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Labor: As their rolls continue to shrink, unions are finding new ways to get around laws that force them to act fairly. In 1992, Washington state voters passed Initiative 134 by a 73% majority. Under the law, unions were required to get prior written permission of their members before they could use their dues for political activities. Members were required only to pay dues for collective bargaining purposes. All else was to be voluntary. The law was a quick success. Once teachers could choose whether to back their union's political activities, the money almost dried up. Out of 45,000 members, only 8,000 still chose to use part of their paychecks to fund the union's political agenda. Others followed. But with this hemorrhage, it didn't take long for the union bosses to skirt the law. The **National Right to Work** Foundation found that the Washington Education Association now is collecting more forced dues and spending them on politics than it was before I-134 passed. It's able to funnel money to its political action committee through a "community outreach program" funded by forced dues. Somebody should have been suspicious when the unions didn't fight I-134. Appropriate suspicion should also be leveled at labor bosses' friends who sit in high places - Senate Majority Leader Thomas Daschle, D-S.D., and Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., for two. They're pushing a bill that would force state and local governments to grant unions sole authority to act as bargaining agents for public safety personnel. That even if a locality does not have a unionized work force. Should the bill become law, states that believe firefighters and police officers are too important to lose to a strike will be forced to submit to the wishes of union bosses. The bosses obviously wouldn't mind. That's a law they'd see was enforced, even as they flout ones that protect their members' freedom.

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