



The right to work, dues free, for all

Foster's Daily Democrat Online

1/26/11

A Right to Work law, sponsored by State Rep. Will Smith, R-New Castle, for the Granite State would end forced union dues.

Those opposed to the Right to Work law argue it allows non-union workers to benefit from contracts hammered out by unions with employers.

But this "free rider" provision is little more than a red herring.

Blizzard Slowdown Evidence, like Jimmy Hoffa, may be buried forever

New York Times Online

1/25/11

The story rocketed around New York City when streets went uncleared after the Dec. 26 blizzard: Sanitation workers, angry about job reductions, had deliberately staged a work slowdown.

Meanwhile, investigators had hoped that extensive publicity would bring out others with knowledge of the purported plot. That has not happened, according to the people briefed on the investigations, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigations are continuing. This leaves prosecutors with no proof that anything occurred.

NLRB Issues its FY 2010 Summary of Operations

Labor Relations Counsel Online

1/21/11

According to the NLRB's Summary of Operations for FY 2010, (pdf) regional NLRB offices conducted more representation elections, processed more unfair labor process (ULP) charges, received more certification and decertification petitions, and recovered more than \$9 million more in backpay and fees, dues and fines in FY 2010 than it did during the prior year. Among other things, the summary provides a general overview of the operations and enforcement undertaken by the NLRB during 2010. Highlights of the summary include the following:

State Politics & Right-to-Work Laws

Union Watch Online
1/24/11

It is interesting to note that all of the ten most solidly Republican states are right-to-work states, and five of the eleven next most solidly Republican states are right-to-work states. It is also interesting to note that at least three of these states, Texas, Florida and Arizona, with combined populations totaling over 50 million, have substantial percentages of ethnic minorities. Probably the most significant factor on this table is the presence of the big industrial states of Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania, totalling 34 million people, which have moved out of the battleground category – if not the solidly Democratic category – and come under the decisive control of Republican politicians.

Help states go bankrupt

The Hill Online
1/25/11

There is a third way: to get to the root of the reasons for their dire crisis in the first place and abrogate their collective bargaining agreements with municipal unions, which have brought them to this condition.

States cannot do so on their own. They need the federal government to adopt a bankruptcy procedure to allow them to do it.

Taxpayers Lose Most When Munis Fluctuate

RealClear Markets Online
1/26/11

But absent any such unanticipated event, the real risk right now is not to bondholders from some massive series of defaults. It is instead to taxpayers who are about to take it on the chin.

Politics Marks Obama, GOP Battle Over Regulations

New York Times Online
1/26/11

Since Obama controls federal agencies and Democrats run the Senate, it will be tough for Republicans to force the administration to drop regulations the president likes. Either way, participants agree, the duel will have a distinct political flavor, with the GOP pushing for business interests' goals and Obama protecting Democratic constituencies like labor and environmental groups while also showing concern about stifling jobs.

The Associated Builders and Contractors, representing the construction industry, has complained about Obama administration policies and rules pressuring contractors to use union workers, eliminate workplace hazards and limit lead exposure.

What does Tennessee have that Missouri doesn't?

SLtoday.com
1/25/11

A few weeks ago we learned that Missouri would lose a Congressional seat, reducing the number of Representatives from 9 to 8. At the same time it was reported that Tennessee would retain its 9 seats in Congress.

Two of the reasons may be ideas recently opposed in Post-Dispatch editorials: Tennessee is a Right to Work state, and Tennessee does not tax earned income.

What to Expect of Mob Arrests? '08 Roundup May Hold Clues

New York Times Online
1/21/11

Given that hundreds of local, state and federal law-enforcement officers fanned across the region this week, arresting 125 reputed mobsters on a buffet table's worth of charges that included money laundering, extortion and murder, the events of Feb. 7, 2008, seem, in retrospect, uncannily familiar.

