The Trade Union Act 1984 was a law in the United Kingdom that required all trade unions to hold a secret ballot before calling a strike. The majority of the act did not apply to trade unions based in Northern Ireland. The act was repealed on 16 October 1992. Sir Peter Bottomley, who is the current MP for Worthing West, reportedly said that the act was “designed to ensure that trade unions are more democratic and their leaders more accountable to their members.” “The Trade Union Act is a major advance for the cause of union democracy” said the Secretary of State for Employment. Indeed it is, and no one can question the validity of this statement. It must be pointed out at the outset however, that, in advancing the cause of union democracy, the Trade Union Act, 1984 which is the third stage of the government’s industrial legislation, has a twofold effect upon trade unions. This article examines the results of the political fund review ballots required under the 1984 Trade Union Act. It contradicts the pessimistic proclamations with the 100 per cent success and examines the reasons for this. Balloting methods are analysed and workplace ballots are found to be more democratic than postal ballots, without influencing the outcome.