



Court Lets Stand Ruling Denying Appointment Of Right-to-Work Lawyers for Nonunion Class

Daily Labor Report Online
2/22/11

The officers asked the Supreme Court to review the Second Circuit's affirmance of the district court's refusal to appoint their counsel, the National Right to Work Foundation, as class counsel under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(g) for a class consisting of all the union's dissenting nonmembers statewide.

BECKNER: Teachers' rights muzzled in union debate

Washington Times Online
2/23/11

Forced dues are serious money for the teachers unions. According to data compiled by the National Institute for Labor Relations Research in 2008, the two teachers unions - the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) - collected \$2 billion in union dues in 2007 through their state affiliates. Out of that \$2 billion, \$1.3 billion came from states that allow forced dues.

How to Live Freer in New Hampshire

Wall Street Journal Political Diary Online
2/25/11

With all eyes on Wisconsin this past week, overlooked has been the conservative policy changes that are moving ahead in New Hampshire. In recent days the New Hampshire House, where the GOP controls nearly three-quarters of the 400 seats, passed a bill to repeal the state cap-and-trade law that imposes a tax on energy use and a bill to make New Hampshire a right-to-work state.

Democratic Gov. John Lynch has vowed to veto both bills, but my sources in Concord say there's a chance that the vetoes could be overridden. Meanwhile, Republicans are also set to pass a spending reduction bill with the kinds of public sector pension reforms that have incited protests from the labor unions in the Midwest.

Scott Walker: It's Possible to Vote on Collective Bargaining Without Senate Democrats

Weekly Standard Online
2/24/11

Wisconsin governor Scott Walker told THE WEEKLY STANDARD this evening that it is indeed possible for Senate Republicans to vote on the collective bargaining portion of his budget repair bill with a simple majority of senators present. "You could technically do it," Walker told me, but he said he's reluctant to do it. Why?

Showdown in Madison

Wall Street Journal Online
2/25/11

Walker's measure has two major components. The first requires public workers to pay more of their pension and health-care costs, effectively reducing their take-home pay by 8 percent. This call for shared sacrifice in trimming the state's budget follows the trail blazed by New Jersey governor Chris Christie. Though such cuts certainly cause hardship for the (mostly) middle-class people whose discretionary income is being cut, the Wisconsin unions have said that they're willing to agree to something along these lines.

The second and far more controversial part of Walker's bill would restrict collective-bargaining rights for most public employees. State workers could no longer bargain collectively about pensions and health-care benefits, though they could continue to do so about wages; union members' salaries could rise no faster than the Consumer Price Index; and an annual vote would be required in which workers would decide whether to keep the union in existence. Further, union dues would no longer be automatically deducted from state workers' paychecks; instead, workers wouldn't pay dues unless they voluntarily decided to become union members. And responsibility for collecting the dues—which takes time and money—would shift from the state to the union. Taken together, these measures would substantially reduce public-sector union power in Wisconsin and provide a template for reformers elsewhere.

Wisconsin Assembly Passes Bill on Union Rights

Wall Street Journal Online
2/25/11

Republicans in the Wisconsin state Assembly pushed through a vote early Friday morning to pass Gov. Scott Walker's budget bill, which would eliminate most collective-bargaining rights of the state's 170,000 public workers.

Final passage of the bill was far from certain as the state's Senate Democrats remained in northern Illinois, halting progress in that chamber.

Oh, To Be a Teacher in Wisconsin

Wall Street Journal Online
2/25/11

The showdown in Wisconsin over fringe benefits for public employees boils down to one number: 74.2. That's how many cents the public pays Milwaukee public-school teachers and other employees for retirement and health benefits for every dollar they receive in salary. The corresponding rate for employees of private firms is 24.3 cents.

The State Business Tax Revolt

Wall Street Journal Online
2/25/11

President Obama says he wants corporate tax reform but hasn't proposed how to do it. Maybe he should take a look at the states, where as many as 10 new Governors are moving ahead to reform and reduce business taxes. The motive is to attract more businesses and create more jobs, while avoiding the fate of California and New York.

Follow the Money: What the Wisconsin Education Association Isn't Talking About

Big Government Online
2/23/11

One of the most vocal opponents of Scott Walker's budget plan has been the Wisconsin Education Association Council [WEAC]. As a union affiliated with the NEA, WEAC (according to its website) represents 98,000 "educators" in the State of Wisconsin.

Another threat to WEAC, which no one in the mainstream media is talking about is the threat to the union's insurance trust, called WEA Trust. The WEA Trust is, in essence, a union-run "multi-employer" health insurance trust (the employers, in this case, are school districts).

Wisconsin's Labor Relations Agency Said To Lack Resources to Implement Budget Bill

Daily Labor Report Online
2/23/11

The Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission (WERC) does not have the resources to implement at least one of the major provisions in Gov. Scott Walker's (R) legislative plan to strip public sector collective bargaining rights from 175,000 state, county, and school district employees, a senior agency official told BNA Feb. 23.

The Public Worker Gravy Train

Wall Street Journal Online
2/24/11

These studies are misleading. Public-private pay comparisons vary from state to state, but a full accounting shows clearly that large, union-dominated states tend to overpay their workers. California is a good example.

Union Power for Thee, But Not for Me

Wall Street Journal Online
2/25/11

The union horde is spreading, from Madison to Indianapolis to a state capital near you. And yet the Democratic and union bigwigs engineering the outrage haven't directed their angry multitudes at what is arguably the most "hostile workplace" in the nation: Washington, D.C.

