

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 55, NUMBER 1

www.nrtwc.org

January 2009

Will New Congress Put Forced Unionism First?

Mandatory 'Card Checks' Would Stymie Job Creation, Lower Incomes

In a recent appearance on *Fox News Sunday*, U.S. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) emphatically stated that "card-check" legislation is "certainly something that we [will] give attention to early" on in 2009.

Mr. Hoyer was speaking of a measure often cynically mislabeled as the "Employee Free Choice Act." This scheme would make it far easier for Big Labor to obtain "exclusive" (monopoly) bargaining control over employees.

In non-Right to Work states, the "card-check" bill would also make it far easier for Big Labor to browbeat employers into consenting to fire employees who refuse to join or pay dues or fees to a union.

'I Will Do Everything I Can to Immediately Pass' The Card-Check Bill

And both before and since last fall's presidential election, Barack Obama has made it clear publicly that he would back a move by his fellow union-label politicians in Congress to ram through card-check legislation in the first half of 2009.

For example, early this fall Mr. Obama publicly assured United Steelworkers of America (USWA) union bosses that as President he would "do everything I can to immediately pass the [so-called] Employee Free Choice Act . . ."

The Card-Check Forced-Unionism Bill was sponsored in the last Congress by Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) and his frequent collaborator in concocting forced-unionism power grabs, Congressman George Miller (D-Calif.).

This Kennedy/Miller scheme would rewrite federal law concerning "card checks" to help union bosses shove hundreds of thousands of small



CREDIT: AP IMAGES

Just as surely as disgraced Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich paid off union bosses by corraling home-care providers into a

businesses and millions of additional workers under Big Labor control.

AFL-CIO second-in-command Richard Trumka and other top union bosses are demanding that Congress bring this legislation up during the first 100 days of the Obama Administration.

Independent-Minded Workers Are Bill's Direct Target

Under current law, union bosses are already able to acquire monopoly power to negotiate employees' pay, benefits, and work rules solely through the collection 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.

union (see page eight for details), Barack Obama's "card-check" scheme would pay off Big Labor.

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

But the Kennedy-Miller bill would empower union officials to impose forced unionism through card check automatically, with no recourse for any pro-Right to Work employee or employer.

Enactment of this legislation would surely result in a sharp spike in instances of harassment like those described in a complaint filed not long ago with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) by a Washington, Ind., resident who works at an ethanol plant.

In a sworn affidavit, the employee informed the NLRB that she had repeatedly told United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) union

See Card Checks page 2

Card Checks Bad For Economy

Continued from page 1

agents that she was "NOT [emphasis hers] interested in signing a union "authorization" card.

Nevertheless, she wrote, "They continue coming to my home when asked not to come back! They continue showing up when asked to leave.

"I feel as though I am being badgered/harassed in a manner that is clearly not necessary. No is no."

And experience indicates that the vast expansion of union monopoly bargaining that the card-check bill is designed to bring about would reduce the real, spendable incomes of workers and other Americans.

Real Disposable Incomes Lower in States With Highest Monopoly-Bargaining Density

Even as the national economy reels from the combined impact of the housing and stock market crashes, the Big Labor Congress is poised early this year to bring up pro-forced unionism legislation that would make matters far worse.

In 2007, the aggregate, cost of living-adjusted per capita disposable income for

the 10 states with the highest share (10.5% or more) of private-sector employees subject to union monopoly bargaining was \$29,699.

That same year, the aggregate, cost of living-adjusted per capita disposable income for the 10 states with the lowest share (5.3% or less) of employees laboring under a contract negotiated by an "exclusive" union bargaining agent was \$33,542.

That comes to a disadvantage of more than \$3800 a year for people who live in states with high monopoly-bargaining density.

(The per capita income and cost-of-living data cited come, respectively, from the U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center in Jefferson City, Mo.)

Higher monopoly-bargaining density is also strongly correlated with slower job creation and higher living costs.

