

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.

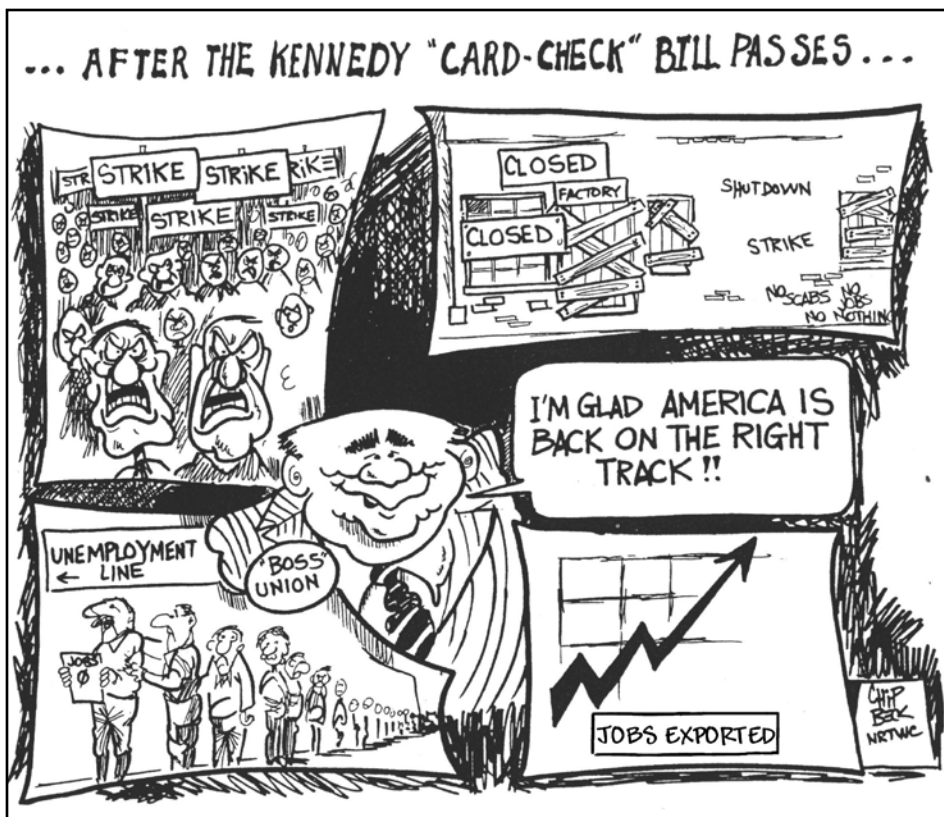
He commented: "A thorough, well-publicized debate will allow the American people to see just how extreme Big Labor's forced-unionism demands are. Once the public understands this, a number of Big Labor senators will likely run for the tall grass."

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.