public scrutiny. And Harry Reid seems to realize that."

Mr. Mix added: "On top of the fact that the vast majority of Americans oppose monopoly bargaining in principle, there are other serious concerns about S.2123/H.R.980.

"Historically, states enacting such monopoly-bargaining laws have experienced dramatic increases in public-sector strikes, both legal and illegal.

"Moreover, since monopoly bargaining also sharply increases government union bosses' political power, politicians courting Big Labor political support have regularly made state and local taxpayers foot the bill for such strikes."

Right to Work Amendment Exposes Public-Safety Union Bosses' True Intentions

"Enactment of H.R.980 or S.2123 would be disastrous, not just for independent-minded public-safety officers and Right to Work advocates, but also for taxpayers and citizens who depend on their local police and fire departments," Mr. Mix continued.

"That's why the National Right to Work Committee and its members can't afford to rest on our laurels for a minute. We will keep turning up the heat in preparation for the next Senate showdown over this legislation."

As part of the Committee's strategy to ensure that H.R.980/S.2123 is ultimately defeated, Committee officers are now insisting that, if the Senate is

to vote on this legislation, it must also consider the National Right to Work Amendment sponsored by Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.).

Battle For H.R.980/S.2123 Is 'Largely a Battle For Forced Union Dues'

"Unlike H.R.980/S.2123 itself, Sen. DeMint's amendment would mark a sharp turn in the right direction for federal labor policy," explained Mr. Mix.


"Just like the free-standing national Right to Work measures now before Congress, the DeMint Amendment would repeal all provisions in federal labor law that currently authorize the firing of employees for refusal to pay dues to an unwanted union.

"Of course, top union bosses, including public-sector union kingpins like Harold Schaitberger, are certain to oppose the DeMint Right to Work Amendment with all their might, and order their puppet politicians to oppose it as well.

"And this will demonstrate clearly to the American people that Big Labor's battle for H.R.980/S.2123 is largely a battle for forced union dues. At that point, it will be much less difficult to stop the power grab.

"Thanks largely to all the fine work done by Right to Work members and staffers in 2007, union lobbyists are facing far stiffer Senate resistance to H.R.980 and S.2123 than they once expected.

"Now I urge all Right to Work members to maintain and expand their support, both lobbying and financial, for our campaign.

"Working together, we can stop the federalization of public-safety monopoly bargaining." 



South Carolina's Jim DeMint and several other pro-Right to Work senators provided critical support for the

Committee's successful effort to prevent public-safety union bosses' H.R.980 from being rubber-stamped.

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