NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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Message to Congress: Stop Protecting Union Thugs

Committee Members Push For Roll-Call Votes on Union-Violence Bill

When Jeffrey Leyland, the manager of a nonunion movie theater in Melrose Park, Ill., entered his apartment building's parking lot one summer night, he knew Chicago union officials were mad at him.

But he probably thought he would be safe just outside his home in Elmhurst, located 17 miles west of Chicago.

Unfortunately, he wasn't. Within seconds, a baseball-bat wielding union goon came out of the darkness to attack Mr. Leyland.

'Thank You. I Think He Got the Message'

While his cohort Michael Rossi stood lookout, projectionists union agent Peter Macari broke Mr. Leyland's skull and smashed his hands and arms. Having almost murdered Mr. Leyland, Mr. Macari and his sidekick fled the scene.

Later, Albin Brenkus, business manager of the Chicago-based Motion Picture Projectionists, Operators & Video Technicians union, otherwise known as Local 110 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE/AFL-CIO), allegedly congratulated Mr. Macari.

"He [Mr. Brenkus] said, 'Thank you. I think he [Mr. Leyland] got the message,'" testified Mr. Macari in federal court last year. With Mr. Brenkus's help, Mr. Macari obtained a protectionist's job for administering the beating.

Chicago Union Boss Taught Henchmen How to Make Incendiary Devices

At the trial, Mr. Brenkus's union lawyer *admitted* his client had rewarded the assailant with a job.

ISTOCK.COM

Union kingpin Albin Brenkus orchestrated the planting of smoke bombs in crowded theaters to intimidate theater managers into acquiescing to forced unionism. But current federal law says that's not "extortion."

He also *admitted* Mr. Brenkus had personally instructed union goons on how to make highly flammable smoke bombs, and ordered them to deploy bombs in occupied theaters in 10 different states over the course of two years.

His goal was to force theater owners to recognize Local 110 as employees' "exclusive" (monopoly) bargaining agent.

As a consequence of Mr. Brenkus's "organizing" tactics, thousands of terrorized patrons of Loews, AMC and Cinemark theaters fled out of movies in 1998 and 1999 when incendiary devices -- made of brake fluid and chlorine -- were set off near seats, sparking smoke and fire.

Incredibly, however, on March 5, 2004, Albin Brenkus was acquitted of arson and racketeering charges.

Legal Loophole is Thuggish Union Bosses' Best Pal

The infuriating outcome of the Brenkus trial was no aberration.

In today's America, prosecutions of Big Labor arson, assaults, death threats, and other serious crimes are extraordinarily difficult.

See **Loophole** *next page*

Loophole Legitimizes Union Violence

Continued from page 1

Such prosecutions are frequently hindered because of a loophole in federal law that exempts extortionate violence from prosecution when it is committed pursuant to so-called "legitimate union objectives."

And one objective that federal law clearly deems to be "legitimate" is to expand the number of employees who are forced to accept union representation and pay union dues as a condition of employment.

Committee Mailing Mobilizes Tens of Thousands of Members

"The evidence connected Albin Brenkus to one beating with a baseball bat, another with a pipe, and the planting of incendiary devices in 20 different theaters, all committed for extortionate purposes as that word is commonly understood," noted National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"But because of the pro-union violence loophole in federal anti-extortion law, he couldn't be charged with extortion.

"With the law so heavily tilted in his client's favor, Mr. Brenkus's union lawyer nearly got him off scot-free -- except he couldn't explain away a taped conversation in which Mr. Brenkus told confessed arsonist Joseph Marjan to lie to a grand jury.

"Due to that one slip-up, the orchestrator of multiple smoke bomb attacks in crowded theaters and one or more deadly assaults was convicted on a single count of obstruction of justice. Otherwise, he'd be back in business already."

A letter from Mr. Mix to tens of thousands of Committee members, posted early this month, urges them to sign and return petitions calling on their U.S. senators and representatives to cosponsor and vote for pending legislation that would close the union-violence loophole.

Freedom From Union Violence Act Would Close Lethal Loophole

The Freedom from Union Violence Act (S.618 and H.R.239) would hold union officials who plan, commit, or foment extortionate violence against a firm's employees to the same standard as business rivals, gangsters, or anyone else who does the same.

AP

Sens. John Kerry and Ted Kennedy love to get forced union dues-funded campaign support from Big Labor. But they won't be smiling if they're forced to vote on the Freedom from Union Violence Act.

If S.618 or H.R.239 is enacted, power-hungry, win-at-any-cost Big Labor barons will no longer be able, without fear of federal prosecution, to resort to violence as a union "organizing" or "bargaining" tool.

Originally introduced by Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) and Congressman Joe Wilson (R-S.C.), the Freedom from Union Violence Act now has 20 Senate and House sponsors.

In his recent letter to members on this measure, Mr. Mix noted that it is especially timely this year:

"With the increased Right to Work support in Congress, you and I must act now to end the union bosses' campaign of violence and murder. . . .

"But if this important bill is going to pass, I must have your help immediately."

To overcome the fierce resistance of Big Labor-backed politicians like Sens. John Kerry and Ted Kennedy (both D-Mass.) and Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.), the Committee will need both moral and financial support from members, Mr. Mix explained.

Massive Mail, Phone And Media Programs Needed to Enlist Support

He outlined what he described as a "three-phase plan for victory" that involves:

* * Contacting millions of Americans by mail and phone and asking them to sign and return petitions in support of S.618 and H.R.239 for their senators and congressmen.

* * Briefing influential editors, columnists and radio talk show hosts with the aim of securing their help in raising the pressure on Capitol Hill politicians.

* * Running hard-hitting, targeted TV, radio and newspaper ads to overcome Big Labor's lobbying machine, which is fueled by dues money workers are forced to pay as a job condition.

"Despite all their conscripted campaign funds and their puppet politicians, top union bosses know they don't have public opinion on their side on the union-violence issue," noted Mr. Mix early this month.

"That's why I believe this battle can be won. But to prevail, Right to Work members will have to wage an extended and furious fight."

As a first, critical step, Mr. Mix urged members to sign and return to Committee headquarters their petitions in support of the Freedom from Union Violence Act as soon as they receive them.

Committee Protects Nevada's Right to Work Law

Right to Work Supporters Bust Up Big Labor's Carson City Con Job

Smooth-talking union lobbyists recently came dangerously close to eviscerating Nevada's 54-year-old Right to Work law, but the National Right to Work Committee and its members thwarted Big Labor's scheme at the last minute.

On April 26, the Nevada state Assembly voted with virtually no notice to approve A.B.69, a camouflaged attack on the Silver State's Right to Work statute, which prohibits the firing of workers for refusal to pay dues or "fees" to an unwanted union.

In its original form, A.B.69, sponsored by Big Labor lackey Assemblywoman Ellen Koivisto (D-Las Vegas), would have flat-out repealed the Right to Work law and reinstated forced unionism.

But by the time A.B.69 reached the Assembly floor, it had been cleverly disguised. Union-label proponents suggested the amended bill would hardly do anything at all, but were at the same time disturbingly eager to pass it.

LCB MEDIA SVCS

By testifying before the Nevada state Senate May 17, Committee Director of Legislation Greg Mourad helped thwart union lobbyists' recent back-door attack on the Silver State's Right to Work law.

Phony 'Remedy' Would Have Made Monopoly-Bargaining Regime Even More Unjust

The amended A.B.69 was a counterfeit "remedy" for the federal labor-law provisions that force private-sector employees in Nevada and every other state to accept union officials as their "exclusive" bargaining agents in contract negotiations and grievance procedures.

Under federal law, employees who choose not to join a union can take money out of their own pockets to pay for a nonunion lawyer to prepare them to argue their grievance -- then see their settlement junked because it doesn't conform to the union contact!

