

December 6, 2006

Letters to the Editor
Sioux City Journal
515 Pavonia Street
Sioux City, IA 51102
Via web email:

Dear Letters Editor:

Incoming Iowa Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal and incoming House Speaker Pat Murphy have mangled the facts about the so-called “agency” shop legislation they are backing.

In comments quoted by reporter Charlotte Eby in her December 6 article, Gronstal falsely implied that union nonmembers “order” union bargaining the same way one orders a beer. The fact is, when union officials seek and obtain the power to act as the “exclusive” (monopoly) bargaining agent for all the employees in a shop, union nonmembers are forced to accept “services” they don’t want and never asked for.

Furthermore, union monopoly bargaining is undeniably detrimental to many employees’ interests. For example, state affiliates of the National Education Association (NEA) teacher union have time and again bitterly fought efforts by local school boards to offer higher pay for hard-to-fill teaching positions in math, science, and other subject areas. Why should math, science, and other teachers with special talents who aren’t union members be forced to pay for the “benefit” of receiving lower pay than they otherwise would?

Murphy was quoted in Eby’s article as claiming enactment of agency-fee legislation would differ from repeal of Iowa’s Right to Work law. In reality, even in non-Right to Work states, it hasn’t been legal to force workers to become full union members since the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its *General Motors* decision in 1963. The special coercive power Organized Labor wields in non-Right to Work states is the power to collect forced union fees from nonmembers – and that’s the precise coercive power Iowa union bosses will get if an “agency”-fee scheme is enacted.

Respectfully,

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