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Judge voids Wisconsin collective bargaining law

Superior Telegraph Online, 5/26/2011

MADISON — Wisconsin's law taking away nearly all collective bargaining rights from most public workers was struck down Thursday by a circuit court judge but the ruling will not be the final say in the union fight that brought tens of thousands of protesters to the Capitol earlier this year.

House Panel Debates Union Pressure Tactics, NLRB Actions, and Congressional Oversight

Daily Labor Report Online, 5/26/2011

The House Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee met May 26 to hear testimony on “Corporate Campaigns and the NLRB: The Impact of Union Pressure on Job Creation,” but witnesses at the session called by subcommittee Chairman Phil Roe (R-Tenn.) had few suggestions for legislative action, and panel members spent much of the hearing debating the National Labor Relations Board acting general counsel's recent unfair labor practice complaint against Boeing Co.

Rat Balloons Used in Union Protests Allowed by Labor Board

Bloomberg Online, 5/26/2011

Inflatable rats displayed by labor unions outside a company's offices are a legal form of protest, the U.S. National Labor Relations Board ruled in a case that will expand the scope of worker protests.

The NLRB, which mediates disputes between unions and companies, decided that rat balloons at a company's suppliers or customers, not just the facilities of the business they are protesting, isn't coercive, according to a statement.

Are the Other Boeing Workers' Rights Lost?

Wall Street Journal Online, 5/27/2011

Regarding Arthur Laffer and Stephen Moore's "Boeing and the Union Berlin Wall" (op-ed, May 13): The National Labor Relations Board has complained that Boeing retaliated against machinist union members for exercising their right to strike. Don't Boeing's South Carolina employees, who recently chose to exercise their legal right to decertify the union, have the right not to be retaliated against by their own former union?

Union files complaint to stop move of NYC Opera

Wall Street Journal Online, 5/26/2011

The American Guild of Musical Artists says the opera's move to a smaller venue and a shorter schedule will mean less work for union members, who are usually guaranteed a certain number of work weeks per year. It filed a complaint on Thursday with the National Labor Relations Board saying the opera should have negotiated any move with the union.

"They have a legal obligation to bargain and give us all their information," Gordon said. "They can't just decide, 'I'm going into business somewhere else, find me if you can.'"

Singers' Union to Opera: Halt

Wall Street Journal Online, 5/26/2011

The union representing New York City Opera singers and production personnel on Thursday filed unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board, a move that has the potential to derail the company's plans, announced last Friday, to leave Lincoln Center for a less expensive venue

State Senate limits collective bargaining rights; approves \$30.5b budget

Boston.com, 5/26/2011

The Massachusetts Senate voted tonight to curb the collective bargaining rights of police officers, teachers, and other municipal employees, making it likely the overwhelming Democratic state will limit union power in an effort to ease budget woes.

Teamsters Independent Review Board Recommends Trusteeship for Local 630

Daily Labor Report Online, 5/25/2011

A court-appointed panel intended to enforce anti-corruption rules within the International Brotherhood of Teamsters has recommended that Los Angeles-based Local 630 be placed under the control of a trustee, and that embezzlement charges be filed against its secretary-treasurer and two other local officials.

In a May 12 report to IBT General President James Hoffa, the Independent Review Board (IRB) recommended that the local be placed in trusteeship and have its officers removed "because the Local is not being run for the benefit of the members, the Local's principal officer and two business agents appear to have embezzled from the Local and the Local lacks adequate financial controls."

Blue Green, Apollo Alliances to Merge As Transit Manufacturing Bill Announced

Daily Labor Report Online, 5/26/2011

The Blue Green Alliance and the Apollo Alliance, two coalitions of labor, environmental, and other advocacy groups, May 26 announced they would merge effective July 1 in order to work together to foster a grassroots movement aimed at creating environmentally friendly “green jobs” and combatting climate change.

During a teleconference with reporters, leaders of the two groups joined Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) in touting the Strengthening Manufacturing and Rebuilding Transit (SMART) Act, proposed legislation that Brown said would link investment in public transit by state and local governments with job creation in the manufacturing sector and ensure that more transit equipment, such as buses, trains, and trolleys, were made in the United States.

Municipalities still planning for collective bargaining changes, despite court ruling

Wausaudailyherald.com, 5/26/2011

Local officials are acting as if the state’s collective bargaining rules will be dismantled, despite a decision this morning striking down the law.

But Dean Zuleger, administrator for the village of Weston, said municipal officials believe changes to collective bargaining eventually will be approved, whether in the courts or the state Legislature.

Buildings Department Braces For 'Sabotage' In Labor Standoff

NY City Hall News Online, 5/26/2011

The city Buildings Department is bracing for turmoil at construction sites when dozens of collective bargaining agreements expire at the end of next month, Commissioner Robert LiMandri told a City Hall breakfast yesterday.

He said his department will be on high alert as the June 30 deadline nears, and is planning how to navigate picket lines and deal with deliberate destruction by disgruntled workers.