

Gregory M. Sorg:

Join the Pro-Growth Rebellion

Those among us who have achieved a certain age grew up watching and being inspired by *The Lone Ranger*, introduced at the beginning of each episode as the “daring and resourceful masked rider of the plains, who, with his faithful Indian companion Tonto, led the fight for law and order in the early West.” The Lone Ranger’s *modus operandi* was that, whenever the balance between the wealthy and powerful few and the poor and oppressed many was upset, he and Tonto would swoop into Town, organize the good, defeat the bad, and restore the balance.

In doing this, the Lone Ranger resembled a labor union, but with one significant difference: Once the Lone Ranger had achieved his objective, he would leave, thereby avoiding pursuit of his law-and-order agenda to the point where - by suppressing such offenses as spitting on the sidewalk, jay-walking, and double-parking horses - he would harm and eventually become obnoxious to those he had benefited. A labor union, on the other hand, remains forever, and pursues its redistributionist agenda to the point where - by demanding and extracting ever more pay and benefits - it harms and eventually becomes obnoxious to those it benefited by making their labor, and the industries employing it, uncompetitive.

Over the 70 years since enactment of the Taft-Hartley Act, workers have increasingly rejected union membership, not from unmindfulness of or ingratitude for what the union movement accomplished for them, but from a recognition that its goals have been accomplished, and that it’s time for the union - like the Lone Ranger - to ride off into the sunset until needed again.

But union leaders don’t see it that way. To them, a union is forever, even though the goals it was formed to achieve have been accomplished. So they fight for existence and relevance by seeking to require by law what they cannot accomplish by voluntary association. Thus, in many states if more than 50% of workers agree to create a union shop, all workers are required to join the union and pay dues. In others, non-members, though allowed to work, are required to pay a fee for the union’s services as their bargaining agent, regardless of their opinion of the services’ value to them.

Right-to-work laws ban contracts that require non-union employees to pay union dues. Such laws may cover private sector contracts, public sector contracts, or both. The benefits to states having the protection of right-to-work laws are overwhelming. Economist Arthur Laffer has noted that “the economies in states with right-to-work laws grow significantly faster than those in forced-union states. They also have higher employment growth, attract more residents, and have more rapid growth in state and local tax revenues than forced-union states.”

New Hampshire has before it an opportunity, in Senate Bill (SB) 11, to join the 24 other states that have sided with the simple proposition that no American worker should be prohibited from joining a labor union, required to join a union as a condition of employment, or - through union dues or agency fees - be required to pay for representation or contribute to political causes he opposes.

Granite State Taxpayers urges voters to join the pro-economic growth rebellion by urging their Senators and Representatives to pass, and Governor Sununu to sign, SB 11.

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