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Government Union Bosses Vent Their Rage *State Taxpayers Strive to Roll Back Big Labor Monopoly Privileges*

In late 1968, Leonid Brezhnev concocted his so-called "Brezhnev Doctrine" as a rationalization for his recent invasion of Czechoslovakia and the installation of a new Soviet puppet regime in its capital, Prague.

Recalling with rage that year's "Prague Spring," during which freedom of speech and assembly were briefly restored in a country that had gone communist 20 years earlier, the Soviet dictator blustered: The "gains of socialism" are "irreversible."

For decades, Big Labor bosses in America have had a parallel doctrine regarding union monopoly bargaining in public employment: Once a state authorizes it, it's irreversible.

But fortunately for freedom-loving public employees as well as taxpaying families and businesses, Big Labor's "Brezhnev Doctrine" of monopoly bargaining is facing serious challenges in Wisconsin, Tennessee, Georgia, and other states this year.

Individual Worker's Freedom Trampled by Union Monopoly

Under the current labor laws of more than 30 states, government union officials are handed monopoly power to bargain over public employees' wages, benefits and working conditions.

Even public employees who choose not to join a union must work under contract terms negotiated by union bosses, or quit their jobs. Independent-minded employees are stripped of any freedom to negotiate with employers on their own behalf.

As this month's Newsletter goes to press, challenges to government union bosses' "exclusive" bargaining privileges are underway in roughly two dozen



CREDIT: GETTY INSET: LIFE.COM

Leonid Brezhnev (inset) once insisted that all communist victories would be permanent. Today, AFL-CIO chief

Richard Trumka is bitterly clinging to an analogous view regarding Big Labor's monopoly-bargaining victories.

states, but the effort in Wisconsin is receiving by far the most media attention.

On February 15, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) infuriated the union hierarchy, in his own state and nationally, when he introduced legislation (S.B.11) that would abolish forced union dues for teachers and many other public employees and also sharply limit the scope of union monopoly bargaining.

Moreover, the Walker measure completely prohibits "exclusive" union representation in the public university system.

However, S.B.11 leaves completely intact the coercive legal privileges of police and firefighter union bosses.

Mr. Walker has publicly defended the public-safety loophole by admitting he was concerned that, if their monopoly powers had been threatened, police and

fire union chiefs would have retaliated by launching illegal strikes. The potential risk to public safety deterred him, the governor has explained.

Big Labor Resorts to Illegal Strikes, Thuggery to Protect Monopoly Power in Wisconsin

"I can't say for certain what prompted Gov. Walker's unfortunate decision to leave police and firefighters' Right to Work unprotected, but the threat of illegal public-sector strikes was obviously real," commented National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"Once S.B.11 began making its way through the state Senate, teacher union bosses, first in Madison and then in

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Pressure on Union Monopolists

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Milwaukee and other cities, called teachers out on illegal strikes so they could stage angry protests at the state capitol.

"Government union militants have also reportedly threatened violence against Mr. Walker, members of his administration, and their families."

Public support for S.B.11, mobilized in part by Right to Work's e-mail and telecommunications activities, was so strong that Big Labor apparently had no hope of blocking it in a legislative floor vote.

Determined nevertheless to safeguard union monopolists' privileges, 14 union-backed senators, all Democrats, fled the state on February 17 to deny the pro-S.B.11 Senate majority a quorum to pass the bill. Though the legislation has since been approved by the state Assembly, it remains stalled in the Senate as this is written.

Counterproductive Work Rules Are Routinely Entrenched by Union Monopoly Bargaining

Independent-minded public servants aren't the only victims of union monopoly bargaining. Taxpayers and people who rely on vital public services also get hurt.

In K-12 schools, for example, union monopolists routinely insist that, when a teaching position opens up, it must go to any teacher in the system who is minimally "qualified" for the available job, wants to switch to it, and has more seniority than any other applicant.

Union contracts typically prohibit school managers from offering an open slot to the teacher they assess to be best-qualified for the job, if any other teacher with more seniority wants it and meets the bare-minimum qualifications.