Between 1997 and 2007, the 10 states with the highest share of their private-sector employees under union monopoly (as of 1997) had an aggregate private-sector job

growth less than a third as great as the 19.5% aggregate growth in the 10 states with the lowest amount of union monopoly.

And in 2007, the aggregate cost of living of the 10 states where Big Labor wielded monopoly power over the highest share of workers was 28.6% higher than the average for the 10 states with the lowest share of workers subject to union control.

Committee President Vows To Lead Fight to Stop Card-Check Forced Unionism

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix vowed that Committee members would lead the fight to prevent Big Labor congressional leaders from steam-rolling card-check forced-unionism legislation through Congress so that it can be signed into law by soon-to-be President Barack Obama.

This won't be easy. The House rubber-stamped one version of the Kennedy-Miller bill in 2007. And union lobbyists are very close to getting the 60 out of 100 senators needed to shut down a Right to Work debate so that such a bill can be brought up for a final vote, when it can be adopted by a simple majority.

However, if Committee members can mobilize millions of other pro-Right to Work Americans for this fight, the Kennedy-Miller scheme can still be stopped by a full and lengthy Senate debate, Mr. Mix contended.

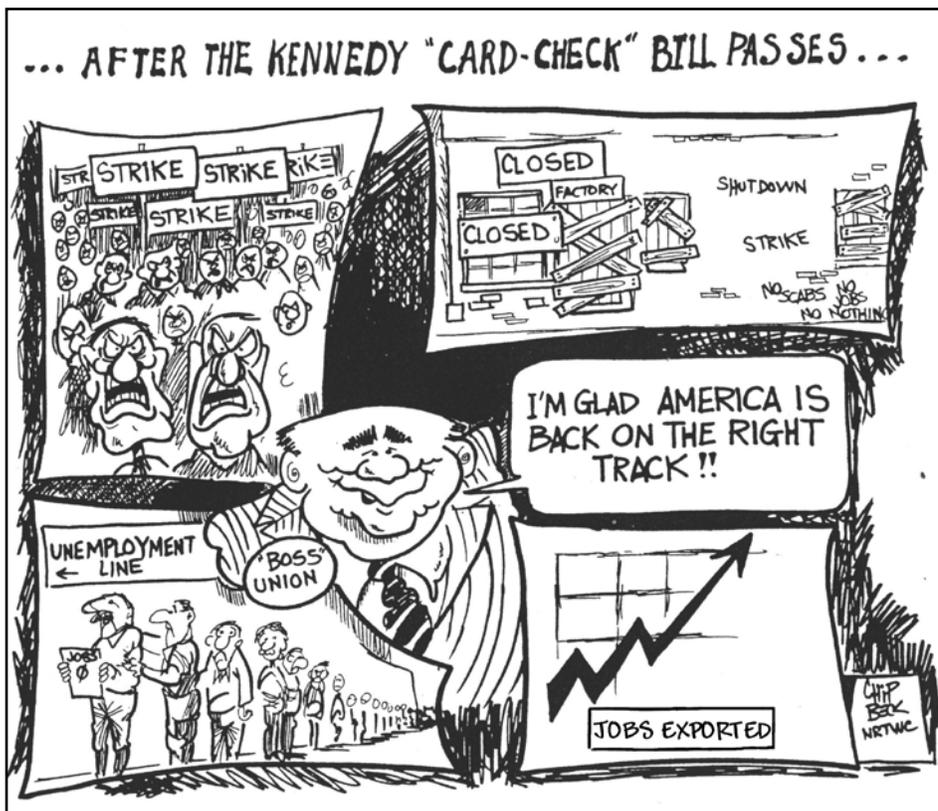
He commented: "A thorough, well-publicized debate will allow the American people to see just how extreme Big Labor's forced-unionism demands are. Once the public understands this, a number of Big Labor senators will likely run for the tall grass."

Committee Will Keep Members Informed About Power Grab

"I know I can count on Committee members to do everything possible to stall the Big Labor juggernaut," Mr. Mix continued.

"In the coming weeks, the Committee will be regularly alerting our members and supporters about what they can do to help defeat the Card-Check Forced-Unionism Bill.

