



Right to Work Laws Defended, Attacked In Wake of NLRB ULP Charge Against Boeing

Daily Labor Report Online, 5/18/2011

Patrick Semmens, director of legal information at the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, a group that favors right to work laws and, according to its website, offers “free legal aid to employees whose human or civil rights have been violated by abuses of compulsory unionism.”

In addition to providing “strong economic benefits” to both state governments and workers in right to work states, Semmens said right to work laws “make unions better in terms of representing their employees,” because the unions then must “earn workers' dues for the services they provide.”

Semmens added that workers in non-right to work states who do not belong to unions are more frequently fired for reasons related to union membership than those in right to work states. “We represent employees choosing between being fired and paying dues to a union,” he said.

Channel 6 anchor files complaint against union

Indianapolis Star Online, 5/20/2011

Shepherd received free legal assistance in filing the complaint from the Virginia-based National Right to Work Foundation, a proponent of more states adopting the legislation that unions think is intended to weaken their finances.

GRAY: NLRB takes unconstitutional stance on Boeing's expansion

Washington Times Online, 5/18/2011

The most provocative and potentially most dangerous economic policy initiative of the Obama administration is only now beginning to attract coverage — its proposal to shut down Boeing's second 787 Dreamliner plant in right-to-work South Carolina in mid-stream (after hundreds of millions of dollars have already been spent) in order to confine Boeing's new airplane construction to a union state (Washington).

There is much convincing analysis that the National Labor Relations Board has no authority or precedent for doing this. What needs to be examined is whether the move in fact is not also unconstitutional as a frontal assault on a central building block of our national economy.

Organized Labor No Longer Just Backing Democrats?

Weekly Standard Online, The Blog, 5/20/2011

Organized labor makes up 12 of the top 20 political donors in the last 20 years and nearly all of that money has gone to Democrats. Labor leaders have also been less than subtle in their criticisms of Republicans over the years. However, with public sector unions the target of voter outrage and the radical union agenda increasingly becoming a liability for Democrats, suddenly the AFL-CIO's Richard Trumka is now talking about creating an "independent labor movement":

So organized labor won't spend \$400 million in 2012, like they did electing Barack Obama and Democrats in 2008? Don't bet on it.

Obama Administration Defends Waivers Against Pawlenty's Claim of 'Crony Politics'

Daily Labor Report, 5/18/2011

In a White House blog post, Department of Health and Human Services spokesman Richard Sorian said the administration has granted 1,372 waivers to employers, health plans, and unions "to make sure workers are able to maintain their existing insurance, because on their own they would likely be shut out of the individual market or face unaffordable options."

House Votes Restrictions On Teacher Collective Bargaining

The Chattanooga.com, 5/20/2011

The state House voted Thursday 59-39 for sweeping restrictions on collective bargaining by Tennessee teachers.

The Senate had earlier voted for a complete repeal of teacher collective bargaining.

The two bills must now be reconciled.

House Republicans Condemn NMB For Representation Election Rule Change

Daily Labor Report Online, 5/18/2011

The National Mediation Board's new rule governing representation elections "allows a minority of employees to determine union representation," Reps. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and Dennis Ross (R-Fla.), chairman of the House Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, wrote in a May 17 letter to National Mediation Board Chairman Harry Hoglander.

Police union big linked to Bronx ticket-fixing probe is retiring

New York Daily News Online, 5/20/2011

John Puglissi, first vice president of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, is not believed to be a target of the grand jury probe, but sources said Puglissi's name has come up during the investigation.

Forced Unionization: Bad for Business?

openmarket.org, 5/20/2011

Right-to-work states have seen private sector employment grow faster than forced unionization states, such as Washington. Not only are there more new jobs but personal incomes in right to work states have grown at a faster rate. Both these statistics are a result of the 46 percent more private businesses that open in right-to-work states. These trends tell us one thing: right-to-work states are better for businesses and employees.

Agreement Requiring Employer to Cease Doing Business with Certain Subcontractors Unlawful Under the NLRA

Labor Relations Counsel Online, 5/18/2011

In Teamsters Local 251, 356 NLRB No. 135 (2011), the Board recorded a welcome win for employers, holding that the union violated the National Labor Relations Act when it demanded that a construction contractor comply with an agreement not to use the services of two nonunion trucking companies to haul construction materials to its jobsite, and when it engaged in a strike against the contractor to enforce that agreement.

Bailout baloney

The Daily Online, 5/19/2011

For starters, included in the \$3.2 billion figure is the net \$1.5 billion that the company generated from the one-time sale of Delphi, its auto parts supplier, and Ally Financial, its financial arm. Subtract that, and its performance looks much less impressive, especially compared to its rival Ford, which really didn't receive a dime from taxpayers yet made \$2.6 billion last quarter — or nearly \$1 billion more than GM.

But cold, hard cash is not the only help that GM got.

Pawlenty to Pursue GOP Nomination

Wall Street Journal Online, 5/20/2011

Former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty will formally announce his bid for the Republican presidential nomination on Monday in Iowa, according to an aide.

Trade Extortion Assistance

Wall Street Journal Online, 5/20/2011

Translation: Hand over more than \$2 billion a year to its union allies or the White House will block trade deals that would create hundreds of thousands of new jobs. Those familiar with the tactics of this White House won't be surprised to learn that beneficiaries of the program that Mr. Obama wants to resurrect include union workers whose job losses had nothing to do with foreign competition.