Union contracts also consistently require school districts that, because of reduced enrollments, revenue shortfalls, or any other reason, must lay off teachers to lay off those with the least seniority first, even if school managers evaluate them to be far more effective than other teachers with more seniority.

"Government union bigwigs armed with monopoly-bargaining privileges make it nearly impossible for elected officials and their appointees to operate efficient, effective public agencies," commented Mr. Mix.

"Abolishing union monopoly control over public employees, or at the very least strictly limiting its scope, is absolutely critical for efforts to keep

state and local government spending under control and make public institutions work better.

"This is true not only in forced-unionism states like Wisconsin, but also in many Right to Work states, such as Tennessee."

In Tennessee, S.B.113 Represents 'a Significant Step in the Right Direction'

Support for Big Labor monopoly control over teachers and other K-12 public school instructional employees is now state policy in Tennessee under the mislabeled "Education Professional Negotiations Act." Union lobbyists rammed this ill-advised scheme through the Tennessee Legislature in 1978. Big Labor puppet Gov. Ray Blanton (D) then eagerly signed it.

As a consequence of the Blanton law, educators in 92 Tennessee school systems, roughly two-thirds of all the districts in the state, have been forced to accept union monopoly bargaining in order to keep their jobs.

The fact that the Volunteer State's Right to Work law protects independent-minded educators from being forced to pay union tribute for unwanted Big Labor "representation" only limits the damage somewhat.


But S.B.113, already approved in a panel vote and now before the Tennessee Senate, would abolish union monopoly bargaining in public education.

Teacher union bosses would no longer be able to cajole school systems into granting them monopoly privileges, or have the legal power to force school officials to recognize them as educators' "exclusive" bargaining agents.

"S.B.113 is a significant step in the right direction," said Mr. Mix.

"That's why the Committee is now mobilizing its roughly 85,000 Tennessee members and supporters to lobby the Senate and House to approve this bill, and to convince GOP Gov. Bill Haslam to sign it."

Yet another state measure that would prohibit public-sector union monopolies (H.B.416) appears to be on the move in Right to Work Georgia. Big Labor is now trying to block this bill with political arm-twisting.

"The American people are now getting a taste of just how far government union bosses will go to perpetuate their extraordinary legal privileges in the face of widespread, intensifying public opposition," Mr. Mix concluded. 



CREDIT: ALTHOUSE.BLOGSPOT.COM

Concerned citizens in state after state are now enlisting in Right to Work's long-running fight to make government

agencies more accountable and affordable by extricating public employees from Big Labor control.

President Obama Eggs on Big Labor Lawbreakers

Labels Proposed Rollback of Union Monopoly Powers As an 'Assault'

As the cover story of this Right to Work Newsletter edition reports, last month Wisconsin teacher union bosses encouraged educators in Madison, Milwaukee, and other school districts to strike illegally in order to participate in protests against GOP Gov. Scott Walker's monopoly-bargaining rollback proposal.

(See pp. 1-2 for more about the Walker measure.)

Most teachers rejected union bosses' exhortations and reported for their jobs. However, the number of teachers who heeded the siren call of union militancy was sufficient to force multiple school districts, including Milwaukee's, to cancel classes. Madison's schools were closed for a total of four days.

Many of the striking union militants, convinced that they should be paid for protesting rather than carrying out their assigned duties, collected phony "sick notes" from pro-forced unionism doctors. Wisconsin taxpayers may have to furnish these outlaw teachers with up to \$6 million in "sick pay" for work they were perfectly capable of performing, but chose not to.

Wisconsin sites quoted in media reports, including some who are normally sympathetic to Big Labor, are outraged by the actions of a relatively small share of Badger State teachers (in Milwaukee, for example, just a few more than 600 out of 5400 teachers joined in the union-instigated "sickout").

Former Union Czar Andy Stern: President's Statement 'Helped Enormously'

Even as they were losing the good will of the people of Wisconsin, however, teacher union zealots and thousands of other government union radicals who joined in their wildcat strikes got a "thumbs up" from the White House.

