

I urge you to defeat this motion. I urge you to consider the fact that each of you in your districts will have to go to your vice presidents for assistance. Don't put them in a corner, where they tell you, "Hey, guys, I spent whatever we had, because you asked for services last month. Remember?" We don't need that situation. We need to understand that we are there because our members need us, and when the service is needed, it has to be delivered.

Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT BAHR: On Microphone 5, Delegate Buttiglieri.

DELEGATE JANN L. BUTTIGLIERI (Local 2101): If at the end of a budget year an administrative group is under their budgeted amount—in other words, if they are in the black—what happens to that dollar figure?

PRESIDENT BAHR: We are on a zero-based budget, meaning that on July 1st each year, when the new budget goes in, everything starts over again from zero, or whatever the new budget provides.

You are entitled to a second question.

DELEGATE BUTTIGLIERI: I think you just answered it.

In other words, if an administrative group exceeds their budget every year, they are in the red. Then at the first of that year they start off at zero.

PRESIDENT BAHR: If that would have happened, yes.

DELEGATE BUTTIGLIERI: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BAHR: Microphone No. 3, Delegate Crump.

DELEGATE ANN L. CRUMP (Local 4600): Brothers and sisters, I rise in support of the Supplemental Report because, as I was looking through this report this morning, it occurred to me that the question in the song, "There is something happening here. What it is ain't exactly clear."

One of the things that is alarming is that the Locals here, for whatever reason, under the budget, are accepting more and more the financial responsibilities.

It is not unreasonable to hope and to expect under this Supplemental that the vice presidents in charge of the units, whether they be big units or small units, at some point, when necessary, will be asked to explain the over-spending. We hope that is thing does not become a political football.

The rumor on the floor is that maybe somebody is going to use this in a political sense to embarrass someone.

If District 1 needs the money, I am here to tell you that I would support any effort for any program they have. If District 4 needs the money, I hope that all units will support any program that we need.

It is not unreasonable, however, to expect that they report back to the Convention.

What is happening here, it seems, is that we get fewer and fewer reports and less and less information, and that is a concern for some of us. We would like to be the party that rules the union.

So, as a result, this is a reasonable response. Nobody's hands are being tied. So let's support this Supplemental Report.

I would venture, and I could be wrong, that there are not going to be a lot of Vice Presidents to come before the Convention explaining themselves.

But I would also venture that it is reasonable to expect that where we have a great deal of spending going on, and we cannot afford to do that spending, that somebody should

answer for it. And somebody should answer to us for it. (Applause)

Thank you.

PRESIDENT BAHR: On Microphone No. 1, Delegate Beck.

DELEGATE AL BECK (Local 4302): I move the previous question.

PRESIDENT BAHR: The motion is to close debate. Not debatable. Two-thirds vote is required.

All those in favor indicate by raising your hand. Down hands. Opposed by like sign.

Debate closed.

The motion before us is the adoption of the Supplemental Report of the Finance Committee. All those in favor of adoption indicate by raising their hand. Down hands. Opposed by like sign.

It is adopted. (Applause)

I would like to offer one comment, that while I certainly appreciate the experience that Delegate Cheliotas has, there is absolutely nothing in this Supplemental Report that changes the authority or responsibility that exists today.

The Secretary-Treasurer could do what is prescribed here. The Finance Committee, just as they called me before them, has the right and had the right to ask any Vice President or department head to come before it, and this is a rank-and-file committee who could have recommended, even though it had never been done, that a Vice President or the President or whoever, be asked to come before this Convention.

So as I say, while we appreciate the thought behind and the motive behind Delegate Cheliotas, there is really nothing in here, in my judgment, that hamstring us in the future.

By the Chair's watch, it is now 3:15, and we will recess for 30 minutes, okay? That doesn't mean 3:45.

. . . The Convention recessed for thirty minutes at three-eight o'clock, p.m., and reconvened at three-thirty-eight o'clock. . .

PRESIDENT BAHR: Will the delegates take their seats please. The Convention will be in order.

The Chair recognizes the Secretary-Treasurer.

SECRETARY-TREASURER BOOE: Mr. Chairman, I have some greetings to the convention.

On United States Senate stationery:

"Dear Friends:

"I am pleased to have this opportunity to welcome you to the 50th Annual Convention of the Communications Workers of America.

"Over the years, CWA has played a vitally important role in seeing that the rights of the American laborer have not been overlooked. The Alliance for Employee Growth and Development is but another example of the efforts CWA has made to not only foster good relations between labor and business but also to keep the United States competitive in the world marketplace.

"Again, I extend to you my warmest welcome to New Orleans and hope that your stay in the New Orleans will be a good one.

"Sincerely,

s/Wendell

H.

Ford

speak. We must take control and get some progressiveness out of our state feds, and we cannot do it if we are not in that position of leadership.

Other unions are having the foresight, and that is amazing, because I never usually give them the same credit that I give us. I really do feel strongly, after having been a vice president of a central labor council for two terms, that we are the best union in the United States, and for that reason we should be entitled to that leadership. But we can't do it without paying our dues.

