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Mitch Daniels, President of the United States?

Big Government.com
2/14/2011

Unfortunately for Hoosiers and Daniels's presidential aspirations, it appears that the Governor would rather bend to the will of union bosses than bring the reform Indiana needs.

Unions see threat in dues proposal

Portland Press-Herald Online
2/14/2011

"Right-to-work" legislation is being vigorously promoted by groups like the National Right to Work Committee, a nonprofit organization that has been promoting right-to-work legislation in states since 1955.

Greg Mourad, the group's legislative director, says the measure promotes economic activity.

Right-to-work just wrong for Missouri

Columbia Daily Tribune Online
2/13/2011

An out-of-state special interest organization, the National Right to Work Committee, channels millions of dollars to lobby for laws like SB 1 across the country in its drive to stop the ability of workers to join together to bargain with their employers.

The NRTWC also makes outrageous claims related to legislation like SB 1, making it sound as if passing a law to damage unions creates jobs.

USW Members Gearing Up to Fight Numerous State Right-to-Work Measures

Daily Labor Report Online
2/10/2011

USW Secretary-Treasurer Stan Johnson told delegates that the public at large thinks that the right-to-work laws are "good," believing that everyone should have the right to work.

“The general public doesn’t get it,” that the proposed laws “victimize” workers and do not give them a choice at all, he said.

Private-sector unions slipping into irrelevance

The News-Messenger.com
2/12/2011

Not even labor-ravaged poster-child Michigan can claim more than the 367,000 names that disappeared off private union rolls in Ohio in the past 25 years.

House Panel Hears Divergent Views of NLRB As Witnesses Criticize, Defend Board Actions

Daily Labor Report Online
2/11/2011

During questioning of the witnesses by subcommittee members, Rep. Martha Roby (R-Ala.) asked whether the board’s proposed notice may be an attempt to “erode” the law in right-to-work states, where employees cannot be required to join a labor organization as a condition of employment.

On Jan. 27, the attorneys general responded to Solomon in a joint letter disputing whether the state laws interfere with the NLRA (18 DLR AA-1, 1/27/2011), and Solomon replied that he was willing to explore possible methods of resolving the issue without litigation (23 DLR AA-1, 2/3/2011).

Ranking Member Rep. Robert Andrews (D-N.J.) asked Rosenfeld whether in 2003 during his own term as general counsel Rosenfeld wrote a similar letter concerning a North Dakota statute, communicating at least an implication that the federal agency would litigate the issue if it could not be resolved by agreement.

Rep. Robert Scott (D-Va.) noted that King had observed the secret ballot amendments at issue in the four states are constitutional provisions that were adopted after popular votes rather than just state statutes. The legislator asked if that distinction made them “more protected” from a challenge based on the preemptive effect of federal law.

King said that because they were constitutional provisions, they might be subjected to special scrutiny before concluding that they are preempted, but he agreed the provisions would not be insulated from the same preemption challenge that could be made to state legislation.

Bill Introduced in House to Repeal NMB Rule

Daily Labor Report Online
2/11/2011

The measure would declare that the rule, which took effect July 1, 2010 (89 DLR AA-1, 5/11/10), is not in force, thereby reviving NMB's previous policy, in place for 75 years. In a statement, Gingrey said the rule "is inherently undemocratic," because it allows a minority of employees in a class or craft of workers to decide the outcome of a representation election.

Ohio Workers Under Attack, Unions Say, From Bill to Cut Collective Bargaining Rights

Daily Labor Report Online
2/11/2011

The world has changed since 1983, when Ohio's public employee bargaining law was enacted, Jones told the Senate Insurance, Commerce, and Labor Committee, pointing to an \$8 billion budget deficit projected for the state's next fiscal year.

Report: Jim Webb to Retire from Senate, Won't Seek Reelection

Weekly Standard
2/09/2011

Ben Smith reports that Virginia senator Jim Webb won't seek reelection in 2012:

Fractured Fairy Tales: American ills not caused by unions

Detroit News Online
2/09/2011

By James P. Hoffa, President, International Brotherhood of Teamsters
The 19th-century robber baron Jay Gould once said, "I can hire half the working class to shoot the other half." Gould's vision of class warfare is being played out today in the shameful attacks on public employees. These attacks are secretly financed and planned by modern-day Jay Goulds who aim to keep their own taxes low. Some vastly powerful corporations and billionaires want to cripple all unions and turn America into a low-wage banana republic.

NMB Denies AirTran Request to Defer IAM's Bid for Representation Election

Daily Labor Report Online
2/11/2011

The National Mediation Board Feb. 8 denied a request by AirTran Airways to defer processing a union's application for a representation election until completion of AirTran's merger with Southwest Airlines (In re Application of Int'l Ass'n of Machinists, 38 N.M.B. No. 30, 2/8/2011)

As FLRA Sets Date for TSA Union Election, Republicans Seek Rationale From Pistole

Daily Labor Report Online
2/11/2011

The Federal Labor Relations Authority Feb. 9 confirmed that airport screeners employed by the Transportation Security Administration will vote between March 9 and April 19 on union representation by either the American Federation of Government Employees or the National Treasury Employees Union, with election results to be tallied April 20.

