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« [04-03-09\(17:19:33\)](#)

[November 18, 2008](#) »

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Labor Relations INK



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Pig In The Parlor



As debate over the merits of the Employee Free Choice Act continues, the UAW's contribution to the problems of the Big Three automakers is coming more clearly into focus. As Congress is pounding the Detroit companies to produce a viable plan for recovery, the UAW is drawing [lines in the sand](#), endangering the jobs of millions. This week the union has finally succumbed to an [emergency meeting](#) to discuss further concessions.

The UAW has continued to blame the economy rather than admit its role in the debacle. A [comparison](#) of the wages and benefits of non-Detroit automakers to the Big Three easily highlights the differences. Take home wages in Detroit average \$28.42 an hour, compared to Toyota (\$26), Honda (\$24) and Hyundai (\$21) in their plants in the southeast. Add benefits, and the non-Detroit companies are on par with most other manufacturing jobs at \$44.20, compared to Detroit's \$73.21.

[Randall Johnson](#) of the US Chamber of Commerce says that any bailout must be accompanied further concessions from the UAW. "There's no secret about the entitlement cost overhead the auto makers are sustaining," said Johnson. "It's got to be looked at if they're going to survived."

New Targets In Union Crosshairs



A [recent interview](#) with a restaurant lobbyist suggests that management in many industries who would not have considered themselves a prime union organizing target may need to rethink their position.

Speaking of the restaurant industry, Rick Berman said, "My hope is that the industry will act in a more pre-emptive fashion so that we are not engaged in as many fire drills as I fear we may be." He further warned, "Companies with heavy franchised operations are not immune."

[Another target](#) is the Hispanic community. Latinos are found in large

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Featured Product



LRI's **EFCA Tool Kit** is everything needed to inoculate a company against unionization in the "target rich" environment created by passage of the Employee

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3 Characteristics that make your firm an EFCA target;

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EFCA 2009 Daily Status

H.R. 1409: Employee Free Choice Act of 2009

Introduced	Mar 10, 2009
Sponsor	Rep. George Miller [D-CA]
Status	Introduced
Last Action	Mar 10, 2009: Referred to the



Free Choice Act. If you are a business, trade association or labor law firm, you can benefit immediately. [Review the details and preview the videos here.](#)

Free Stuff

- [EFCA Fact Sheet](#)
- [Text of Employee Free Choice Act of 2009](#)
- [Text of HR 1355 \(EFCA Compromise Proposal\)](#)
- [Unions: 7 Lies You Must Know](#)
- [5 Keys to Winning Your Union Election](#)
- [Satisfaction Survey](#)
- [Secrets](#)

numbers in industries such as healthcare and hospitality, were SEIU efforts have grown recently. Begging the question of the ease of organizing Hispanics is the role the language barrier plays in properly representing (or misrepresenting) authorization cards to this growing component of the American workforce.

Union Loses

In a recent [union defeat](#), workers at a Blue Diamond Growers plant in Sacramento overwhelmingly voted to reject representation by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

Blue Diamond chief executive officer Doug Youngdahl told members of the cooperative in a letter sent Thursday, "this vote ... overwhelmingly supports and endorses that working together as a team and talking directly with each other is preferred rather than working through a third party."

More SEIU Turmoil



The top SEIU official in California was forced to step down amid [charges of financial impropriety](#). Annelle Grajeda is the third major SEIU leader to step aside following reports about shady financial practices. Grajeda served as president of the L.A. local and the union's state council, and as an executive vice president of the national organization.

Under scrutiny is her role in payments of tens of thousands of dollars to a boyfriend, Alejandro Stephens. A complaint filed by two members of Grajeda's local stated, "We have grave concerns that this type of betrayal of public trust and malfeasance may be happening in our local union."

One of the first two SEIU officials to resign under similar circumstances has been [permanently banned](#) by the union, and ordered to repay more than \$1 million back to the organization. Tyrone Freeman (earlier [INK story here](#)) is now the target of a federal criminal investigation.

Labor Excels At Com 2.0

Unions are [constantly sharpening](#) their skills and tactics in the sphere of communication technologies and strategies. With a labor-friendly administration taking over in Washington soon, management needs to expand its use of the modern tools of communication.

ULP Charge of the Month

An SEIU Employee who has been threatened with termination for organizing activity!



[Download a PDF here.](#)

Contact Congress

Enter your zip code and tell your elected officials how you feel about the Employee Free Choice Act

GO

Sticky Fingers!

[Current charges or sentences](#) of embezzling union officials:

James Decker- ISDWU: undisclosed
Don Padgett- AFGE: \$186,997

Donna Simpson- USW: \$87,823

Christine Throckmorton- HERE: \$9,674

William "Willie" Brown- UA: \$4,942

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Ultimate Oxymoron



The Employee Free Choice Act as part of a [Stimulus Bill](#)? Believe it or not, some are beginning to perceive this idea as a way to ram the card check bill down America's throat with a spoonful of "stimulus" sugar. Keep an eye out for this one!

Sticky Fingers!

[Current charges or sentences](#) of embezzling union officials:

John DaBronzo - AWIU: \$830,000

Edna Latimore - AFGE: \$77,857

Lawrence Marable & Deborah Powell - AFGE: \$184,129

Willie Harris - AFGE: \$5,000

Michelle Trinh - WGA: \$17,228

Todd Novak - BLE: \$47,780

Tina Curtis - APWU: \$18,283

Kenneth Wallace - UWUA: \$8,300

Bradley Steinruck - USW: \$1,987

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