I urge you all to support this motion. Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BAHR: On Microphone No. 1, Delegate Jones.

DELEGATE EDDIE W. JONES (Local 4501): Mr. President, I would like to make the following amendment: to delete the second two Resolveds, and to substitute the following Resolved:

"RESOLVED, that all CWA Locals be encouraged to affiliate and fully participate in their respective state central bodies."

PRESIDENT BAHR: Is there a second to the amendment?

... The motion was duly seconded ...

PRESIDENT BAHR: Seconded from the floor. Delegate Jones can speak for five minutes.

DELEGATE JONES: Mr. President, fellow Delegates, the original resolution that you have before you has created a division in our united house. Affiliation with a state central body should not be a major issue of a national affiliate of the AFL-CIO. We could well spend our time brainstorming how we can become more involved in joint efforts of organizing, lobbying and spreading the message of unionism in conjunction with our state central affiliates.

The substitute motion which I have presented is not a mandate, but a strong encouragement for all of us to participate in our central bodies, if we have not done so in the past, or to increase our participation if we currently are.

My Local, Local 4501, is an affiliate of the Ohio AFL-CIO. We may not agree with everything they do, but, without them, we believe we would all lose. We encourage all of you to join, participate, and help make the entire union movement grow. Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BAHR: Eddie, would you give me a copy of that amendment, please?

On Microphone 3, Delegate Ervin.

DELEGATE JAMES ERVIN (Local 4501): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I rise to support the amendment, for the following reasons. I believe if we would vote upon what is before us, other than this amendment that I am speaking to, our local has had the experience that the head of our body was the chairman of the board in Ohio State University, and during that time we had much contracting out, and union busting activities. We could not reach this person. I don't have to give the name, because you can check the records and find out who the chairman of that board was at the time.

Also, the person that is head of the central body at this time is a member of the board of hospitals which allowed and did not speak up in defense of the labor union when we were organizing 800 members, and we lost, because they used strikebreakers

I feel that if you pass what is before the body at this time, Resolution 50A-88-6, that you take away the leverage that the union, our local, would have, by locking us into the dues structure.

I don't think there would be much concern on their part about our position. Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BAHR: On Microphone 4, Delegate Crump.

DELEGATE ANN CRUMP (Local 4600): Delegates, I rise against the amendment, with all due respect to the brother. You know, the Defense Fund Committee came before us this week. We had some hard decisions to make, and we made them. Let's not wimp out on this thing. Let's vote it up or vote it down and let's talk about what the merits are and what the drawbacks are to the proposal itself. (Applause)

As a member of the Executive Board of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO, my choice would be that we put some chutzpah behind what we are doing in the labor movement by affiliating with the AFL-CIO. The amendment the brother offers is wonderful. We do it already. We encourage affiliation. Unfortunately, some member locals chose, for whatever reason, not to affiliate. We have to do more than encourage affiliation. It is time we take some action on that.

I don't want to be a wimp and I hope nobody out there wants to be a wimp. With all due respect to the good brother, his intentions are fine, but it is like putting an American Flag resolution before us. We already encourage it. Let's vote it up or down. Let's debate the issue. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BAHR: Microphone 5, Delegate Drake.

DELEGATE MICHAEL DRAKE (Local 9510): I have already asked the question of the Parliamentarian, and it has been answered, so thank you.

PRESIDENT BAHR: On Microphone 3, Delegate Unger.

DELEGATE LAURA UNGER (Local 1150): Brothers and Sisters, I speak for encouraging voluntary affiliation. My local crosses state lines. We pay our per capita dues to the New York State AFL-CIO, and in New Jersey, in 1985, we pulled out of the state fed because we felt their legislative program no longer represented the interests of our members.

It is a strange state of affairs when the most persuasive argument to mandatory affiliation is that it will put the CWA in a better position to make the long overdue changes needed in many of the state feds and help rebuild the labor movement.

I am certainly sympathetic to that argument. Many of the state feds need to be dragged kicking and screaming into the fight for justice and equality. However, I don't believe that making affiliation mandatory is the road to doing that.

We have to assess the situation in each state. We have to make plans and alliances. Mandatory affiliation doesn't mean mandatory participation. We in AT&T who have the agency shop know that. We know we have to organize, mobilize and build coalitions to make changes.

Therefore, I support the amendment to the resolution, that we voluntarily plan on our affiliation and that it not be a mandatory decision of this body. Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BAHR: Microphone 1, Delegate Graham.

DELEGATE BILL GRAHAM (Local 4302): I move the previous question.

... The motion was duly seconded ...

PRESIDENT BAHR: Seconded from the floor. It has the effect of closing debate. It is not debatable. It requires a two-thirds vote. All in favor of the motion to close debate indicate by raising your hands. Down hands. Those opposed, by the same sign. Down hands. Debate is closed.

The amendment before us to delete the last two resolves on Lines 22 through 26 and substitute the following resolved: That all CWA Locals be encouraged to affiliate and fully participate in their respective state central bodies.

All those in favor of the amendment indicate by raising their hand. Down hands. Opposed, by like sign. It is defeated.