NLRB Introduces Revamped Website

Daily Labor Report Online
2/11/2011

The board now will add to the website its own decisions on unfair labor practice charges and representation cases on the same day the decisions are issued, ending a practice that delayed the posting for one day after issuance of a decision to the parties involved. NLRB also has decided to post its unpublished decisions, which do not appear in the official bound volumes of NLRB decisions.

Hearing Date Set in Trusteeship Action Against Cement, Concrete Workers' Local

Daily Labor Report Online
2/11/2011

In a letter to members of Cement and Concrete Workers Local 6A, Laborers Special Counsel Robert D. Luskin advised them of his conclusion that a trusteeship "is necessary to take charge and control over the affairs of Local 6A in order to eradicate corruption (including the influence of organized crime), correct financial malpractice, restore democratic procedures, carry out the legitimate objects of the union, and protect Local 6A as an institution."

Goodyear to Close Tennessee Tire Plant, Affecting Jobs of About 1,900 Workers

Daily Labor Report Online
2/11/2011

In the announcement of fourth quarter and full year financial results for 2010, Goodyear said the plant's closure was part of a strategy to reduce high-cost manufacturing capacity globally while providing cost effective and quality products. The closure was estimated by Goodyear to save the company about \$80 million annually.

Big Union to Step Up Recruiting

Wall Street Journal Online
2/11/2011

The campaign—called Fight for a Fair Economy—will focus on mobilizing mostly low-wage minority workers in 10 to 15 cities, including Cleveland, Milwaukee, Miami and Detroit, according to the memo reviewed by The Wall Street Journal. The SEIU wants the effort to peak in the summer of 2012, with events at primaries, town-hall meetings and other campaign venues, according to the memo.

Public-Worker Unions Steel for Budget Fights

Wall Street Journal Online
2/14/2011

Leaders of the union, which is known as AFGE, have asked members to contribute more to the organization's political action campaign fund. "We don't have a lot of time to try to turn around the American public's opinion" that public-sector workers are to blame, said AFGE President John Gage. He criticized President Barack Obama's proposal to save \$28 billion by freezing pay for civilian federal employees, and said he wished Mr. Obama "would be standing up more for his employees."

The U.S.' Biggest Brain Magnets

Forbes.com
2/10/2011

It turns out that none of the top 10 gainers were large Northeastern cities, but largely Southern or Midwestern. New Orleans; Raleigh, N.C.; Austin, Texas; Nashville; Birmingham, Ala.; Kansas City, Mo.-Kan.; and Columbus, Ohio, all scored high marks. Only one California city, San Diego, made the top 10. Perennial "brain gainers" Denver, Colo., and Seattle round out the top 10.

The special interest driving federal spending? Big Labor

Washington Examiner Online
2/13/2011

To hear President Obama, liberal mainstream media outlets and congressional Democratic leaders tell it, Washington is “still” in the grip of evil special interests like Big Oil, Wall Street and the pharmaceutical drug industry. It’s a familiar line, but when the actual numbers for campaign donations by the top 100 special interest donors are toted up, it becomes quite clear which is the biggest one of them all -- Big Labor.

Daniel Holzman: It looks like a class war in Wisconsin

The Cap Times Online
2/13/2011

Most people who have studied U.S. history can remember Boss Tweed and the Tammany Hall political machine. An Aug. 30 article in The New Yorker, “Covert Operations,” reports how the multimillionaire Koch brothers organized and funded their tea party movement. They funneled over \$100 million to right-wing entities to organize “grass-roots” rallies and elect their puppets. They are the Boss Tweed of the 21st century.

Walker picks a fight - and it’s the right fight

Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel Online
2/12/2011

Walker’s proposals affect virtually every unionized public worker in the state, at both the state and municipal levels. But the alternative to trimming benefits is laying off thousands of workers. The state, not to mention the economy, is better served by keeping as many of its workers on board as possible, albeit at a lower cost. Walker estimates his proposals will save the state \$30 million between now and June 30 and \$300 million over the course of the next two-year budget. That doesn’t count savings at the local level, which should help make up for expected cuts in state aid.

The Pitfalls of Unionizing the TSA

OpenMarket.org
February 12, 2011

Robert Verbruggen wrote recently about the downside of unionizing the TSA in the National Review, taking issue with the Obama Administration’s decision to allow the agency to unionize even though past TSA heads regarded unionization as a threat to national security. As he notes, “after a mere nine years in existence, the Transportation

Security Administration rivals the DMV and the Postal Service as a played-out comedy cliché. And now the TSA is adding union bureaucracy to the mix.” As he notes, unionization has made matters worse at other federal agencies: