

Who Is Pulling Walker's Strings?

Behind Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's effort to smash public employee unions, is a well-defined network of Wall Street-funded, right-wing foundations and think-tanks, which have schemed for years to unravel any remnant of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. Governor Walker didn't think up this union-busting crusade on his own; when he took office, Walker was handed a script, which he has followed faithfully to the present day.

That script came directly out of the network of foundations and think-tanks established to promote the Hapsburg Empire's "Austrian School" of economics—which was created in the 19th Century, in explicit opposition to the "American System" of political-economy, championed by Alexander Hamilton, Friedrich List, Henry Carey, and 19th-Century Republican Presidents from Abraham Lincoln to William McKinley.

Walker's script was written in detail by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), which coordinated meetings between Walker and various Southern GOP governors, in the post-2010 election transition period. It was in these meetings that Walker and state Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald mapped out their plans to make Wisconsin a "right-to-work" state—with public employees the first target, but private-sector unions next.

ALEC is funded by the "big three" right-wing foundations—Scaife, Olin, and Bradley—plus it enjoys major funding from the Koch family. It has targeted public-sector unions—indeed, *all* unions—for decades, and is a major advocate of privatizing, or "outsourcing," public services.

Walker put himself right in the middle



The right-wing billionaire Koch brothers, Charles and David, moneybags behind Walker, have made it their mission to wipe out labor unions; below: an AFL-CIO rally against Walker's union-busting drive, at the National Governors' Association meeting, in Washington Feb. 27.



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of this network. The Koch brothers, David and Charles, were among the largest contributors to Walker's gubernatorial campaign. A blogger pretending to be David Koch had no problem getting through to Walker on the phone; Walker then proceeded to spend 20 minutes on the phone with "Koch" bragging about how he was about to "drop the bomb" on the public unions in a few days, and comparing his actions to President Reagan's breaking of the air-traffic controllers strike in 1981.

Years ago, the Koch brothers provided the funds to launch the "libertarian" CATO Institute, and also Citizens for a Sound Economy, which morphed into FreedomWorks and Americans for Prosperity, which together, are the major controllers and brainwashers of the "grassroots" Tea Party movement. It was this network that bussed in counter-protestors to Madison, to demonstrate in support of Walker's union-busting efforts.

To fill out the picture, it should be noted that Michael W. Grebe, the president and CEO of the Bradley Foundation, was chair of Walker's transition. In the Wisconsin case, the string-pullers are never far away from their puppet.

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