On February 17, the second day of illegal teacher strikes, President Obama took the extraordinary step of inviting a reporter and camera crew from a Milwaukee TV station to sit down with him at the White House for an interview.

Mr. Obama suggested he was okay with the portions of Gov. Walker's reform package that authorize public agencies to divert a significantly higher share of employees' wages and salaries into their health care and pension plans, and thus



CREDIT: AP

Barack Obama's political operation reportedly based illegally striking government employees to state capitol protests.

reduce taxpayers' total compensation liabilities.

At the same time, the President blasted the provision that would, for the first time in decades, restore for most Wisconsin public employees the Right to Work without being fired for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union.

He also lambasted provisions that would permanently strip most government union bosses of the monopoly power to negotiate benefits and work rules for employees who don't want a union and choose not to join as well as for union members.

The President suggested the Right to Work and monopoly bargaining-rollback

provisions in the Walker package "seem[] like . . . an assault on unions."

Former Service Employees International Union (SEIU) czar and Obama crony Andy Stern quickly applauded the President's statement. "It helps enormously" Wisconsin government union bosses' bid to block any long-term reduction of their monopoly privileges, gushed Mr. Stern.

Obama Political Machine Reportedly Furnished Material Support to Union Outlaws

News reports in *Politico*, the *Washington Post*, and other major media outlets indicate the President furnished government union agents with material support.

Mr. Obama's political machine, Organizing For America, allegedly provided buses to transport illegal strikers to protest rallies, deployed phone banks to organize protests, and transported protesters from other states.

"As of yet, it's not clear whether the President's unprecedented and appalling intervention in support of wildcat strikes designed to perpetuate wide-ranging union monopoly bargaining in the public sector will succeed," commented National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen.

"But the very fact that the current U.S. President is so beholden to Big Labor that he evidently felt he had to do this, regardless of the ultimate outcome, is sad news for America." 📣

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Congress Nearly Federalized the Mess in Madison

Time For Politicians in Both Parties to Own Up to Their Mistakes

In late February, many concerned Americans in other states were paying close attention to the fierce, and still unresolved, battle over public-sector union monopoly bargaining in Wisconsin.

Many observing the Madison showdown from their homes in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Arizona were undoubtedly amazed by what they saw.

These five states, like roughly a dozen others, have no statutes on the books empowering government union officials to act as state and local public employees' monopoly-bargaining agents.

When elected officials in such states make a judgment that a reform in public-employee compensation packages and work rules is necessary and can be prudently implemented to give taxpayers a better return on their money, they have the power to proceed.

It is then up to the voting public to judge whether the reform was a good idea or not.

In Wisconsin, however, like in other states which statutorily mandate union monopoly bargaining over public employee pay, benefits, and working conditions, elected officials from the governor on down have far less control over the roughly 50% of public expenditures that go into employee compensation.

In the Badger State, half of state and local government employees are unionized. Elected officials and their appointees cannot make any significant

changes in the way these employees are compensated or in how they are instructed to do their jobs without government union bosses' approval.

Today, millions of Americans whose state and local governments operate free from Big Labor constraints appreciate, after watching the bitter struggle in Wisconsin unfold, better than ever before the importance of keeping union monopolists out of the government workplace.

Only Intense Right to Work Lobbying Blocked Monopoly-Bargaining Bill

What most freedom-loving Virginians, North Carolinians and Texans probably don't realize is that, just last year, the U.S. Congress came within a hair of taking away their prerogative to decide how their state and local government workplaces are run.

At the outset of the 2009-2010 Congress, the votes were there to pass the so-called "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act" in both the House and the Senate. Furthermore, President Obama was publicly vowing to sign this legislation as soon as it reached his desk.

This measure, more accurately labeled the "Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill," would have foisted Wisconsin-style labor relations on state and local public-safety departments in all 50 states.

When the House first voted on this legislation in 2007, nearly 99% of the Democrats voting sided with Big Labor, and 98 GOP congressmen also voted for it.

