

A Few Minutes with the Boss

By: Joseph Andalina

Rauner “the Bruce” at it again

Governor Rauner says he is not anti-union and it is baloney that he is being accused of that. He is for unions; he just wants the people in Right to Work zones to vote on whether someone should be allowed to join a union of his or her choice. So a resident in a community votes on whether someone else can unionize or not. The party of No is absolutely in vogue here. Someone explain to me what sense that makes.

He also wants the infamous pension reform where state workers are forced into a 401(k) plan as a retirement plan. Surely the man who made \$53 million last year realizes that a 401(k) is a savings plan and not a retirement plan. What does he care — he has \$53 million somewhere and I would ask what kind of 401(k) his money is in.

According to AFSCME, who represents many state workers, the governor and his team are “attempting to undo decades of progress in shaping working conditions for state employees.”

The governor wants to eliminate restrictions on mandatory overtime, eliminate all restrictions on subcontracting, allow layoffs and replace union members with vendor employees, restrict recall rights and overtime pay.

Hmm — sounds pretty anti-union to me.

And just in the first week of April one reads that Rauner “the Bruce” believes the Illinois Supreme Court is part of a “corrupt system.” Holy Justice in Black Robes, Batman!!

Rauner has got crust as he tries to influence public support for his “divisive politics.” And he wants to break up a corrupt bargain between unions and politicians who get campaign money from unions.

But then why is “the Bruce” not corrupt for aligning with big business and the rich to give money to — say Republicans? Oh, that’s different. It’s their money and not dues he might say.

But the money that some unions give (and some of us don’t) goes to the leaders who help workers. Not those who want to restrict overtime, but make you work it when they want you to and reduce benefits and job protections.

That money could be available to both parties but one is the party of No and one is the workers’ party. Do something for workers and even that paradigm can change.

I sure hope we win the next pension round before the Illinois Supreme Court. Rauner needs to get knocked off his rich, high horse.

Vita é bella