



### **Crowd debates right-to-work bill**

UnionLeader.com

2/07/2011

A public hearing on the bill Thursday drew a huge crowd of supporters, union opposition and businesses on either side of the bill.

### **Proposed law may weaken unions**

Bangor Daily News Online

2/05/2011

Greg Mourad, director of legislation for the National Right to Work Committee, said his group has right-to-work bills introduced in Alaska, Connecticut, Hawaii, Minnesota, New Mexico, Missouri, New Hampshire, Washington, Wisconsin, West Virginia and Maine.

### **The Obama Administration's TSA Giveaway**

Townhall Online

2/07/2011

In a furtive, Friday-afternoon news dump, the Obama administration informed Americans that Transportation Security Administration (TSA) airport screeners would be permitted to engage in collective bargaining -- effectively handing government employee unions up to 50,000 new members, as any screener who wants a voice in union negotiations with the government will have no real choice but to join.

### **Bannering: Obama's latest gift to the unions**

American Thinker Online

2/05/2011

With public opinion increasingly critical of overpaid and under-performing labor unions, one might expect that union members and their representatives would be keeping a low profile while mounting a public relations campaign to repair their well-earned and sullied reputations. Not this bunch.

## **A Modest \$500 Billion Proposal**

Wall Street Journal Online  
2/07/2011

According to the Congressional Budget Office, this will be the third consecutive year in which the federal government is running a deficit near or greater than \$1 trillion. The solution to the government's fiscal crisis must begin by cutting spending in all areas, particularly in those that can be better run at the state or local level. Last month I introduced legislation to do just that. And though it seems extreme to some—containing over \$500 billion in spending cuts enacted over one year—it is a necessary first step toward ending our fiscal crisis.

## **Unions struggle for footing in today's job market**

Jonline.com Journal-Constitution, West Lafayette, IN  
2/06/2011

Donna Hoaks has some dismal statistics about her employment the past few years. . . She worked only 10 weeks in 2010 and just 13 weeks in 2009. In 2008, Hoaks worked only five months. . . Even using her network within the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 668, Hoaks struggled.

## **Becoming a Right-to-Work State Will Help Save Michigan's Economy**

Lansing, Independent Examiner Online, MI  
2/05/2011

Continue reading on Examiner.com: [Becoming a Right-to-Work State Will Help Save Michigan's Economy](#) - During the last decade, Michigan was the only state to lose population, the last census reveals. In addition, it saw a collapse in its economy that no other state has seen as a result of its declining industry. There are many things that need to be done to reverse this, like fixing Michigan's tax structure and cutting costs in the public sector. However, these are not enough, and in reality, the latter has actually been occurring during the last decade. However, there is one policy that has made a big difference for other states is becoming a right-to-work- state

## **Carpenters' union targets west Michigan company with new strategy**

Macomb Daily Online  
2/03/2011

The Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters has been organizing demonstrations against an employer in west Michigan that does not use union workers and is, therefore, assumed to be paying substandard wages.

According to the Midland-based Mackinac Center, the demonstrators are often not members of the carpenters' union – or construction workers at all. The tactic is called “bannering,” which relies on high-profile protests and putting pressure on a company’s customers.

The employer being targeted is Ritsema Associates, a construction contractor headquartered in Grandville, near Grand Rapids. Last summer, the carpenters' union sent a letter to Ritsema Associates asserting that it had conducted done an “investigation” and concluded that the contractor was paying substandard wages and fringe benefits,, according to the Mackinac Center, a conservative think tank and frequent critic of labor unions.

## **Idaho lawmakers target unions**

Washington Examiner Online  
2/08/2011

Idaho’s labor unions are already the 97-pound weakling, but the Republican majority in the state Legislature is trying to kick more sand in their face.

## **GOP consultant hired by safety unions**

Columbus Dispatch Online  
2/05/2011

A prominent Republican media consultant has been hired by police and fire unions to thwart plans by Gov. John Kasich and GOP lawmakers to kill binding arbitration and eliminate or alter collective bargaining.

