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'Card Check' Proponents Already Feeling the Heat

Opponents of Compulsory-Unionism Scheme Mobilizing as Obama Era Begins

In the middle of this extraordinarily chilly winter, Big Labor bosses across the country are celebrating the fact that they have helped make unabashed forced-unionism proponent Barack Obama the 44th President of the United States.

Top union officials are also pleased as punch about their success in substantially tightening their grip over both the U.S. House and Senate in last fall's congressional elections.

At the same time, the union hierarchy is not unaware of the fact that freedom-loving Americans are already turning up the pressure on key members of Congress to oppose forced union dues and union monopoly bargaining this year and in 2010.

In fact, public opposition, led by National Right to Work Committee members and supporters, could potentially stall much of Big Labor's forced-unionism agenda in Washington, D.C., over the next two years -- even though Barack Obama will be sitting in

the Oval Office.

First and foremost, union strategists already know, even if they are not yet publicly admitting it, that the top item on their 2009-2010 legislative agenda, the cynically mislabeled "Employee Free Choice Act," faces stiff Capitol Hill resistance, and its enactment is far from assured.

This scheme 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.).

Bill Would Both Extend And Intensify Union Bosses' Monopoly Privileges

Kennedy/Miller would make it far easier for Big Labor to obtain "exclusive" (monopoly) bargaining control over employees.

In non-Right to Work states, this

legislation 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.

The Kennedy/Miller scheme's best-known provision would rewrite federal law concerning "card checks" to help union bosses shove hundreds of thousands of small businesses and millions of additional workers under Big Labor control.

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.

See Bill Facilitates page 2



CREDIT: AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION



CREDIT: AP/BILL ROSS



CREDIT: TIMJEY/WIRED BLOG NETWORK

U.S. Sens. Blanche Lincoln (left) and Byron Dorgan (right), who both voted last year to help Big Labor ram the

Kennedy/Miller "card-check" scheme through the Senate, are now officially sitting on the fence. Brand-new Sen.

Michael Bennet (center) is also self-avowedly "neutral" on this anti-Right to Work scheme.

Bill Facilitates Forced Dues

Continued from page 1

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

Moreover, under Kennedy/Miller, if union heads and employers negotiating a first contract fail to make a deal within roughly four months, then a federal "arbitration panel" will unilaterally implement a contract binding for two years on union members and nonmembers alike.

"Today, union officials sometimes aren't successful in getting anti-worker provisions like forced union dues and fees in union contracts, because workers resolutely oppose such provisions," commented Committee President Mark Mix.

Blanche Lincoln and Byron Dorgan 'Obviously Know Kennedy/Miller Is Unpopular'

"Kennedy/Miller would enable union bosses with monopoly-bargaining power to circumvent altogether the wishes of workers by prevailing upon federal bureaucrats to give them forced-dues privileges. And workers couldn't do

anything about it for a minimum of two years!" Mr. Mix concluded.

The November 2008 presidential and congressional election returns put union lobbyists in an excellent position to ram Kennedy/Miller into law this year.

But within a few days after Election Day, the Committee began mobilizing hundreds of thousands of freedom-loving Americans to fight back.

In late November and December, anti-Kennedy/Miller postcards, letters, and phone calls from countless citizens contacted by the Committee began arriving on Capitol Hill.

Several senators who in the past have regularly voted according to Big Labor's dictates, and have supported Kennedy/Miller in particular, are getting the message.

For example, Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.), who in 2007 had voted to help union officials steam-roll the Kennedy bill through the Senate, said late last year that she doesn't think "there is a need for such legislation right now."

"Ms. Lincoln, who must face the voters of Right to Work Arkansas in a November 2010 re-election bid, or give up her seat, is calculating she can't afford to ignore what her constituents think right now," commented Mr. Mix.

Similarly, Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.), another U.S. senator from a Right to Work state who voted for Kennedy/Miller in 2007 and is up for reelection

in 2010, is now saying he is "undecided" on the legislation.

"Blanche Lincoln and Byron Dorgan obviously know Kennedy/Miller is unpopular with their constituents," said Mr. Mix. "But they also remain reluctant to anger Big Labor by simply announcing publicly that they will oppose Kennedy/Miller and any similar legislation on all votes.

"That's why Right to Work members and supporters, especially constituents, will have to keep turning up the pressure on these two senators."

