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The Politics of Unions: Walker v. Daniels

Newsledger Radio Online
2/23/11

Today on Coffee and Markets we're talking with Mark Mix, head of the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, about his views on the battle in Wisconsin and elsewhere over public employee unions. We also talk about Mitch Daniels' surprising attitude towards right to work laws in Indiana.

Labor plans to rally against attack on collective bargaining

Pittsburgh Tribune Online
2/22/11

A national nonprofit has pushed right-to-work laws for decades but it isn't "orchestrating" an effort to pass those laws in several states as unions claim, a spokesman said today.

"This is a real grass roots movement," said Patrick Semmens, spokesman for the National Right to Work Committee. He says unions blame the organization because it frequently points out "hypocrisy" of union leaders.

Rank-and-file teachers speak truth to prog power

MichelleMalkin.com
2/22/11

Since my days as a columnist for the Seattle Times, I've profiled courageous public school educators who have challenged the compulsory dues racket of their teachers' unions. Here's my 1999 column on how public school teachers in Washington state challenged their union over their political dues power grab. Here are your rights as a union worker. Here is a background on the permissible use of forced dues. As I wrote on Labor Day last year, free speech not only means the freedom to voice your political views, but also the freedom from being forced to pay for someone else's. U.S. Supreme Court precedent established by the D.C.-based National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation guarantees the right to full financial disclosure from a union and a right to challenge the figures in court if they disagree.

America's Nightly Scoreboard

FBN (FBN)National Programming, DMA: 0
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david: it sounds like it is dead? >> the bill itself will be dead it is still possible to raise the language in another bill as the session continues. david: even the national right to work committee did not get behind it because it exempts too many people including the construction trades. why were they exempted? >> it does because it was a compromise the was worked out to get it passed part of the jobs bill as we become the 23rd right to work straight at -- stage with logistics and transportation , the construction companies operate differently and they want to operate with union labor so it is a different dynamic they in the manufacturing that we hope to attract.

Unions And The Right To Work

Investor's Business Daily Online
2/22/11

If unions were formed to protect workers from employer abuse, right-to-work laws were created to protect taxpayers and workers from union abuse. States with such laws enjoy higher growth and purchasing power.

According to statistics compiled by the National Institute for Labor Relations Research, real personal income in right-to-work states grew 28.3% from 1999 to 2009 vs. 14.7% in forced-unionism states — almost double. Disposable income in right-to-work states stood at \$35,543 per capita in 2009 vs. \$33,389, and growth in real manufacturing GDP jumped 20.9% from 2000 to 2008, compared with 6.5% in forced-unionism states

Two governors, only one ready for primetime

Washington Post
2/23/11

In short, Daniels caved, perhaps the surest sign yet that he's not running for president or doesn't understand what conservatives expect of a presidential candidate. He told his own party to stand down on right-to-work legislation and had this to say:

Mitch Daniels 'salutes' Dem lawmakers who fled IN to avoid labor vote

Washington Examiner Online
2/22/11

Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, still weighing the possibility of a presidential bid, said today that he "salutes" Democrats who fled Indiana to prevent a vote on a controversial labor bill. A Daniels aide says the governor's words did not accurately reflect what Daniels meant to say.

Web letter by Robert Deppert: Right-to-work proposal is a Republican sham

Journal-Gazette Online
2/20/11

I have now heard it all in my life. I recently received a phone call at my business from the National Right to Work coalition. I am probably on the calling list due since I am a small business owner and former member of the local Chamber of Commerce. I was told that I needed to call House Speaker Brian Bosma to demand that he hold hearings on right-to-work legislation and allow a vote. Bosma is blocking this important legislation.

A strong argument in favor of Right to Work (featuring F.A. Hayek)

Washington Examiner Online
2/23/11

Perhaps also of interest to readers of a free-market bent, no less a figure than Friedrich von Hayek endorsed Right to Work laws in his 1960 work, *The Constitution of Liberty* (page 279, and reprinted on page 92 of *A Tiger by the Tail: The Keynesian Legacy of Inflation*, where I located the full quote):

Indiana Democrats Stage Boycott

Wall Street Journal Online
2/23/11

Indiana Democratic lawmakers Tuesday boycotted legislative sessions to deny Republicans a quorum needed to pass a bill that would restrict union rights in the state, following the lead of Democrats from Wisconsin who used a similar strategy.