A.B.69 as amended would have compounded this injustice by forcing any union nonmember who, realizing he or she has no real choice, instead follows union-created grievance procedures to pay forced fees to the union.

Big Labor would have been entitled to sue workers who refused to pay for so-called grievance "services" that they were effectively forced to accept.

Apparently duped by union lobbyists who had told them A.B.69 would not undermine Nevada's Right to Work law, even normally anti-forced unionism legislators joined with the Big Labor Assembly majority to rubber-stamp it.

But then National Right to Work Committee members and supporters across Nevada sprang into action.

Alerted by the National Committee, pro-Right to Work Nevadans quickly began flooding state Senate offices with postcards and phone messages calling for the defeat of A.B.69.

Committee Officer, Members Helped Nevada Politicians Get Their Bearings

At the same time, Committee Director of Legislation Greg Mourad led a team of Right to Work staffers on a Nevada lobbying blitz to ensure that every state senator knew what was at stake.

Mr. Mourad met personally with well over half of the 21 Nevada state senators in Carson City, the state's capital.

He also testified before the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor, forcefully refuting union lobbyists' attempts to whitewash their scheme.

"Big Labor lobbyists relied on the blatant misrepresentation that union nonmembers 'choose' to use the union-controlled grievance process. This was their excuse to force nonmembers to pay 'fees' that are potentially even higher than union membership dues," explained Mr. Mourad.

"But the fact is, federal law prohibits union nonmembers from seeking representation in a grievance by anyone other than a union monopoly-bargaining agent.

"A union nonmember is not even permitted to hire [an independent] lawyer to represent him until after the union-controlled grievance process has been exhausted."

After Right to Work members and supporters made it clear they were on the alert and Mr. Mourad revealed the true nature of the amended A.B.69, the bill couldn't survive.

Feeling intense heat, the Commerce and Labor Committee let it pass the May 20 deadline for legislative action without bringing it up for a vote. Consequently, A.B.69 is now dead.

"This is another important victory for the Right to Work cause," concluded Mr. Mourad.

"As long as federal labor law continues to tilt the scales in favor of union monopoly, Right to Work states should continue providing nonmembers with the greatest possible protection under state law.

"Nevadans' Right to Work shouldn't be tampered with."

Committee Leader to Testify Against 'Salting'

Right to Work Members Press For Votes on Truth in Employment Act

Eager to increase the pressure on Congress to crack down on the extortionate union-boss tactic known as "salting," National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix has accepted an invitation to testify before a U.S. House panel later this month.

Mr. Mix and several other witnesses will present evidence about salting to the House Small Business Committee's Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment, and Government Programs.

This subcommittee is chaired by Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colo.), who since first being elected in 2002 has proven herself to be one of Capitol Hill's most steadfast defenders of the Right to Work principle.

Tactic's Aim: Either Impose Forced Unionism, or Cripple the Business

Legislation pending in both chambers of Congress, known as the Truth in Employment Act, would remove the federal authorization for Big Labor's salting of firms, usually small firms in the construction industry, with union militants.

The union militants, known as "salts," typically aim to do one of two things: Either force the firm's loyal employees to accept union monopoly bargaining and pay union dues, or inflict severe economic harm, even bankruptcy, on the business.

Union bosses pay or simply order salts to apply for jobs so they can drum up so-called "unfair labor practice" charges and glean information to find and harass a firm's clients.

Salting is thus designed to blackmail employers into handing loyal employees over to Organized Labor bosses without the employees' consent.

The Truth in Employment Act, sponsored in the House as H.R.1816 by Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa) and in the Senate as S.983 by Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.), would sharply curtail salting abuses.

It wouldn't end federally-imposed compulsory unionism, which is the root of the problem.

But it would allow employers to refuse to hire union saboteurs who are employed and paid by Big Labor bosses to help force a business's employees to accept monopoly union representation.

Currently, employers who refuse to hire union saboteurs face heavy fines and other penalties.

