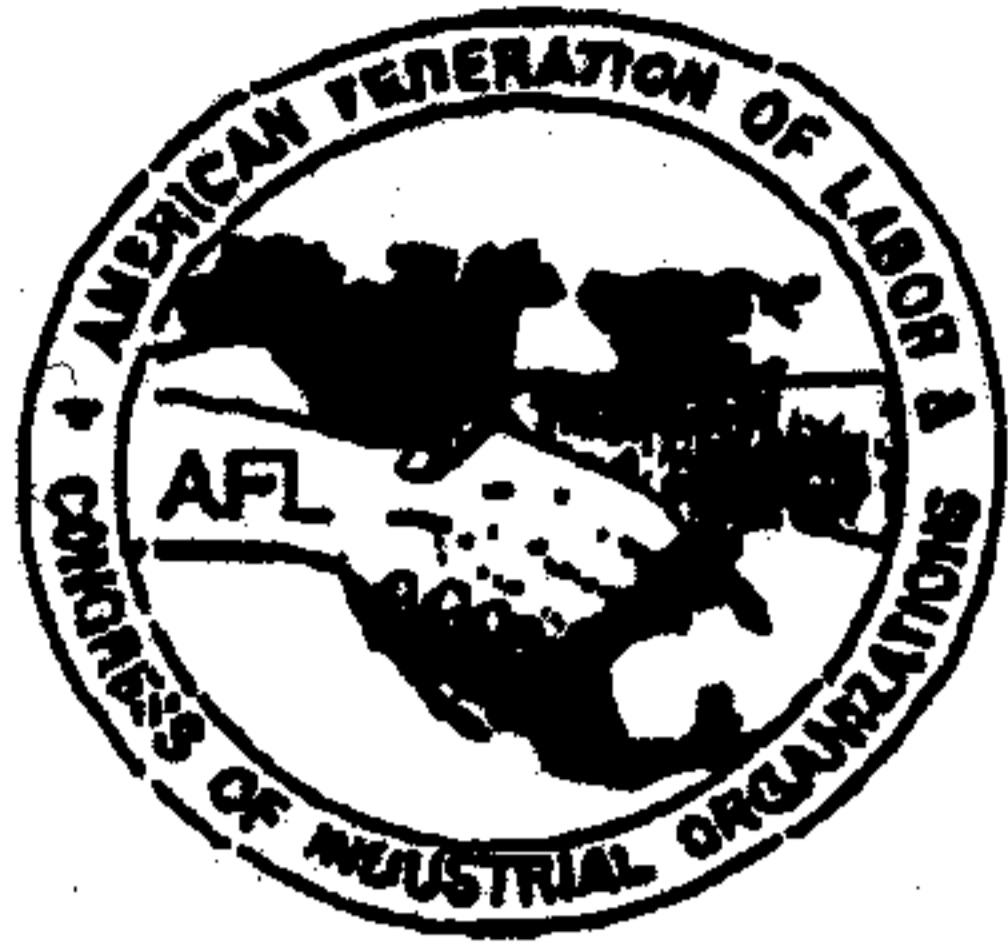


American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



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MEMORANDUM

TO: AFL-CIO Executive Council Members
Presidents of National and International Unions
Trade and Industrial Departments
Principal Officers of State Federations and Central Labor Councils

FROM: John J. Sweeney

DATE: April 4, 2001

RE: Disaffiliation of United Brotherhood of Carpenters

On March 29, 2001, Douglas J. McCarron, President of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, notified me by letter that the Carpenters' Union has decided to disaffiliate from the AFL-CIO.

I have issued a statement expressing regret over this decision and urging that the Carpenters Union reconsider this action. Prior to this decision, Secretary-Treasurer Trumka and I met with the officers and the General Executive Board of the Carpenters, encouraging them to remain affiliated and to make their case within the regular governing structures of the Federation for changes they wished to see take place.

The Carpenters' disaffiliation is a loss for the Carpenters and a loss for the American labor movement. I remain hopeful that the Carpenters will reconsider their decision and will rejoin the Federation.

Unless and until the Carpenters' Union does reverse this action, however, the Federation and all AFL-CIO organizations are required to enforce the AFL-CIO Constitution, which clearly provides that only unions that are affiliated with the AFL-CIO may be affiliated with any of its trade and industrial departments, state federations, or central labor councils. Under the Constitution, by choosing to disaffiliate from the AFL-CIO, a union automatically

chooses to disaffiliate from all other AFL-CIO organizations at the same time. Therefore, the Carpenters' Union and all of its affiliates are no longer eligible to be affiliated with, or enjoy voting representation in, any trade and industrial departments or their councils, or any state federations or central labor councils.

In addition, all officers of and delegates to AFL-CIO trade and industrial departments and councils, state federations, and central labor councils who are Carpenters' members may no longer remain in their AFL-CIO positions. These offices and positions shall be deemed vacant and where appropriate shall be filled under applicable constitutional procedures.

Also, Carpenter affiliates shall not be accorded voting representation of any kind within the AFL-CIO or any of its subordinate bodies.

Finally, as a consequence of its disaffiliation, the Carpenters and its affiliates may not exercise any right or enjoy any protections under the AFL-CIO Constitution, such as the organizing and jurisdictional disputes resolution procedures under Articles XX and XXI.

I recognize that in many instances the relationships with Carpenters locals and district councils are longstanding and deep. For this reason, a transition period may be needed for fully severing the Carpenters from all aspects of their affiliations, but I would ask that this be completed within the next 45 days, i.e. no later than May 19, 2001.

In his letter, President McLarron expressed the Carpenters' commitment to continuing to work with the AFL-CIO where such collaboration can be effective. At every level, the AFL-CIO has a long history of working with all parts of the labor movement, affiliated and unaffiliated, on matters of mutual interest and concern, and that will remain the case here. However, under the terms of the AFL-CIO Constitution, the Carpenters' affiliation with AFL-CIO trade and industrial departments and their councils, state federations, and central labor councils is simply no longer permitted.

I will keep you advised of any significant developments. In the meantime, I will be working closely with the leadership and the member unions of the Building Trades Department to see how the Federation can take steps to convince the Carpenters to reconsider their action – an action I believe is bad for this great union's members, and for the entire labor movement.