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Justices Agree to Review Ninth Circuit Ruling On Union Assessment, Rights of Nonmembers

Daily Labor Report Online, 6/27/2011

W. James Young and Raymond J. LaJeunesse of National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation Inc. in Springfield, Va., filed the petition for Knox.

According to court records, Local 1000 was the bargaining agent for California state employees, including nonmembers who were required by state law and collective bargaining agreements, as a condition of employment, to pay a “fair share fee” to defray the cost of union representation. Each June, the union sent nonmembers a notice required by *Chicago Teachers Union v. Hudson*, 475 U.S. 292, 121 LRRM 2793 (1986), advising them of the agency fee due based on the union's record of expenditures for the most recently audited year of union operations.

Right-to-work states have better workforces, too

Washington Examiner Online, July 2, 2011

Obama has made the survival of unions a much higher priority for his administration than sustainable job growth, beginning with the bailout of the automakers and continuing most recently with his National Labor Relations Board's persecution of Boeing for expanding its manufacturing operations in the right-to-work state of South Carolina. It is sad, although perhaps not surprising, that Obama would subordinate the interests of 93 percent of American workers to those of one politically favored group, but this is precisely what he is doing. The 93 percent would do well to take notice in the coming elections.

Teamsters Adopt Motions on Mexican Trucks, Trade Agreements, State Right-to-Work Laws

Daily Labor Report Online, 6/27/2011

While proponents of right-to-work laws frequently contend that the measures help create jobs, lure businesses to states, and help states become economically prosperous, the IBT resolution said such measures “will undoubtedly drive down living standards impacting workers, their communities, and states.”

“On average, workers in the 22 states in which Right-to-Work (for Less) is law earn \$5,500 less every year, or \$458 less each month, than their counterparts in the 28 non-Right-to-Work (for Less) states,” the resolution said.

“Opposing this legislation should remain a paramount priority for the Teamsters Union, working families, and allies throughout the country as to ensure that a strong and vibrant American middle class continues,” the resolution concluded.

New Jersey Lawmakers Approve Plan For Sweeping Public Sector Benefits Changes

Daily Labor Report Online, 6/24/2011

The public employee health and pension benefits changes were proposed by the governor in September 2010 as part of his “tool kit” of changes aimed at scaling back the cost of government and bringing down property taxes in New Jersey, which are among the nation's highest.

Key among them on the pension side are increases in contribution rates for all active employees, elimination of cost-of-living adjustments for current and future retirees, and a change in the retirement age from 62 to 65 for new hires other than police officers and firefighters.

IAM Files Petition for Representation Of Ikea Factory Workers in Virginia

Daily Labor Report Online, 6/24/2011

The Swedwood Danville LLC plant, a subsidiary of Netherlands-based Ikea, was the company's first U.S. manufacturing plant when it opened in May 2008. Since 2009, IAM has been in talks with executive officers of Ikea and Swedwood to work out a representation-by-card-check procedure for the plant's maintenance and production employees, Bill Street, director of IAM's Wood Workers Department and who has been the lead in IAM's organizing campaign, told BNA June 24.

Hoffa to Face Two Challengers At Upcoming Teamsters Convention

Daily Labor Report Online, 6/24/2011

Upstart candidate Sandy Pope, the first woman to run for IBT general president in the union's 108-year history, is challenging incumbent General President James P. Hoffa, who has held that post since 1999. A third candidate, Fred Gegare, also is running for general president.

Podhorzer Named AFL-CIO Political Director

Daily Labor Report, 6/29/2011

Prior to joining the AFL-CIO in 1997, Podhorzer was associate director of Citizen Action, where he managed the organization's electoral activities. While at the AFL-CIO, he helped establish Working America, the community partner of the federation, which has grown to 3 million members nationwide since its creation in August 2003.

Podhorzer is a founding chair of the Analyst Institute, a clearinghouse for evidence-based best practices in liberal voter contact. He also serves on the board of managers for Catalyst, which runs a database and data tools for left-leaning voters.

California Governor Vetoes Bill Giving Farmworkers Card Check Option

Daily Labor Report,
6/29/2011

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—As dozens of farmworkers held a vigil outside his office, Gov. Jerry Brown (D) vetoed a bill (S.B. 104) an hour before his midnight deadline June 28 that would have given them the option of using a card check election instead of secret ballots to choose union representation.

Learning how to be a union activist

Los Angeles Times Online, 7/05/2011

The techniques Krehbiel and other instructors taught at this one-day event, called Troublemakers School, might have once been learned on the assembly line, in the mine elevator or at the bowling alley. Now, the teachers impart their knowledge through fliers and by drawing on white boards, much like a football coach might sketch out a play when the team is down by a touchdown with just seconds left on the clock.

NEA Endorses Obama's Bid for Second Term

Wall Street Journal Online, 7/04/2011

The vote, during the annual convention of the National Education Association, was supported by 72% of the union's representative assembly. The assembly is the top decision-making body for the union and the endorsement allows the NEA, which represents 3.2 million teachers, to start campaigning for Mr. Obama.

NEA President Dennis Van Roekel said the endorsement gives the union leverage to push for changes more favorable to labor and teachers, especially overhauls to No Child Left Behind, the controversial education policy up for renewal this year.

Massachusetts Curbs Bargaining

Wall Street Journal Online, 7/02/2011

Heavily Democratic Massachusetts on Friday became the latest state to curtail public workers' collective-bargaining rights, as lawmakers approved a \$30.6 billion budget that gives cities and towns greater leeway to force employees to pay more for their health care.

More-recent moves elsewhere show Democrats, long union allies, are starting to demand more savings from public employees as well. In New Jersey, the Democrat-controlled

legislature recently passed cuts to pension and health-care benefits pushed by Republican Gov. Chris Christie.

Group pushes for Michigan right-to-work proposal

Washington Examiner Online, 6/30/2011

Michigan Freedom to Work seeks a state law that would prohibit requiring an employee to join or financially support a union as a condition of employment. The group includes some current and former union members who say belonging to a labor organization should be a matter of personal choice, not a requirement.

So-Called "Independent" Agency Not Independent From President Obama

Townhall.com, 7/05/2011

Last week, when asked about the controversy surrounding the National Labor Relations Board's (NLRB) complaint against the Boeing Company for building a facility in the right-to-work state of South Carolina, President Obama responded that the regulatory agency was "independent." And while that's what is stated on the NLRB's Web site, nothing could be further from the truth.

First, the so-called "independent" agency has demonstrated a deliberate and unequivocal interest in advancing the agenda of union bosses over that of workers, time and again.