HOUSE.GOV

WIKIMEDIA.ORG

Rep. Steve King (left) and Sen. Jim DeMint have both introduced the Truth in Employment Act, which would repeal the federal authorization for Big Labor "salting" of independent businesses.

At a February 2004 House hearing on Big Labor salting, Mr. Mix showed how salting works in practic.

President Mix Previously Testified About Bullying Of Nebraska Family Firm

Mr. Mix recounted the bitter experience of a masonry firm owned and operated by Charles and Linda Walz and their two daughters in Omaha, Neb.

Mr. Walz "started out in the trades as a union man, but soon figured out he could provide better service at lower prices for customers by going out on his own, union-free," Mr. Mix testified.

"Before long, his company was flourishing. His clients were happy and so was his small but growing army of employees. But Charley's success came at a price.

"The bigger Charley's company grew, the more union officials wanted to force his employees under union monopoly 'representation.'

"When Charley's employees resisted the unwanted advances of union organizers, the 'salting' began.

"Charley's company was fined $20,000 by the NLRB [National Labor Relations Board], after having spent double that on legal expenses, for failing to hire union 'salts.'

"Yet videotaped evidence, supplied by Charley's lawyers, showed that the union salts had refused job applications that were offered to them by Charley's daughter.

"Charley is still in business. He was able to survive the union's salting campaign, but many are not so lucky."

Most Newsletter readers who received this month's issue in the mail will find enclosed with it a letter from Mr. Mix regarding the Committee's campaign to stop salting and postcards addressing their congressmen and senators.

Right to Work Members Urged to Help Recruit Salting Bill Cosponsors

Mr. Mix urges Right to Work members and supporters to sign and mail right away the postcards asking their elected officials in Washington, D.C., to cosponsor and seek recorded votes on H.R.1816 and S.983.

"Thanks to Committee members' recent success in building Right to Work strength on Capitol Hill," argues Mr. Mix, "there is reason to hope the Truth in Employment Act can be passed by Congress and signed by President Bush before November 2006.

"But for now we must focus on building up the number of House and Senate cosponsors. And achieving that goal alone will require a nationwide mobilization of Right to Work supporters."

'We're Not Even Asking For a Wage Increase'

Ohio School Strike Threat Issued Over Forced Union Dues, Period

In economically struggling Ohio, the evidence of compulsory unionism's corrosive impact is all around -- in private earnings and profits and in the public sector.

U.S. Commerce Department data show that, between 2000 and 2004, real personal income in Ohio grew more slowly than in 43 of the 50 states.

During the same period, aggregate real personal income grew more than three times as fast in states with Right to Work laws, which prohibit the firing of employees for refusal to join or pay dues or "fees" to an unwanted union, as it did in Ohio.

All 22 of the states that now have a Right to Work law enjoyed faster income growth than Ohio did.

And recently residents of the small community of New Lebanon, located 17 miles west of Dayton, have witnessed an egregious example of how forced unionism poisons labor relations in the public sector.

School-employee union officials' strike threat this spring in the southwestern Ohio community of New Lebanon is a disturbing example of how state-authorized forced unionism promotes labor strife.

'This Could Get Very Ugly'

Since 1983, state law in Ohio has explicitly authorized the termination of public employees simply because they won't pay forced fees to a union they would never voluntarily join.

And the vast majority of public school districts in the state have since succumbed to pressure from union bosses to make paying union tribute a condition of employment.

However, a number of school board members and managers throughout Ohio, including New Lebanon Local Schools Superintendent Mike Eckert, have stood up for education employees' Right to Work.

In April, Mr. Eckert bluntly told the Dayton *Daily News* that "it's not the board's responsibility to get 100% of the employees to join the union."

The principled stand taken by Mr. Eckert and the New Lebanon school board enraged Trina Campine, czarina of Local 650 of the Ohio Association of Public School Employees (OAPSE), a union affiliated with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and the AFL-CIO.

