

STEEL VOICE



UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 1999

Volume 4, Issue 1.

Indianapolis, IN

January 21, 2011

"Right to Work": Union Busting in Indiana

By Marvin Williams

Republican members of the Indiana House of Representatives have now introduced a bill deceptively captioned "Employee's right to work." The title misrepresents the bill's true intent which is to do just the opposite. The bill's real purpose is to stop working people from organizing themselves in unions so they can truly exercise their right to work.

The House bill no. 1043 was introduced January 5, 2011 by Representatives Torr, Culver, Kubacki, and Turner; received first reading; and was referred to the Committee on Employment, Labor, and Pensions. Interestingly, when asked December 26, 2010 by



an Indianapolis Star reporter about the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's drive to put "right-to-work" on the legislative agenda, Republican Governor Mitch Daniels said, "I don't think it should be a subject of debate and vote in this particular General Assembly." In the Governor's 2011 State of the State address the words "right-to-work" were unmentioned.

work bill would make "it a Class A misdemeanor for an employer to require an individual to: (1) become or remain a member of a labor organization; (2) pay dues, fees, or other charges to a labor organization; or (3) pay to a charity or another third party an amount that represents dues, fees, or other charges required of members of a labor organization; as a



In summary, the right-to-

⇒ See RTW, Page 3.

My View

Bruce Reed, Local Union Representative



Brothers and Sisters:

Since our last newsletter we have had our mid-term elections, we in the labor movement have been hurt by the outcome. We in Indiana can expect an attack on our Unions, and on the national level an attack on any and all of the gains we have made in the prior two year period. We are all aware of the position Indiana's Governor has taken on Unions in the past and with a State House and State Senate both made up of his party he will have no problem getting his agenda passed, an anti Union agenda.

In the very near future we as a Union, will be lobbying on the working man's behalf and will fight to maintain our standard of living, but if the Republican bill to make the state a right to work state passes, we will see many drastic changes in the way will have to operate.

Our Local along with many other Unions in the state will be mobiliz-

ing our members to make sure the state legislators understand how important this issue is to us. When we ask our people to help and come out to support our cause please try to help. If you are an off shift worker and can donate some time please let us know so we can contact you when the time is right.

The Local is having its annual President's meeting on January 31, 2011. Our new Sub District Director, Wayne (Crash) Dale will give us a presentation on grievance handling and spend some time meeting our Officers and Unit Presidents. Crash has been working in Sub District 2 for the last 3 or 4 years and we welcome him back. Anyone who has worked with Crash knows he is a dedicated Unionist and cares deeply for the working people we represent. If you are a Unit President or an Officer of the Local please make every attempt to attend this function, the Local provides us this avenue to keep our leadership teams informed on what is going on in the International and Local Unions and in the area most of our units are located in.

Most of our shops seem to be picking up and most of our units have everyone that was laid off recalled, several of the units are working overtime. I know what you hear and read in the media is that the stimulus did not work and the Country is in terrible shape due to the money spent on the stimulus package. I ask you to consider this, if General Motors had went down it would have had a devastating effect on our local Union and the workers we have. Many of our core business are tied to the automotive sector. Doing nothing and claiming the Country did not have any economic problems,

like Bush and his party did prior to the collapse, was clearly not the answer. The Collapse did not just go away, and nothing "trickled down" to keep America solvent. The catastrophic collapse of our economy was left for the next person to fix, in my opinion President Obama has at the very least got the Country going in the right direction. Let's hope when the new Senate and new Congress are seated they do not return us to the "trickledown economics" they supported in the past. Our jobs, economy, and life styles trickled out of the Country, not back to our family units, that is not speculation it is fact, hindsight is 20-20. □

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**UnionPlus.org/
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↳RTW, From Page 1.

condition of employment or continuation of employment. Establishes a separate private right of action for violations or threatened violations.”

Right-to-work laws such as that proposed for Indiana have been around since passage in 1947 of the Taft-Hartley Act over President Truman's veto. There currently are such laws in twenty-two states, mostly in the South and West.

Pros and Cons

Proponents of right-to-work legislation find their strongest argument in the Constitutional guarantee of freedom of association and argue that laws to the contrary are unconstitutional and therefore illegal. Another objection is that a portion of union dues goes to political causes workers may not personally support. Arguments based on the common law principle of the ownership of private property cut both ways: individual employees should not be compelled to join and pay dues to a union, and right-to-work laws interfere with the way business does business.