New Colorado Senator Also a Key 'Swing' Vote

Mr. Mix added that Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), who was recently appointed to replace pro-Kennedy/Miller Democrat Sen. Ken Salazar after the latter took a job in the Obama Cabinet, is another key "swing" vote on Kennedy/Miller.

After conducting an interview with Mr. Bennet just before he was sworn in as a senator, the Denver *Post* reported January 9 that he "doesn't have a position and wants to hear from the various constituencies involved."


"That should encourage freedom-loving Colorado employees and employers to call Mr. Bennet's Capitol Hill office at 202-224-5852 right away if they haven't already done so," noted Mr. Mix.

"Of course, defeating Kennedy/Miller in 2009 and 2010 won't be easy. In the House, where Big Labor politicians are firmly in control, the measure is basically unstoppable.

"And union lobbyists are very close to getting the 60 out of 100 senators 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 Senate debate.

"This legislation simply cannot withstand public scrutiny, both because it would trample on individual employee rights and because it would gravely damage a national economy that is already mired in a recession."

(See the table at left for examples of the harm Kennedy/Miller could do by increasing dramatically the number of workers who are subject to monopoly bargaining. -- Editor.) 

Union Monopoly Hurts Workers

Growth in Real Personal Income, 1997-2007

High Union-Monopoly States: 22.1%
Low Union-Monopoly States: 41.1%

Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA),
Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

Increase in People Covered by Private Health Insurance, 1999-2007

High Union-Monopoly States: -3.0%
Low Union-Monopoly States: +6.3%

Source: Census Bureau

Growth in Non-Farm, Private-Sector Jobs, 1997-2007

High Union-Monopoly States: 6.4%
Low Union-Monopoly States: 19.5%

Source: BLS

2007 Cost of Living-Adjusted Disposable Income Per Capita

High Union-Monopoly States: \$29,699
Low Union-Monopoly States: \$33,542

Sources: BEA, Missouri Economic
Research & Information Center

By a wide array of measures, employees in the 10 states where union monopoly-bargaining power is greatest are faring

significantly worse than employees in the 10 states with the lowest monopoly-bargaining density.

'Don't Promote Union Monopoly, Period'

Right to Work Leader Warns Against Phony Card-Check 'Compromises'

The 2009-2010 Congress has barely begun.

But Big Labor President Barack Obama already appears to realize that union lobbyists may not quite be able over the next two years to muster the 60 U.S. Senate votes they will need to break a Right to Work filibuster and send the union hierarchy's #1 legislative priority to his desk for his signature.

In an interview with the *Washington Post* last month, Mr. Obama made it very clear that he supports the intent of the union bosses' pet project, U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy's (D-Mass.) and Congressman George Miller's (D-Calif.) cynically mislabeled "Employee Free Choice Act."

And that intent, discussed in more detail in this month's Committee Newsletter cover story, is to help Big Labor force millions of additional workers, union members and nonmembers alike, to accept a union as their "exclusive" (monopoly) bargaining agent in their dealings with their employer.

A major provision in Kennedy/Miller aims to achieve this goal by effectively replacing secret-ballot elections in union organizing campaigns with so-called "card checks."

Barack Obama Suggests He Backs More 'Elegant' Ways of Dragging Workers Into Unions

This provision is so flagrantly anti-worker that it has already become a rallying cry for freedom-loving citizens across America. A number of normally pro-forced unionism politicians are now wavering in their support for Kennedy/Miller largely because of this provision.

In his interview with the *Post*, Mr. Obama suggested a way out for the union bosses. On the one hand, he would not give any quarter to Americans who believe strongly that government-imposed monopoly bargaining is wrong or that extending its reach would be "damaging to the economy."

The President thus contemptuously dismissed the views of the vast majority of citizens nationwide.

According to a scientific poll conducted in 2006 by the respected Research 2000 firm, 81% of Americans who regularly vote in statewide elections believe workers in unionized



CREDIT: DMI BLOG; HASBRO'S "MR. MONOPOLY"™

While Barack Obama is apparently concerned that "card-check" legislation as it stands may be too crude a power

grab to pass Congress, he's given an unabashed thumbs-up to expanding union officials' monopoly privileges.

workplaces who don't want a union should "have the right to bargain for themselves."

Mr. Obama also ignored ample evidence, some of which is displayed in the chart on page two of this Newsletter, that corralling more workers into unions would in fact seriously damage the economy.

