



Senate passes right-to-work bill by veto-proof majority

NH Union Leader Online, 4/21/2011

New Hampshire AFL-CIO President Mark MacKenzie said after the vote, "Quite simply, our state's working people were sold out today by the state Senate." Other opponents characterized the bill as a "race to the economic bottom," pushed by the National Right to Work Committee in Virginia and big corporations. Right-to-work states draw lower paying jobs and see lower average incomes, they argued.

Those who favored the bill said it is a matter of freedom and personal choice, and argued passing right-to-work will attract new business to the state. No one should be forced to support an organization they disagree with, they say.

"It came down to a simple matter of freedom of choice, and I ran as a freedom kind of guy," said Sen. Raymond White, R-Bedford. Several senators said businesses called them privately to ask for the bill.

NLRB Stirs up Hornet's Nest by Threatening Right to Work

Wall Street Journal Online, 4/21/2011

After 17 months and \$2 billion, the NLRB sandbags Boeing

We knew that Big Labor had political pull at the Obama-era National Labor Relations Board, but yesterday's complaint against Boeing is one for the (dark) ages. By challenging Boeing's right to build aircraft in South Carolina, labor's bureaucratic allies in Washington are threatening the ability of states to compete for new jobs and investment—and risking the economic recovery to boot.

Unionsdämmerung

Weekly Standard Online, 4/25/2011

Despite having its best friend forever in the White House, the American labor movement is in mortal crisis

One of the most widely circulated photographs during the Wisconsin union battle was of a protester in Madison holding up a sign that read: "Dear Barack, Please put on your comfortable shoes. Love, America."

While that sign may not have meant anything to the rest of the country, those in the labor movement were all too aware that the president hadn't lived up to one of his most explicit promises. "And understand this," he told a union audience on the campaign trail in 2007.

“If American workers are being denied their right to organize and collectively bargain, when I’m in the White House I’ll put on a comfortable pair of shoes myself—I’ll walk on that picket line with you as president of the United States of America.”

Graham Takes on Bill Daley, NLRB

National Review Online, 4/21/2011

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R., S.C.) is furious with the National Labor Relations Board for challenging Boeing’s new production facility in South Carolina.

Graham tells National Review Online that he may attempt to defund the agency for punishing right-to-work states. He also urges White House chief of staff William Daley to defend Boeing’s ability to determine where it manufactures its products

Re: Graham Takes on Daley, NLRB

National Review Online, 4/21/2011

The NLRB’s decision to go after Boeing for creating jobs in a right-to-work state really is outrageous. And it’s something the governors of Nevada, Iowa, North Carolina, Virginia, and Florida — five right-to-work states that Obama carried in 2008 — ought to weigh in on.

Former NLRB chairman says board's complaint against Boeing is unprecedented

Washington Examiner Online, 4/21/2011

Specifically, one of the cases the complaint relies on is the 1969 U.S. Supreme Court decision NLRB v. Gissel Packing Co. which set parameters for employer free speech. In its complaint, the NLRB said that statements made by Boeing executives in which they talked about past strikes in Washington and the threat of future strikes were out of bounds under the Gissel ruling.

Collective bargaining bill heads to full TN Senate

Associated Press Online, 4/21/2011

A proposal to replace Tennessee teachers' collective bargaining rights with a policy manual is "insulting to teachers" and could create chaos, said the lobbyist for the Tennessee Education Association.

Republican Sen. Jack Johnson of Franklin is the main sponsor of the measure that passed the Senate Education Committee 6-3 on Wednesday and will now go to the Senate floor.

United Farm Workers fight dwindling membership

Associated Press Online, 4/20/2011

The United Farm Workers of America drew national attention when workers led by Cesar Chavez inspired a boycott of table grapes in the 1960s and then forced vineyard owners to sign hundreds of contracts providing better pay and working conditions.

But experts say employer intimidation, high worker turnover and demographic changes have resulted in union membership plummeting in recent decades, despite the problems workers reeled off at the meeting: low or stagnant wages; employers who don't provide shade from the scorching sun; and foremen who rob workers of their pay or prevent them from taking water and bathroom breaks.

The workers in the room were too afraid of reprisals to agree to be named or even quoted individually by The Associated Press, and that fear is one reason union leaders want to change the way workers organize. In 1975, the union fought for workers' right to hold secret ballot elections. Now, in a historic shift, it is backing a California bill that would move organizing efforts off farms, where leaders believe employer intimidation has helped throw elections.