

“Wisconsin Already is a Right-To-Work State for Most”
by Mitch Henck
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The latest temper tantrum at Capitol comes as Republicans stand accused of Shoving Right to Work legislation down the throats of Wisconsin workers. Tantrums happen when your side doesn't get what it wants.

Republicans screamed bloody murder when Democrats "shoved Obamacare down their throats in 2010. Guess what? The term "Shoving down our throats" is Latin for "They have the votes."

Senator Robert Wirth of Kenosha was the ultimate sore loser when he denounced the Right to Work argument that employees should not be forced to pay dues to a union in order to work for an employer. Wirth said, "I didn't vote for Scott Walker. Does that mean I don't have to pay taxes?"

Senator, you pay taxes to the government not to private organizations. After all, that's what a union is. They are no different in principle to a Lion's Club...or The Fraternal Order of Police. In every other aspect of life, people chose to join private organizations by paying dues voluntarily. But Mitch...you are encouraging free loading by scabs who want the same wages and benefits as union members without paying dues!

No I don't. I don't believe a person who does not join the union deserves any union protections. That would include filing a grievance or legal representation in case of a dispute over termination.

Here's the problem. Unions can choose to represent members only if they want. In fact The U.S. Supreme Court held in 1962 Retail Clerks versus Dry Goods that bargaining is "not limited to labor organizations which are entitled to recognition as exclusive bargaining agents of employees."

That means unions could choose to represent members only if they wanted. They don't want that because by giving up the power to act as the exclusive bargaining agent of all employees in that closed shop, the union would give up the power to protect seniority.

The union always wants to make sure the younger workers get fired first. So much for the Union mantra, "An injury to one is an injury to all."

Unions remain in business in Right to Work states. It's just that members choose to pay dues because they choose to form a union. What a concept.

Right to Work Indiana created 21,000 manufacturing jobs in the 12 months ending in November 2014. The Hoosier state ranked number one in the country. Forced Unionized Wisconsin created 9-thousand fewer manufacturing jobs during the same period.

The Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics gives us those numbers...not Scott Walker. The freedom to join a union or not join is fundamental in a free society. If unions don't want to represent free loaders in labor disputes, they don't have to.

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