

IT'S NOT ABOUT WORKERS, IT'S ABOUT CEOS

Many of the editorials about the anti-union attack in MI have supported the unions or—even from conservative papers—criticized the way the Republicans crammed it through. This is one of the few in favor.

Predictably, this one, from Daniel Howes, either doesn't know or chooses to deceive readers about how unions work.

And organized labor, fresh from a failed effort to enshrine collective bargaining rights in the state constitution, faces its most serious existential threat since the Sit-Down strikes and Battle of the Overpass cemented the institutional permanence of the UAW.

Until now. A right-to-work law that gives members the choice to join a union rank-and-file – or not to join – threatens to stanch materially the union dues flow, membership and, accordingly, the political muscle predominantly used by unions in the service of the Democratic Party.

Workers already have a choice whether to join a union or not. If that's what Howes wants, that's what he's got already in Michigan.

But I appreciate it for one thing. Unlike the propaganda Snyder is tweeting out like a nervous school girl, which claims this offers anything for the workers—union and non-union—who will lose \$1,500 in wages, Howes identifies honestly who this is meant to impress.

CEOs. Not workers.

It probably won't. But the move, coupled with a coming financial workout for

Detroit, is likely to reshape positively the debate about Michigan and its largest city among CEOs and investors looking for opportunity and growth – provided the national economy isn't pushed back into recession by Washington's plunge off a "fiscal cliff" of its own making.

This is the same "job creators" nonsense that Mitt spewed for a year, unsuccessfully.

But you have to look no further than this anti-union campaign to discern whether impressing CEOs will do a damn thing for workers.

In the million-dollar ad campaign Windquest and former Amway CEO Dick DeVos has ponied up, rather than using real Michiganders or paying local actors to bray about "freedom," he used stock photos.

Even if you impress Dick DeVos, it seems (and he is the one bankrolling and twisting arms to make this happen, he'll still treat workers like a cut and paste.

It's very simple. Impressing CEOs who prefer disempowered, desperate workers doesn't actually help workers.