



Federation of Hospital and University Employees

District 1199 SEIU • Locals 34, 35, GESO, HERE • 425 College Street, New Haven, CT 06511 • 129 Church Street, Suite 521, New Haven, CT 06510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Bill Meyerson 203-624-5161 x309

American Labor Goes to Yale

Thousands of union members to converge on the Yale campus to support striking workers, if contract not settled

National AFL-CIO to launch major mobilization

Thousands of union members from throughout the Northeast will converge on the Yale University campus to support striking workers on Saturday, September 13, if a contract settlement between Yale and its workers is not reached.

The University-wide strike that began August 27 highlights the key issues facing American workers—particularly the struggle for a decent retirement. Workers are increasingly finding their living standards under attack. The workers at Yale--secretaries, food service workers, maintenance workers, and researchers--are fighting back.

In the shadow of the Enron and American Airlines scandals and a struggling social security system and stockmarket, securing a decent retirement is increasingly becoming a major concern for America's working families. At Yale:

- the average Yale pension for a union employee who retired in 2002 with 20 or more years of service receives \$621 a month. Virginia Henry a custodian at the Peabody Museum has worked for Yale for 29 years. When she retires at 65, her Yale pension will bring her only \$8328 a year. Yale Pres. Levin will receive a pension of as much as \$42,000 a month when he retires. Nearly 1000 Yale workers will be eligible for retirement over the next few years.
- Yale's pension fund enjoys a \$200 million surplus. In fact, Yale's pension surplus is so large that they could pay for a decent retirement for workers without any additional money.

National AFL-CIO Pres John Sweeney will be joining the thousands of union members at Yale.

WHO: Thousands of union members from throughout the region
WHAT: "American labor goes to Yale" rally and march to support strike
WHEN: Saturday, September 13 at 1:00 p.m.
WHERE: New Haven Green