



Unions Enter Pacts to Boost Members

Wall Street Journal Online

1/29/11

The Service Employees International Union and the California Nurses Association are signing so-called neutrality agreements with the chains, in which the hospitals don't object to organizing and the unions don't conduct negative campaigns against the employers or try to organize workers at certain hospitals.

Such deals have provoked resistance from some union members, who say the agreements limit employees' role in the organizing process, though some labor experts say they are a way for unions to boost membership.

Obama's Choice for Labor Board in for a Fight

Newsmax.com

1/29/11

Business groups are lining up against the White House's latest appointee to the panel that decides labor-and-management disputes, the Wall Street Journal reports. Former union lawyer Craig Becker got a recess appointment to the National Labor Relations Board in March but faces opposition now that President Barack Obama has re-nominated him to a term that would last through 2014.

GOP Introduces Secret Ballot Protection Act

RedState.com

1/28/11

Now, the question becomes: Will Democrats oppose Americans voting by secret ballot?

Today, U.S. Senator Jim DeMint (R-South Carolina) introduced the Secret Ballot Protection Act (SBPA), legislation that will guarantee the right of every American worker to have a secret ballot election on whether to unionize. The bill would guarantee workers the opportunity to cast a secret ballot before a union can be organized.

'The City With a Bright Future'—\$80 Million in the Hole

Wall Street Journal Online
1/29/11

But since Rhode Island's public employees received the right to collectively bargain in the 1960s, government unions have driven Central Falls into the ground.

It's hard to pinpoint the exact moment when the town started deteriorating, says City Council President William Benson, but "it started with the John Hancock [pension] plan," named after the company that administers the benefits. In 1972, the city created a new pension plan for public-safety officers that allowed them to retire after 20 years and earn 50% of their final year's salary thereafter. What the city didn't anticipate was that firefighters would use the minimum staffing requirements that were part of their collective-bargaining agreement to rack up overtime and increase their last year's salary. Or that nearly a third of police officers would retire with a higher-paying disability pension.

Court 2-1 Finds California Statutes Invalid, Reviving Plea for Union Trespass Injunction

Daily Labor Report Online
1/28/11

Writing for the court, Justice Jennifer R.S. Detjen said that the state's Moscone Act and a state Labor Code provision violate the California Constitution because they "make an impermissible distinction between labor picketing and other peaceful picketing."

White House May Have Violated Hatch Act During 2006 Midterm Elections, OSC Says

Daily Labor Report Online
1/28/11

Responding to a February 2007 complaint that then-OPA Deputy Director J. Scott Jennings conducted a political briefing at the General Services Administration, OSC launched an investigation and uncovered evidence that the OPA director and deputy director had provided similar political briefings at 21 other federal agencies, the report said.

Workers in 39 of 44 Units at Hospitals, Homes in Ohio Reject Representation by SEIU

Daily Labor Report Online
1/28/11

The elections at the facilities, located in various Ohio cities, mark the culmination of an organizing campaign that began several years ago. Nearly three years ago, elections at nine hospitals owned by CHP were cancelled due to interference from a national nurses' union, which charged at the time that the hospital system and SEIU had reached an illegal "back room" deal that compromised workers' rights.

Analysis: Cuomo expected to threaten NY layoffs

Wall Street Journal Online
1/29/11

The fear is real. But in Albany, where the fog of politics makes it difficult to even figure out even how many state employees there are, reality is harder to figure out.

Cuomo's budget will likely include more threats of massive cuts in the work force that he estimates totals about 190,000. The state comptroller's office says the total is more than 266,000, based on payroll checks. On average, each of the workers costs the state about \$98,500 a year in wages and benefits, creating a ripe target to help address a \$10 billion deficit.

Despite China's Might, US Factories Maintain Edge

New York Times Online
1/31/11

Yet America remains by far the No. 1 manufacturing country. It out-produces No. 2 China by more than 40 percent. U.S. manufacturers cranked out nearly \$1.7 trillion in goods in 2009, according to the United Nations.

The story of American factories essentially boils down to this: They've managed to make more goods with fewer workers.

Congressional review sought of 'forced unionization'

World Net Daily
1/29/11

Obama-run board set to overturn vote will of workers, again

A report to be published next month by the Capital Research Center in Washington will call on Congress to investigate what it describes as the "forced unionization" of workers in the United States, and how "Big Brother" government is playing a role.

Our View: Make informed, transparent choice on unigov for Peoria

Pjstar.com
1/30/11

Peorians should appreciate the work their public safety employees do. But in fact we have warned for years that it would come to this, that excessive public pension costs and binding arbitration that to some degree takes collective bargaining outside a local jurisdiction's control would prove budget killers and come at the expense of job security for the impacted employee groups. And for years we were ignored by those in leadership positions - especially in state government - who believed that the gravy train would never stop, who could never muster the courage to say no, who subscribed to the myth that taxpayers' pockets were bottomless.

TSA Shuts Door on Private Airport Screening Program That Exposed TSA's Inefficiency

OpenMarket.org
1/30/11

The Transportation Security Administration has shut the door on a private airport screening program that was making the inefficient agency look bad by outperforming it in safety, innovation, and customer satisfaction. The TSA's action was praised by a liberal union that expects to unionize the TSA, the American Federation of Government Employees. Its head, John Gage, applauded the Obama administration for requiring a "federalized" government "work force."