Right-to-work laws come with great costs, economic and social, to workers and the general public. Union members point out that non-union members are “free riders” because they benefit from contracts negotiated by

the union, but bear none of the cost. Because all employees benefit from the fruits of collectively bargained labor agreements, whether union members or not, there is less incentive to join the union. Wages in right-to-work states are significantly lower and worker's health and safety standards more lax. Workplace fatalities are highest in right-to-work states.

**A Tough Fight Ahead**

There are many powerful and well-funded organizations pushing to make Indiana the twenty-third right-to-work state. It could take all the forces of labor and the allies it can call upon to stop it.

Some of the supporters of “right-to-work” are well known: the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers. Others have purposefully confusing yet appealing names just to fool the public about their real purposes. Among these shadow groups are the Coalition for a Democratic Workplace and the Employee Freedom Action

Committee.

How should those who see the dangers of right-to-work legislation make their opposition felt?

Letters to the editor are helpful. Letters, e-mails, phone calls, and other forms of electronics to legislators will be more effective. What will be most effective is a coalition of labor and progressive forces. In Indiana, Jobs with Justice, working with the AFL-CIO, is taking on that leadership.

Wes Culver, one of the sponsors of this year's right-to-work bill, co-authored a similar bill in 2008, but it never made it to the floor for a vote. A story in the Terre Haute Tribune-Star tells why. “There was strong public opposition from Democrats in both the House and Senate, as well as reluctance from some Republican leaders to push for legislation that was predicted for defeat in the then-Democrat-dominated House.”

This year Republicans control both chambers of the General Assembly as well as the Governor's office. Perhaps the best thing the Democrats have going for them is that the Governor doesn't want to invest much time on “right-to-work” this year. Next year, in his final year in office, the Governor might want to take up the issue and try to make passage of “right-to-work” a signature piece to his administration. □

Labor Commemorates Dr. King's Birthday

Cincinnati (PAI)—Organized labor commemorated the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., with a conference and community activities on Jan. 13-17 in Cincinnati – the city that hosts the national museum commemorating the Underground Railroad.

“Cincinnati has a rich civil rights history,” AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Arlene Holt Baker said in urging attendance. Labor was always a strong backer of King’s

civil rights campaigns – including his famous marches – and King was assassinated while campaigning for workers’ rights for sanitation workers in Memphis.

Holt Baker called the Ohio River “a natural dividing line between the slave states of the South and the free states of the North,” so Cincinnati was “one of the last stops on the Underground Railroad.” Conference delegates devoted a day to community service, along with speakers

and workshops.

The Underground Railroad Museum in Cincinnati tells the story of those enslaved African-Americans, before the Civil War, who were able to make their way northwards to free states or, in some cases, all the way to Canada. The museum also hosts seminars on African-American history and runs a blog discussing present-day slavery worldwide. □

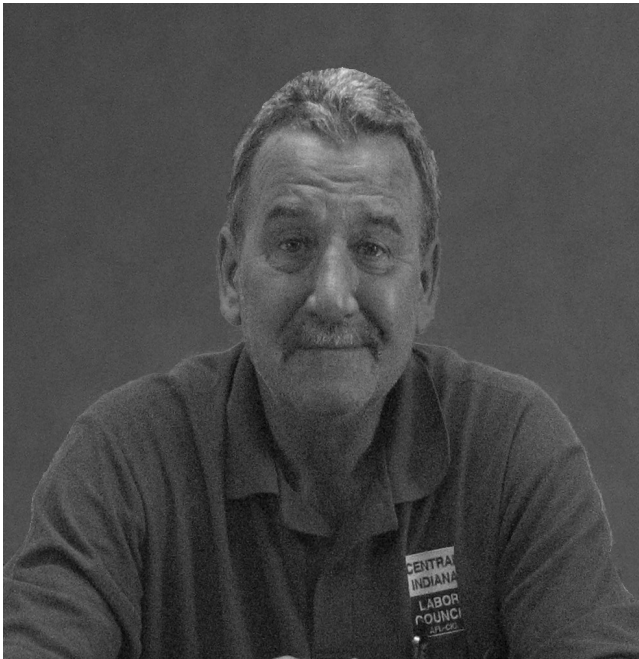
Martin Luther King Jr.

Jan. 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968



Right to Work? Work For Less!!!!

Chuck Jones, President



This article is to inform our members of an issue that is very important to us all. Mitch Daniels has only two years left in office, as Governor of Indiana. He has made reference many times that Indiana needs to be a "Right to Work" state. We should all know how he feels about union workers. When newly elected, his first order of business was to completely terminate the collective bargaining rights of all state employees. If Mitch doesn't care about his own employees rights then he definitely doesn't care about our rights.

Let me explain a little about "Right to Work", because the phrase itself is very misleading. "Right to Work" laws are statutes which prohibit several types of deals between employers and unionized employees, such as union security. "Closed shops", "union shops" and "agency shops" are forbidden, and "open shops" are enforced. "Right to work" laws give employees the right to work without

joining a union. These laws prevent free contracts between unions and business owners, making it harder for unions to organize and less attractive for people to join a union. They call these laws "work-for-less laws".

In a state with "Right to Work" laws, the government makes it illegal for a business and a union to agree to a contract where one of the stipulations is that the employer

will only hire union labor, such as in closed shops. It also prevents agency shops where an employee who is not a union member is still required to pay a union fee. It is also illegal for a union to go on strike to prevent non-union workers from being hired, so your jobs can be scabbed out.

"Right to Work" laws are essentially anti-union laws. The ability of non-union employees to benefit from collective bargaining without paying dues creates a free rider problem, allowing employees to leave (or not join) a union while still benefiting from the actions of that union, thus making union activities less sustainable. Average wages are typically much lower in a right to work state. Job fatalities average about 30% higher in these states than the rest of the country, and 15 of the 20 states with the highest rates for on the job fatalities were right-to-work. Conventional wis-

dom, however, supports the view that by weakening the support for unions, "Right to Work" laws have consistently reduced wages, health benefits, and job conditions. Seven of the nations ten poorest states are right to work states.

GOP lawmakers who control the State House have already filed two bills that will try to implement "Right to Work" in Indiana.

In 1995 the state government tried to pass the Prevailing Wage Law. Twenty thousand union workers marched on the State House in protest. Because of the action of the unionized workers, the bill was modified to a point in which we could live with it.

This type of action and others will be taken on the "Right to Work" bill that has been introduced. In the near future we will be calling on and expecting your help. I will keep you informed.

"You will find some people saying that they are for the so called "Right to Work" law, but they also believe in unions. This is absurd. It's like saying you are for motherhood but against children" - Harry S. Truman

"In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, as "Right to Work." It provides no 'rights' and no 'works.' Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining... We must demand that this fraud be stopped." - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Thank you.



Arizona Union Leaders Condemn Murder Attempt On Rep. Giffords

Tucson, Ariz. (PAI)—Arizona and national union leaders condemned the Jan. 8 assassination attempt on Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., saying such murderous violence has no place in political dialogue.

The shooting spree outside a Tucson Safeway supermarket, as Giffords was meeting constituents there, killed six people – including a 9-year-old girl as well as the chief judge of the U.S. District Court for Arizona – and wounded at least a dozen more, including Giffords. She was shot in the head, but survived brain surgery.

UFCW Local 99, which represents the workers in that Safeway, report-

ed none were injured.

AFT President Randi Weingarten and Arizona Federation of Teachers President Leeann Wieser jointly condemned the murders, the attempted murder of Giffords – whom the gunman went for first – and urged prayers for the wounded. Then they discussed how political violence should have no place in civilized society.

Giffords, they said, is “a unifier” dedicated to her constituents and “puts principle above party, and uses the political process to do good.

“Nevertheless, Rep. Giffords has been targeted previously for several

of the principled stands she has taken,” the two added.

Giffords’ Tucson office was vandalized after she voted for Democratic President Barack Obama’s health care legislation. And a website run by former GOP vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin put crosshairs on the districts of 10 congressional Democrats, including Giffords. After the shootings, Palin removed the graphic.

“Charged political debate is a hallmark of American life,” Weingarten and Wieser said. “It is protected by our Constitution, and can lead to the thoughtful resolution of complicated and important issues...But when disagreements spiral downward into hatred and violence, we must all condemn this violence and the environment that enables it.”

“The shooting of Congresswoman Giffords, her staff members and others comes as a terrible shock,” added Arizona AFL-CIO Executive Director-Secretary Treasurer Rebekah Friend.

“Congresswoman Giffords has always been a dedicated servant to the working families of her community, and it is heartbreaking to hear she was shot as she was meeting with her constituents to listen to their concerns. This senseless attack on a leader like Congresswoman Giffords and working Arizonans has no place in a democratic society like ours.” □



“We are deeply saddened and also contemptuous of today’s violent event in Tucson. We all need to offer our private prayers for Rep. Giffords’ recovery to her family, constituents and our nation. The medical team in Tucson needs our heartfelt support for the others gravely wounded, and our collective sympathy goes to the families of those who lost their lives in this tragedy.”

Leo Gerard, President United Steelworkers



'Right to Work' for Less

Compare Indiana with states that have "right to work" for less laws. You'll see why we're better off without one.

Anti-worker and business-backed groups are pushing to pass a so-called "right to work" law here in Indiana. Supporters claim these laws create economic prosperity, but many measures show Indiana's working families are better off than working families in states with "right to work" for less laws.

Wages

- Median weekly wages in 17 of the 22 states with these laws are lower than the \$714 median wage here in Indiana.
- Indiana's manufacturing workers earn \$2.17 more an hour than the average manufacturing worker wage in states with "right to work" for less laws.

Health Care

- We're more likely to have insurance (14.2 percent are uninsured, compared with 16.7 percent in "right to work" states). So are our children (8.6 percent of Indiana children are uninsured, compared with 10.4 percent in states with these laws).

- We're more likely to have job-based health insurance than residents in 17 of the 22 states with "right to work" laws. Overall, 64.3 percent of us have job-based health insurance, compared with 60.1 percent in states with these laws.

Pensions

- We're more likely to have pensions. Only 43 percent of private-sector workers have employer-provided pension coverage in "right to work" states, compared with 53.1 percent here in Indiana.

Education

- Students here are more likely to be at grade level in math and reading. In Indiana, 35.1 percent of 8th grade students were proficient in math in 2007 (compared with 29.6 percent states with "right to work" for less laws) and 31.1 percent were proficient in reading (compared with 28.1 percent).
- States with these laws spend less to educate their children than we do in Indiana—\$9,005 on average for the 2008–2009 school year, compared with \$9,780 here in Indiana.

SOURCES: Corporation for Enterprise Development; Economic Policy Institute; Elise Gould, Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance Erosion Accelerates in the Recession—Public Safety Net Catches Kids but Fails to Adequately Insure Adults, Economic Policy Institute, Nov. 16, 2010; National Education Association; U.S. Census Bureau.; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Job-based health insurance coverage is for people younger than 65 and for 2008–2009. Pension coverage is for workers ages 18 to 64 who worked at least 20 hours per week and 26 weeks per year. The time period covered is a 2006–2008 three-year moving average.

Teamsters Protest Obama Plan To Revive Mexican Trucks Program

By Mark Gruenberg, PAI Staff Writer

Washington (PAI)—The Teamsters are strongly protesting a draft Obama Transportation Department plan to revive the idea of having Mexican trucks traverse all U.S. roads.

Letting the Mexican trucks roam nationwide, says union President James Hoffa, would cost U.S. truckers jobs and would endanger the nation's drivers. He also noted the main Mexico-to-U.S. truck crossing — Ciudad Juarez, opposite El Paso — has recently been named the world's most dangerous city, due to drug cartel murders.

Under the jobs-losing U.S.-Mexico “free trade” treaty, NAFTA, Mexican trucks were supposed to roam all U.S. roads. But the Teamsters have campaigned for years, in Congress and in the courts, against that plan, on safety grounds. The trucks have been restricted to a 20-mile zone just north of the U.S.-Mexico border.

The GOP Bush government tried

to let select Mexican trucks roll nationwide through a “pilot program,” permitting only some Mexican truck companies to participate. Democratic President Barack Obama's DOT halted it in Feb. 2009.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, however, wants to open negotiations with Mexico on a “concept document” that would let the Mexican trucks on all U.S. roads, after appropriate safeguards, license checks and insurance coverage checks.

“Why would the DOT propose to threaten U.S. truck drivers' and warehouse workers' jobs when unemployment is so high?” Hoffa asked. “And why would we do it when drug cartel violence along the border is just getting worse?”

Hoffa said Obama's own Homeland Security Department “issued a warning just last month that noted Texas safety officials urged people to stay away from Mexico.”

“The warning comes as kidnappings, violence between drug cartels, as well as between law enforcement and the cartels, increases,” the union quoted Homeland Security as saying. The Teamsters also renewed doubts about Mexican truck safety.

“We continue to have serious reservations about DOT's ability to guarantee the safety of Mexican trucks. Mexican trucks simply don't meet the same standards as U.S. trucks — they don't even have to have anti-lock brakes. Medical and physical standards for Mexican trucking firms are lower than for U.S. companies. And how can Mexico enforce highway safety laws when it can't even control drug cartels?” Hoffa asked.

