

The Wisconsin 9/12 Project

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CONTACT: Kirsten Lombard, 608.237.7034

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE UNIONS RAILROAD WISCONSIN TAXPAYERS, MAINTAIN CHOKEHOLD ON UNION RANK-AND-FILE

(Madison) – Over the past few weeks, the Wisconsin 9/12 Project has watched a scene play out here in Madison that is, in fact, replicating itself in municipalities and counties across the state.

The City of Madison, the Dane County Board, and the Madison Metropolitan School District—assisted by 14 rogue senators—all actively conspired in a union strategy to push through as many government employee contracts and contract extensions as possible in advance of the publication of the recently passed Budget Adjustment Bill. Prominent figures such as Mayor Dave Cieslewicz and School Superintendent Daniel Nerad have made statements that make the matter plain: They prefer to support the cause of the unions over defending the interests of the taxpayers they have a fiduciary duty to represent. In Superintendent Nerad's case, this failure is particularly tragic since it involves the ongoing and disingenuous use of children as unwitting union pawns.

Now Secretary of State Doug La Follette is in on the act, refusing to publish the Budget Adjustment Bill until March 25th, the latest date possible. This delay, in fact, has the additional purpose of allowing time for the unions to seek pathways for legal action against the new legislation—another slap in the face of Wisconsin taxpayers, who granted collective bargaining as a privilege in 1959 and now, in an economic crisis, have full prerogative to rescind it.

It's no surprise that big-government politicians love the idea of collective bargaining for government employees. It benefits their campaign coffers and helps to ensure that they remain "gainfully" employed. Nor is it a shock that many school superintendents are a bit too comfortable with it.

It is remarkable, though, that more rank-and-file government employee union members have not yet seen through the game and recognized that they are mere patsies in a corrupt and ugly game.

Bravo to the charlatan union bosses and the flimflam politicians in their pockets! They've put on a brilliant show of pretending to the rank-and-file that they actually care about them or their children or the level of pay and benefits they receive. Let's be clear: It's a show—a fantastic display of make-believe.

The real reason the unions and their elected or appointed cronies are working to push these contracts through is **forced membership and dues**. They need to ensure that the rank-and-file **remain** rank-and-file and that money can automatically be deducted from thousands of lovely paychecks. Without those two items, the gravy train screeches to a halt. They're not dumb, the big bosses and their politician buddies. They get it. If the rank-and-file start seeing extra money in their paychecks, it's highly unlikely they'll feel like handing it to a union for dues. Union membership and money will dry up. Game over.

That's why the big bosses and the fraudster politicians are trumpeting so loudly—and falsely—the notion of collective bargaining as a "right." It's crucial to prevent the rank-and-file from understanding that they're actually **gaining** from the Budget Adjustment Bill, not losing by it. The bill gives rank-and-file union members choices they haven't had for 52 years and more money in their pockets. And really, that's just **the beginning** of what the average union members have the potential to **gain** by this new legislation.

How unfortunate that the Republicans have thus far failed to cut through the dross to communicate this clear truth. Instead of running offense, they continue to play a losing defensive game. Time to turn the

game around. It's not about Scott Walker. It's not about Republican legislators. It's not about the Koch brothers. It's not about state government taking away "rights." **It's about freedom of choice the unions don't want their members to have and increased income they don't want them to see. It's about who has the privileges—the union bosses and the crony politicians or the rank-and-file union members they continue shamelessly to use.**

The Wisconsin 9/12 Project is a Dane County-based, non-partisan, grassroots organization dedicated to restoring the rightful authority of the American people in determining the size, scope, and direction of government. For further information about the Wisconsin 9/12 Project, please visit our website at: <http://www.wisconsin912project.com> or contact us via email at: wisconsin912@gmail.com.