Naturally, many Washington insiders considered approval of federally mandated union monopoly bargaining a sure thing after Barack Obama became President.


But an intense, two-year-long lobbying and public mobilization campaign by the National Right to Work Committee kept this power grab from ever reaching Mr. Obama's desk in 2009 or 2010.

Recent Past Should Not Be Forgotten

Fortunes change swiftly in politics, and today the momentum is on the side of proponents of rolling back compulsory unionism in government, not expanding it. (See, e.g., this month's Newsletter cover story.)

But in fighting for a brighter future, pro-Right to Work citizens should not forget the recent past.

Politicians in both parties who recently supported federalizing monopolistic government unionism should be held accountable for what they almost succeeded in doing.

As a start, Right to Work members (especially constituents) are urged now to contact the U.S. representatives listed below. 

Please Contact These Politicians Right Away

Jo Bonner (Ala.)	Peter Roskam (Ill.)	Sam Graves (Mo.)	John Sullivan (Okla.)
Don Young (Alaska)	John Shimkus (Ill.)	Denny Rehberg (Mont.)	Greg Walden (Ore.)
Brian Bilbray (Calif.)	Tom Latham (Iowa)	Jeff Fortenberry (Neb.)	Charlie Dent (Pa.)
Mary Bono Mack (Calif.)	Geoff Davis (Ky.)	Lee Terry (Neb.)	Jim Gerlach (Pa.)
Elton Gallegly (Calif.)	"Hal" Rogers (Ky.)	Dean Heller (Nev.)	Tim Murphy (Pa.)
Jerry Lewis (Calif.)	Ed Whitfield (Ky.)	Frank LoBiondo (N.J.)	Todd Platts (Pa.)
Buck McKeon (Calif.)	Charles Boustany (La.)	Chris Smith (N.J.)	Bill Shuster (Pa.)
Gus Bilirakis (Fla.)	Dave Camp (Mich.)	Peter King (N.Y.)	Joe Wilson (S.C.)
Vern Buchanan (Fla.)	Thaddeus McCotter (Mich.)	Walter Jones (N.C.)	John Duncan (Tenn.)
Ander Crenshaw (Fla.)	Candice Miller (Mich.)	Steven LaTourette (Ohio)	Ted Poe (Texas)
Mario Diaz-Balart (Fla.)	Mike Rogers (Mich.)	Jean Schmidt (Ohio)	Dave Reichert (Wash.)
I. Ros-Lehtinen (Fla.)	Fred Upton (Mich.)	Pat Tiberi (Ohio)	S. Moore Capito (W.Va.)
C.W. "Bill" Young (Fla.)	John Kline (Minn.)	Michael Turner (Ohio)	Thomas Petri (Wisc.)
Judy Biggert (Ill.)	Jo Ann Emerson (Mo.)	Tom Cole (Okla.)	Paul Ryan (Wisc.)

Listed above are all current Republican U.S. House members who voted to federally mandate union monopoly bargaining over state and local public employees nationwide, and have

yet to apologize. Committee members, especially constituents, are urged to contact them at 202-225-3121 and tell them, "Never again!"

Capitol Hill Showdown Looms Over TSA Takeover Bid

Committee Calls on U.S. House Leaders to Block Union Power Grab

On February 4, President Barack Obama's handpicked head of the Transportation Security Administration publicly announced he would help government union bosses grab monopoly-bargaining control over more than 40,000 airport screeners and other TSA employees.

John Pistole, who was sworn in as TSA chief in July 2010, made the move shortly after Republican John Boehner (Ohio) replaced Big Labor Democrat Nancy Pelosi (Calif.) as speaker of the U.S. House.

The changing of the guard at the House made it impossible, in all probability, for union lobbyists to ram through Congress legislation mandating union monopoly bargaining at the TSA.

Therefore, in order for the Obama Administration to hand federal union officials what they wanted, Mr. Pistole had to act administratively.

Agency Would Likely Become 'Less Efficient and Flexible'

As a consequence of the Pistole edict, the honchos of one of two large government unions, either the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) or the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), could grab so-called "exclusive" representation power at the TSA within the next few weeks.