On April 15, OAPSE union militants voted to authorize a strike as a means of securing a forced-dues deal.

Ms. Campine proudly admitted that she was ready to order school employees, including aides, bus drivers, cashiers, clerks, cooks, custodians and secretaries, out on strike with no intent of winning them better pay or benefits:

"We're not even asking for a wage increase," she told *Daily News* reporter Lou Grieco.

For two weeks, the community braced for a school strike. Noting that fights had already broken out among school employees and buses had been vandalized, one resident gloomily predicted in a local online forum: "This could get very ugly . . . ."

Freedom-Loving Buckeyes Fight For Better Future

In late April, Ms. Campine and her followers temporarily lifted their strike threat out of concern it could cause two local school tax increases to fail. (As it happened, one levy passed and the other was rejected in New Lebanon's May 3 elections.)

However, the threat of a new strike authorization vote is looming as this month's Newsletter goes to press.

Many Buckeye State citizens are sick and tired of compulsory unionism and the economic torpor and workplace antagonism that are its inevitable byproducts.

That's why more and more Ohioans are joining together to help pass a state Right to Work law prohibiting forced union dues and fees.

For several election cycles now, the Columbus-based grass-roots group Ohioans for Freedom and Jobs has surveyed state legislative candidates on the forced-unionism issue and mobilized pro-Right to Work citizens to contact the candidates regarding their surveys.

The National Right to Work Committee has consistently provided its aid and encouragement for this endeavor.

Thanks to Buckeye State activists' persistence, support for Right to Work has greatly increased in the Ohio Legislature since the mid-nineties and could reach the tipping point in the near future.

"Today's Ohio is an egregious example of the ills of forced unionism," commented Committee President Mark Mix. "But tomorrow's Ohio could be a shining example of how a state can get back on track by protecting the Right to Work."

Worker Pensions or AFL-CIO Political Leverage?

Committee Calls For Probe of New Variety of Union Pension Abuse

Over the past two years, top union officials have begun misusing workers' hard-earned money in a novel way.

Thanks largely to the efforts of the 2.2 million members of the National Right to Work Committee, union officials' frequent misexpenditure of workers' forced-dues money on luxurious living, partisan political crusades, and much more is already well known.

'Uncooperative' Financial Firms Threatened With Loss Of Union Pension Assets

Big Labor abuse of worker pension and benefit funds is also a familiar phenomenon. More than 20 years ago, the Committee widely distributed a study exposing union trustees' "social investment" of pension funds to promote compulsory unionism rather than earn a good, safe return for future retirees.

But it's only very recently that the AFL-CIO hierarchy has begun resorting to outright intimidation to enlist pension managers as partisan allies.

This year, top AFL-CIO officers have repeatedly made thinly veiled threats that the $400 billion in pension assets held by AFL-CIO-affiliated unions will be pulled from any financial services company that supports personal Social Security accounts.

The Big Labor threats have been effective, according to U.S. House Education and the Workforce Committee Chairman John Boehner (R-Ohio) and Employer-Employee Relations Sub-committee Chairman Sam Johnson (R-Texas).

At least two financial firms have "withdraw[n] their support of the President's proposal to reform Social Security [a plan that includes the introduction of personal accounts] . . . in the face of concerted union pressure tactics," the congressmen charged in a March 18 letter to Labor Secretary Elaine Chao.

The Big Labor tactics include "tacit and/or explicit notice to these firms that if they support the President's proposal, the union will withdraw its assets and invest through brokerages they find more politically palatable."

