

Andy fiddles while SEIU burns

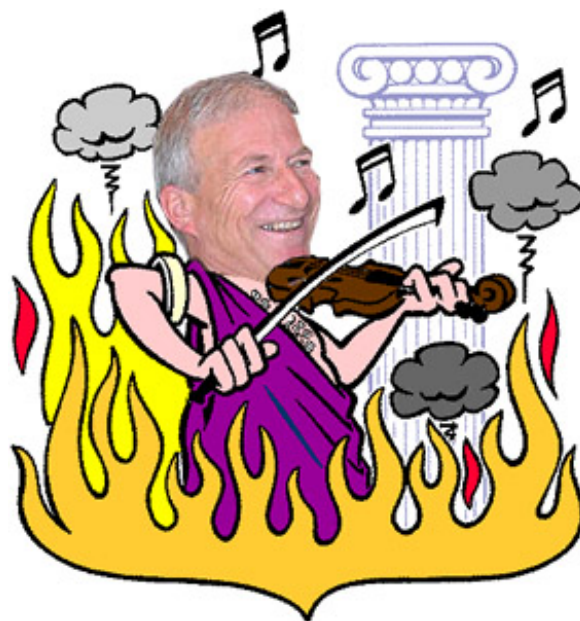
It's fitting that SEIU—the Corporate Union—is experiencing the same kind of problems with credibility and finances as Corporate America. It turns out that SEIU and AIG aren't so different after all.

On March 2, as part of its “corporate restructuring,” SEIU announced it's laying off 140 staff, or around 25 percent of the entire SEIU International workforce. These cuts come just months after SEIU imposed a wage freeze and released all employees who were still in their probationary period.

Like the big-business bosses they want to be, top SEIU executives like Stern and SEIU UHW-W Trustees Dave Regan and Eliseo Medina continue to take compensation packages of \$250,000 or more every year, while announcing cuts that hurt the people who do the real work in the organization and replace them with call centers and 1-800 numbers.

Who's left? SEIU has retained staff with far less seniority in communications and “new media”—the departments designed to get Stern's name in the paper. As Stern told the Los Angeles Times on Feb. 22, “there's no bad publicity.” These cuts show Stern's priorities.

At the same time, employers across the country are demanding that SEIU members accept enormous takeaways. While SEIU members face reductions in hours, furlough days, wage reductions, and massive layoffs, Stern continues to squander SEIU resources and money. As a result, SEIU members suffer.



Andy, where did all the money go?

In addition to the millions that he is wasting on his failed corporate takeover of SEIU UHW-W, SEIU's lavish and wasteful spending is a well-known fact in the labor movement—Four Star hotels, corporate jets, inflated executive salaries, cigar clubs, trips to the Olympics in Beijing, no-bid contracts to family and friends, attacks on other unions...

Apparently the credit crunch has led to a tightening of SEIU's credit line, triggering the collapse of Stern's union Ponzi-like scheme and the future of thousands of workers.

Goodbye, SEIU!

With all the lies, corruption and corporate-style leadership, is it any wonder that more than 90,000 healthcare workers in California are petitioning to get out of SEIU and join a real union?

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