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House Panel Debates State Budget Problems, Whether Bargaining Rights Need to Be Cut

Daily Labor Report Online, 4/14/2011

Members of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee April 14 engaged in sometimes heated debate with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) and Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin (D) regarding whether public employees' collective bargaining rights need to be curtailed in order to resolve the states' fiscal troubles.

The hearing also featured testimony from American Enterprise Institute resident scholars Andrew Biggs and Desmond Lachman, National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation President Mark Mix, and Professor Robert Novy-Marx of the University of Rochester Simon Graduate School of Business.

Wisconsin Judge Dismisses Suit Against Collective Bargaining Law, but TRO Stands

Daily Labor Report Online, 4/14/2011

CHICAGO—A state court judge in Wisconsin April 14 dismissed one of the three suits seeking to void Gov. Scott Walker's (R) controversial law stripping public sector workers of collective bargaining rights, ruling that the plaintiffs in the matter did not have standing to challenge the law (*Dane Cnty. v. Wisconsin*, Wis. Cir. Ct., No. 11 CV 1175, 4/14/11).

Hoffa Denounces Appearance By Gov. Scott Walker In Congress

Teamsters.org, 4/14/2011

Walker was to testify before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee at a hearing titled, "State and Municipal Debt: Tough Choices Ahead."

Walker was joined at the hearing by representatives from the anti-worker group National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, which was founded by the Koch brothers, and American Enterprise Institute, which is supported by the Kochs.

NMB Decision Likely to Shift Representation Of 1,000 Frontier, Other Pilots to Teamsters

Daily Labor Report Online, 4/13/2011

Officials at the International Brotherhood of Teamsters April 13 said they were pleased with a recent ruling by the National Mediation Board that Frontier Airlines and five other subsidiaries of Republic Airways Holdings Inc. are a single transportation system for representation purposes for about 3,057 pilots (In re Application of Int'l Bhd. of Teamsters, 38 N.M.B. No. 39, 4/7/11).

SEIU Lifts Trusteeship of Large California Local

Daily Labor Report Online, 4/13/2011

The Service Employees International Union April 9 lifted a 26-month trusteeship over its 150,000-member California local, United Healthcare Workers-West, after new leaders were sworn into office, UHW announced April 12.

UAW Drive to Organize Parts Suppliers, Shows Cultures Can Change, Official Says

Daily Labor Report Online, 4/14/2011

LANSING, Mich.—The United Auto Workers union's six-month-old push to organize employees at automotive parts suppliers is in many ways “about changing a culture,” and so far that appears to be possible, Cindy Estrada, the UAW vice president in charge of that effort, said April 14 at a labor-management conference.

Workers United President Raynor Faces SEIU Internal Charges Over Expense Account

Daily Labor Report Online, 4/14/2011

Bruce Raynor, president of the Workers United affiliate of the Service Employees International Union and international executive vice president of SEIU, is facing internal charges of misappropriated union funds from misleading expense reports that could result in his removal from office, sources familiar with the issue told BNA April 12.

California Begg Texas for Job Recipe With Growth Trading Places

SF Gate Online, 4/14/2011

April 14 (Bloomberg) -- When California Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom begins meetings in Austin with Hardee's hamburgers chief Andrew Puzder, local Chamber of Commerce Chairman Bobby Jenkins and Texas Governor Rick Perry, it's because the most-populous state lingers in a funk, even as the U.S. pulls out of the deepest recession in half a century.

Union Pay Rules in Construction Draw Fire

Wall Street Journal Online
4/14/2011

Lawmakers and governors in 21 states are seeking to curb union clout in government-funded construction projects by limiting the use of wage requirements that generally favor union workers.

The proposals open another front in a battle largely pitting Republican lawmakers against unions, and push the debate further into the private sector. At issue are so-called prevailing-wage rules, which require contractors working on government projects to pay workers a rate that usually closely tracks union wages.

Population Shift Swells Southern and Western Cities

Wall Street Journal Online, 4/15/2011

Among the 10 fastest-growing metropolitan areas over the decade, nine were in the South or Mountain West, while cities throughout the Midwest and Rust Belt continued to lose population.

Va. better than Md. for earning a buck

Washington Examiner Online
4/14/2011

Virginia is near the top of the heap when it comes to the best places to earn a buck. The commonwealth was ranked the fourth-best state in which to make a living, way ahead of Maryland, which was ranked 29th by Money-Rates.com, a financial information website.

States were ranked by their average income, state taxes, unemployment rates and cost of living.

Board Members Look To Change Law Related to Employer's "Premature Recognition" of Union

Labor Relations Counsel Online, 4/13/2011

Two members of the NLRB have now signaled their willingness to overturn existing law with respect to an employer's "premature recognition" of a union. In MV Public Transportation, 356 NLRB No. 116 (March 22, 2011), Member Becker announced that he would abandon the requirement that an employer be engaged in its normal business operations at the time recognition was extended to a union.