



Wisconsin state and local government workers pay "\$500, \$600 or in some cases, \$1,000" per year in union dues.

PolitiFact Wisconsin Online, 2/22/2011

According to Walker, if workers opt out of the union, they could save a fair amount of money.

On Feb. 20, 2011, on the "Fox News Sunday" program, Walker said "for those workers who don't want to be a part of the union, if you don't want that deduction each month out of the paycheck, they should be able to get that \$500, \$600 or in some cases, \$1,000 back that they can apply for their health care and their pension contribution."

Walker made a similar statement three days earlier on Fox television's "On the Record with Greta Van Susteren." And Washington Post columnist George Will wrote that Walker told him that many employees could save \$500 or \$600 per year in union dues and that teachers could save up to \$1,000.

Budget deal spares union-friendly NLRB

Washington Times Online, 4/12/2011

Despite Republican efforts and promises to the contrary, the budget deal reached last Friday spares cuts to the National Labor Relations Board, which is supposed to resolve disputes between management and labor, but under the Obama administration has devolved into a vehicle to reward unions and bludgeon businesses.

Back in February, a GOP-led effort to defund the entire agency failed, but the Wall Street Journal reported that, "the agency remains a target for spending cuts that would slash its annual budget by \$50 million, or nearly one-fifth."

New Mexico Governor Signs Pension Bill

Daily Labor Report Online, 4/11/2011

Under the "pension-swap" measure, signed April 8 and taking effect July 1, members of New Mexico's Public Employees Retirement Association and the Educational Retirement Board, which represents educators, will be required to pay an additional 1.75 percent of their salaries into their pensions for the next two years. The swap comes on top of a 1.5 percent pension swap that was enacted in 2009 and was set to expire June 30. Lawmakers voted to extend the swap for another year, to June 30, 2012.

Idaho Enacts Anti-Union Education Law; Foes Launch Referendum to Overturn It

Daily Labor Report Online, 4/11/2011

MISSOULA, Mont.—Idaho Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter (R) has signed the last of three bills that curtail teachers' collective bargaining rights and overhaul the state's education system, an effort that foes are seeking to overturn with a referendum.

Otter's signature on Republican-backed Senate Bill 1184 capped a months-long GOP-led campaign to revamp Idaho's K-12 public education system by reducing the role of the state teacher's union, phasing out teacher tenure, introducing merit pay, and excluding teachers from decisions about class size, workload, and safety issues (49 DLR A-2, 3/14/11).

Labor Department May Endure Smaller Cuts As Part of Fiscal 2011 Budget Compromise

Daily Labor Report Online, 4/12/2011

The House is slated to vote April 14 on a breakthrough deal to keep the government funded through the end of fiscal year 2011, including an \$800 million cut in discretionary spending for the Labor Department, which is a far cry from the \$2.5 billion reduction House Republican leaders were seeking to impose on DOL in an earlier measure.

Employees at Maryland Casino Set to Vote For UFCW, Coalition of Unions, or No Union

Daily Labor Report Online, 4/12/2011

Employees at the Casino at Ocean Downs in Berlin, Md., are scheduled to vote April 20 in a National Labor Relations Board-supervised election on whether they wish to be represented by an incumbent union, a coalition of three unions, or no union.

In his decision, Gold said the Dana decision is controlling in this case because the board has not overruled or modified that decision. The petition raises a question concerning representation, he said, because it was timely filed within the 45-day period following the posting of the notice, and was supported by at least 30 percent of the bargaining unit.

'Right-to-work' headed to Senate vote

Concord Monitor Online, 4/13/2011

The four Republicans on the Senate Commerce Committee voted to endorse the "right-to-work" legislation over the opposition of the committee's lone Democrat. The Republican senators said the bill would give workers greater freedom to decide whether to support union efforts. Committee Vice Chairman Ray White, a Bedford Republican, described the issue as "the freedom of choice versus compulsion." He said unions will continue to bring in membership dues so long as they make a compelling case for their services.

Protests Against Right to Work Bill

DUQ FM Online, NPR, 90.5 FM, 4/12/2011

Pennsylvania's unions are mobilizing against a bill that would end mandatory union dues for public employees.

Teamsters packed the Capitol rotunda to oppose House Republican Daryl Metcalfe's bill, which would let local and state public employees opt out of union membership. They chanted, "what time is it? Union time!" before the start of the rally, where Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Treasurer Frank Snyder said unions won't be afraid to spend money on the fight against the bill.

Countering the Siege

New York Times Online, 4/12/2011

WASHINGTON — Perhaps more than any other American, Gerald W. McEntee has surfed the rising tide of public sector unions to success and power. As leader of the largest union of state and local government workers for three decades, he has amassed enormous political influence and a huge campaign war chest that he has not hesitated to use to advance his union's interests.

But now, with public sector unions under attack in deficit-plagued states and cities nationwide, Mr. McEntee faces the biggest challenge of his career — avoiding a wipeout.