"Together, we can stop the union bosses, and then resume progress towards enactment of a national Right to Work law barring all forced union dues and fees." 



Experience indicates enactment of the Kennedy/Miller card-check bill would result in lower real, spendable incomes,

fewer jobs created, and higher prices for consumers, along with other economic ills.

'The Ball's in the Governor's Court'

Will Chet Culver Okay Another Attack on Hawkeyes' Right to Work?

During the 2007 and 2008 sessions of the Iowa Legislature, union lobbyists in Des Moines employed every conceivable tactic to ram through the state Senate and House legislation to gut or repeal Iowa's Right to Work law.

Union bosses even threatened to recruit and bankroll 2008 primary challengers to run against Democrat legislators who refused to back forced union fees.

However, the National Right to Work Committee and its grass-roots ally, the Des Moines-based Iowans for Right to Work Committee, energized freedom-loving Iowans to fight back every step of the way.

And last April the Big Labor politicians who run the Iowa House finally backed down and adjourned the 2008 session without ever bringing up for a vote S.F.413, a forced-union-fee bill that had been rammed through the state Senate in 2007.

Right to Work Supporters Ready For Another Battle

But as the 2009 legislative session begins this month, Iowa's 62-year-old Right to Work law, which prohibits the firing of both private- and public-sector

employees for refusal to pay dues or so-called "agency" fees to an unwanted union, remains in jeopardy.

Because of the Obama-Biden blowout victory in Iowa, returning House Speaker Pat Murphy's (Dubuque) Democratic caucus is expanding to 56 seats (out of 100) this year, compared to 53 seats during the 2008 legislative session.

Nevertheless, several union-label Democratic candidates in close races were defeated last November because of their unwillingness to stand up for Iowa's Right to Work law.

Consequently, Mr. Murphy and Big Labor Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal (D-Council Bluffs) are unlikely to launch another anti-Right to Work assault unless Democratic Gov. Chet Culver vows publicly to lead the fight.

Last month Mr. Gronstal bluntly told the *Des Moines Register*: "The ball's in the governor's court." But he also indicated he thought it was "highly likely" pro-forced unionism legislation would come up this year.

In early 2007, Gov. Culver publicly vowed to sign legislation forcing Iowa workers who choose not to join a union to pay union fees in order to keep their jobs.

But back then he was freshly elected and did not have to face Iowa voters again for more than three years.

'Chet Culver Faces A Tough Decision'

Mr. Culver may decide he doesn't want to thumb his nose at the overwhelming majority of Iowans who support their Right to Work law yet again when, in order to retain the governorship, he has to face the voters in less than two years.

"Chet Culver faces a tough decision early this year," said Doug Stafford, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"Will he anger Iowa union bosses by refusing to help them get forced-unionism privileges, or will he outrage the 78% of Iowans who, according to a recent poll by the respected firm Research 2000, support retention of their Right to Work law?"

Mr. Stafford added that Mr. Culver would not quell pro-Right to Work Iowans' concerns simply by refusing to endorse forced-union-fee legislation at this time.

"By joining the Gronstal-Murphy attack on Iowa's Right to Work law two years ago, Mr. Culver betrayed freedom-loving citizens in the Hawkeye State," Mr. Stafford explained.

"In order to reassure such citizens that he has learned his lesson, Mr. Culver must apologize publicly for supporting compulsory-unionism legislation two years ago, and admit that such schemes are both morally wrong and economically harmful.

"Mr. Culver must also vow never again to support forced-union-fee legislation.

"And he must vow to oppose other Big Labor power grabs, such as the expansion of government union bosses' monopoly-bargaining power to negotiate employees' pay, benefits, and working conditions.

"Just as Mike Gronstal said, the ball's in the governor's court. The question is whether he intends to keep playing for Big Labor's team, or instead join up with ordinary Iowa citizens who believe no one should be forced to bankroll a union in order to get or keep a job." 



