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Some union members pleased with Walker's changes

Wisconsin Report Online, 7/11/2011

Kristi Lacroix is a Kenosha teacher who has been openly critical of her union for years. Recently, with the help of the National Right to Work Legal Foundation and other conservative groups, she filed a brief in federal court supporting the Wisconsin labor law against a union lawsuit.

Lacroix said she was nervous, but nobody gave her a hard time. She remains friends with her local union president and said she thinks Mary Bell, president of the Wisconsin Education Association Council, is "awesome."

Teachers unions visit homes for dues option

The Journal Times Online, 7/11/2011

RACINE COUNTY — Racine County teachers may have union representatives show up on their doorsteps this summer.

Area teachers' unions no longer able to automatically deduct dues from teachers' paychecks because of the state's new budget repair law are using a variety of methods including home visits to sign up members to voluntarily pay dues.

The dues collection change impacts 10 of the 13 public school districts in Racine County because those 10 now have expired teachers' contracts; Racine Unified, Raymond and Dover have contracts until at least 2012.

Burton: Did Obama Auto Czar Do It "All for the Unions"?

Oversight and Reform Committee, 7/07/2011

Rep. Dan Burton (R-IN) questions Mr. Ron Bloom, former Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Treasury, on whether Mr. Bloom had said at a farewell dinner of the Auto Task Force in late July 2009, "I did this all for the unions." Mr. Bloom denied the quote, but two independent sources have documented Mr. Bloom saying those words.

Weingarten Rights for Nonunion Workers Could Re-Emerge, Regional Director Predicts

Daily Labor Report Online, 7/08/2011

FOUR SEASONS, Mo.—The question of whether so-called Weingarten rights apply to nonunion workers has been decided differently over time by the National Labor Relations

Board, and the rights could yet be restored to nonunion workers, perhaps by the current board, an NLRB official told a conference audience July 7.

Weak Economy Poses More Budget Problems for Cash-Hungry States in New Fiscal Year

Fox News Online, 7/09/2011

The five states facing the darkest economic outlook are New York (50), Vermont (49), Maine (48), California (47), and Hawaii (46), according to a new study by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

The five states with the brightest outlook are Utah, South Dakota, Virginia, Wyoming and Idaho.

The fourth edition of Rich States, Poor States: ALEC-Laffer State Economic Competitiveness Index based its economic outlook ranking on 15 policy variables, including tax burdens, legislated tax changes, regulatory burdens and labor policy.

Trenton heat for teacher
philly.com, 7/10/2011

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Last month, the 51-year-old art and technology teacher at Morris Goodwin School in Greenwich Township, Cumberland County, did something extraordinarily brave - or absolutely unconscionable, depending on your perspective.

She did this as thousands of teachers marched on the Statehouse calling for the heads of wayward Democrats, and as her union dues to the New Jersey Education Association (\$952 a year) went toward the campaign against her and her colleagues.

A liberal blog, "Blue Jersey," put her on a list of "betrayers" of the Democratic cause (adding, in italics, "a teacher!"). On Facebook someone called her a "sellout." The Communications Workers of America wrote to members that Riley and her "collaborators" were "owned" by political bosses, vowing: "We will REMEMBER THIS NOVEMBER," when legislators face reelection.