The Bush pilot program wound up letting only about three Mexican trucks per day go beyond the border zone. Hoffa, noting it cost \$500 million to implement, called it an expensive failure. □



Indiana AFL-CIO Proposes: Worker "Bill of Rights"

INDIANAPOLIS – Saying it's time to put people first, today the Indiana State AFL-CIO proposed a "Workers' Bill of Rights" to encourage state lawmakers to get back to basics.

Representing more than 300,000 working men and women in 800 local unions across the state and 50 International Unions, the Indiana State AFL-CIO's membership includes the United Steelworkers, the Association of Federal State and Municipal Employees, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the Indiana Federation of Teachers, the Laborers, the Service Employees International Union, the United Food and Commercial Workers, the National Association of Letter Carriers and hotel workers with Unite Here among others.

"Today, on behalf of every working person in the state of Indiana, we are putting forward this document to remind our elected leaders what we – their taxpaying constituents – expect of them," said Nancy Guyott, Indiana State AFL-CIO president.

"As we discuss and debate ways to grow our economy, the administration and the members of the Indiana General Assembly must do a better job of ensuring that all Hoosiers are able to share in the wealth that they work each day to create – and that's what this is intended to do," she added.

Presented by workers from around the state, the "Workers' Bill of Rights" includes:

1. The right to a job

We believe that every Hoosier who wants a job should be able to find one and we support policies that create jobs for Hoosiers and all Americans.

2. The right to fair pay

We believe that every Hoosier deserves the right to a job that pays a living wage that can support a family.



"The Indiana General Assembly must do a better job of ensuring that all Hoosiers are able to share in the wealth that they work each day to create" Nancy Guyott, President Indiana AFL-CIO

3. The right to a safe working environment

We believe that no one's life or health should be endangered by going to work. We support the implementation and enforcement of the strongest possible provisions for

workplace safety.

4. The right to be free from discrimination

We believe in equality in the workplace and therefore support barring all forms of discrimination. Today, we wish to raise awareness of two emerging forms of discrimination that promise to bar a recovery that includes all Hoosiers – discrimination based on credit score and discrimination against those who are unemployed.

5. Right to organize

We believe in the right of every Hoosier to make decisions about his or her representation by a labor organization and, if one is chosen, to guide the decisions of that organization, in a democratic manner and to negotiate with their employer about the terms and conditions of their work to the fullest extent permitted by federal law.

6. Right to economic security

We believe that every Hoosier should have the right to economic security and strongly support measures to guard investments, pensions and other savings products from fraud, mismanagement, or dilution. We also support strong, solvent unemployment insurance and workers' compensation systems that replaces lost wages with dignity and dispatch, assisting Hoosiers when they need it most.

7. Right to health care

We believe that every Hoosier de-

⇒ See RIGHTS, Page 15.



Repeal, Really?

Repealing the Affordable Care Act would mean:

- Denying health care to sick children who have pre-existing conditions.
- Allowing insurers to kick people off their insurance when they get sick.
- Blocking dependents age 26 or younger from being covered by their parent's health insurance.
- Limiting the annual and lifetime amounts insurers will pay for essential medical care.
- Forcing our seniors to choose between food and medicine because of the Medicare "donut-hole."
- Denying seniors free preventative care and wellness exams.
- Allowing insurance companies to price gouge as we sacrifice wages, health and safety and other benefits.

Repeal, really? Tell Congress to vote NO for repeal: 1-888-876-6242

Get the facts: www.usw.org/healthcare



**Unit 09
Quemetco**

Brothers and sisters,

Since the last newsletter we have seen some big changes in the political landscape here in Indiana and nationally. Mitch Daniels was successful in buying the election for the Indiana Statehouse. Using his "Aiming Higher" PAC, he was able to raise millions of dollars from corporate interests to be funneled into the campaigns of the republicans running for the Indiana House of Representatives. There now remains no check or balance to his anti-union, anti-worker agenda. Be certain that labor is now in the crosshairs of the republican controlled Indiana Statehouse. Proof of this was seen by the early introduction of "Right to Work" and anti-Project Labor Agreement bills.

Nationally the republican controlled House of Representatives has many members including the newly elected "Tea Party" members who have vowed to repeal the Health Care overhaul passed by the last Congress. These folks don't believe that everyone should have access to affordable Health Care. These same people will only serve to perpetuate the "have" and "have not" society that the Bush administration worked towards with the systematic dismantling of the middle class.

Here at the plant things are going well. We recently had our State of the Company meeting. It was reported the company had made \$129.7 million between its three smelters. The Indianapolis Smelter made \$53.1 million. The forecast

for the next three years has us remaining very profitable.

We only had two lost time accidents in 2010. We are currently working on our sixth straight month with no LTA's.

The grievance load has picked up somewhat. We currently have one arbitration scheduled concerning bidding. We were recently successful in returning a 21 plus year member back to work after being terminated on attendance points.

In Solidarity,
Kelly Ray Hugunin
Unit 09 President

**Unit 13
Diamond Chain**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I truly hope that everyone had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. I just wanted to give a little update about the goings on at our facility.

This last quarter was much busier than anticipated. We were able to get some more of the laid off employees back to work sooner than we thought. This next quarter looks to be as busy or busier than the last. We still have about 33 employees laid off, but we are hoping that all of those will be back soon. Diamond Chain is currently preparing in case we get to the place where we can actually hire new employees.

Our grievance load has been steady. We just finished an arbitration right before Christmas break and we have another one scheduled for the middle of January. We are

currently waiting for answers back from (7) 3rd step grievances.

On the side of safety, this is a time of year where roads can become very dangerous. Please slow down and allow for extra time to your destination.

I do have some sad news to report. On December 20, 2010, we lost a Union brother. Jeff Geary passed away at his home from a massive heart attack. I didn't know him very well, but he was always very pleasant to talk to. Jeff ran the Lewis Shears for Department 7880 and had been with Diamond Chain for 17 years. He will be greatly missed and I pray for his family at this difficult time.

In Solidarity,
Mike Hensley
Unit 13 President

**Unit 17
Mid America
Extrusion**

We have completed shutdown and equipment up grades and are back in operation.

We are working two shifts 40 hrs./week.

We had a company meeting 1-4-11 outlining sales, future, & budget the new company logo was unveiled, and reactivation of the safety committee were announced.

In Solidarity,
Howard W. Davis
Unit 17 President

U.S. Plans to Sue 4 States Over Laws Requiring Secret Ballots for Unionizing

By Steven Greenhouse

The National Labor Relations Board announced on Friday that it planned to sue Arizona, South Carolina, South Dakota and Utah in an effort to invalidate recently approved state constitutional amendments that prohibit private sector workers from choosing a union through a process known as card check.

The labor board asserts that the amendments conflict with federal laws and are preempted by those laws.

The state amendments were promoted by various conservative groups concerned that Congressional Democrats and President Obama would enact legislation allowing unions to insist on using card check, in which an employer recognizes a union as soon as a majority of workers sign pro-union cards. That method makes it possible for employees to unionize without elections. But Congressional Republicans blocked such legislation.

Under current law, employers can insist that secret ballots be used when unions are trying to organize private sector employees. But unions had hoped that the card check bill would make it easier to unionize workers because card check lets them gather majority support, often without giving employers the opportunity to campaign against the union.

The four states would require using

secret-ballot elections when workers are deciding whether to unionize even though federal law makes card check an option.

Voters passed the amendments requiring elections as ballot initiatives in November, giving 60 percent approval in Utah, 61 percent in Arizo-



na, 79 percent in South Dakota and 86 percent in South Carolina.

The labor board said, “The four amendments differ in language, but all conflict with federal law by closing off a well-established path to union representation recognized by the Supreme Court and protected by the National Labor Relations Act.”

The board has asked its acting general counsel to inform the states that he will file suit, if necessary, to enjoin the state measures.

State officials said they would vigorously defend the amendments. Mark Plowden, a spokesman for South Carolina’s attorney general, said: “South Carolina voters spoke overwhelmingly to ensure that their ballot votes are kept between them and their maker — not to be influenced by union bosses. If that right is challenged, our office is prepared to defend it in court.”

Mark Shurtleff, Utah’s attorney general, said he was preparing a detailed legal rebuttal that he would ask the three other states to join. “We believe we’re on very strong ground on this one,” he said. “The right to a secret ballot vote is as fundamental as the birth of this nation. We can’t believe you can change that by federal law.”

But several law professors said that since the federal government had traditionally overseen labor law, state law should be preempted.

“Secret-ballot elections are usually the best way to determine employee choice, but they are not the only way permitted by federal law,” said Samuel Estreicher, a labor law professor at New York University. “The states have no authority dictating which method employees use in deciding whether to be represented by a union.” □

World Trade Organization Backs U.S. Steelworkers In China Tires Case

By Mark Gruenberg, PAI Staff Writer

GENEVA, Switzerland (PAI)—The World Trade Organization (WTO), often criticized by workers and unions for its pro-corporate bias and refusal to recognize lack of labor rights as a trade problem, has backed the Obama administration and the Steelworkers in their case against China’s illegal subsidies of its tire exports to the U.S.