CREDIT: CHETCULVER.COM

In 1980, Iowans who were outraged by then-U.S. Sen. John Culver's (D, left) pro-forced unionism voting record sent

him packing after one term. But his son, Gov. Chet Culver, could still repudiate forced unionism.

Exodus From Forced-Unionism States Continues

Employees Raise Real Incomes by Moving to Right to Work States

Study after study has shown that forced unionism eliminates job opportunities and cuts employees' real incomes.

Apparently, ordinary citizens know these studies are right.

A new U.S. Census Bureau report shows that the massive 1990's exodus of employees and their families from forced-unionism states is accelerating during the current decade.

According to the report, between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2008, a net total of 4.7 million Americans moved from forced-unionism states to Right to Work states.

That's on top of a net population transfer of nearly five million Americans to Right to Work states during the 1990's.

'Employees of All Kinds Are "Speaking" With Their Feet'

This population shift constitutes simple, irrefutable proof of the harmfulness of the federal labor-law provisions that empower Big Labor to get private-sector workers fired for refusal to pay dues or so-called "agency" fees to an unwanted union.

"Employees of all kinds are 'speaking' with their feet," said Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"Millions have sought out and accepted jobs in the 22 states with Right to Work laws, which protect employees from being fired for refusal to join or pay dues to a union."

While Americans of all ages have moved to Right to Work states, young employees and entrepreneurs seeking higher incomes clearly constitute a major part of the ongoing transfer.

New Study Links Right To Work Laws to Higher Real Disposable Incomes

Between 1997 and 2007, the number of Right to Work state residents in the 25-34 age bracket increased by 12.7%, from 14.6 million to 16.46 million. Meanwhile, the population aged 25-34 in non-Right to Work states fell by 3.5%, from 24.9 million to 24.02 million.

(Oklahoma, which actually barred

Biggest Gainers and Losers From Domestic Migration, 2000–2008

Population Gainers

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Florida* | 1,278,573 |
| Arizona* | 718,275 |
| Texas* | 711,785 |
| North Carolina* | 591,283 |
| Georgia* | 541,903 |
| Nevada* | 378,231 |
| South Carolina* | 275,996 |
| Tennessee* | 244,731 |

Population Losers

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| New York | -1,575,864 |
| California | -1,378,706 |
| Illinois | -585,075 |
| Michigan | -472,795 |
| New Jersey | -438,617 |
| Ohio | -345,793 |
| Louisiana* | -325,395 |
| Massachusetts | -297,760 |

Right to Work states are asterisked.

Figures denote net migration from other states between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2008.

States listed are the biggest gainers and losers in absolute, not percentage, terms.

Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

The eight states enjoying the greatest net in-migration of people from other states all have Right to Work laws. But

of the eight states suffering the worst out-migration, only Katrina-hit Louisiana has such a law.

forced union dues and fees in 2001, is simply counted as a Right to Work state for the purposes of this calculation.)

A new study by the National Institute for Labor Relations Research adjusts the 2007 disposable personal income data furnished by the U.S. Commerce Department for interstate differences in the cost of living with the help of an index created by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center.

The Institute finds that the average cost of living-adjusted, per capita disposable income in 2007 for the 22 Right to Work states was \$32,950, compared to \$30,705 for the 28 forced-unionism states.

The Institute's findings largely replicate those of previous household income studies prepared by Dr. James T. Bennett, a professor for the Nobel Prize-winning Economics Department at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

One study by Dr. Bennett found that, in 1999, the adjusted mean income for households with two employed persons in Right to Work state metro areas was \$64,425, nearly \$1200 higher than the average of \$63,236 in non-Right to Work state metro areas.

Where forced dues are legal, union bosses use their power to disrupt labor

markets, jack up costs, and bankroll Tax & Spend, regulation-happy state legislators and governors.

National Right to Work Law Poised to Be Reintroduced In 2009-2010 Congress

"The economies of forced-dues states are bound to continue falling further and further behind as long as Congress perpetuates the coercive labor-law provisions that are holding them back," said Mr. Mix.

