

02/17/11 - Today on WIN!  
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When you have an upcoming newsworthy event or issue, call Workers Independent News with your story. In many cases, we can arrange on-site coverage.

Call Jesse Russell - producer at 608-251-0185; Doug Cunningham – Producer at 608-846-8454, or email us at [laborradio@gmail.com](mailto:laborradio@gmail.com).

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## **Teachers Shut Down Schools In Wisconsin's Capitol As Protests Against Assault On Labor Continue- 02/17/11**

Spirited resistance to the stripping away of bargaining rights for public workers in Wisconsin continues as the capitol city's schools are shut down by the protests. Jesse Russell reports.

On Wednesday, the city of Madison school system shut down because an estimated 40 percent of teachers called in sick. Teachers in Wisconsin are one of the groups that would lose collective bargaining rights under proposals by Governor Scott Walker. James Madison Memorial High School Social Studies teacher, David Olsen spoke about why the teachers shutting down the schools was a powerful message:

[Olsen]: "Not only because we have so many teachers, SEAs, psychologists and social workers who marched here today, but also because there are thousands of students making their way down the road...#157;

The previous day, more than 700 students from Madison East High School walked out of class to join the protest and on Wednesday students at Madison's West High School were planning to do the same. Students have been holding walkouts throughout the state, with additional walkouts reported in Stoughton, Eau Claire, Viroqua, Appleton, and other towns. The Appleton Post Crescent reported on Wednesday that since Walker announced his proposals, school systems in Wisconsin have seen an increase in teachers submitting requests for early retirement.

## **Firefighters In Madison, Wisconsin Call For Police And Fire Unions To Stand With Public Workers- 02/17/11**

**By Doug Cunningham**

As public unions are attacked around the country, International Association of Firefighters, Local 311 in Madison, Wisconsin is calling on police and firefighter unions everywhere to stand with their brothers and sisters in other unions. Firefighters Local 311's Joe Conway.

[Conway]: "There's no other choice for us. We're part of labor. An injury to one of us is an injury to all of us. Going beyond the rhetoric, they're our family members, our friends, our neighbors. They're public employees. We're public employees. They're no different from us and we will always stand with them...#157;

Conway says firefighters from several Wisconsin cities rallied at the state capitol with the thousands of people protesting the stripping away of bargaining rights for public employees.