Sparring Unions Now Working as One

Wall Street Journal Online
2/24/11

The plan requires each union to commit a certain amount of money to fund a \$30 million campaign. Funds will be dedicated to paid media, lobbying, work-site leaflets, and a range of other campaign items, including opposition research into groups that unions believe could be funding state efforts to restrict union rights, such as the Koch Brothers, and the Scaife and Walton Foundations.

The coordinated effort got its start at a Feb. 14 meeting at the headquarters of the National Education Association, the nation's biggest union with 3.2 million members.

At the meeting, about a dozen presidents of the nation's biggest unions formed a group called the "Labor Table," and signed onto a detailed "unity campaign," which amounts to a contract among the unions outlining how they will mobilize rallies and other events in coming months.

Obama's Badger State Blues

Wall Street Journal Online
2/24/11

Why is the president trying to bully the Wisconsin governor? After all, Arizona, Utah, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and West Virginia are among the states to explicitly prohibit collective bargaining for public employees, which is far beyond what Mr. Walker is seeking. The answer is found in four digits: 2012.

Missouri senator says he'll push 'right-to-work' legislation

SLtoday.com
2/25/11

Missouri Senate President Pro Tem Rob Mayer told The Associated Press on Thursday that he intends to bring the legislation up for debate next week and is prepared for a lengthy Senate discussion. "I'm aware that (protests) could take place and happen, but it will in no way keep me from moving forward with trying to implement the law," said Mayer.

Republicans accused of targeting labor

Nashua Telegraph Online
2/25/11

The head of New Hampshire's AFL-CIO union Thursday claimed the Republican move to support right to work and other anti-union legislation is part of a national effort to destroy organized labor.

Mark McKenzie said the level of antagonism toward labor leaders among Republican legislative leaders, especially in the House, is the most he's witnessed since first working on union issues in 1975.

Afternoon Fix: RNC staffs up, Mitch Daniels defends himself

Washington Post Online
2/24/11

Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels (R) is still defending himself to conservatives, after arguing that the time wasn't right for "right-to-work" legislation in his state. "Please notice that the things Scott Walker - to his credit - is trying to do in Wisconsin - I did those six years ago," he told Fox News' Neil Cavuto. His state is trying limit unionization in the private sector, while Wisconsin is working on the public sector.

N.J. labor unions expected to rally in Trenton in support of Wisconsin public workers

NJ.com
2/25/11

There appears to be efforts from unions to get more members to beat the drum today in Trenton. According to an e-mail obtained by The Star-Ledger, CWA Local 1038 is preparing for the rally with boxed lunches, leaflets and ponchos because of the expected rain.

The union is also offering to reimburse wages for anyone who takes a half-day off to participate in the rally.

UFT spends millions on dinners, parties, parking, coffee as thousands of teachers face layoffs

New York Daily News Online
2/24/11

Records show they:

Ponied up \$514,000 to 16 separate caterers.
Dropped \$278,417 on the annual Teachers Union Day ceremony at the Waldorf-Astoria.
Bought \$6,100 in gift baskets from a lower East Side candy store - and plowed \$179,000 into training retreats at a Connecticut resort boasting golf, scuba diving and aqua aerobics.

House Approves Continuing Resolution; Cuts to Labor Department, Other Agencies

Daily Labor Report Online
2/22/11

The spending package, now headed for certain defeat in the Senate, would cut NLRB's budget by \$50 million, which would result in a nearly three-month shutdown of NLRB operations, agency officials said (34 DLR A-8, 2/18/11).

At the Labor Department, the largest cuts would occur at DOL's Employment and Training Administration, which would face a reduction of about \$2.4 billion, including \$1.4 billion in job training grants to states. The legislation also would cut \$98 million from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and \$1.5 million from the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

NLRB Notice Proposal Draws Heavy Comment Including Debate About Need, Legal Authority

Daily Labor Report Online
2/24/11

The National Labor Relations Board's proposal to require that employers post a notice informing employees of their rights under the National Labor Relations Act prompted more than 6,400 public responses during a comment period that closed Feb. 22, including detailed filings by management and labor groups that disagreed about the board's authority to implement the rule and the proposed methods of enforcement.

NLRB Regional Offices Given More Authority To Seek Remedies in First Contract Disputes

Daily Labor Report Online
2/22/11

National Labor Relations Board Acting General Counsel Lafe E. Solomon announced Feb. 18 that he is giving regional offices greater authority to seek additional remedies in unfair labor practice cases arising out of first-contract bargaining between employers and labor unions.

SEIU Officials Allegedly Violated Civil Rights Of 'Enemies' in California, Complaint Says

Daily Labor Report Online
2/23/11

Several former leaders of United Healthcare Workers West Feb. 22 filed suit in a California court alleging that the Service Employees International Union and some of its top leaders violated California civil rights statutes by engaging in a “policy and practice of utilizing physical intimidation against those in the labor movement who they consider to be enemies” (Rosselli v. Serv. Emps. Int'l Union, Cal. Super. Ct., Case No. CGC-11-508420, complaint filed 2/22/11).

Obama Appoints Initial Members To Jobs and Competitiveness Council

Daily Labor Report Online
2/23/11

More members of the council will be announced at a later date, the White House said. The following individuals were appointed to be members of the council:

- Richard Trumka, president of the AFL-CIO;
- Joseph Hansen, president of the United Food and Commercial Workers;
- Matt Rose, chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Corp.;