



Paying Dues and the 'Right to Work'

Wall Street Journal Online, 4/09/2011

Regarding John Fund's "As Wisconsin's Battle Heads to Court, Unions Try to Oust a Judge" (Cross Country, April 2): Mr. Fund says that I believe paying union dues should be voluntary. Sure, a membership that pays dues voluntarily will be more committed to its union and make it more effective. Besides, most people do want to pay. Even in right-to-work states, the large majority in bargaining units voluntarily pays dues, though it's easy to opt out.

It's not state's job to mandate union dues

Foster's Democrat Online, 4/11/2011

Passed overwhelmingly by the House, RTW moved to the Senate last week, where its fate is unclear.

What is clear, however, and should provide no conflicting sentiment, is its need for passage.

As it now stands, those working in a union shop are forced to pay fees to the union, regardless of their desire to participate.

That is wrong. All other issues are secondary.

Union workers head to Capitol for protest

WHTM ABC TV 27, Harrisburg area, PA, 4/11/2011

HARRISBURG, Pa. (WHTM) - Union workers headed back to the State Capitol today to protest a bill that they believe directly attacks them.

Workers are protesting the PA HB50 "Right to Work Bill," introduced by Daryl Metcalfe (R-Butler) along with 34 other lawmakers. Union workers call the legislation a threat to wages, benefits, and job security.

Election turnout magnified divide in Wisconsin

JSONline, 4/20/2011

This was Gov. Scott Walker's take on last Tuesday's election, in which he wasn't on the ballot but loomed over the campaign debate:

"You have two very different worlds in this state. You've got a world driven by Madison, and a world driven by everybody else. . . . What that tells me is just as you've seen in past elections, for president, for governor, for other offices, Wisconsin is not a red state. It's not a blue state. In many ways, it's a purple state. And it's divided on these issues."

Rally declares solidarity with unions

Charleston Daily Mail Online, 4/11/2011

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Union members and supporters gathered on the steps of the state Capitol bearing signs declaring their solidarity with public workers in Wisconsin and Ohio who are fighting for collective bargaining rights.

Detroit budget crisis: Workers face big blow to benefits

Detroit Free Press Online, 4/11/2011

Bing's budget address before City Council will lay out his plan to suspend payment of a special allocation to the city's two pension funds next fiscal year, and his intent to ask the city's 48 collective bargaining units to renegotiate contracts in the hopes of gaining concessions.