Fortunately, legislation that would strike all provisions currently authorizing forced union dues and fees from federal law, known as the National Right to Work Act, is set to be reintroduced in the U.S. House and Senate soon after Congress convenes this month.

Mr. Mix said the Committee would be working with congressional allies to push for floor votes on the Right to Work measure this year.

Of course, in the current political environment it will be an uphill battle to bring up the Right to Work as a free-standing bill. But there may well be opportunities to bring it up as an amendment. 

Barack Obama Taps Union-Label Labor Chief

Solon Hilda Solis Fervently Backs 'Card-Check' Forced Unionism

Sending a clear signal that he intends to use the power of the nation's highest office to promote compulsory unionism over the next four years, President-elect Barack Obama has chosen Big Labor Congresswoman Hilda Solis (D-Calif.) to head the U.S. Labor Department in his administration.

John Sweeney, czar of the giant AFL-CIO union empire, declared to the media immediately after the Obama transition team's December 18 announcement regarding Ms. Solis that he was "thrilled" by the choice.

As Mr. Sweeney was not too circumspect to point out, during her four terms in the U.S. House, Ms. Solis has voted according to the union hierarchy's dictates virtually all -- 97% -- of the time.

Mary Beth Maxwell, executive director of the AFL-CIO front group American Rights at Work, was equally effusive in her praise for the "great choice."

Ms. Solis Will Push to 'End Secret Ballots In Union Elections'

"Barack Obama's decision to nominate Hilda Solis as his labor secretary is very disturbing news for America's independent-minded workers," commented Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"Ms. Solis's voting record in Congress alone shows that she is a tunnel-visioned proponent of government policies that force millions of employees who don't want to join a union to accept unwanted union 'representation' and pay union dues or fees just to keep their jobs.

"So eager to expand Big Labor's monopoly-bargaining and forced-dues powers have been Ms. Solis and her House allies that in 2007 they rubber-stamped the so-called 'Employee Free Choice Act,' more accurately called the 'Card-Check' Forced-Unionism Bill.

"As commentator Mike Whitney, a supporter of the bill, recently acknowledged, the 'Employee Free Choice Act . . . would [effectively] end secret ballots in union elections.'

"One may well ask, why are union-label politicians willing to support this drastic measure and replace secret ballots with 'card checks' that facilitate

union organizers' intimidation of workers and deny workers the chance to hear about the possible downsides of unionization during the campaign?

"The reason is simple and sad: Big Labor politicians are eager to pay back the union bosses for their massive, forced dues-funded political support by helping them shove hundreds of thousands of small businesses, and millions of additional workers, under union control."

Obama Labor Department Will Likely Wield Regulatory Power to Help Big Labor

A second major union power grab that Ms. Solis supported in Congress and is sure to keep pushing for as labor secretary would create a new federal mandate corraling state and local public-safety employees nationwide into unions.

"But helping steamroll forced-unionism legislation through Congress is just one of many ways the Obama Labor Department will pay back the union bosses," predicted Mr. Mix.

"Right to Work supporters strongly suspect that, as secretary, Hilda Solis will gut the Office of Labor Management

standards, the one division of the agency that works to root out corruption and make unions accountable to workers.

"Ms. Solis's track record also indicates that she will wield the regulatory power of the Labor Department to pressure companies until they agree to foist forced unionism on their employees.

"And Hilda Solis is just one of a series of forced-unionism cheerleaders whom the President-elect has announced he will nominate for his Cabinet.

"For example, Mr. Obama has picked Democratic Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, who is very cozy with union chieftains in her state, to head the Department of Homeland Security. Government union bosses now expect to get total monopoly-bargaining power over this agency.

"If Cabinet selections like Hilda Solis and Janet Napolitano are any indication, the freedom to work regardless of union affiliation is going to be coming under practically non-stop fire from the White House and federal agencies for years to come.

"Right to Work supporters everywhere need to be prepared to fight back with all their might." 📌



Just hours after union-label Rep. Hilda Solis was named as Barack Obama's choice for labor secretary, National

Right to Work President Mark Mix blasted the selection on the top-rated Fox News Channel.

