

RESOLUTION 39

In Support of Labor Rights in Iraq

Submitted by Wisconsin State AFL-CIO

WHEREAS, unemployment in Iraq has been estimated at over 70 percent since the invasion of Iraq, causing harm and dislocation to many workers; and

WHEREAS, the billions of dollars appropriated by the U.S. Congress have done little to rebuild Iraq with Iraqi labor; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. occupation has announced its intent to sell off factories, refineries, mines and other state enterprises despite the fact that these resources belong to the Iraqi people; and

WHEREAS, the privatization of Iraqi businesses would result in massive layoffs to Iraqi workers at a time when unemployment is already at crisis levels; and

WHEREAS, Iraqi workers have begun to reorganize their trade union movement, seeking a better standard of living and to preserve their jobs and workplaces; and

WHEREAS, workers in the United States have experienced an erosion of our own right to organize and bargain collectively and thus understand what the restriction or loss of these rights means to working people;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that delegates to the 2004 Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Convention held Sept. 27–28, 2004, call on the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO to call for the institution of full labor rights in Iraq, the immediate nullification of the 1987 Hussein law banning unions in public enterprises and the removal of any other restrictions on the free exercise of labor rights.