

## **Lou Dobbs Tonight**

Interview with Richard Trumka of AFL-CIO

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DOBBS: A revolution within organized labor. The Teamsters and Service Employees Union both announcing their withdrawal from the AFL-CIO today. Other unions may follow. It's being called the worst crisis in organized labor since the '30s.

AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Richard Trumka is with us now from the group's annual convention in Chicago. Richard, your numbers are in decline. Two unions withdrawing, including the Teamsters. Others threatening to leave. What are you going to do now?

RICHARD TRUMKA, SECRETARY TREASURER, AFL-CIO: Well, we're focused on building a better future for America's working families, and that's what we're going to continue doing all week. We're making historic changes, Lou. Changes on diversity, changes on organizing, changes on political action, changes on state and local power. And we're going to continue doing that throughout the week.

You know, it's pretty obvious to us that this group didn't get what they wanted through the democratic process, and that was control of the AFL-CIO. So they walked off the playing field rather than play the game.

DOBBS: The -- your T-shirts, "a strong voice," is that correct, what they say there at the convention -- one strong voice?

TRUMKA: That's correct.

DOBBS: What is the message that that one strong voice wants to deliver?

TRUMKA: Well, the strong voice is that we're out there every day trying to build a better future for America's working families. And I think the unions that have left have done a terrible disservice to their membership. They've done a disservice to the democratic process. They should have come to the convention and debated what they believed in. They could have had their delegates debate what they believed in. And they could have listened to the other side, and listened to what other people had to say, and we could have come out unified.

There's not a dime's worth of difference about the issues, Lou. So this -- their departure isn't about the issues, and it's not about building a better future for America's working families, which is what we should be all about. It's about them trying to get control of the AFL-CIO, and they couldn't do it through the democratic process.

DOBBS: They couldn't do it. They didn't do it. John Sweeney is still the head of the group. But organized labor right now faces one of the most monumental challenges -- the most monumental challenge, in fact, in its history in this country, over the past century certainly.

TRUMKA: Absolutely.

DOBBS: What are you going to do?

TRUMKA: We're going to continue to fight. We're going to continue to try to talk to them, and we're going to continue to try to bring them back. But as I said earlier, we're about building a better future for America's working families. We're making historic changes. We're going to go through with those changes. We're going to continue to fight for America's working people. And there's no question that they've done -- their departure has done a disservice to every working man, woman and child in this country, because we're not as strong with their leaving as if we would be if they stayed and gone through the democratic process.

DOBBS: Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO, thanks for being here.

TRUMKA: Thanks, Lou. Thanks for having me.

DOBBS: The results of our poll tonight: 73 percent of you say global warming is responsible for the heat wave now gripping the United States and much of Europe; 27 percent of you say global warming is not responsible.

Finally tonight, Judith Miller, the Pulitzer Prize-winning "New York Times" journalist, has now spent 19 days in prison for refusing to name her confidential sources in the White House CIA leak investigation.

Thanks for being with us tonight. Please join us here tomorrow when the head of the Service Employees Union that has just withdrawn from the AFL-CIO will explain what's going on in organized labor.

And bolstering security in our nation's mass transit systems. Congressman Peter King joins us to tell us what Congress will do next.

Please join us. For all of us here, thanks for being with us tonight. Good night from New York.

ANDERSON COOPER 360" starts right now, with Heidi Collins -- Heidi.

COLLINS: Thanks, Lou.

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