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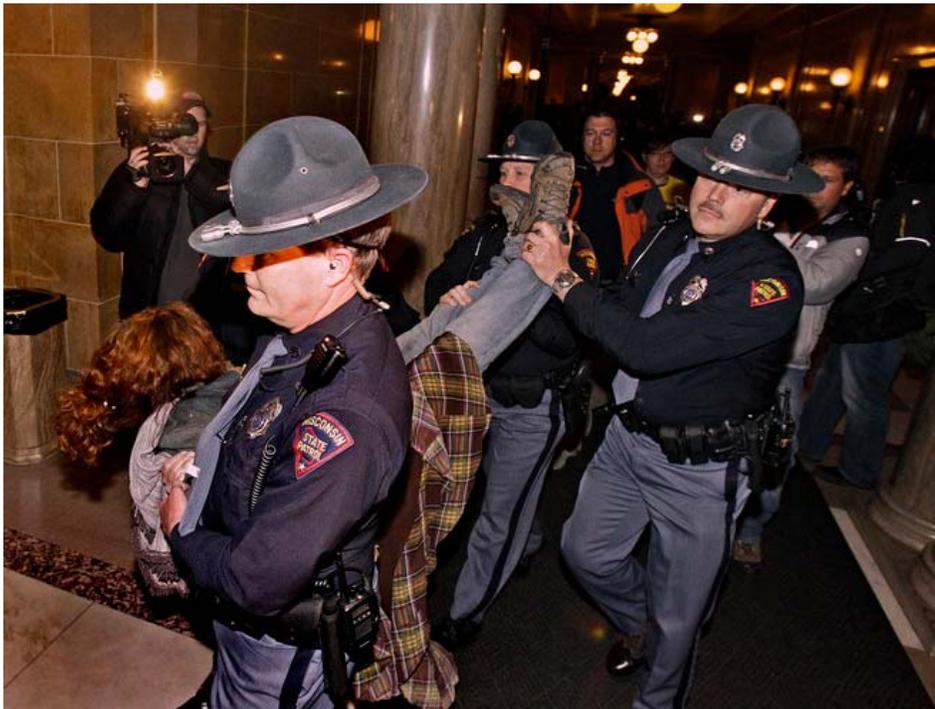
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BUDGET BATTLE

Assembly passes union measure after bitter debate

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Benny Sieu

Wisconsin State Patrol officers remove a demonstrator against Gov. Scott Walker's budget-repair plan after she refused to leave the Assembly antechamber Thursday.

Collective bargaining bill passes; courts, recalls expected next

By Jason Stein, Patrick Marley and Lee Bergquist of the Journal Sentinel

March 10, 2011 | (3876) COMMENTS

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Video



Madison — After an epic month of political struggle and three final hours of bitter debate, Republican lawmakers in the Assembly on Thursday gave Gov. Scott Walker his bill to repeal most collective bargaining by public employee unions.

Legislators voted 53-42 along largely partisan lines to pass the budget-repair proposal, but only after police carried demonstrators out of the Assembly antechamber.

But even with the battle won by Republicans, a wider war now remains for both sides, one expected to be fought in the courts and through recall efforts against 16 state senators.

All Democrats voted against the bill and were joined by four Republicans - Dean Kaufert of Neenah, Lee Nerison of Westby, Travis Tranel of Cuba City and Richard Spanbauer of Oshkosh. All other Republicans and the body's lone independent, Bob Ziegelbauer of Manitowoc, voted for the bill.

Walker hailed the vote.

"I applaud all members of the Assembly for showing up, debating the legislation and participating in democracy," he said in a statement. "Their

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