Nevertheless, Mr. Obama also suggested there may well be more "elegant" ways, as he put it, of expanding Big Labor's empire than the card-check scheme. And he implied he might prefer a bill more "elegant" than the Kennedy/Miller legislation that won majority support in both chambers of Congress in 2007.

Mark Mix: Right to Work Proponents Will Stick By Their Core Principles

"Under American traditions of limited government, affiliation with a private organization is, the vast majority of the time, a purely personal decision," commented National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"It's not a collective decision. For example, the mere fact that most businesses in a town choose to join the local Chamber of Commerce doesn't

give the Chamber monopoly power to speak on business issues before the town council, denying businesses that don't join the right to speak for themselves.

"Unfortunately, current federal labor law doesn't grant to workers the same choice other Americans routinely expect, that is, the right to present their own views on matters that directly concern them, rather than have an agent they didn't choose speak for them.

"The National Right to Work Committee and its 2.2 million members are leading the opposition to the card-check scheme because it would help union bosses herd even more employees under union monopoly control.

"That fundamental flaw will not be fixed if union lobbyists, following Barack Obama's advice, find a more 'elegant' way to promote monopoly bargaining.

"Committee members understand that monopoly bargaining itself, and not the means by which union officials acquire that special privilege, is the real evil.

"Their message to Congress is, 'Don't promote monopoly bargaining, period.' Barack Obama and Big Labor Democrats in Congress should understand now that any phony card-check 'compromise' that promotes monopoly bargaining won't fly with Right to Work supporters across America." 📣

Right to Work Ready For Iowa Showdown

Union-Label Governor and Legislators Playing Cards Close to Vest

During Iowa Democratic Gov. Chet Culver's 2009 "state of the state" address last month, the Right to Work issue was eerily absent.

Mr. Culver did not give state Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal (D-Council Bluffs) and state House Speaker Pat Murphy (D-Dubuque) the green light to attack Iowa's Right to Work law that Mr. Gronstal had been publicly requesting.

On the other hand, nothing Mr. Culver said gave Right to Work supporters any reassurance that he would not soon renew the pro-forced unionism campaign that he and union lobbyists launched almost immediately after he was first elected governor in November 2006.

Committee Staff on The Ground in Iowa

"Chet Culver, Mike Gronstal, and Pat Murphy now seem to understand, better than they did in 2007 and 2008, when they first moved to try to gut Iowa's Right to Work law, just how intense Hawkeye State opposition to forced union dues and fees is," said National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"Unfortunately, however, that doesn't mean they're ready to leave Iowa's popular 62-year-old Right to Work law alone.

"I'm still very concerned that, as soon as he believes Iowa Right to Work supporters have let their guard down, Mr. Culver will reiterate his willingness



"Big Labor remains grimly determined to destroy Iowa's Right to Work law," says Committee President Mix.

to sign legislation foisting forced union fees on Iowa workers.

"That would mean this year's Iowa legislation session will end, as did the 2007 and 2008 sessions, with union lobbyists swarming the Legislature to try to muster enough votes to get a forced-union-fee bill to Mr. Culver's desk."

The National Right to Work Committee and its grass-roots ally, the Des Moines-based Iowans for Right to Work Committee, are ready to launch a full-fledged counterattack if and when a new forced-unionism offensive begins.

The Committee's legislative department, which has had field staff on the ground in Iowa since before the new Legislature convened in January, will keep the heat on in the state until the 2009 legislative session is completely over.

"Big Labor remains grimly determined to destroy Iowa's Right to Work law, despite the fact that 78% of Iowans, according to a recent poll by the respected firm Research 2000, support the law," said Mr. Mix.

"Based on the latest and best information available to legislative staff in the state, I believe it remains likely that Right to Work destruction legislation, undoubtedly dressed up as something else, will race through the state Senate and come before the House this spring.

"Furthermore, if there is a House vote, I expect it to be close, regardless of whether the bill passes and heads to Gov. Culver's desk for his signature, or is defeated."


Forced Union Fees Would Hurt Iowa's Economy, and Especially at this Time

Mr. Mix added that gutting Iowa's Right to Work law would harm both individual workers and the state's economy.

"Right to Work laws have for decades been strongly correlated with faster growth in personal income and jobs," he noted.

"And from December 2007 to December 2008 alone, while forced-unionism states in the Midwest were collectively losing roughly 320,000 private-sector jobs, according to the U.S. Labor Department, private-sector employment in Midwestern Right to Work states as a group and in Iowa alone actually increased slightly.

