



Teacher's Union Claims Member's Scalp

Townhall Online

2/08/11

About 18 months ago, the school board voted to no longer deduct dues from employees' paychecks, which meant union members had to physically write a check to the union. Many saw it as their opportunity to protest the obnoxious behavior of union leaders during a previous contract negotiation period. The union president, Paul Helder, was particularly pompous during negotiations, claiming the union was fighting a "war on terrorism." He even established "War Time Committees" to organize the fight against the school board and administrators.

Marjorie Hayward objected to her president's behavior and refused to pay up. So the union took her to small claims court.

Support for public employee unions drops significantly

Washington Examiner Online

1/10/11

Rasmussen reports that support for public sector unions has dropped 8 percent in the last year.

Obama Begins Gearing Up Re-Election Bid

Wall Street Journal Online

1/12/11

Democratic officials said the re-election campaign needs an early start to establish Mr. Obama as a formidable candidate and begin raising money for a bid expected to cost each party around \$1 billion.

GM Rethinks Pay for Unionized Workers

Wall Street Journal Online

1/12/11

In addition to performance-based pay, the union and U.S. auto makers are exploring the idea of a profit-sharing formula as a way for workers to cash in on the industry's improving fortunes.

GM CEO Daniel Akerson wants 'incentive-enhanced' pay for the UAW. The issue would likely be negotiated as part of contract talks this year between Detroit auto makers and the United Auto Workers union. The UAW couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

Amid Downturn, Sunbelt Gains College Grads

Wall Street Journal Online
1/12/11

Among the top 10 metropolitan areas with the fastest average net growth in the number of arrivals with college degrees between 2007 and 2009, seven were in the south and southwest, including Austin, Texas, and Raleigh, N.C., according to an analysis of Census data by William H. Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

Big Payout for Ex-Union Chief

Wall Street Journal Online
1/12/11

Randi Weingarten, the former head of the New York City teachers' union, received \$194,188 last year from the United Federation of Teachers for unused sick days and vacation time accrued before she left to become president of the American Federation of Teachers, boosting her total compensation to more than \$600,000 for 2010.

The U.S. Loses Ground on Economic Freedom

Wall Street Journal Online
1/12/11

For the U.S. and the U.K., the Index of Economic Freedom confirms what those countries' voters already knew, that there is an urgent need for real change. The U.S. dropped to 9th place in the 2011 Index, with its lowest economic freedom score in a decade, and the UK fell all the way to 16th place.

What in the World? Union Boss McEntee Blames Public Sector Debacle on Wall Street

Wall street Journal Online
1/11/11

State budget problems were caused by the reckless behavior of Wall Street bankers who drove our economy into a ditch. This created massive unemployment and a real-estate crisis that directly led to a decline in state revenues. State general fund expenditures are smaller now than they were three years ago, proving that our budget problems are not at all related to employee compensation.

N.Y. Judges, Angry on Pay, Seek Union-Like Group

New York Times Online
1/11/11

Some judges said Tuesday that the survey showed the depth of their anger over the commission plan, which does not permit a raise for judges until 2012 at the earliest, would allow the Legislature to block a judicial pay raise, and does not provide for any retroactive pay increase.

Ford Plans to Hire More Than 7,000 Workers, But Under Two-Tier Wage System

New York Times
1/10/11

Some of the new workers will be paid so-called second-tier wages, under an agreement with the United Automobile Workers union. The deal allows the Detroit automakers to pay some new hires about \$14 an hour, which is about half what current workers earn; benefits also are reduced.

NLRB Forces Representation on Sandwich Shop Workers

New York Times Online
1/11/11

The labor board announced the settlement after the union filed more than a dozen charges against Miklin Enterprises, which runs the 10 restaurants, accusing the company of breaking the law in fighting the organizing drive, one of the few unionization campaigns in the fast-food industry.

Yes, Unions, Pension Reform is Coming

Sunshine State News Online
1/12/11

Across the country, private-sector workers (union and nonunion) sense that their states' public-employee perks, including fully paid pension plans, are simply not sustainable.

Govs. Mitch Daniels (Indiana) and Matt Blunt (Missouri) issued executive orders to end collective bargaining. Newly elected Govs. John Kasich (Ohio) and Scott Walker (Wisconsin) are targeting collective bargaining, as well.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott, a multimillionaire businessman, sees this state's pension program as low-hanging fruit ripe for reform. Florida could net \$1.3 billion in annual savings if government employees were required to contribute just 5 percent of their salaries.

Scott hasn't expressly called for an end to collective bargaining -- which could begin to effect such changes -- but the writing is on the wall.

Spending cuts over bankruptcy for cities-Michigan governor

Westlaw News Online
1/11/11

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder said on Tuesday he is not ruling out a bankruptcy filing for Hamtramck, but prefers working on other solutions to the city's financial problems.

"I wouldn't take that off the table, but as a practical matter I'd rather work with people collaboratively to see what are better solutions without going to that," he said in an interview with Reuters Insider.

The Politics of State Budget Cuts

Real Clear Markets Online
1/12/11

Part of that reform, I would argue, is to take a hard look at the laws passed over the years, often at the behest of advocacy groups and public sector unions, that favor an ever-growing government and that make cutbacks during times of stress difficult to do. Real reform requires unwinding some of these laws that have kept government growing on auto-pilot.

Illinois Lawmakers Pass Massive Income Tax Increase

CNBC Online
1/12/11

Various groups condemned the original tax proposal as a job killer that would propel businesses and residents to leave the state. In an opinion piece published in the Chicago Tribune on Tuesday, Caterpillar Inc Chairman and CEO Doug Oberhelman warned the tax increase "will stifle economic growth."

In a floor debate over the tax hike bill, Republican State Representative David Leitch said he was inundated with 1,600 emails against the tax hike with 1,200 or more coming from Caterpillar workers.

Brown's budget plan -- pain everywhere

Los Angeles Times Online
1/12/11

Two categories of spending, however, are striking for their exemption from pain: kindergarten through 12th-grade education and the state's prison system. The prison guards, in fact, got one of the budget's only increases — from \$8.9 billion to \$9.1 billion, in part to "fully fund the salary and wages of authorized correctional officers" and to "correct for a decline in the number of overtime hours available" to guards.

If you're a cynic, you might see a payoff to the two unions — the California Teachers Assn. and the California Correctional Peace Officers Assn. — without whose support and independent expenditures Brown could not have defeated Republican Meg Whitman. If you're of a more strategic turn of mind, what you might see is the governor's realistic calculation that without those two powerful and big-spending unions' support, his chances of winning the special election to approve the tax extensions are even less than that of a snowball in hell, which is about where they are now.

Craig Ladwig Takes on Indiana's Public Sector Bargaining Debacle

AWB.org
1/10/11

Alas, one man's mistake, if he is powerful enough, is another man's disaster. This particular one abided a collective-bargaining system that now cripples Indiana finances even as it thwarts reform across the full spectrum of state issues. For many years our new friend led a faction that shut out expertise and made timely change impossible.

Letters: Right to work boosts economic prosperity

Post-Crescent Online
1/11/11

U.S. Census Bureau data reveals that, while only 22 of the 50 states have right to work laws, more than half of the nation's population resides in those 22 Right To Work states.

Anti-Right to Work Voodoo and Misinformation, There's darker meaning behind Right To Work

Indystar.com
1/06/11

Under existing law, nobody can be forced to join a union. Federal law also provides protection from paying for union activities that violate religious or political beliefs. We don't need right-to-work to address that. This bill is a ploy by corporate special interests to distract us from the anti-working family legislative agenda.