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Top Union Boss Pushes New Card-Check Scheme *Like S.560/H.R.1409, 'Trojan Horse' Would Expand Big Labor Empire*

Six months ago, Big Labor seized control of the White House and greatly tightened its grip over both chambers of the U.S. Congress in the national elections on November 4, 2008.

Subsequently, many Inside-the-D.C. Beltway pundits contended that, solely as a consequence of those election results, enactment of union bosses' #1 objective in the current Congress, the cynically mislabeled "Employee Free Choice Act," was highly likely, perhaps inevitable this year.

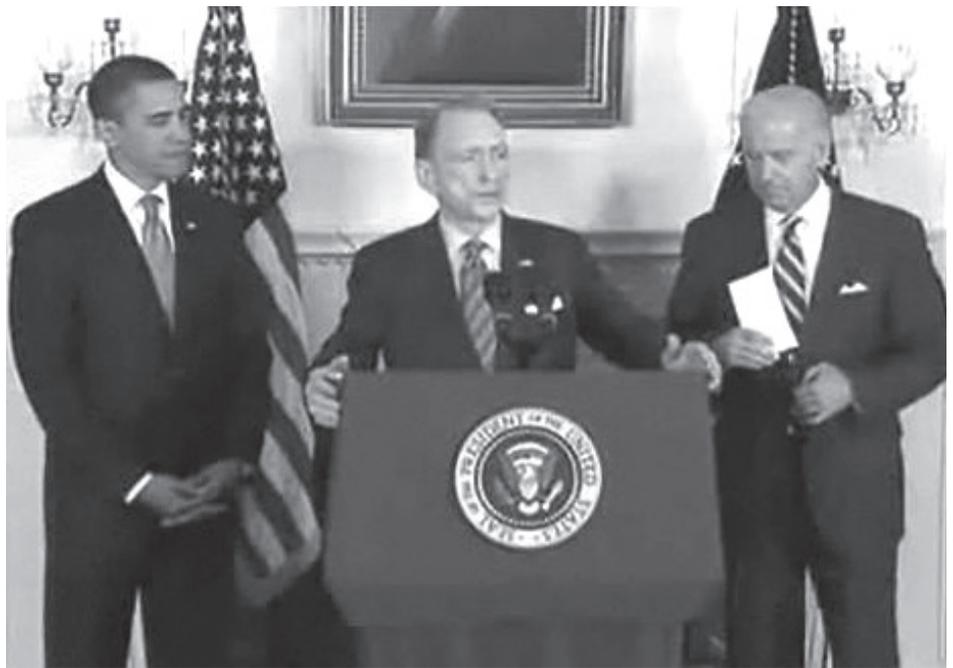
But now, thanks most of all to an ongoing mobilization against the Senate version of this legislation (S.560), led by the National Right to Work Committee's 2.2 million members and focusing heavily on a handful of targeted states, union bigwigs are already reworking their legislative strategy.

The new Big Labor strategy involves replacing S.560 with a new bill that will accomplish the same objective in a slightly different way.

And this strategy is dangerously close to succeeding now that union-label Majority Leader Harry Reid's (Nev.) Democrat Senate caucus is poised to expand to a 60-40, filibuster-proof majority soon.

Big Labor-appeasing GOP Sen. Arlen Specter's (Pa.) April party switch, along with Democrat Al Franken's expected victory in the long-disputed 2008 Minnesota Senate race, would together expand Mr. Reid's caucus to 60.

"Over the past few months, thousands and thousands of Committee members and supporters in their home states have contacted key senators like Blanche Lincoln [D-Ark.], Byron Dorgan [D-N.D.], and Arlen Specter to urge them to oppose S.560," commented Committee President Mark Mix.



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Over the years, Sen. Arlen Specter (center) has been a frequent Big Labor ally. His recent switchover from

Republican to Democrat could pave the way for new card-check forced-unionism legislation.

"In 2007, Sens. Lincoln, Dorgan and Specter all voted for identical legislation when it came up in the Senate. And all three senators normally vote according to Big Labor's dictates on a wide range of issues."

Same 'Bottom Line': More Union Monopoly Power, More Forced Dues and Fees

"However, the current terms of all three senators expire in January 2011. And all three have announced their plans to run for reelection next year," Mr. Mix continued.

"This spring, after Committee

members demonstrated that formidable shares of their constituents passionately oppose S.560, Sens. Lincoln and Specter both publicly announced that for now they would oppose the bill in its current form.

"For his part, Sen. Dorgan has yet to say how he will vote on S.560, but he has so far refused to cosponsor this legislation, even though he cosponsored identical bills in the past.

"Because Right to Work members and other likeminded Americans have convinced Sens. Lincoln and Specter, and perhaps other senators, to back

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Bill Facilitates Forced Dues

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away from their previous support for this power grab in its current form, a top union boss is now openly pushing for a so-called 'compromise.'

