

Construction Workers Can't Instruct For a Day

by Herman Benson

In the *Regional Labor Review*, I reported on the construction workers' strike in the Bay Area. The workers' union, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, is on strike because of a dispute over the union's right to represent non-union workers on the job.

The union's position is that it has the right to represent all workers on the job, regardless of whether they are union members. The non-union workers' union, the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, says that it has the right to represent only its own members.

The court has ruled in favor of the union's position. In *Beck*, the Supreme Court held that non-union workers have the right to opt out of the union's representation. The court said that the union's right to represent all workers is not absolute. It is subject to the workers' right to choose their own representation. This means that non-union workers can sue to force the union to stop representing them.

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