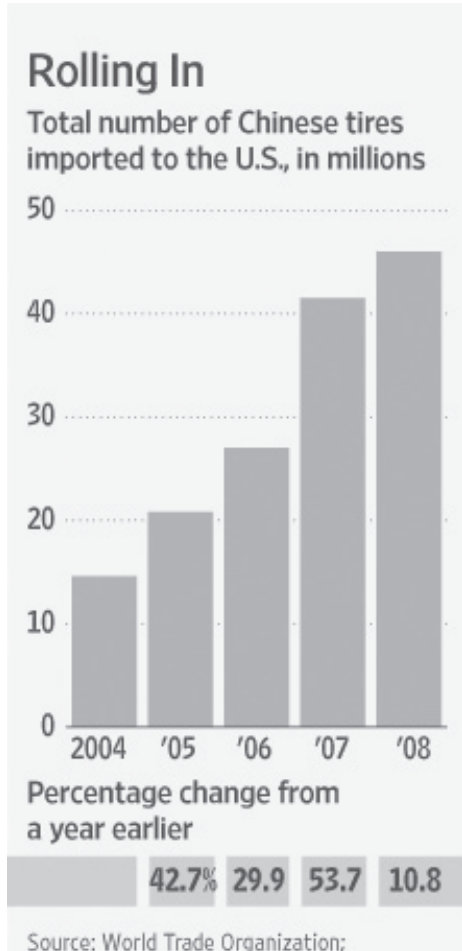
WTO ruling.

Steelworkers President Leo Gerard, whose union both assembled the tire case – USW represents the former Rubber Workers who make tires in the U.S. – and presented it to U.S. officials, hailed the world body’s decision.

against subsidized Chinese exports to the U.S.

“Since the tariffs have been in effect, U.S. domestic tire production has increased, tire producers have made new capital investments, and new jobs have been created for American tire workers,” Gerard noted.

The WTO panel’s Dec. 13 ruling threw out all of China’s protests against Obama administration retaliation against the subsidies, which included a 35% tariff from Sept. 2009-Sept. 2010, 30% through Sept. 2011 and 25% for a year after that. China has 60 days to appeal the



“The USW has never shied from using every tool we have available to fight for fair trade and to fight for our members’ jobs,” Gerard said. The WTO ruling “confirms the rules of trade, when vigorously enforced, can be made to work for working people.

“When President Obama imposed the tariffs on Sept. 11, 2009, he became the first president to provide trade relief under Section 421,” of U.S. trade law, which set conditions where the U.S. could retaliate

After thanking Obama Trade Representative Ron Kirk for the strong U.S. stand at the WTO, and Obama for imposing the tariffs, Gerard added his union “looks forward to continue working with the administration to take full advantage of all enforcement tools available to us so benefits of fair trade are made available to all Americans. Fair trade law enforcement should be the standard of our government,” Gerard de-

⇒ See WTO, Page 15.

Now more than ever: Buy union-made cars and trucks

The UAW's 2011 Vehicles Guide



JIM WEST

These vehicles are made in the United States or Canada by members of the UAW and Canadian Auto Workers (CAW).

Because of the integration of United States and Canadian vehicle production, all the vehicles listed that are made in Canada include significant UAW-made content and support the jobs of UAW members.

However, those marked with an asterisk (*) are produced in the United States and another country. The light-duty (LD) crew cab versions of the vehicles marked with a double asterisk (**) are manufactured only in Mexico; other models are made in the United States. When purchasing one of these models, check the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). A VIN beginning with "1," "4" or "5" identifies a U.S.-made vehicle; "2" identifies a Canadian-made vehicle.

Not all vehicles made in the United States or Canada are built by union-represented workers. Vehicles not listed here, even if produced in the United States or Canada, are not union made.

UAW CARS

Buick Lacrosse
 Buick Lucerne
 Cadillac CTS
 Cadillac DTS
 Cadillac STS
 Chevrolet Corvette
 Chevrolet Cruze
 Chevrolet Malibu
 Chevrolet Volt
 Chrysler Sebring
 Dodge Avenger
 Dodge Caliber
 Dodge Viper
 Ford Focus
 Ford Mustang

Ford Taurus
 Lincoln MKS
 Mazda6
 Mitsubishi Eclipse
 Mitsubishi Eclipse Spyder
 Mitsubishi Galant

