

Union Members March Through Downtown Chicago

AP -- July 10, 2004

More than 1500 hotel and textile union workers marched through downtown Chicago today.

The workers are part of the new UNITE HERE union. It was created in Chicago Thursday through a merger between the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees and the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees union.

Chicago police estimated that between 15-hundred and two-thousand union members marched in the rally. They walked and chanted through downtown streets to protest sweatshop conditions and worker exploitation.

Dozens of police officers on foot, bike and horseback escorted the marchers and directed traffic.

The Reverend Jesse Jackson and Illinois Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky were among those who joined union members in the march.