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Oklahoma Lagging States in Area In Push for 'Right to Work' Law

OKLAHOMA now is almost surrounded by states which have passed laws prohibiting compulsory unionism, but here unions still can compel workers to join or be refused the right to jobs.

Louisiana is the latest state to pass what is called the "Right to Work Law," making 20 states which guarantee employment freedom. Kansas, Texas and Arkansas already had such laws, giving them advantages in seeking new industries.

Labor unions have fended off several efforts to establish nonunion workers' rights to jobs in this state.

Many legislators shy away from supporting the "right to work" because they have accepted campaign funds from labor unions. It doesn't seem to take much money to influence the legislative votes of some "statesmen."

Intimidation also may be a factor retarding the "right to work" movement. Last month, a Shreveport public relations man who had directed a campaign supporting Louisiana's passage of the "right to work" law was assassinated as he walked to his car after final action by that state's senate.

Of course, prosecutors have not been able to connect the two events officially, but the inference is strong.

Congress is so heavily dominated by labor bosses by means of campaign contributions, speech honoraria and other pressures that there is little hope for repeal of the National Labor Relations Act, which authorizes compulsory unionism.

The right to work without joining a

union is provided only in Section 14(b) of Taft-Hartley Act amendments, which allows states to prohibit compulsory unionism.

The "right to work" probably will not become a major issue in the 1976 presidential or congressional elections, because leaders of both major parties have been kowtowing to big labor bosses, seeking their blessings.

Labor unions earlier this year "persuaded" Congress to pass a measure which would have allowed picketing of job sites, so that firms not being struck could be shut down. The act was vetoed by President Ford, but the drive has not ended.

The only hope is that Oklahomans may elect enough members of the state legislature who are not beholden to labor bosses that a "right to work" law may be enacted or submitted to voters.

A nationwide movement to unionize all federal, state and local government employees leaves no doubt that the union goal is to be able to shut down all government to enforce demands.

In view of the manner in which officials in a number of major cities have caved in before municipal strikers, it is not hard to visualize union bosses taking over the government, if they ever get this much power.

At present, less than 25 per cent of the total American work force is unionized. This is a small minority, but we should remember what small minorities have done. Labor union bosses don't need a majority; all they're after is control of all the jobs in America!