"At a time when the national economy is experiencing its worst downturn in over a quarter century, it would be crazy for Iowa politicians to tamper with its employee-friendly Right to Work law.

"But to protect their cherished Right to Work law, freedom-loving Iowans must remain vigilant. I urge them to keep turning up the pressure on the state capitol in Des Moines until legislators go home this spring." 

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Putting Big Labor Bosses Before the Blind

California Crisis Exposes Union-Label Politicians' True Colors

Leading union-label politicians in California like state Attorney General Jerry Brown and Treasurer Bill Lockyer -- both of whom are probable contenders for the 2010 Democratic gubernatorial nomination -- have hit a new low in their pandering to government union bosses.

For years, Mr. Brown, Mr. Lockyer, and Big Labor Democratic legislative leaders have put the interests of government union kingpins far above those of ordinary California private-sector employees, business owners, and other taxpayers.

Mr. Brown (previously California's pro-forced unionism governor from 1975-83), Mr. Lockyer (head of the state Senate in the mid-nineties), and their pro-forced unionism cohorts have helped transform a state that was for decades an economic leader into an over-taxed, over-regulated economic laggard.

Even during the 2002-2007 national economic boom that preceded the current downturn, California's private-sector employment grew by just 5.5%, below the national average and far below Right to Work states' aggregate growth of 9.6%.

Just from December 2007 to December 2008, California's private sector employment fell by roughly 266,000, while the heavily unionized government sector actually grew.

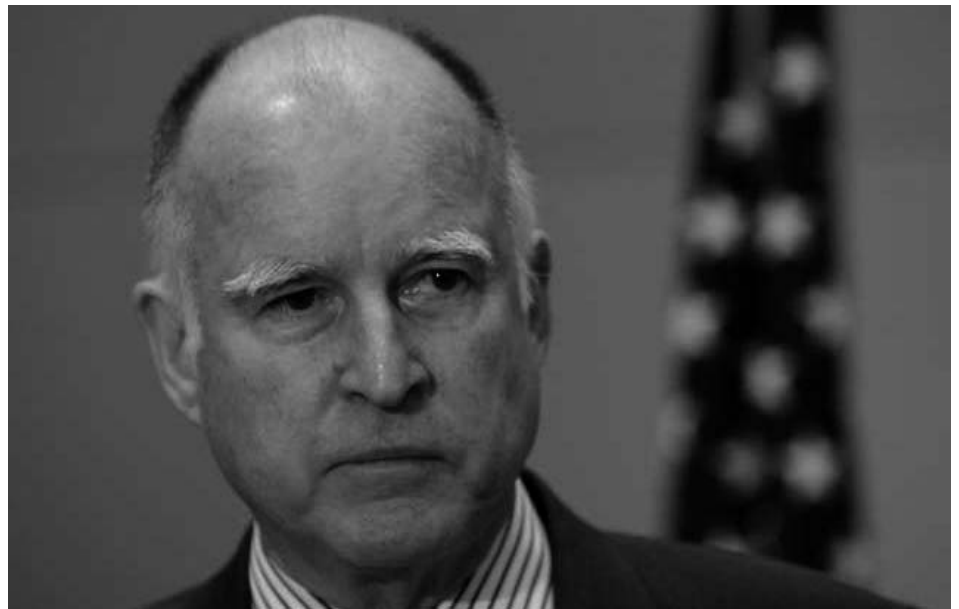
State's Monthly Expenditures Exceeding Revenues by More than \$1.5 Billion

During this winter's economic turmoil, the balance sheets of many states are in dire shape, but financial experts regard California's outlook to be the worst of all.

According to San Diego *Union-Tribune* columnist Chris Reed, writing in the *American Spectator* last month, "there is no question that [California] spends an average of about \$1.5 billion more a month than it takes in -- and that bankruptcy looms unless this imbalance is resolved."

In response to the crisis, GOP Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, an increasingly frequent appeaser of tax-consuming government union officials in recent years, is supporting increases in sales, gas, and income taxes.

But Mr. Schwarzenegger has also announced plans to have 238,000 state employees, most of whom must accept



CREDIT: L.A. TIMES

Attorney General Jerry Brown, along with other Big Labor Democrat politicians in California, would evidently

rather slash tax-funded programs for the blind than implement two-day-a-month furloughs for unionized state employees.

union monopoly bargaining and pay union dues or fees as a condition of employment, "take off two unpaid furlough days a month" starting this month.

