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Key Senators Are Major Targets in TV Ad Blitz

Harry Reid Reportedly Scheming to Sneak S.560 Through Senate Soon

This summer, intense public controversy over other Obama Administration-backed initiatives, most notably the so-called health-insurance "reform" package, has diverted many citizens' attention away from pending legislation plainly designed to help Big Labor corral millions of additional workers into unions.

However, the millions of Americans who passionately support employees' Right to Work without being forced to join or pay dues to an unwanted union cannot afford to let their guard down one bit regarding the cynically mislabeled "Employee Free Choice Act" (S.560 and H.R.1409) or closely related "Plan B" legislation.

That's because, even though top Big Labor bosses like soon-to-be AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and union-label politicians are publicly talking less now about S.560/H.R.1409 than they were a couple of months ago, their behind-the-scenes efforts to pass such legislation are continuing and intensifying.

Forced-Unionism Expansion Bill May Be Attached to 'Must-Pass' Legislation

Capitol Hill insiders report that, contrary to some media stories suggesting that S.560/H.R.1409 will not come up for congressional floor votes this year, Big Labor Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) is actually planning to use an "amendment strategy" to pass this or similar legislation this fall.

Right to Work sources also report that at least one senator, Susan Collins (R-Maine), has said in private that she expects Mr. Reid's strategy of tacking



A TV ad campaign that recently commenced in Virginia and is now moving to other key targeted states is

part of the Committee's multi-pronged program to defeat forced-unionism expansion legislation.

the power grab on to "must-pass" legislation and then passing it through the Senate as an amendment will succeed.

The undisguised aim of S.560 and H.R.1409 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 this legislation would accomplish this goal by effectively ending secret-ballot elections in union organizing campaigns.

However, this "card-check"

provision is so flagrantly anti-worker and unpopular with the public that S.560 lead sponsor Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) has apparently concluded that the bill in its current form may be too difficult to get through the Senate.

Barack Obama Prefers That Workers Be Shanghaied Into Unions 'Elegantly'

The reason for the switch is simple: Grass-roots citizens, led by National Right to Work Committee members, have waged a very effective lobbying

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Fall Showdown in U.S. Senate?

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campaign against S.560/H.R.1409.

Consequently, a number of normally pro-forced unionism politicians in Washington, D.C., are scrambling to distance themselves from this legislation.

That's why Mr. Harkin and other Big Labor senators are now working behind the scenes to concoct a less obviously sinister "Plan B" that would accomplish the same forced-unionism objectives of S.560/H.R.1409 through somewhat different means.

In this effort, they are only heeding the advice of President Obama, who, although he voted for card-check forced-unionism legislation as a senator and personally has no problem with helping Big Labor avoid secret-ballot votes, publicly promoted a "Plan B" option several months ago.

Early this year, Mr. Obama suggested to a Washington *Post* interviewer that there are more "elegant" (his precise word) means than mandatory card checks of expanding Big Labor's empire.

And he strongly implied he would prefer a measure more "elegant" than the Card-Check Forced-Unionism Bill that won majority support in both chambers of Congress in 2007.

In July, the New York *Times* reported that Mr. Harkin and other pro-forced unionism senators have agreed, along with top union bosses, to concoct a new Forced-Unionism

Expansion Bill that does not directly attack the secret ballot.

Union strategists are reluctantly supportive of "Plan B" because they understand it will promote forced unionism, to virtually the same extent as S.560, by rewriting workplace election rules to tilt them even more steeply in union organizers' favor.

Union Bosses Anticipate Biggest Forced-Unionism Victory 'Since the Wagner Act'

And, as pro-forced unionism *Atlantic* magazine contributor Marc Ambinder has pointed out, union bosses anticipate that "the abandonment of the card check provision" will "smooth passage" for their power grab.

Furthermore, they are confident this power grab will in the end constitute "the biggest" addition to Organized Labor's legal special privileges "since the Wagner Act," the 1935 law that authorized forced union membership in the first place.

Right to Work President Mark Mix commented:

"Although the new Harkin monopoly-bargaining legislation has yet to emerge and its exact provisions are thus unknown, it's already safe to say the bottom-line impact of this Trojan Horse will be identical to that of S.560: more union monopoly power

over workers, and more forced union dues extracted from workers.

"It's vital that Right to Work supporters everywhere, especially constituents of key 'swing' senators, make it plain to their politicians now that this near equivalent to S.560 is just as unacceptable as S.560 itself."

Union-Label Senators Feel Heat in Old Dominion

As part of its multi-pronged program to get this message across to wavering senators, just before Congress went on recess last month the Committee initiated a new TV ad campaign in Virginia.

Though the Old Dominion has had a Right to Work law on the books for more than 60 years and public opinion throughout the state is strongly opposed to forced unionism, senior U.S. Sen. Jim Webb (D) voted for the Card-Check Forced-Unionism Bill when it came to the Senate floor in 2007.

Furthermore, although the state's junior senator, Mark Warner (D), has yet to have the opportunity to vote on forced-unionism expansion legislation, it is a matter of record that last summer he pledged his support to the national union bosses who were then backing his Senate campaign.

The Right to Work ad, which became the subject of news stories appearing in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and a number of other state newspapers, exhorts freedom-loving Virginians to urge the two senators to vote against S.560 "or any similar bill designed to expand Big Labor's power over American workers."

As you read this Newsletter, the Committee is running similar TV ad campaigns in the key target states of Arkansas, Nevada and Pennsylvania.

"Though media attention on forced-unionism expansion legislation has diminished, the threat has mounted," Mr. Mix commented.

"Just last month, a key wavering senator, Pennsylvania Democrat Arlen Specter, announced he would support Tom Harkin's glossed-over version of S.560 when it comes up for a vote.

"Right to Work supporters everywhere must keep turning up the pressure on the Senate, or Big Labor is indeed likely within the next few months to score its biggest forced-unionism legislative victory since the Wagner Act." 📢



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Last month, formerly fence-sitting Sen. Arlen Specter announced he would back a glossed-over version of S.560. Unless

Right to Work supporters keep turning up the pressure, other fence sitters are likely to do the same.