

CPF LEADERSHIP ALERT

July 29, 2005

CPF President Paulson Reports on AFL-CIO Convention

TO: *CPF Local Union Presidents*
FR: *Lou Paulson, CPF President*
RE: *AFL-CIO Convention Report*

This past week I attend the 50th Anniversary of the AFL-CIO at their Convention in Chicago. As you all know by now, two International Unions left the AFL-CIO – Teamsters and SEIU. Two others – UFCW and HERE-UNITE – also boycotted the Convention and appear likely to defect as well. The defections were motivated by a disagreement on the amount of time and money spent on organizing.

SEIU and the Teamsters have formed a new coalition called the "Change to Win" coalition. They have teamed up with the Carpenters who left the AFL-CIO a few years ago. The new coalition will be about 6 million workers in America.

What does this mean for the November election?

The general consensus is that the national disagreement will have little, if any impact on the fight this fall. There has been no change in the makeup of either of the two coalitions in which we participate – the Alliance for a Better California and California Families Against Privatized Retirement. During the run-up to the convention, labor in California has been communicating about the possible impact of a split. SEIU has committed to staying the course with our united efforts to defeat Propositions 75 and 76.

It should also be noted that, during our fight with the governor over the last few months many of our major allies are not affiliated with the AFL-CIO. Organizations like PORAC, CTA, CNA and CCPOA have all been equal partners in the Alliance coalition. Again we do not see any changes in our battle for November 8th. Proposition 75 attacks all unions whether they are affiliated with the AFL-CIO or not.

If Arnold's forces think the events this week will help them in the election, they're in for yet another nasty surprise.

What about after November?

We are not sure what will happen after November. We do know that the departure of SEIU and the Teamsters from AFL-CIO will have an adverse impact on the California Labor Federation and Central Labor Councils. For the Labor Federation, dues from the affected unions make up about half of their annual income. There is no way to predict how the departure of these groups from AFL-CIO will affect the scope of work that they are currently representing.

Where does CPF stand?

CPF has a long history of seeking out and building relationships with organizations and individuals that share our commitment to public safety and the men and women on the front lines ... whether or not they are affiliated with AFL-CIO. That philosophy remains unchanged. However, CPF also remains firmly committed its affiliation with AFL-CIO, through the California Labor Federation, on which I continue to sit as a member of the Board of Directors.

###

CPF Leadership Alert is a free, electronic update published for our local union leadership by the California Professional Firefighters (CPF), featuring news about legislation, political action, health and safety, retirement, and other issues affecting California firefighters. CPF is the state council of the International Association of Firefighters and represents over 30,000 firefighters throughout California.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to **CPF Leadership Alert** write to the CPF at info@cpf.org.