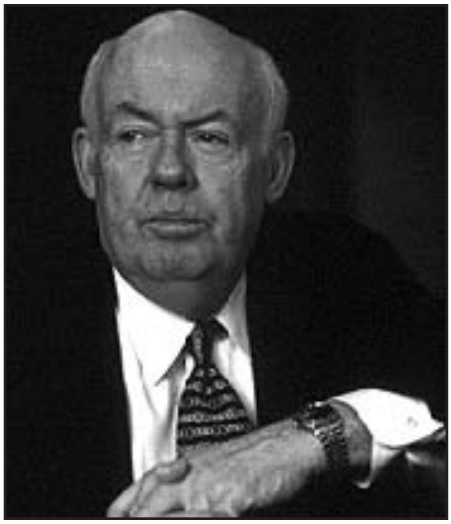
But as U.S. Labor Department official Alan Leibowitz pointed out in a May 3 letter to AFL-CIO General Counsel Jon Hiatt, it is illegal for pension fund fiduciaries to "blacklist" plan service providers because they have taken a particular public-policy stand.

And public threats by AFL-CIO officials implying that union pension fund fiduciaries may blacklist firms that support Social Security personal accounts are, at the very least, highly improper.

AFL-CIO Counsel Accused of Dodging Key Legal Issue

On May 23, Right to Work President Mark Mix posted a letter to Mr. Boehner and Mr. Johnson, urging that they conduct oversight hearings regarding the AFL-CIO brass's intimidation campaign.

In his letter, Mr. Mix charged: "[T]he use by union officials of their control over the pension funds of union members to pressure investment firms to alter their [public-policy] positions . . . is likely a serious violation of existing law."



U.S.NEWS

AFL-CIO czar John Sweeney is using intimidation to enlist pension managers as partisan allies.

Mr. Mix also charged that, in his response to Mr. Lebowitz, AFL-CIO lawyer Hiatt "failed to address whether [AFL-CIO officers] had pressured plan fiduciaries" to blacklist firms that have endorsed personal accounts. Instead, Mr. Hiatt "talk[ed] around the issue."

But Mr. Boehner and Mr. Johnson can help the public find out exactly what Big Labor is up to.

"Union bosses' contempt for the law is no secret," commented Mr. Mix early this month.

"This spring, AFL-CIO officers have even been reported to have suggested that union pension fund fiduciaries could legally expend plan assets to mobilize opposition to Social Security personal accounts. That's both false and outrageous!

"Congress must act now to hold the AFL-CIO brass accountable.

"Of course, the union-boss arrogance that's been on display in recent weeks is fueled by Big Labor's forced-unionism privileges under federal law.

"And that's why, in addition to conducting oversight hearings, Mr. Boehner and Mr. Johnson should do everything in their power to help pass national Right to Work legislation barring forced union dues and 'fees.'"

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Favorite Excuse For Forced Dues Is a Fraud

New Book (Inadvertently) Debunks Anti-Right to Work Propaganda

Under federal and state law, employers can be forced to accept a union as the "exclusive" bargaining agent of some or all of their employees.

Employees can also be forced to accept union monopoly bargaining if they want to keep their jobs.

Only the union official is free to choose under the law to refuse monopoly privileges and seek instead to bargain on a members-only basis. Clearly, monopoly bargaining is designed for the benefit of union officials, not employers or the individual employee.

Apologists For Forced Unionism Invert the Facts

But apologists for compulsory unionism often turn these simple facts on their head.

For example, "The Big Lie," an AFL-CIO-produced tract commonly distributed by union officials engaged in anti-Right to Work drives, states:

"Federal law requires a union to represent all employees where the union has a contract with the employer. . . . [A] union is [legally] forced to represent all workers -- union and nonunion alike -- within the bargaining unit."

The AFL-CIO PR piece's gist is that, since union bosses supposedly "are forced" to represent nonmembers at the bargaining table, nonmembers must be forced to pay union dues or fees, or be fired.

Even if the premise of this argument were correct, its logic would still be deeply flawed. But the premise is actually bunk.