Conference Board Survey Examines Trends In Offshoring; CRS Report Reviews Research

Daily Labor Report Online
1/25/11

In addition, the survey found that the cost savings resulting from companies' offshoring efforts has declined, on average. This may be due to several factors, the report said. For example, "companies new to offshoring may not anticipate some hidden costs, including sending executives to visit potential providers, training boundary spanners," and other expenses.

Corporate excess bad, union robbery of kids just dandy

Washington Times Online
1/21/11

But those on the political left have once again proved their hypocrisy by ignoring the irony in the United Auto Workers (UAW) owning a lavish \$33 million resort in Michigan's Cheboygan County.

Instead of selling the resort or even opening it up to non-union members, union leaders have kept it for themselves while at the same time claiming that forced unionization of auto workers in other states is necessary to keep their club alive.

SEIU, Others Protest Chipotle's Firing Of Minnesota Workers After ICE Audits

Daily Labor Report Online
1/25/11

In a statement, SEIU said although the union does not represent the fired workers, whose numbers the union estimates to be at about 700, it believes that they have been mistreated by Chipotle. It has asked the Denver-based company to take several actions including paying the former workers any back wages they are due.

The union said protesters at a Chipotle restaurant in Minneapolis carried signs saying, "Chipocracy: Selling Mexican Culture and then Selling Out Mexican Workers," and "Chipotle Treats their Chicken and Produce Better than they Treat their Employees."

Teamsters Election Supervisor Rejects Allegations of Funds Used for Influence

Daily Labor Report Online
1/25/11

The office of the election supervisor overseeing the election of officers for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters rejected allegations that the campaign for the re-election of the union's General President James P. Hoffa violated election rules because the offers or proposals made to three incumbent officers for them to vacate their positions were not accepted, according to a decision issued Jan. 20 on remand from an appeal.

UAW doesn't care what you think

Washington Times Online
1/21/11

United Auto Workers (UAW) President Bob King recently pledged \$60 million of his union's money to pressure foreign automakers into unionizing their employees. He has

acknowledged that the UAW is in trouble and its very survival is at stake. At a recent conference in Washington, he said, "If we don't organize these transnationals, I don't think there's a long-term future for the UAW - I really don't."

Calpers, After Losses, Plays It Safe

Wall Street Journal Online
1/26/11

After losing more than \$10 billion on real-estate investments, Calpers, the giant California pension fund, is returning to the property market with a new strategy and fewer investment managers, seeking steady, modest gains rather than blockbuster returns.

Rich but troubled NY county fights fiscal takeover

Wall Street Journal Online
1/26/11

It's one of America's wealthiest counties. Crime rates are low, public schools are generally excellent, parks are well-kept. The average property tax bill last year was \$11,500, nearly the highest in the country.

The authority, however, has raised questions about the county's bookkeeping and has expressed concerns that labor concessions Mangano expects to negotiate may not be realized. George Marlin, an authority board member who ran for New York City mayor as a conservative in 1993, said if the watchdog does step in, it would work with Mangano to solve the budget problems.

How Public Unions Took Taxpayers Hostage

Wall Street Journal Online
1/25/11

The first to seize on the political potential of government workers was New York City Mayor Robert F. Wagner. The mayor's father, a prominent New Deal senator, had authored the landmark 1935 Wagner Act, which imposed on private employers the legal duty to bargain collectively with the properly elected union representatives of their employees. Mayor Wagner, prodded by Jerry Wurf of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (Afsome), gave city workers the right to bargain collectively in 1958.

Rich Trumka's Haka Dance

Wall Street Journal Online
1/25/11

Last Wednesday Mr. Trumka gave a speech at the National Press Club denouncing business groups that support pro-reform Governors, calling them "shadowy committees . . . aimed at depriving all workers—public and private sector—of the basic human right to form strong unions and bargain collectively to lift their lives." He then started foot stomping, naming Rupert Murdoch, CEO of News Corp., which owns this newspaper, and Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein as participants "in a committee formed to raise business funds to attack public employees."