At a time when unemployment in the Golden State is a dismaying 9.3%, the governor's plan undoubtedly sounds like a rather small sacrifice to ask of unionized government employees to help the state avoid bankruptcy.

However, Mr. Brown, Mr. Lockyer and Democratic legislative leaders are violently opposing the governor's plan. Mr. Lockyer and other Democratic statewide officeholders have actually said they won't enforce it with their own staffs!

California a 'Case Study Of What Happens When Union Bosses Hijack a Government'

Meanwhile, Democrat politicians have readily agreed to slash taxpayer funding for medical check-ups for poor children and programs for the developmentally disabled.

As Mr. Reed reported, Democrat state Controller John Chiang has even proposed, as an alternative to the Schwarzenegger plan including furloughs, a plan that would, among other things, "withhold \$188 million in funds for the


two main state programs helping blind people and ailing seniors."

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen commented: "California is a case study of what happens when union bosses hijack a government.

"First ordinary employees, business owners and other taxpayers get the shaft. Finally, as the economic damage wrought by pervasive public-sector forced unionism spreads, Big Labor politicians are even willing to sell out the blind and the ailing aged to make sure their union-boss patrons aren't inconvenienced.

"And sadly, the California disaster could be a foreshadowing of what will happen to the entire country over the next couple of decades if union bosses get their way, as planned, with Barack Obama in the White House and Big Labor Democrats in control of Congress.

"At the same time, the 2.2 million members of the National Right to Work Committee and the dedication they show to principle give me hope for the future.

"Working together, we and millions of other freedom-loving Americans can thwart union lobbyists' efforts to replicate in Washington, D.C., the political empire they have already established in Sacramento." 

Forced-Unionism Agenda Expanding in Congress

Measure to Federalize Public-Safety Union Monopoly Looms in House

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and her lieutenants evidently aren't concerned about overloading the congressional agenda this year with measures designed to help union officials seize monopoly-bargaining and forced-dues power over more and more workers.

On January 9, veteran Congressman Dale Kildee (Mich.), the second-ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Education & Labor, reintroduced the Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill (H.R.413).

This legislation would establish a new federal mandate imposing "exclusive representation," i.e. monopoly bargaining, over state and local police and firefighters and other public-safety employees nationwide.

Along with Education & Labor Chairman George Miller's (D-Calif.) cynically mislabeled "Employee Free Choice Act," which he has yet to formally reintroduce in the current Congress as this month's Newsletter goes to press, H.R. 413 is almost certain to come to the House floor this year.

While the Miller legislation would make it far easier for Big Labor to foist monopoly-bargaining control on millions of private-sector workers, the Kildee bill targets government employees.

Kildee Bill Would Pave Way For Dragging All State, Local Employees Into Unions

The Kildee bill would force countless policemen, firefighters and EMT's to accept as their monopoly-bargaining agent a union they never voted for, and want nothing to do with.

It would also constitute a major step towards Big Labor's decades-old goal of enacting a federal law that foists union monopoly bargaining on front-line state and local government employees of all types across America.

"Union lobbyists clearly already have enough votes to steam-roller H.R.413 through the House," acknowledged National Right to Work Committee Vice President Doug Stafford.

"On paper, union lobbyists also have the votes they need to shut down a Right to Work filibuster in the Senate, so the legislation can be passed there



CREDIT: HTTP://WWW.PFFM.ORG/

Even after a fire truck brake failure caused a fatal crash, union bigwig Ed Kelly contends it's more important that

vehicle inspectors pay forced dues to his union than that they be trained mechanics.

and sent to President Obama for his signature.

"However, since last year, more and more Americans across the country have been reading in their local newspapers about state and city budgets plunging deeply in the red, largely as a consequence of state and local policies authorizing union monopoly control over employees.

"And union monopoly bargaining isn't just bad for taxpayers. It also often jeopardizes public employees' safety."

One apparent example of what Mr. Stafford was talking about pertains to the January 9 fire truck crash in Boston, Mass., that killed firefighter Kevin Kelley. A subsequent inspection confirmed that brake failure was behind the accident.

Prior inspections, which had failed to find anything wrong with the brakes, had been conducted by firefighters union members who are not licensed mechanics.

The record indicates Boston Mayor Tom Menino previously tried to hire licensed mechanics to perform the inspections, but was obstructed by Boston firefighters chieftain Ed Kelly because the mechanics were not members of his union.