Public unions force taxpayers to fund Democrats

Washington Examiner Online
2/23/11

It's true that Walker's proposals would strike hard at the power of the public employee unions. They would no longer have the right to bargain for fringe benefits, which are threatening to bankrupt the state government, and they would no longer be able to count on government withholding dues money and passing it along to them.

But what are the contributions that public employee unions make to our states and our citizens? Their incentives are to increase the cost of government and reduce down toward zero the accountability of public employees -- both contrary to the interests of taxpaying citizens.

Poll: Who's the 'Party of No' now?

Washington Examiner Online
2/22/11

47% Say GOP Has Plan for Future, 41% Say Same of Democrats

Special election gives GOP complete control of Louisiana state government

Washington Examiner
2/22/11

Louisiana holds its state-level elections in the off-year -- in fact, they will do so this November -- but the state's House and Senate have already both flipped to the Republican Party. The GOP took over the state House thanks to a party-switch. The party took over the state Senate this weekend in a special election.

Governor Calls Wisconsin 'Broke' as He Argues for Union Bill

Wall Street Journal Online
2/23/11

"We're broke in this state because time and time again, politicians of both political parties ran away from the tough decisions and punted them down the road for another day," Walker said in a 10-minute televised address yesterday. "We can no longer do that."

Walker spoke as 14 Democratic senators spent a fifth straight day in Illinois to prevent the chamber from having the quorum needed to vote on a bill to restrict collective-bargaining rights for public employees.

Barack Hussein Alinsky

Town Hall Online
2/22/11

Dropping the mask of The Great Compromiser, Obama reverted to his role as South Chicago community organizer, charging Gov. Scott Walker and the Wisconsin legislature with an "assault on unions."

2012 Ad Blitz for Obama Planned

Wall Street Journal Online
2/23/11

Top Democratic Party backers are in discussions about how to fund a television-advertising blitz in support of President Barack Obama's re-election bid. But already an internal debate has started about who should run the group and whether there should be just one organization

NY's union-Cuomo fight is 'Wisconsin light' so far

Wall Street Journal Online
2/22/11

As Wisconsin's governor is embroiled in a fight over fundamental guarantees for organized labor, the struggle between New York's governor and the unions appears to feature more hype than bite so far.

The Democrat is threatening to freeze public salaries, which grew 14 percent over the last years of recession, and to eliminate up to 9,800 jobs through attrition and layoffs if he can't exact \$450 million in savings.

The Showdown Over Public Union Power

Wall Street Journal Online
2/22/11

Government workers have taken to the streets in Madison, Wis., to battle a series of reforms proposed by Gov. Scott Walker that include allowing workers to opt out of paying dues to unions. Everywhere that this "opt out" idea has been proposed, unions have battled it vigorously because the money they collect from dues is at the heart of their power.

It's Crunch Time for Organized Labor

Wall Street Journal Online
2/23/11

U.S. labor unions are facing the most direct challenge to their political and financial clout since Ronald Reagan broke the air-traffic-controllers union 30 years ago.

Contractors Try to Bypass Unions

Wall Street Journal Online
2/22/11

New York City's major construction contractors are gearing up to go around union chiefs and directly reach out to members to get them to agree to reductions in wages and benefits.

With an upcoming round of major contract negotiations approaching, the umbrella construction employer group says it will target "rank and file" union members to make management's case. Contractors, who are represented by the Building Trades Employers' Association, say that major concessions are necessary to help crank up the city's construction industry.

Gov. Christie continues to point finger at public unions on morning talk show circuit, but defends monopoly bargaining

NJ.com
2/23/11

Gov. Chris Christie said this morning there was no political agenda behind his push to rollback public employee benefits, just hard numbers.

Christie said the problem wasn't necessarily collective bargaining, but lawmakers who have been too generous to public employees.