If this happens, the already much-reviled federal agency will likely become even "less efficient and flexible," as *National Review* Associate Editor Robert Verbruggen pointed out in a February 11 commentary.

Under the Pistole scheme, officers of a recognized union would wield monopoly power to challenge the TSA's disciplinary actions and negotiate shift bids and transfers.

All front-line employees, including those who don't want a union and refuse to join, would be forced to rely on union bosses to air their concerns with managers.

Fully understanding that foisting a union monopoly on the TSA, an agency generally viewed as critical for national security, would be controversial and unpopular, the Obama Administration has claimed "security procedures" will not be subject to Big Labor obstruction.

However, matters of discipline, scheduling and overtime at an agency like



On the airwaves and in direct talks with pro-Right to Work members of Congress, Mark Mix has made the case that the

current prohibition on union monopoly bargaining at the TSA should remain in place.

the TSA obviously do affect managers' ability to get passengers boarded on planes safely and efficiently. That's why union "exclusive" representation is banned at national security-related agencies like the FBI, the CIA, and the Secret Service.

One of the few such agencies where monopoly bargaining is already authorized, the Customs and Border Patrol, lost a 2009 arbitration ruling over how it could discipline an employee for literally falling asleep on the job!

Committee Fights For House TSA Reauthorization Barring Union-Boss Takeover

Almost immediately after Mr. Pistole gave the go-ahead to government union organizers, National Right to Work Committee leaders coordinated with likeminded members of Congress a plan to halt the conquest.

On February 15, pro-Right to Work Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) fired a shot across the bow when he forced a floor vote on an amendment to the pending Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Bill (S.223) that would have prohibited union monopoly bargaining at the TSA.

Union-label Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) successfully corralled every Democrat senator present and voting to block the Wicker amendment. The amendment received 47 votes, and therefore was not added to S.223.

However, Mr. Reid's inability to persuade a single Republican senator to go along with him, even among those who have sided with government union lobbyists in the past, underscored the fact that public sentiment is moving strongly against Big Labor control of the TSA.

Right to Work President Mark Mix and his team of federal legislative staffers are now pressing hard to ensure that an amendment analogous to Mr. Wicker's is included in the House version of the TSA reauthorization.

Since Speaker Boehner's GOP majority caucus, unlike Mr. Reid's Democrat politicians, is not obsequiously committed to expanding union bosses' privileges, whenever and wherever they can, there is cause for Right to Work optimism.

"If the House does the right thing and passes a TSA reauthorization rescinding the Obama Administration's gift to the government union brass, then the battle will move to a legislative conference committee," explained Mr. Mix.

"With American awareness of the harm inflicted by government union excesses on the rise, I think there is a good chance Right to Work advocates can ultimately prevail and send a reauthorization bill to the President that reverses the Pistole edict.

"Then it will be up to Mr. Obama to decide whether he really wants to keep defying public opinion regarding the TSA." 📌

Young Employees Thrive in Right to Work States

Millions Have 'Voted With Their Feet' For Better Opportunities

For a combination of reasons, nationwide the number of young adults aged 25-34 is growing far more slowly than is the number of Americans aged 55 and older.

In 1999, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 37.94 million people aged 25-34 living in the U.S. By 2009, there were 41.57 million people nationwide in that age bracket. That's a 9.6% increase. Over the same decade, the number of Americans aged 55 and older soared from 57.93 million to 74.36 million, a whopping 28.4% increase!

The nationwide decline in young employees' population share, relative to that of Americans nearing or in their retirement years, is obviously an impediment to economic growth.

Eleven Non-Right to Work States Suffered Young-Adult Population Declines

But not all states have been equally affected by the trend. Many have attracted enough young people from other states to achieve young-adult population growth faster than the nation's overall 12.6% population growth from 1999 to 2009.

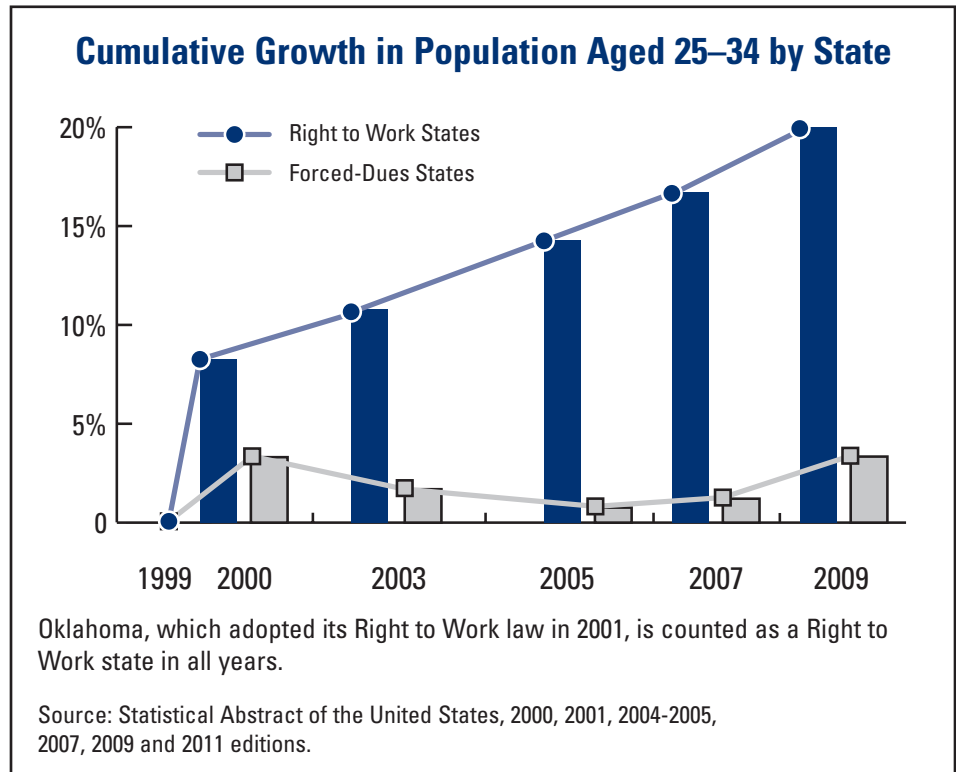
And the single most important factor behind whether young people are "voting with their feet" by moving into a state is the presence of a Right to Work law.

In the Right to Work states as a group, the number of 25-34 year-olds increased by 20.0% -- more than double the national average -- between 1999 and 2009. (Oklahoma, which adopted its Right to Work law in 2001, is counted here as a Right to Work state for the entire period.)

Meanwhile, the 28 states without Right to Work laws collectively saw their 25-34 year-old population grow by just 3.3% -- barely over a third of the national average.

Eleven states (Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and West Virginia) endured absolute declines. Not one of these states has a Right to Work law.

Generally, the greatest gains in young-adult population occurred in the eight Rocky Mountain states. But within this region, the five Right to Work states enjoyed an aggregate



By 2009, there were 20.0% more 25-34 year-olds in Right to Work states than there had been in 1999.

Meanwhile, the number of 25-34 year-olds in non-Right to Work states grew by just 3.3%.

percentage increase nearly half again as great as that of forced-unionism states.

National Right to Work Law Would Widen Success

State Right to Work laws prohibit forcing private- and public-sector employees to join or pay dues or so-called "agency" fees to an unwanted union as a condition of employment.

Unless private-sector, front-line employees are protected by a state Right to Work law, they are subject to the provisions in federal labor law that authorize and promote the firing of employees for refusal to pay union dues or fees.

"Right to Work laws' core function is safeguarding the individual employee's freedom of choice," commented National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen. "They are also strongly correlated with higher living standards."

As evidence, Mr. Leen cited a study of cost of living-adjusted household incomes for all recognized metropolitan

areas in the U.S. by Dr. Barry Poulson, past president of the North American Economics and Finance Association.