Big Labor Arizona Governor Fires 'Parting Shot'

State Employees' Right to Work, Taxpayers' Wallets in Jeopardy

Days after agreeing to serve, upon formal nomination and U.S. Senate confirmation, as the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the incoming Obama Administration, Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano (D) has moved to hand over roughly 25,000 state employees to her chums in the union hierarchy.

A five-page executive order signed by Ms. Napolitano December 19 empowers government union bosses who purport to speak for all the non-supervisory employees at a state agency, including union members and non-members alike, to engage in quasi-negotiations with agency directors.

This order paves the way for full-fledged union monopoly bargaining, which authorizes union officials not only to "represent" employees who want nothing to do with a union, but also to cut deals determining their pay, benefits, and work rules.

Governor's Excuses For Order Are Unpersuasive

"Just before giving up the Arizona governorship so she can take over the DHS, Janet Napolitano has taken a parting shot at freedom-loving citizens in the Grand Canyon State," commented Matthew Leen, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"Independent-minded state employees who prefer to speak directly with their supervisors regarding their workplace concerns are Ms. Napolitano's immediate targets.



CREDIT: CHIP SOMODEVILLA, GETTY IMAGES

Janet Napolitano is eager to pay back her union-boss friends before she gives up her governorship.

"But experience shows that public-sector union monopoly bargaining in all its forms, including so-called 'meet-and-confer,' is detrimental to the interests of taxpayers.

"Across the country, the presence of a state law authorizing union monopoly bargaining over public employees is correlated with higher taxes. And the higher the share of public employees that are under union monopoly control in a state, the heavier its tax burden.

"Therefore, the claims of Ms. Napolitano and her staff that her 'meet-and-confer' order will somehow make government more efficient and thrifty are simply laughable.

"If protecting taxpayers were Ms. Napolitano's real goal, she would have done much better to push for enactment of legislation prohibiting all public-sector union monopoly bargaining in Arizona, including dozens of local 'meet-and-confer' deals that predate her executive order.

"But her actual aim is plainly to pay off government union bosses, especially the bosses of the massive Service Employees International Union, for their reported and unreported support for her two successful gubernatorial campaigns.

"Unlike legislative leaders and taxpaying citizens, whom the 'meet-and-confer' order caught totally by surprise, the SEIU brass was evidently notified in advance."

Committee Leader Urges Governor-in-Waiting To Overturn Power Grab

The U.S. Senate is very likely to agree within a few weeks to appoint Ms. Napolitano as the head of the DHS, where she is also expected to help union officials grab monopoly-bargaining power over agency employees.

Fortunately for freedom-loving Arizonans, at that time Secretary of State Jan Brewer, who previously served as a legislator and compiled a track record of support for Right to Work, is in line to take over as governor.

"The 34,000 Committee members and supporters in Arizona are counting on Ms. Brewer to overturn Ms. Napolitano's last-minute payback to SEIU kingpins practically as soon as the latter becomes the state's chief executive," said Mr. Leen.

"Government union lobbyists are now publicly trying to intimidate Ms. Brewer by claiming that, once union monopoly-bargaining agents are in place in state agencies, they can't be removed by gubernatorial action. But there is no legal foundation for this claim.

"It is simply wrong for a state to empower government union officials to 'represent' government employees who don't want a union. And it is bad for taxpayers, as well.

"I urge Right to Work members and supporters to contact Secretary of State Brewer today at 520-628-6583. Ask her to pledge publicly to revoke the 'meet-and-confer' edict once she becomes governor." 