UAW VANS

Chevrolet Express
 Ford Econoline
 GMC Savana

CAW CARS

Chevrolet Camaro
 Chevrolet Impala
 Chrysler 300
 Dodge Challenger

Dodge Charger
 Ford Crown Victoria
 Lincoln Town Car
 Mercury Grand Marquis

CAW SUVs/CUVs

Chevrolet Equinox
 Ford Edge
 Ford Flex
 GMC Terrain
 Lincoln MKT
 Lincoln MKX

UAW SUVs/CUVs

Buick Enclave
 Cadillac Escalade ESV
 Cadillac Escalade/Hybrid
 Chevrolet Suburban
 Chevrolet Tahoe /Hybrid
 Chevrolet Traverse
 Dodge Durango
 Dodge Nitro
 Ford Escape/Hybrid
 Ford Expedition
 Ford Explorer
 Ford Explorer Sport Trac
 GMC Acadia
 GMC Yukon/Hybrid
 Jeep Compass
 Jeep Grand Cherokee
 Jeep Liberty
 Jeep Patriot
 Jeep Wrangler
 Lincoln Navigator
 Mazda Tribute/Hybrid
 Mercury Mariner/Hybrid
 Mercury Mountaineer
 Mitsubishi Endeavor

CAW VANS

Chrysler Town & Country
 Dodge Grand Caravan
 Volkswagen Routan

UAW TRUCKS

Chevrolet Colorado
 Chevrolet Silverado**
 Dodge Dakota Dodge Ram Pickup*
 Ford F Series
 Ford Ranger
 GMC Canyon
 GMC Sierra**
 Mazda B-series

↳WTO, From Page 13.

clared.

“In imposing the transitional safeguards measure on 26 September 2009 in respect of imports of subject tires from China, the United States did not fail to comply with its obligations” under WTO trade rules, the international group said at the end of its 113-page decision.

The world group agreed with the U.S. and the union that Chinese tire penetration of the U.S. market grew dramatically since 2005, including a 53.7% increase in 2007 and a 10.8% rise – despite the recession – in 2008.

“The record showed there was a ‘very substantial increase in the volume of Chinese imports prior to 2006,’” the WTO added.

“Imports from China increased

from 14.6 million tires in 2004 to 20.8 million tires in 2005, indicating Chinese imports grew by 42.7%. Accordingly, the significant increases in subject imports prior in 2005 provided the USITC with a sufficient basis for concluding these increases were a significant contributing factor for the (U.S. tire) industry's decision to close certain production plants in 2006,” the WTO commented.

“Given that Chinese imports continued their aggressive surge into the market in 2006 and continued to be increasingly aggressive in their pricing practices that same year,” both the WTO and the U.S. International Trade Commission “reasonably relied on these facts when concluding that Chinese imports were a significant factor in the industry's decision to close these production facilities,” the WTO added.

China also tried to get the WTO

to toss out the case by arguing the recession caused a drop in demand for tires in 2008. The WTO rejected that, too.

“In 2008, the volume of Chinese imports increased substantially even as demand fell by 6.9% and even as the sales volumes of tires fell...This continued growth in Chinese imports in 2008 meant the U.S. industry was forced to absorb virtually all of the declines in demand in 2008, thus establishing the Chinese imports had a clear and significant adverse impact on the production, sales and market share levels of the industry that year,” the WTO reported. □

↳RIGHTS, From Page 9.

serves access to quality and affordable health care and encourage the members of the General Assembly to protect and promote this fundamental right.

8. Right to a quality education

We believe in a strong and accountable public education system and support measures to strengthen K-12 education, make higher education more affordable and to expand workforce training opportunities.

9. The right to know

We believe that all workers have the right to know how their tax dollars

are being spent. We support the publishing of all transactions, contracts and spending online and in real time and including which tax incentives, abatements or other government programs private businesses are accessing.

10. Right to representative government

We believe in a representative government that acknowledges the voices of working people. We support a fair and open redistricting process resulting in effective representation for all Hoosiers, elected leaders making budget and taxing decisions rather than appointed bureaucrats and a robust system of checks and balances.

“The rights we’ve laid out are all basic Hoosier values that will ensure working people in this state have access to greater economic opportunities in the future,” Guyott said. “Indiana and America prospers best not when we pit state against state, Republican against Democrat, business against labor, or neighbor against neighbor. We prosper when we work together to create an economy that works for all – and that’s what this document is all about.”

“We look forward to working with all the members of the general assembly and the governor to make these rights a reality for all Hoosiers,” she added. □

STEEL VOICE

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STEEL VOICE is an official
publication of the United
Steelworkers, Local 1999,
AFL-CIO, CLC.



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