Dr. Poulson found that, when the number of households in each metro area is factored into the equation, the average cost of living-adjusted household income in Right to Work state metro areas was roughly \$4400 higher than in non-Right to Work state metro areas.

Both to protect the freedom of millions of employees who are still subject to forced unionism and to widen the economic success now being experienced by Right to Work states, said Mr. Leen, America needs a national Right to Work law.

"Right to Work states have certainly benefited from the talents of the millions of young employees and entrepreneurs they have welcomed over the years due to the detrimental impact of federally imposed forced union dues," he acknowledged.

"But these benefits come at too great a cost to America's overall prosperity. It is a price our country can't afford to go on paying." 📌

Mitch Daniels's Excuses Hollow

Continued from page 8

from late last fall into mid-February to block passage of Right to Work legislation in Indiana.

Time and again, publicly as well as in private, the glum governor put out the word that he opposed any serious debates or recorded votes over Right to Work this year.

Mr. Daniels offered a few flimsy excuses for his dour determination to sabotage legislation that clearly had sufficient House and Senate support to pass and that was overwhelmingly favored by Hoosiers generally and by his own political base in particular.

For example, the governor claimed it would be wrong for the Legislature to pass a Right to Work law in 2011, because the issue hadn't been discussed in the 2010 elections.

This was laughably false. In reality, last year alone the Indiana and national Right to Work organizations sent out roughly 278,000 pieces of targeted mail identifying the forced-unionism positions of state legislative incumbents and challengers and urging citizens to lobby their politicians on the issue.

"Issue-oriented mailings went out not just to members and other identified Right to Work supporters, but also to vast numbers of other people our

organizations believed were likely supportive of the cause," noted National Committee President Mark Mix.

"We practically mailed the phone book in targeted districts. We felt safe doing so, because we knew from poll after poll that roughly 80% of Indianans support the Right to Work principle.

"This Daniels excuse is the opposite of the truth. In all probability, Indiana candidates' stands on Right to Work were better known by the public last year than their stands on any other single issue."

Speaker Kept Right to Work Measures Bottled up Until It Was Too Late

Republican House Speaker Brian Bosma (Indianapolis), despite having personally vowed to the National Committee board of directors in 2004 that he would do everything necessary to make Indiana a Right to Work state as soon as he had a chance to do so, kept Right to Work measures bottled up in committee this year at the governor's behest.

Only on February 21, the last day before all House measures that had not been approved by the entire chamber would automatically die, did Mr. Bosma

allow a pro forma hearing and committee vote on Right to Work legislation.

Mr. Bosma knew by then he could let a panel pass a Right to Work measure (deeply flawed because it excluded construction industry employees from protection) without offending Mr. Daniels, because the House Democrat minority could kill it the next day simply by fleeing the capitol, as they did.

Right to Work advocates were left without a quorum, and even the half-measure the speaker had allowed to come up at the last minute expired without a recorded floor vote.

Had Right to Work legislation been brought up early in January, as National and Indiana Committee strategists repeatedly told Indiana legislators, Big Labor Democrats could not have prevailed without absconding for the entire legislative session. It's unlikely they would have dared to do so.

Republican Politicians in Other States Act in Accord With What They Say

"I know the rationalizations Mitch Daniels has made for backstabbing Right to Work supporters are phony, but I don't purport to know what really did motivate his and Brian Bosma's betrayal of their freedom-loving constituents," said Committee President Mix. "I just know Right to Work supporters have been sold out, temporarily.

"One consolation is there is fresh evidence this year that not all politicians act that way.

"Take what's going on in the state of Maine, for example. After years of painstaking mobilization, Right to Work supporters in the Pine Tree State are now close to securing sufficient legislative support to send a Right to Work measure to GOP Gov. Paul LePage's desk.

"And, unlike Mitch Daniels, Paul LePage is actually trying to help move Right to Work legislation forward so he can sign it. In a February 26 radio address, Mr. LePage stated forthrightly: 'If you do not believe union membership helps in your pursuit of happiness, you should . . . have the right to decline participation.'