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

www.nrtwc.org

January 2009

Written and Distributed by:

National Right to Work Committee®

8001 Braddock Road
Springfield, Va. 22160

E-mail: Members@NRTW.org

Mark Mix President
Reed Larson Exec. Cmte. Chairman
Stephen Goodrick Vice President
Matthew Leen Vice President
Doug Stafford Vice President
Stanley Greer Newsletter Editor

Editorial comments only: stg@nrtwc.org

Contact the Membership Department by phoning 1-800-325-RTWC (7892) or (703) 321-9820, or faxing (703) 321-7143, if you wish to:

- Report address changes or corrections
- Receive the NEWSLETTER or request, renew, or cancel Committee membership
- Obtain more information

Because of NRTWC's tax-exempt status under IRC Sec. 501 (C) (4) and its state and federal legislative activities, contributions are not tax deductible as charitable contributions (IRC § 170) or as business deductions (IRC § 162(e)(1)).

© 2009 by the National Right to Work Committee®. Permission to reprint individual articles granted. Credit requested.

Big Three Bailout Now Barack Obama's Problem

Union Dons Demand: Keep Pouring Taxpayer \$\$\$ Into Unviable Firms

Within weeks after Barack Obama is installed as President on January 20, he will have to make what could be one of the most fateful decisions he will face as our country's political leader.

By March, two of the three U.S.-based automakers, General Motors (GM) and Chrysler, will almost certainly have burned through the \$18 billion in federal Treasury money the Republican White House agreed to hand over to them last month in a desperate effort to bail them out.

The lame-duck Bush Administration's bailout of two of the companies constituting the so-called "Big Three" was undertaken over the vociferous objections of most Republican members of the U.S. Congress.

And, at least for the time being, the taxpayer-funded bailout has helped United Auto Workers (UAW) union officials maintain their monopoly control over employees of the shrinking "Big Three" (which include Ford as well as GM and Chrysler).

For decades, UAW union bosses have wielded monopoly power under federal law to negotiate wages, benefits, and work rules for virtually all front-line employees of the Big Three, including union members and nonmembers alike.

Union Work Rules Prevent Firms From Making Vehicles They Can Sell Profitably

UAW bosses have long exercised their extraordinary, government-granted bargaining power irresponsibly, insisting on work rules, for example, that keep many workers idle for a substantial portion of the work day.

Such wasteful work rules and Big Three managers' unwillingness to resist outrageous union-boss demands with fortitude have prevented the firms from producing, at a reasonable profit, high-quality vehicles that are attractive to consumers. The firms and their employees are thus uncompetitive.

And any viable plan to revive the Big Three companies, assuming that is still possible, must involve getting front-line employees out from under the UAW union monopoly so that they can be deployed far more efficiently.

Unfortunately, breaking UAW bosses' monopoly over Big Three employment is the last thing union-label congressional

leaders like House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) want to do.

Even though this union monopoly is deeply damaging to the entire U.S. auto industry, not just the Big Three companies, Big Labor politicians are determined to perpetuate it.

Desperate to avoid ugly bankruptcies on their watch of firms that still collectively employ roughly 240,000 Americans, Bush Administration officials have just helped politicians like Ms. Pelosi and Mr. Reid perpetuate it a bit longer.

However, the critical decisions regarding the Big Three and the UAW hierarchy will be made during the Obama Administration.

Americans Are Already Sick of Bailouts

As a former U.S. senator from Illinois with an unbroken record of support for compulsory unionism who also avidly wooed union bosses and militants during his presidential campaign, Barack Obama

would presumably like to do whatever is necessary to bail out the UAW union elite.

However, Obama advisors can't help but be aware that the American people are increasingly sick of bailing out improvident businesses and other parties with their tax dollars.

According to a nationwide CNN poll taken just before Christmas, a whopping 70% of Americans say Washington should let automakers "enter bankruptcy rather than give them any additional assistance."

"With non-Big Three, nonunion manufacturers like Toyota and Honda having profitably made cars for years in the U.S., the vast majority of Americans oppose giving any more tax dollars to the 'Big Three' and the UAW brass," commented National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"Will Barack Obama really decide to throw away much of the precious political good will he has as a new President by kowtowing to Big Labor and pouring potentially hundreds of billions more tax dollars into unviable companies? We'll soon find out." 📧



The \$18 billion in taxpayer money that the Bush Administration earmarked for Big Labor-controlled GM and Chrysler

just before leaving office will surely be devoured soon. What will Barack Obama do then?

