

Forced unionism stalled in Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The abrupt Senate decision to delay a cloture vote on the so-called labor law "reform" bill shows "the bill's big labor sup-

porters don't have the votes to stop the filibuster and they know it," Reed Larson, president of the National Right to Work Committee declared last week.

Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd of West Virginia announced May 18 that there would be no cloture vote on S. 2467, the mislabeled law "reform" bill now before the Senate, until after the Memorial Day recess.

"If the bill's supporters had the votes," Larson said, "they would try for cloture. Their announcement to delay any vote is an open admission of their basic weakness.

"It also confirms that opponents of the bill are speaking for the majority of the American people who oppose a bill which would force hundreds of thousands of workers into unwanted unions.

"The next move," said Committee president Larson, "is up to the supporters of the phony labor law 'reform' bill. They can either continue to waste America's time by prolonging the filibuster or abandon S. 2467 as a piece of unwanted and unwarranted legislation and get about the real business of

coping with the serious problems of inflation, energy and unemployment."

The Senate, buried under a deluge of public protest against the so-called labor law "reform" bill (S. 2467) took up the controversial legislation at noon, on May 16 and was quickly caught up in what promises to be one of the longest filibusters in over a decade.

Larson said the opponents are well-organized "and prepared to fight on behalf of America's workers for as long as necessary to defeat this compulsory unionism legislation."

Larson said, "The supporters of the filibuster know that even though they don't have a majority of the senators with them, they do have a majority of the American people, and are therefore going to stand fast against this sell-out to union officials.

"So there's no reason for Majority Leader (Robert) Byrd (D-WV) to drag it out.

"President Carter and the union officials aren't going

to be able to force this unpopular measure down the public's throat no matter how long they tie up the Senate."

Despite the public opposition to the bill, which would force workers to join unions against their will, organized labor's friends in the Senate have vowed to "keep at it until we get cloture, no matter how long it takes."

President Carter, at a White House "pep rally" for union officials late last week promised them they'll "have a strong partner in the White House." Carter indicated that the prolonged battle over the "reform" bill could be allowed to drag on because, he said, last year's "overwhelming problem" with inflation has eased.

In 1976, the Carter-Mondale ticket received \$11 million in reported in-kind contributions from organized labor (considered only a fraction of the total support received from unions). In December of 1977, Vice President Mondale, speaking at the AFL-CIO's 12th convention, promised the gathered union officials "to fulfill the trust and faith you have put in us" by making the so-called "reform" bill one of the Administration's top legislative priorities.

Now, sources on Capitol Hill indicate that the President has promised union officials to personally call southern senators opposing the bill and pressure them to switch their position. **BILL FAR FROM MODERATE**

"It's a terrible indictment of the Administration and certain union-controlled senators," Committee president Larson said, "for them to allow this union power grab to take up their time and the country's time.

"While on the one hand, the bill's backers are trying to peddle it as 'moderate' legislation, on the other hand, they're pulling out all stops to force it through.

"Their 'no-holds-barred' approach to the bill's passage lends credence to the statement Senator Harrison Williams (D-N.J.) made when he introduced the legislation last July. Williams boasted that, 'this is the most sweeping revision of national labor policy since the passage of the Landrum-Griffin Act 17 years ago.'

"And the worst part," Larson concluded, "it's a revision that gives vast new powers to union bosses at the expense of rank and file workers."

The National Right to Work Committee is a 1.25 million member citizens' lobby that opposes compulsory unionism. It is widely credited with leading the opposition to the "reform" bill.

Since late December, the Committee has run over 300 newspaper ads and mailed in excess of 10 million letters to members and prospective members. The Committee's efforts have resulted in over 4 million cards and letters being sent to U.S. Senators by constituents opposing the bill.

Broilers up

HARRISBURG -- Placements of broiler chicks in the Commonwealth during the week ending May 13, 1978, were up six per cent from the same week a year ago, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

The placements were at 2,037,000, three per cent below the previous week. Average placements during the past 10 weeks were nine per cent above a year earlier.

Placements of broiler chicks in the 21 poultry-producing states were 76,144,000, one per cent below the previous week but seven per cent more than the same week a year earlier.

Average placements in the 21 poultry-producing states during the past 10 weeks were four per cent above a year earlier.

The number of broiler-fryers slaughtered in Pennsylvania in the federal inspection week ending May 3 was 1,748,000 with an average weight of 3.86 pounds.

No rabies reported

HARRISBURG -- The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry reports no rabies cases have been diagnosed positive between January 1 and April 30, 1978.

The bureau reports that 16 rabies cases were diagnosed positive from July 1, 1977 to April 30, 1978. Twelve cases involved bats, with the remaining four attributed to two skunks, one dog, and one cat.

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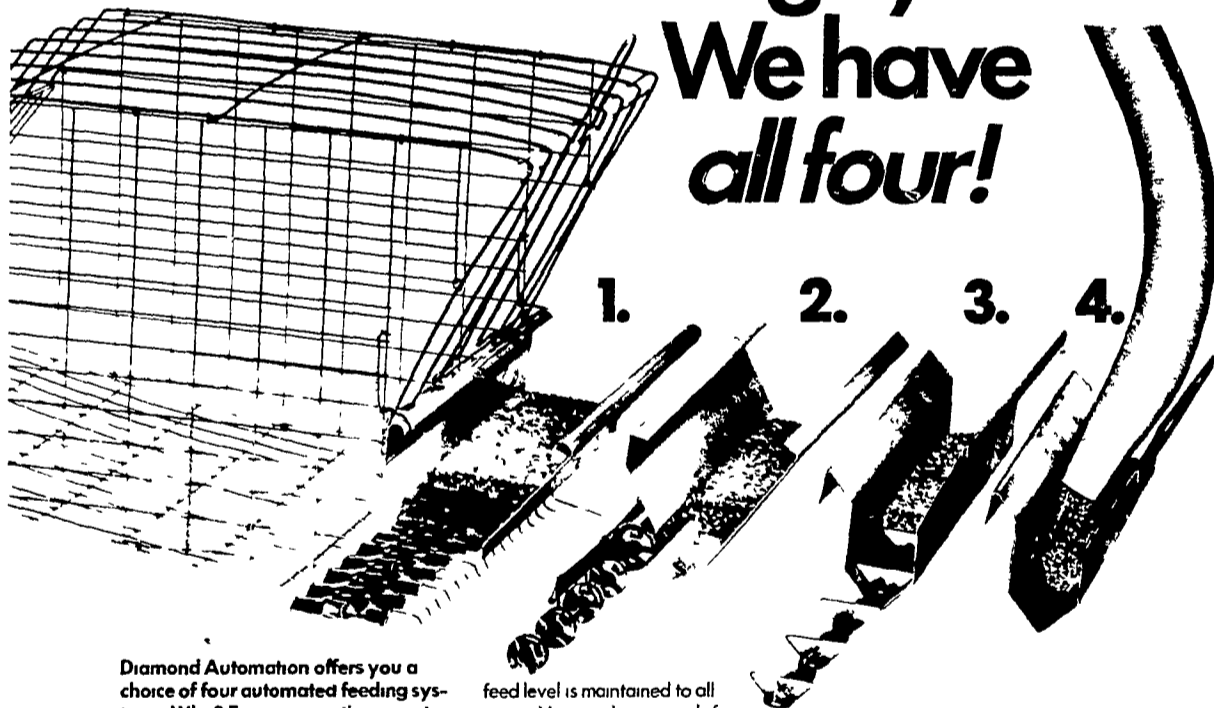
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