"Pro-Right to Work Hoosiers deserve to have such a governor. And, if they don't allow themselves to become discouraged and keep pressing hard to make Indiana a Right to Work state, one day in the not-too-distant future they will." 📞



CREDIT: WAYNE P. DAVIS/MAINE OBSERVER

In a late-February radio address, Maine Gov. Paul LePage (R) stated: "If you do not believe union

membership helps in your pursuit of happiness, you should . . . have the right to decline participation."

Indiana GOP Leaders Sabotage Right to Work Drive

In Contrast, Maine Governor Stands Up For His Avowed Principles

Eight years ago, Indiana citizens who were determined to free themselves and their fellow Hoosiers from the shackles of compulsory unionism launched what they knew from the beginning would be a sustained, and often difficult, effort to pass a state Right to Work law.

Ever since then, the organization these citizens put into high-gear in 2003, the Indiana Right to Work Committee, has mobilized an ever-loudening drumbeat of support for employee freedom.

Over the course of the ongoing campaign, the Indianapolis-based Right to Work group has benefited from the counsel and experience of the National Right to Work Committee.

And National Committee members and supporters who live in the Hoosier State, roughly 119,000 strong and growing in number year after year, have been the bulwark of the Indiana Right to Work campaign.

Stubborn Opposition to Right To Work Has Ended Long Political Careers in Indiana

In the 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010 state election cycles, pro-Right to Work Hoosiers sent thousands upon thousands of postcards, letters, and e-mail messages to their legislative candidates urging them to oppose forced unionism. Right to Work activists also reinforced the point with phone calls and personal visits.

Since the Indiana Committee emerged as a major statewide citizens lobby, many politicians who once rode the fence have decided to take a stand in favor of Right to Work. Other politicians who stubbornly continued to carry water for, or at least appease, Big Labor have gone down to defeat.

For example, in early 2005, then-Senate President Pro Tem Robert Garton (R-Columbus) told National Committee President Mark Mix that Right to Work legislation wouldn't get a floor vote in his chamber as long as he held his leadership position.

In 2006, Mr. Garton, a 36-year incumbent and the longest serving Senate pro tem in American history, was defeated by primary challenger Greg Walker, an underfunded political novice. A critical asset Mr. Walker did



CREDIT: AP PHOTO/MICHAEL CONROY

This winter, Indiana's Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels (center) and House Speaker Brian Bosma (left) stabbed

pro-Right to Work Hoosiers in the back, and temporarily killed their hopes of passing a state forced-dues ban.

have going for him was his 100% support for Right to Work.

That same year, 26-year state Rep. Mary Kay Budak (R-LaPorte) was ousted in a primary upset by pro-Right to Work challenger Tom Dermody. A few months earlier, Ms. Budak had been one of the minority of House Republicans who voted with Big Labor to defeat an amendment that would have made Indiana a Right to Work state.

While Mr. Garton and Ms. Budak are Republicans, the vast majority of Big Labor collaborators in the Indiana Legislature have been Democrats. That's why, last year especially, major Right to Work electoral gains have been a boon for Republican leaders.

This year, Republicans are solidly in control of the Indiana Senate and the Indiana House of Representatives, and majorities in both chambers are on the record in support of passing a Right to Work law that would bar the firing of employees for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union.

If Mitch Daniels, Indiana's GOP governor, had wanted his state to have

a Right to Work law, he could almost certainly have gotten it this year.

Actions of Indiana Governor Belie His Professed Support For Right to Work Principle

Right to Work supporters in Indiana and around the country have long known Mr. Daniels was no stalwart foe of forced unionism. But they have also had ample grounds to hope after their 2010 Hoosier State election sweep that the governor wouldn't stand in their way.

Mr. Daniels himself late last year admitted that Indiana's lack of a Right to Work "does hold us back economically. There's no doubt about it." In the same interview, he was indirectly quoted as referring to Right to Work as a "valid idea."

But even as he continued to try to avoid angering the pro-Right to Work majority of Indianans by purporting to agree with them, Mr. Daniels waged a low-key but devastating campaign

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