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Let NLRB Ruling Stand

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The United Auto Workers Union can't make its members file yearly objections to using their dues for political activities. So said an administrative judge at the National Labor Relations Board last week. Union officials would do well to forgo an appeal and abide by the decision.

Failure to file an objection notice, for whatever reason, grants union leaders automatic consent to spend the dues as they see fit. The judge's ruling means that if a worker says no once, the union should abide by his wishes until he says otherwise. It's his money.

The judge's ruling is nonbinding and could be appealed by the UAW. It was issued in response to an unfair labor practices lawsuit brought by George Gally, an employee at the Colt Manufacturing Co. plant in [West Hartford](#).

Mr. Gally had asked that his objection remain continuous for three years. Union officials rejected his request, an indication that they expected to divert his dues to their preferred candidates for public office.

The UAW is hardly the first entity to make failure-to-notify mean more than it was intended to mean. But if an employee can't trust his own labor union to comply with his specific requests, whom can he trust?