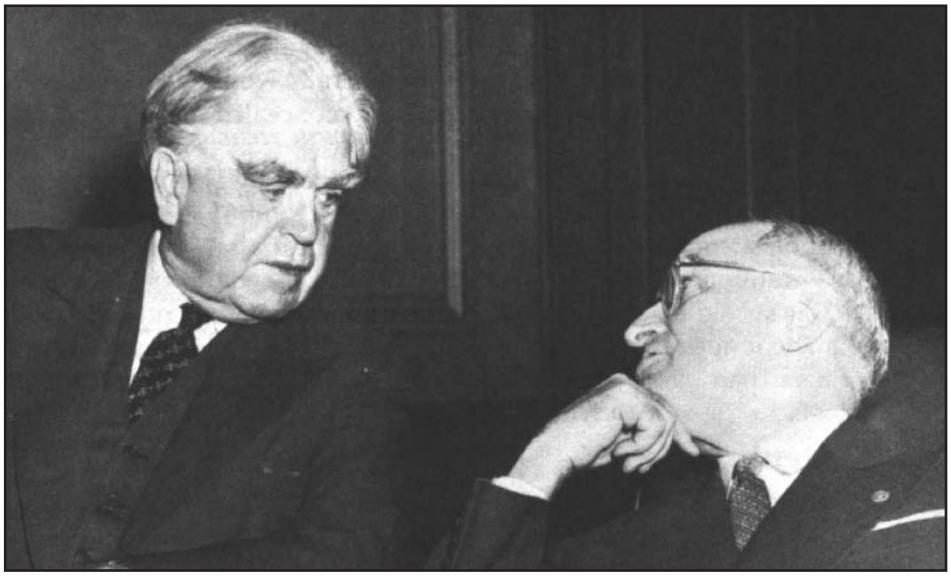
A new book by pro-forced unionism academic Charles Morris -- glowingly "blurbed" on its dustjacket by AFL-CIO bigwig Linda Chavez-Thompson -- inadvertently blows apart Big Labor's excuse for forced unionism.

As Dr. Morris's book (entitled *The Blue Eagle at Work*) establishes in detail, nothing in federal law prevents union officials and employers from negotiating "members-only" contracts.

Although the 1935 National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) authorized union monopoly bargaining over nearly all private-sector production workers, in the late thirties "[u]nions and employers continued to agree to members-only contracts."

Union officials like John L. Lewis and Philip Murray of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (or CIO, one of two precursors of today's AFL-CIO) entered into thousands of contracts recognizing a CIO union "as collective bargaining agent [only] for those employees who were its members."

Between 1935 and 1938, "members-only agreements were as common as exclusivity agreements [monopoly bargaining], and their coverage was perhaps even more extensive."



UPI

Labor law hasn't substantively changed since CIO union boss John L. Lewis (left, pictured with Harry Truman) negotiated hundreds of "members-only" contracts. But today Big Labor pretends such contracts are illegal!

Dr. Morris explains that Mr. Lewis, Mr. Murray, and countless other union officials found members-only contracts "useful" in businesses where, despite their NLRA privileges, they were unable to impose monopoly bargaining.

As industry after industry where members-only bargaining was once the norm succumbed to Big Labor demands for monopoly bargaining, all but a tiny handful of union officials ceased to see members-only bargaining as "useful."

But a series of U.S. Supreme Court decisions, including two key rulings issued after Congress had adopted NLRA amendments in 1947 and 1959, have affirmed that members-only bargaining remains permissible under the law if union officials choose that option.

The Blue Eagle at Work, which strongly favors union monopoly power over employees, nevertheless endorses members-only bargaining as a means for union officials to get their foot in the door at hard-to-organize businesses.

The author obviously doesn't intend to demonstrate that Big Labor's favorite excuse for forced union dues is a fraud. But effectively, he has done that.

Union Officials' Complaints About Right to Work Laws . . . Completely Phony!

"As the National Right to Work Committee has repeatedly pointed out and as Charles Morris has just confirmed, federal law doesn't 'force' union officials to negotiate monopoly contracts covering nonmembers," said Committee Vice President Matthew Leen.

"So why is it then that union officials today hardly ever bargain contracts covering only union members? Money! Union officials treasure their monopoly-bargaining privileges.

