

'Choice to Remain Unrepresented' Under Attack

Candid Article by Obama NLRB Pick Points to What's at Stake Today

"At first blush it might seem fair to give workers the choice to remain unrepresented. But, in granting this option, U.S. labor law grants employers a powerful incentive to campaign for a vote of no representation."

With these blunt words, published in a "labor studies" journal article, radical union lawyer Craig Becker dismissed the notion that workers should have any say whatsoever, whether as individuals or collectively by secret ballot or "card check," over whether or not they are unionized.

To try to justify his extremist position, Mr. Becker, associate general counsel for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the AFL-CIO, resorted to an extraordinary analogy:

Just as U.S. citizens cannot opt against having a congressman, he contended, workers should not be able to choose against having a union as their monopoly-bargaining agent.

Employees' only choice, explained Mr. Becker, should be over which set of union officials get "exclusive" power to negotiate their wages, benefits, and work rules.

"[N]early 90 percent" of private-sector workers "lack [union monopoly] representation because the law does not mandate [it]," he complained.

Since most union bosses and Big Labor politicians at least give lip service to the notion that employees should have the right to make a choice against unionization of their workplace, one might be tempted to dismiss the rantings of Mr. Becker, influential union attorney though he is, as crazy and unimportant.

However, since this April 24, it has been impossible to ignore Mr. Becker. On that day, President Barack Obama nominated him, along with fellow union lawyer Mark Pearce, to fill two of the three current vacancies on the powerful, five-member National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

'Barack Obama and Craig Becker Know What They're Doing'

The NLRB interprets and administers federal labor laws covering over 90% of businesses and private-sector employees.



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Who does Barack Obama (shown next to "Change to Win" union honcho Anna Burger) want on the

NLRB? A man who would deny employees any say at all over whether or not their workplace is unionized.

This agency has for decades displayed a strong bias to expand Big Labor's power under federal law to force workers to pay union dues, or be fired. But even so, the NLRB is poised to take a dramatic turn for the worse during the Obama era.

The NLRB is already headed by former union lawyer Wilma Liebman, who once served as counsel for the notorious Teamster Union. Ms. Liebman, originally appointed during the Clinton Administration and subsequently reappointed during the Bush years, was designated as chairman by Mr. Obama in January.

If the Big Labor-controlled U.S. Senate confirms Mr. Becker and Mr. Pearce, as now appears likely, former union lawyers will hold three of the four seats on the board, with one vacancy.

On a four-member NLRB, only Bush appointee Peter Schaumber can be expected to offer any resistance whatsoever to union lawyers' efforts to expand Big Labor's monopoly privileges, and, based on his NLRB track record, his resistance will be weak and intermittent.

"Barack Obama and Craig Becker know what they're doing," commented National Right to Work Committee

President Mark Mix.

"Mr. Obama knows he has nominated to the NLRB a man who is on the record as believing that any employee or employer efforts to resist unionization of a workplace are unacceptable.

"And Mr. Becker, for his part, certainly is savvy enough to recognize that his desired policy of openly denying workers any say whatsoever in whether or not their workplace is unionized is not politically sellable. But there is no serious reason to doubt that effectively denying workers any say remains his goal."

Senate Appears Ready to Vote to Deny Workers 'Choice To Remain Unrepresented'

"Therefore," continued Mr. Mix, "Big Labor senators who vote to confirm Craig Becker to the NLRB when his nomination comes to the floor will actually be voting to deny workers the 'choice,' in Mr. Becker's words, 'to remain unrepresented.'"

"The fact that Mr. Becker's confirmation nevertheless appears likely illustrates just what Right to Work supporters are up against in the current Congress." 📌