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Senate Passes Right-To-Work Bill

WMUR Online, 4/20/2011

CONCORD, N.H. -- The New Hampshire Senate on Wednesday passed a right-to-work bill by a veto-proof majority.

The House did not approve its version by a veto-proof majority, but several members were absent for the vote. Gov. John Lynch has said he would veto the bill.

Oklahoma Senate approves collective bargaining repeal

Newsok.com, 4/19/2011

The Senate on Tuesday sent Gov. Mary Fallin a bill that would strip collective bargaining rights from city employees in Oklahoma's largest cities.

'Koch brothers' confusion results in death threat for lowa company

Des Moines Register Online, 4/18/2011

Angry callers are mistaking Koch Brothers, a Des Moines office supply firm, with the brothers who own Koch Industries, the global energy conglomerate. Billionaires Charles and David Koch have fought Wisconsin unions, financed the tea party and opposed climate change rules.

Editorial: The Union Latex Glove Treatment

The Orange County Register Online, 4/19 2011

If you think the Transportation Security Administration is pushy and intrusive, just wait until they unionize. April 19 is the last day 44,000 TSA workers vote on whether they will join a union. The results will be announced April 20. A yea vote widely is expected. Workers also are voting on whether to join the American Federation of Government Employees or the National Treasury Employees Union.

Scranton Police File Grievance after Police Chief Makes Off-Duty Arrest

Times-Tribune, Scranton, PA, 4/19/2011

The complaint, which was filed with the state Labor Relations Board on April 14, takes issue with the chief arresting a man who was allegedly in possession of marijuana

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because the chief is not a member of the collective bargaining unit and was "off duty" when the March 20 arrest was made

Paterson Cop Layoffs May Affect Response Times

NBC News online, 4/19/2011

The police union warned of lawlessness. The mayor said a busted budget left him no choice.

On Monday, pink slips for 125 cops took effect in Paterson, N.J. It's not clear if the cuts affected response times for the short-handed force, but NBC New York took to the streets with a police scanner to shadow officers as they grappled with reduced manpower in the neighborhoods of New Jersey's third-largest city.

Volunteer cleanup in parks seen by city union as threat

Seattle Times Online, 4/18/2011

Chris Martin, president of the Seattle trash-collection company CleanScapes, says he was being a good corporate citizen when he offered to have his crews clean Westlake Park — free of charge — during the holidays.

But union officials representing the city's parks-maintenance workers didn't see Martin's offer as a goodwill gesture. They considered it an attempt to privatize city services and eliminate the union jobs of laborers responsible for downtown parks.

The Auto Bailout and the Rule of Law

National Affairs Online, 4/18/2011

The bailouts of General Motors and Chrysler have been held up by President Obama and his supporters as a great success story — proof that, by working together, government and business can save jobs and strengthen the economy. But this popular narrative is dangerously misleading. Far from a success story, the events surrounding the bailouts offer a cautionary tale of executive overreach. And their example clarifies the Obama administration's broader approach to economic policy — an approach that is both harmful to economic growth and dangerous to the rule of law.

THE FAIRY TALE

Union Yes? Maybe Not

Wall Street Journal Online, 4/15/2011

"Voters have sided with . . . the unions," Dionne had written five days earlier. Last week this assertion was put to a test at the ballot box, and it proved true. Voters did side with the unions. Not a majority of voters, mind you, but a big enough minority to almost oust a sitting justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court in favor of Big Labor's candidate. OK,

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they lost, but it isn't as if voting out a sitting Supreme Court justice is easy in Wisconsin. Had it happened, it would have been for the first time in almost 1,100 days.

AFL-CIO Targets CEO Compensation

Wall Street Journal Online, 4/19/2011

The CEO-workers comparison isn't exact. The AFL-CIO's measure of CEO compensation includes stock options, equity awards and some perks while the measure for workers just includes pay, excluding pensions or employer contributions to 401(k) plans.

Union Pay Rules in Construction Draw Fire

Wall Street Journal Online, 4/15/2011

Lawmakers and governors in 21 states are seeking to curb union clout in governmentfunded construction projects by limiting the use of wage requirements that generally favor union workers.

The proposals open another front in a battle largely pitting Republican lawmakers against unions, and push the debate further into the private sector. At issue are so-called prevailing-wage rules, which require contractors working on government projects to pay workers a rate that usually closely tracks union wages.

Teamsters chief Hoffa says Mo. lawmakers waging 'war on workers' with anti-union proposals

Fox2now.com, 4/19/2011

The most contentious of those would make Missouri a "right to work" state in which union fees could not be required as a condition of employment. Other bills would require annual consent for union dues to be deducted from paychecks and require secret ballots for unionization elections — something that already occurs.

'Paycheck' act levels playing field

Florida Sun-Sentinel Online 4/14/2011

Florida's small business owners are asking state and local governments to stop serving as a collection agent for union dues. As taxpayers, they are aghast to learn that this occurs, and in this time of cutting government services, this is one that should be jettisoned.

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New contract for California prison guards lifts cap on saved vacation

Los Angeles Times Online, 4/19/2011

The guards, who are among Brown's largest political benefactors, would be able to save an unlimited number of vacation days under their new deal. When they leave state service, those days could be exchanged for cash at their final pay rate, which would probably be higher than when they earned the time off.

The governor is extending this benefit only to members of the California Correctional Peace Officers Assn., a union that spent nearly \$2 million to help him win election last year.