Even in the wake of the fatal accident, Mr. Kelly reportedly continues to insist that a change in hiring policy allowing trained mechanics to inspect

fire trucks, regardless of whether they are union members, "must be bargained with the union."

Adoption of Kildee Bill Would Constitute 'an Act of Collective Madness'

Mr. Stafford observed: "As the *Boston Globe* editorialized, to its credit, after last month's deadly and apparently preventable accident, 'it would be an act of collective madness' for the city of Boston to continue keeping firefighters in vehicle maintenance positions.

"It would also be an 'act of collective madness' for Congress and President Obama to federalize the very policies now on the books in Massachusetts and many other states that empower irresponsible union kingpins like Ed Kelly to dictate how public-safety departments are run.

"Mr. Kelly is just one of many examples of public-safety union officials who put their eagerness to funnel more forced union dues and fees into union coffers over the interests of taxpayers and of public-safety employees themselves.

"Even though we face an uphill battle, the Committee and its members are fighting with all our might to prevent enactment of a federal law that will hinder the adequate maintenance of vehicle fleets and other core public-safety operations." 📞

Obama Executive Orders Promote Forced Unionism

Labor Chief Authorized to Blacklist Independent Employees, Firms

So eager is the new Obama Administration to help union officials corral American workers into unions, it isn't even waiting for Big Labor congressional leaders to send pro-forced unionism legislation to the President's desk first.

Thrilling an audience of union bigwigs and their lackey U.S. senators and congressmen, as well as union-label Vice President Joe Biden, President Barack Obama signed three executive orders as his first major payback to Big Labor January 30. Two of the three orders directly promote forced unionism.

One of Mr. Obama's pro-forced unionism executive orders gives the U.S. secretary of labor unprecedented authority to penalize independent, nonunion firms and their employees for alleged violations of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA).

Under this order, even if the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), which is charged by federal law with administering the NLRA, has not found any violation by a firm, the labor secretary can declare a violation and blacklist the firm from federal taxpayer-funded projects.

"With federal outlays rising dramatically as part of Washington, D.C.'s efforts to 'stimulate' the economy, the number of firms with federal contracts is expected to rise dramatically in the coming months," observed National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"Already, roughly 20% of America's private-sector employees work for

companies with federal contracts.

"Top union bosses like Andy Stern, czar of the Service Employees International Union, are overjoyed about the Obama blacklisting order, because they believe they can now exploit the leverage of federal funds to get power to force millions of additional workers to pay union dues, or be fired."

Employer Gag Order Will Hamper Employees' Ability To Make Informed Decisions

The Obama Administration's second pro-forced unionism executive order will impose new restrictive regulations making it very difficult and costly for federal contractors to share, in a non-coercive way, truthful information with employees about the downsides of unionization.

Effectively, this order will deter contractors from holding any discussion at all with employees about why they might not want to unionize.

"Of course, this employer gag order will hamper employees' ability to make informed decisions about whether or not to join a union or support the installation of a union as their monopoly-bargaining agent in dealings with their employer," commented Mr. Mix.

"Though it has occupied the White House just a few weeks, the Obama Administration is already surpassing every administration in memory, regardless of party, in its eagerness to please the union hierarchy.

"Even Big Labor-'friendly' President Bill Clinton stopped short of putting a union-label gag order on federal contractors and giving the secretary of labor blacklisting power. And both these orders are of very dubious legality."

Orders' Extremism Suggests Obama White House Will Push Hard For 'Card Check' Scheme

Mr. Mix added that the fact that the Obama Administration was willing, on its 11th day in the White House, to issue two pro-forced unionism executive orders more extreme than any the Clinton Administration sent down during its two terms in office strikes an ominous note for the future.

"These executive orders suggest President Obama and Vice President Biden will be willing over the next four years to defy public opinion, which overwhelmingly opposes compulsory unionism, and stretch the law, to put it kindly, to help Big Labor increase sharply the number of forced dues-paying workers," he said.

"In particular, the January 30 orders suggest the Obama White House will push hard this year for enactment of Big Labor's top legislative priority in Congress, the 'Card-Check' Forced-Unionism Bill."

Sponsored in the 2007-2008 Congress as S.1041 and H.R.800 by Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Congressman George Miller (D-Calif.), this measure would help Big Labor expand its forced-unionism empire in several ways.