"But the bottom-line impact of this Trojan Horse would be identical to that of S.560: More union monopoly power over workers, and more forced union dues and fees extracted from workers.

"It's vital that Right to Work supporters everywhere, especially constituents of waverers like Blanche Lincoln and Arlen Specter, make it plain to their senators now that a bogus 'compromise' is just as unacceptable as S.560 itself.

"Otherwise, union lobbyists may lose the battle over S.560, but win the war by securing a congressional rubber-stamp for legislation that is almost equally destructive of the individual employee's freedom and private enterprise."

Measure Would Stack the Deck For Union Bosses

S.560 and its identical House companion (H.R.1409) were introduced in Congress March 10 by Big Labor Sens. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and union-label Congressman George Miller (D-Calif.).

S.560 and H.R.1409 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/Harkin/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.

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 S.560 and H.R.1409 would empower union officials to impose forced unionism through card check automatically, with no recourse for any pro-Right to Work employee or employer.

'Compromise' Would Tilt Election Rules Even More Steeply in Big Labor's Favor

Unlike S.560 and H.R. 1409, the card-check "compromise" floated by Service Employees International Union (SEIU) czar Andy Stern in a meeting with the Washington *Post* editorial board last month would not effectively eliminate secret-ballot elections over unionization.

But it would accomplish the same pro-union monopoly objective by rewriting workplace election rules to tilt them even more steeply in union organizers' favor.

The unexamined, and false, premise of both S.560/H.R.1409 and the evolving card-check "compromise" is that current federal policy doesn't do enough to help Big Labor acquire monopoly power to negotiate the terms of employment for all front-line workers at business after business.

"The fact is, government-authorized union monopoly bargaining violates the freedom of the individual employee and hinders economic growth," observed Mr. Mix.

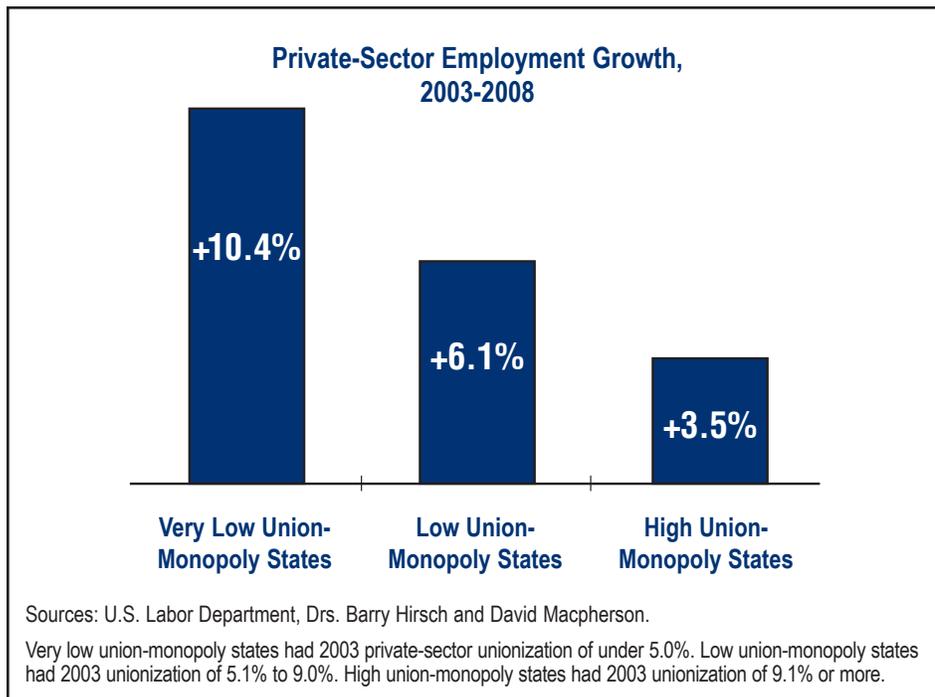
"From 2003 to 2008, for example, aggregate private-sector employment grew by a healthy 10.4% in the 11 states in which fewer than five percent of private employees were under union monopoly control as of 2003.

"In the 18 states with private-sector monopoly bargaining below the national average, but above five percent, employment grew by 6.1%.

"But in the 21 states with above-average private-sector unionization, aggregate employment grew by just 3.5% -- roughly a third as much as in the lowest-union-density states.

"At a time when the country is struggling to pull out of a recession, Congress must not pass any legislation to promote union monopoly bargaining, which has a strong negative correlation with job growth.

"That's why Right to Work members and supporters are preparing for an all-out battle to ensure that not just S.560 and H.R.1409 themselves, but all phony card-check 'compromises,' are defeated in Congress this year and in 2010." 



Both card-check legislation and card-check "compromises" aim to increase the share of workers who are under union

monopoly control. Experience indicates this would choke off job growth and make unemployment even worse.