## **NLRB 3-1 Rules Union ‘Bannering’ Lawful, Finding No Inducement of Work Stoppage**

### **Daily Labor Report Online**

2/04/2011

Citing the board’s 3-2 ruling in August 2010 that union “bannering” is not a form of restraint or coercion of a neutral employer prohibited by Section 8(b)(4)(ii)(B) of the NLRA, Chairman Wilma B. Liebman and Members Craig Becker and Mark Gaston Pearce rejected arguments by the NLRB’s acting general counsel that bannering conducted because of a labor dispute with two Salt Lake City firms constituted an inducement or signal to the employees of neutral firms to stop work in violation of Section 8(b)(4)(i)(B) of the act.

## **UAW Wage Cuts, New Mitsubishi Vehicle, State Grants Retain 1,100 Jobs in Illinois**

### **Daily Labor Report Online**

2/04/2011

Mitsubishi Motors Corp. will guarantee job security at its plant in Normal, Ill., for 1,100 employees represented by the United Auto Workers as a result of a \$29 million investment by the state and a ratified union agreement to accept wage cuts for the long-term viability of their jobs, the company, union, and state announced Feb. 4.

Mitsubishi and UAW had been under a confidentiality agreement about details of the contract and did not release any specifics about it until the official announcement was made publicly (245 DLR A-14, 12/22/10).

## **Congress Should Prevent Regulations For EFCA Provisions, End Others, Groups Say**

### **Daily Labor Report Online**

2/04/2011

Congress should resist any attempt by the Obama administration to enact key provisions in the controversial Employee Free Choice Act (S. 560, H.R. 1409) through the regulatory process, the Competitive Enterprise Institute recently said in a letter to Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

## **NLRB Orders Contractor to Bargain Minimum 16 Hours Per Week Until Contract Reached**

### **Daily Labor Report Online**

2/04/2011

Finding that Gimrock Construction Inc. has continued to refuse to bargain with the International Union of Operating Engineers despite a bargaining order that was enforced by a federal appeals court, a divided National Labor Relations Board Jan. 28 ordered the company to bargain for a minimum of 16 hours a week until an agreement is reached, the parties agree to a hiatus, or a lawful impasse occurs (Gimrock Constr. Inc., 356 N.L.R.B. No. 83, 1/28/2011).

### **Walter Wise Takes Helm as President Of Iron Workers Union, Replaces Joseph Hunt**

Daily Labor Report Online  
2/04/2011

Hunt appointed Wise after announcing his retirement in November 2010, Wise told BNA Feb. 3. Before his appointment, Wise served since February 2008 as the union's general secretary. Wise appointed Eric Dean to serve as the new general secretary.

### **Teacher performance must be factored into teacher layoffs**

Seattle Times Online  
February 3, 2011 at 3:41 PM

Legislation by Sen. Rodney Tom, D-Medina, would get us to this common-sense approach. Senate Bill 5399 would authorize school districts doing layoffs to choose first teachers who received the lowest average ratings during their two latest evaluations. Seniority could be the tiebreaker when two or more teachers have the same evaluation scores. Unplaced teachers with the highest evaluation scores would get first dibs on new jobs.

### **Their Real Agenda**

New York Times Editorial  
2/06/2011

It is true that many public employee unions have done well during a time of hardship for most Americans. The problem, though, isn't the existence of those unions; it is the generous contracts willingly given to them by lawmakers because of their lobbying power and bloc-voting ability. In New York, unionized state employees have had a 14 percent raise over four years, and now make an average of nearly \$67,000. Iowa's state workers last year won a 6 percent raise over two years.

Dozens of states give pension and health benefits far more generous than in the private sector. Their costs have resulted in significant cutbacks to basic state services for the poor and middle class.

## **Accounting for Taxes And a \$2 Billion Shift**

Wall Street Journal Online  
2/07/2011

The state's most powerful labor unions, including health-care workers, are assembling a new coalition to pressure Albany into extending a temporary tax hike on the wealthy. Labor organizers have reached out to a senior policy adviser to the Senate Democrats for help getting the effort off the ground.

## **The United Auto Workers Test Drive a New Model,**

**OR, You can dress up a Monkey, but you can't hide its tail**  
Wall Street Journal Online  
2/07/2011

Last month's auto show in the Motor City saw the debut of some spiffy new models, including the Chrysler 300C sedan and the Toyota Prius station wagon. Also unveiled was a new model of the United Auto Workers (UAW) union, at least according to its new president and chief salesman, Bob King.

"Our mindset is not adversarial," declared Mr. King in a speech at a conference sponsored by Automotive News, a leading trade journal. "Our agenda is a positive one of shared responsibility and shared prosperity."