



STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Employment Relations

Jim Doyle
Governor

Karen E. Timberlake
Secretary

345 West Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7855
Madison, WI 53707-7855
Voice (608) 266-9820
FAX (608) 267-1020
TTY (608) 267-1004
<http://der.state.wi.us>

February 6, 2003

VIA FACSIMILE AND CERTIFIED MAIL

Martin Beil, Executive Director
William Fendel, President
AFSCME Council 24, WSEU
8033 Excelsior Drive, Suite C
Madison, WI 53717-1903

Dear Gentlemen:

I have been advised that as of 9:00 a.m. today, approximately 400 correctional officers, or 35% of the first shift security workforce at the Department of Corrections, had called in sick. These percentages of call-ins are far beyond the usual number. Based on these reports, as well as information gathered over the past two weeks, it appears that a large number of WSEU members statewide are engaged in concerted work stoppage activities prohibited by section 14/1/2 of the contract and by section 111.89 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Our information also suggests that it is the intention of WSEU members to continue this activity over the next several days.

Pursuant to section 14/1/3 of the Agreement, I am therefore notifying you that members of your union have organized and/or are engaged in strike activity. I hereby request that you immediately take all of the actions required of union leadership under Article XIV of the Agreement, including ordering all involved employees, in writing and via any available media outlets, to discontinue these work stoppage activities. Fax any notices sent to local union leaders or members, and any press releases, to me at 267-1014.

As you know, your failure to take these actions may be considered in a determination of whether the union caused or authorized this strike.

This strike has already cost the taxpayers of Wisconsin \$72,194 in overtime costs to replace striking members of WSEU who did not report to work last night and this morning. If the strike continues and public safety requires that the Governor activate the National Guard to staff the prisons, the cost to the taxpayers will be a minimum of \$175,000 per day.

Sincerely,

Karen E. Timberlake
Secretary