

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Union recalcitrance
September 22, 2013

For a long time now I've suspected the labor laws that protect unions is part of the problem. Bad law can be amended, and has in the past. A reform campaign would surely be nasty, but with courage from local and national leadership, such a campaign already has some of the ammunition it could use to change these federal labor laws. Unions in this political climate could be easily isolated when pointing to the shallowness of their memberships. With only 11.8 percent of the total American workforce in their rolls, unions having exclusive rights to federal and state contracts is neither useful nor democratic.

In the wake of the 1994 Northridge quake, I recall then-President Bill Clinton negotiating with the Department of Transportation and a private construction firm in the reconstruction of the east/west corridor of the I-10 freeway. "Cost plus-time" bidding essentially ensured a savings in both lower costs and construction time while conforming to the standards set forth by the DOT.

Unions, including the California Teacher's Association, has become wealthy through mandated protections and have recoiled from negotiating when fiscal issues brought the Accreditation Commission to VVC.

Sometimes for progressivism to move forward, it must take one step back. So far the union seems to be recalcitrant.

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