What Were 'Blago' and SEIU Boss Talking About?

Union Bigwig Still Mum About Role in Alleged Senate-Seat Auction

Roughly half-a-century ago, then-U.S. Sen. John McClellan (D-Ark.) chaired a Senate select committee that held extensive investigations into the problem of labor racketeering and shocked the conscience of the nation with what it found.

The McClellan Committee's findings prompted Congress to try to clean up Big Labor corruption by passing the 1959 Landrum-Griffin Act. But years later, Mr. McClellan sadly concluded that "there is still much corruption in some labor unions today, and . . . compulsory unionism and corruption go hand in hand."

The late senator's observation regarding union corruption has been reconfirmed time and again in the past few years.

And now it seems that the lust for compulsory-dues dollars may have played a principal role in the top political scandal of early 2009: Illinois Democratic Gov. Rod Blagojevich's alleged attempt to hold an auction on the U.S. Senate seat that was held until recently by incoming President Barack Obama.

The U.S. Constitution gives governors the power to appoint temporary replacements for senators who are incapacitated, die, or resign from office.

According to a criminal complaint filed by U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, Mr. Blagojevich, who is barred by state law from seeking another term as governor and must leave office two years from now, sought to exploit his appointment power to obtain a new prestigious, high-paying job for himself.

Union Kingpin Allegedly Agreed to 'Put That Flag Up and See Where It Goes'

In November, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had previously obtained a warrant to wiretap Mr. Blagojevich's office in connection with an unrelated criminal investigation, overheard the governor and his aides discussing various schemes to "auction off" the Obama seat.

In one such scheme, Mr. Blagojevich would be named as national director of the so-called "Change to Win" union conglomerate in exchange for appointing Obama confidante Valerie Jarrett, a



CREDIT: WWW.SEIU.ORG

What were Illinois SEIU boss Tom Balanoff (shown here speaking at last summer's Democratic National

Convention) and his cohorts willing to do to get another forced-dues payoff from Gov. Rod Blagojevich?

Chicago businesswoman, to the Senate.

There is no evidence at this time indicating Mr. Obama personally knew what Mr. Blagojevich was up to, and he eventually decided he would rather put Ms. Jarrett on his White House staff instead of seeking a Senate appointment for her.

However, the complaint does suggest that longtime Obama ally Tom Balanoff, the head of a powerful Chicago local of the Service Employees International Union as well as of the SEIU's Illinois chapter, was at the very least aware of Mr. Blagojevich's scheme and aired no objections to it.

When Mr. Blagojevich allegedly suggested that the SEIU could help form a nonprofit group that could employ him while also helping Ms. Jarrett get appointed to the Senate, an unnamed SEIU official (almost certainly Mr. Balanoff) agreed to "put that flag up and see where it goes."

Moreover, an internal report released last month by Mr. Obama's chief counsel confirms that Mr. Balanoff met personally with Mr. Blagojevich shortly after Election Day to discuss the soon-to-be-vacant Senate seat.

Unlike other parties who discussed the vacancy with Mr. Blagojevich or his aides, Mr. Balanoff has yet to deny publicly that he knew the governor was trying to

auction off the seat. Indeed, he is refusing to speak about the matter at all.

Rod Blagojevich and SEIU Bigwigs Have Long Been Trading Favors

One key reason to suspect that Mr. Balanoff and perhaps other SEIU officials were complicit in the Blagojevich scheme is that the governor was undisputedly preparing to issue an executive order that would have ultimately put millions of forced-dues dollars into SEIU coffers at the time of his arrest.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the order was intended to enable SEIU bosses to get monopoly-bargaining and forced-dues power over roughly 1200 workers in the state who care for developmentally disabled people in their homes.

It would have augmented a similar special-interest edict signed by the governor in 2003.

"Rod Blagojevich and SEIU union bigwigs have long been trading favors," commented Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee. "Frankly, it's never surprising when such unseemly dealings between union bosses and elected officials lead to brazen violations of the law." 📌