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Showdown on 'Card-Check' Bill May Be Imminent *Sponsor Readies Summer Roll-Call on S.560 or Its Near Equivalent*

Big Labor U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), one of the two principal sponsors of the Senate version (S.560) of the cynically mislabeled "Employee Free Choice Act," has gone on the record predicting this scheme may come to the floor of his chamber of Congress as soon as this month.

According to reporter Jessica Brady, writing for the Capitol Hill newspaper *Roll Call*, Mr. Harkin indicated in a June 10 interview that he would "be ready to bring up" this summer either S.560 itself or "Plan B" legislation designed to achieve S.560's pro-forced unionism objectives through somewhat different means.

Mr. Harkin, fellow S.560 principal sponsor Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), and the union hierarchy are now all apparently leaning toward a Plan B strategy rather than pushing for a floor showdown over S.560 itself.

Heeding Barack Obama, Tom Harkin Now Crafting 'Elegant' Means of Dragooning Workers

The reason for the switch is simple: Grass-roots citizens, led by National Right to Work Committee members, have over the past few months waged a very effective lobbying campaign against S.560 and its U.S. House companion, H.R.1409.

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

The undisguised aim of S.560/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"



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Big Labor Sen. Tom Harkin is vowing he will "be ready to bring up" this summer either S.560 itself or "Plan B"

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(monopoly) bargaining agent in their dealings with their employer.

A major provision in the legislation would accomplish this goal by effectively ending secret-ballot elections in union organizing campaigns.

This "card-check" provision is so flagrantly anti-worker that it has become a rallying cry for freedom-loving citizens across America. It is largely because of this provision that the chances for passage of S.560/H.R.1409 exactly as written are now, despite Big Labor's enormous clout, slender.

Though he voted for card-check forced-unionism legislation as a senator and personally has no problem with helping Big Labor avoid secret-ballot votes, at least since the month he was inaugurated President Barack Obama has seen the need for a less obviously sinister "Plan B."

In a January interview with the *Washington Post*, Mr. Obama suggested 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.

This summer, Tom Harkin is following Barack Obama's advice, step by step.

AFL-CIO Legislative Chief: Harkin 'Plan B' Will Have Same 'Basic Thrust' as S.560

"All signs point to the fact that Tom Harkin will soon introduce a more 'elegant' bill that appears less menacing than S.560, but viciously attacks

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Trojan Horse Measure Looming

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individual employee freedom all the same," warned National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"For example, Mr. Harkin is closely consulting with AFL-CIO Legislative Director Bill Samuel as he concocts his 'Plan B.' And Mr. Samuel has publicly made it clear that the union brass will go along with a 'Plan B' only as long as it has no changes that 'would undermine the basic thrust' of S.560.

"For example, union kingpins might go along with a 'Plan B' that, instead of effectively eliminating secret-ballot elections like S.560, accomplishes the same pro-union monopoly objective by rewriting workplace election rules to tilt them even more steeply in union organizers' favor.

"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 a bogus 'compromise' is just as unacceptable as S.560 itself."

(The Committee currently considers 15 senators to be "swing" votes on S.560 and on any Trojan Horse legislation that Tom Harkin may introduce as a substitute for it. For their names and contact information, see page three of this Newsletter.)

Pro-Union Monopoly Legislation Based On a False Premise

Mr. Mix continued:

"This summer freedom-loving Americans must keep turning up the pressure.

"Otherwise, union lobbyists may lose the battle over S.560/H.R.1409, but win the war by securing 60 Senate votes for legislation that is almost equally destructive of the individual employee's freedom and private enterprise.

"That would be enough votes to cut off Right to Work debate in the Senate. After that, House passage and a presidential rubber-stamp would be sure things."

The unexamined, and false, premise of both unabashed S.560 proponents

like Mr. Harkin and waverers like Sen. Arlen Specter (D-Pa.) 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.

Monopoly Unionism Negatively Correlated With State GDP Growth

"From 2003 to 2008, for example, the aggregate gross domestic product (GDP), in constant, chained 2000 dollars, for the states with the lowest share of workers under union monopoly control increased by a healthy 17.3%," Mr. Mix continued.

"In these 10 states, as of 2003 4.7% or less of private employees were forced to accept a union as their monopoly-bargaining agent.

"Meanwhile, the real GDP of the country as a whole grew by just 12.7%

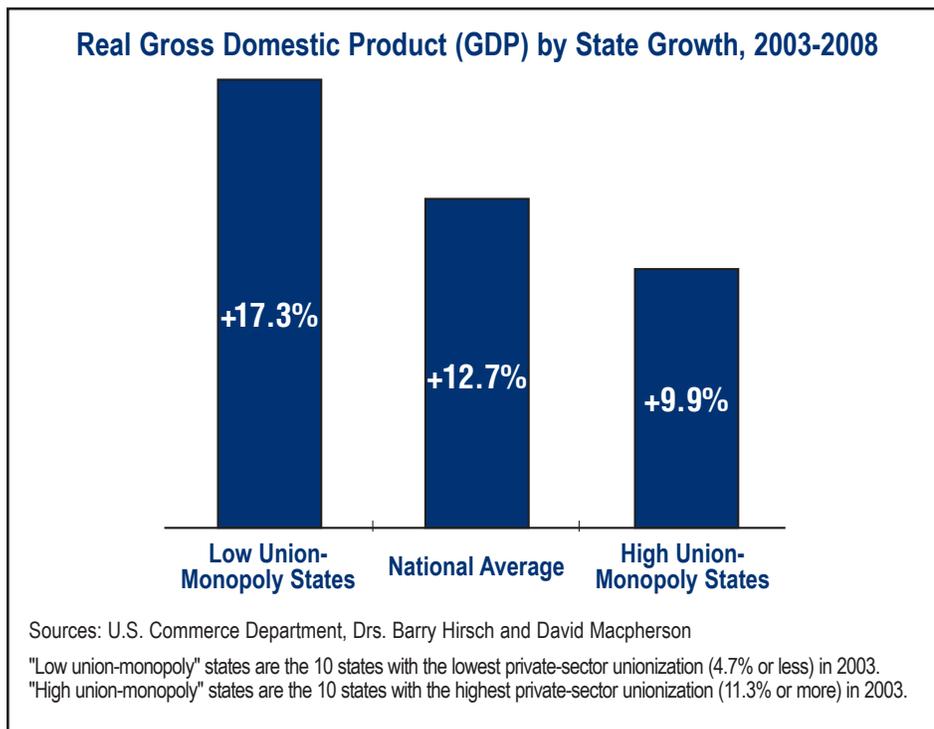
"And in the 10 states with the highest private-sector unionization, aggregate output grew by just 9.9% -- roughly 57% as much as in the lowest-union-density states.

"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 economic growth generally and with job growth in particular.

"Enactment of S.560 or its near equivalent would mean millions more employees hamstrung by wasteful union work rules and slowdowns that destroy good jobs.

"Another consequence would be millions of additional workers forced to pay union dues or fees just to keep their jobs. Much of the confiscated cash would be funneled by Big Labor into efforts to elect even more anti-Right to Work, Tax & Spend politicians to Congress."

"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." 



Increasing sharply the share of private-sector workers who are under union monopoly control would, history

indicates, hurt workers and businesses of all kinds by putting the brakes on economic growth.