"'Exclusive' representation gives union officials uncontested power to negotiate over pay, promotions, work rules, and layoffs for all workers in a bureaucratically-determined 'unit.'"

Of course, state Right to Work laws that prohibit forcing union nonmembers to pay for unwanted union monopoly bargaining limit the degree to which workers' freedom is trampled. But until Big Labor monopoly bargaining is eliminated, workers won't be completely free of forced unionism.

Emerging House Leader Favors H.R.500 Roll Call

Rising Political Star Mike Pence 'Optimistic' Vote Will Happen

Complimenting National Right to Work Committee members and supporters for their dedication and effectiveness in lobbying the U.S. Congress, Rep. Mike Pence (R-Ind.) says he is "optimistic" that the House and Senate will vote on national Right to Work legislation before November 2006.

Mr. Pence recently attended a banquet held in Arlington, Va., to honor the half-century of service to the Right to Work movement bestowed by Reed Larson, the Committee's leader from 1959 until 2003, and his wife Jeanne.

The congressman presented Mr. Larson with the Committee's 2005 Everett M. Dirksen award.

Congressman Points to Growing Capitol Hill Support For Right to Work

"If it weren't for Reed and the Committee, there would be no state Right to Work laws and countless more American workers would be under compulsory unionism," says Mr. Pence.

"But thanks to the Committee, today there are 22 state Right to Work laws.

"And Capitol Hill support for the National Right to Work Act, which would remove the provisions in federal labor law that authorize forced union dues and 'fees' in all 50 states, is growing steadily.

"The President, the House speaker, and the Senate majority leader are all on the record in favor of the Right to Work Bill. And a majority of members of the House Education & Workforce Committee also support this bill.

"I am optimistic both the House and the Senate will vote on it before the next elections."

Mr. Pence Is Chairman Of the Largest Caucus Group in His Chamber

This winter Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) and Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.) introduced separate versions of the National Right to Work Act (H.R.500 and S.370, respectively) in the two chambers of Congress. The Right to Work measure now has 101 House and Senate sponsors.

Mike Pence's hopefulness regarding the prospects for a recorded floor vote on H.R.500 is especially heartening for Right to Work supporters because he is an emerging and influential House leader.

MIKEPENCE.HOUSE.GOV

"I am optimistic both the House and the Senate will vote" on Right to Work measures before the November 2006 elections, says Rep. Mike Pence, chairman of the House Republican Study Committee.

He is the elected chairman of the pro-free market House Republican Study Committee (RSC).

With over 100 members, the RSC is larger than any other caucus group (a faction of legislators who regularly meet and identify themselves as a bloc based on a common ideological or other interest) in the House.

Mr. Pence was even described recently as a "contender for speaker" once current Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) retires by *The Hill*, a newspaper covering Congress that is widely read by Capitol Hill insiders.

"Mike Pence's House colleagues recognize that he is politically savvy and solidly principled," said Committee President Mark Mix.

"And that's why, by predicting the Right to Work Bill will be voted on, he is actually improving the odds that it will happen."

Freedom Lovers 'Have a Right to Know Where Their Politicians Stand'

"Poll after poll shows that nearly four out of five citizens who regularly vote in federal elections support the Right to Work principle," continued Mr. Mix.

"Freedom loving Americans have a right to know where their politicians stand on this issue.

"That alone should be sufficient reason for Congress to hold floor votes on H.R.500 and S.370, even if it turns out that Big Labor politicians band together to kill these bills.

"But that's not all.

"History shows that, when politicians brush aside the views of the vast majority of their constituents by voting against Right to Work, they often pay the price at the ballot box the next time they run for reelection.

"Therefore, any Big Labor 'victory' in a floor showdown over the Right to Work Bill will prove to be a costly one.

"Before too long, roll calls will lead to enactment of a national Right to Work law and abolition of compulsory union dues."

Mr. Mix urged Right to Work members nationwide to call Mr. Pence's office at 202-225-3021 and thank him for pushing for a roll-call floor vote on H.R.500.