For one, it would effectively abolish secret-ballot elections in union organizing campaigns by empowering union officials, without employers' acquiescence, to secure monopoly-bargaining power solely through the acquisition of workers' signed "union authorization" cards.

"An administration that is willing to blacklist union-free employees from federal contracts will very likely also be willing to twist arms in Congress, and the Senate in particular, to get the 'card check' scheme or a near equivalent to the President's desk," said Mr. Mix.

"Right to Work supporters everywhere must be prepared to fight back with all their might to prevent the Obama Administration from succeeding in this endeavor." 🗳️



CREDIT: STEPHEN CROWLEY, NEW YORK TIMES

On their 11th day in the White House, the Obama-Biden team went even further to promote compulsory unionism

by executive order than the union-label Clinton Administration did during eight years in office.

Senate Votes on Right to Work Amendment

Politicians' Stands on Forced Unionism Now in the Spotlight

On January 22, U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.), working hand-in-hand with the National Right to Work Committee, forced his colleagues to vote directly on the federal policy of compulsory unionism for only the second time in U.S. history, spotlighting senators who support firing workers if they do not join a union.

"The January vote on Sen. DeMint's Right to Work Amendment to S.181, the so-called 'Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act,' was a test -- a test to see which senators are for freedom and which are for coercion," said Committee President Mark Mix.

"This may be our Alamo," noted Mr. Mix.

"The last time the Senate voted on national Right to Work legislation, 68 senators supported federally imposed compulsory unionism. Today, only 29 of those senators remain in the chamber. And one of those 29 actually switched his vote and supported Right to Work this year."

Right to Work Gains Strength in Republican Senate Caucus Since 1996

"And the Republican Senate caucus is now much more pro-Right to Work than it was in July 1996, when the Senate last voted directly on a measure to abolish all federally imposed forced union dues and fees," Mr. Mix continued.

"In the 1996 vote, 60% (barely a majority) of GOP senators supported Right to Work. This year, more than three-quarters of Republican senators stood up against compulsory unionism.

"History shows that when politicians vote for compulsory unionism they often pay the ultimate political price. Over the years, voters have littered the political landscape with the corpses of politicians who publicly vote to force hardworking Americans to pay union dues just to get or keep their jobs.

"And time and again, union bigwigs have refused to accept GOP senators' anti-Right to Work 'olive branches' and successfully targeted them for defeat. Meanwhile, Big Labor efforts to oust pro-Right to Work senators have overwhelmingly failed."

Republican support for Right to Work today would be even stronger



CREDIT: AP/DENNIS COOK

Working closely with Right to Work legislative staff members, last month South Carolina's Jim DeMint (R,

center) put senators on record in support of or opposition to federally-imposed forced union dues.

had not a handful of senators broken their longstanding and, in some cases, repeated pledges to constituents by opposing the DeMint Amendment.

Tennessee's Lamar Alexander Breaks Promises to Right to Work Supporters

The most flabbergasting flip-flop of all was that of Tennessee's Lamar Alexander.

Mr. Mix recalled that in 1996, when Mr. Alexander was running for the GOP presidential nomination, he not only pledged in writing to push for enactment of a national Right to Work law identical to the DeMint Amendment if elected, but actually visited Committee headquarters to repeat his vow face to face.

Mr. Alexander again reiterated his pledge to support a national Right to Work law when he ran for the first time and successfully for the Senate in 2002.

But last month, after publicly promising to support a national Right to Work law for over a decade, Mr. Alexander not only voted against Right to Work, but took to the Senate floor twice to denounce the Right to Work Amendment.

He thus gave aid and comfort to Democrat senators from swing states who otherwise might have been squeamish about supporting compulsory unionism.

Right to Work Amendment Would Not Add a Single Word to Federal Law

Despite the fact that the DeMint Amendment added not one word to the federal labor statute that already governs and preempts private-sector state labor policies and in fact merely erased those sections authorizing compulsory unionism, Mr. Alexander concocted a "states' rights" objection.

"This is a tired and phony excuse for trying to appease the union bosses," retorted Mr. Mix.

"If Sen. Alexander is really concerned about states' rights under the National Labor Relations Act, his only logical choice is to move to repeal it in toto."

Mr. Mix called on freedom-loving Tennesseans to keep phoning Mr. Alexander's office at 202-224-4944 to ask the senator to apologize for his anti-Right to Work vote and renew his pledge always to oppose forced unionism in the future. 📞