



GREER: Voluntary unions serve workers, not bosses

Washington Times Online, 3/01/2012

Unfortunately, most media accounts adopted the rhetoric of union officials by characterizing Indiana's new law as "anti-union." If right-to-work laws are anti-union, so was Samuel Gompers, founder of the American Federation of Labor, the precursor to today's AFL-CIO. At the 1924 AFL convention, Gompers declared: "No lasting gain has ever come from compulsion. If we seek to force, we but tear apart that which, united, is invincible."

Obama Labor Board Recess Appointments Challenged in New York Lockout Trial

Bloomberg.com, 3/01/2012

A court petition seeking to halt a lockout of 70 workers at a Brooklyn, New York, apartment complex should be thrown out, a lawyer told the judge in the case, which may test whether President Barack Obama's January appointments to the National Labor Relations Board are legal.

The Supreme Court Must Protect the First Amendment from Unions

National Review Online, 2/29/2012

Theresa Riffey provides help around the home for her brother, a quadriplegic, and receives a small stipend from Illinois's Medicaid program for her efforts, saving the state the cost of providing full-time care. Illinois law requires her to pay a portion of her check every month to an affiliate of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). The Supreme Court will soon decide whether to hear her case that asks on what basis, besides raw political power, a state may compel independent home-care workers and other similarly situated self-employed persons to support and associate with a labor union against their will. For the sake of workers' First Amendment rights, it should take the case.

Labor's Super PACs

PublicSectorInc.com, 2/29/2012

Organized labor is adjusting to the new realities of our ever evolving campaign finance law. Rather than donate directly to Democratic candidates and the Democratic party, it is increasingly funneling its money and energies into Super PACs of its own. This will have an important impact on the Democrats' campaign in the fall.

KOVACS and VERNUCCIO: UAW: Building taxpayer burdens

Washington Times Online, 2/29/2012

The fact is that the UAW has benefited from billions of taxpayer dollars, not just through the direct bailout of General Motors and Chrysler, but also through various programs that gave government dollars to the union's health care plan. Yet even with the taxpayers supporting it at seemingly every turn, the UAW's health insurance fund is billions in the red.

Obama Claims Unions Not a 'Special Interest' Not

CNSNews.com, 2/28/2012

Unions spread their influence through more than just lobbying, however, ranking among some of the largest independent campaign spenders in the country.

Cuccinelli reverses Dulles Rail decision on union labor

Washingtonexaminer.com, 3/01/2012

Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli on Wednesday reversed his office's position on legislation involving the use of union labor on the Dulles Metrorail project, telling lawmakers that they could cut off \$150 million in state funding for the project if the board overseeing construction continues to encourage the use of union labor.

SC exported most autos, tires in the nation in 2011

The State Online, 2/29/2012

South Carolina reclaimed its lead as the No. 1 exporter of vehicles in 2011, outranking Michigan, and became the top exporter in the nation of tires, officials said Tuesday.

Carpenters Claim BCTD, Labor Officials Are Waging 'Unlawful Extortionate Campaign'

Daily Labor Report Online, 2/28/2012

The AFL-CIO's Building & Construction Trades Department, its president, and four other high-profile labor officials have violated the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act and Washington state law by engaging in an "unlawful extortionate campaign" to force the Carpenters and Joiners of America to make monthly payments to BCTD and to be governed by its rules, according to a complaint filed Feb. 21 in a federal district court in Washington state (Carpenters and Joiners of Am. v. Building and Constr. Trades Dep't, E.D. Wash., No. 12-109, 2/21/12).

Obama Hails Resurgence of Auto Industry, Resilience of U.S. Workers in UAW Speech

Daily Labor Report Online, 12/28/2012

Obama also praised UAW members for their sacrifices and hard work in the auto industry's return to profitability.

Morning Bell: How Chrysler Can Actually Help Detroit

The Foundry Online, 2/2/2012

UAW-owned Chrysler's opposition to right-to-work discouraged these auto manufacturing jobs from being created in Detroit, a logical geographic location for the jobs with illogical labor rules. Furthermore, UAW president Bob King is leading an effort to amend the Michigan constitution to permanently block right-to-work laws.

IN House Minority Leader Pat Bauer Will try to undo Right to Work Once Daniels is Gone

South Bend Tribune Online, 2/26/2012

Bauer cites three areas of "damage." He predicts that voter reaction to them will combine to bring House Democrats back from the Republican "tsunami" that swept them out of majority in 2010.

Unions Rejigger Political Spending

Wall Street Journal Online, 2/27/2012

Some union officials suggest that, in addition to donating directly to candidates, they plan to spend significantly on their own voter-mobilization efforts in support of Democrats, though that is hard to verify because this type of spending doesn't have to be disclosed.

Leaders of Clark County teachers union see big jump in pay

Las Vegas Review-Journal Online, 2/26/2012

In 2009, the last year for which a required Internal Revenue Service report is available, more than a third of the union's \$4.1 million budget went to pay just nine leaders. Each earned between \$139,785 and \$208,683 for a total of \$1.5 million, according to the Clark County Education Association's report to the IRS.

Revamped AFL-CIO Website Aims to Attract All Workers, Including Nonunion Workers

Daily Labor Report Online, 2/29/2012

During a preview of the website with reporters before its official launch, Shuler said the federation wants <http://www.aflcio.org> to be “among the premier and certainly the most visited site [on the internet] for information about what working people care about.”

Judge Enjoins Michigan Law Banning PLAs, Finding Federal Law Preempts Statute

Daily Labor Report Online, 3/01/2012

The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, in a Feb. 29 order written by Judge Victoria Roberts, sided with the labor group, found that the right to negotiate PLAs is a form of “concerted activity” protected under the NLRA’s Section 7, which applies to collective bargaining. Moreover, Section 8 of the act explicitly allows for PLAs and pre-hire agreements in the construction industry, the order said. The law also violated the Constitution’s supremacy clause by attempting to regulate labor law at the state level, the court found.

ABA Panelists Divide on Boeing Case Issues, But Call Political Attacks on NLRB Excessive

Daily Labor Report online, 3/01/2012

KEY WEST, Fla.—A management attorney and a union lawyer speaking Feb. 28 at an ABA meeting divided on some of the legal issues raised by a National Labor Relations Board complaint last year against Boeing Co., but they agreed the highly publicized case led to unwarranted criticism of NLRB and its acting general counsel.