

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 4

February 1, 2006

TO ALL LOCAL CHAIRPERSONS AND LOCAL PRESIDENTS:

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

On January 27, 2006, the United Transportation Union and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers issued a joint statement, pledging cooperation and solidarity in the current round of national bargaining negotiations. The attached letter from Presidents Thompson and Hahs explains how the carriers are attempting to play one organization off against the other. The leadership of both organizations is calling for the members to work together in a concerted effort to obtain an equitable agreement.

On January 31st, President Thompson issued a letter calling on the members to make contact with the National Mediation Board by telephone and letter. The Grass Roots Lobbying Agenda will begin on February 6, 2006. It is imperative that the local officers and members participate fully in these efforts. It is only by vigorously and repeatedly making our views known to those elected and appointed officials in Washington that we will influence our future.

Each local should organize a committee to take this message to the members. Please contact your counterparts in the BLET; the combined efforts of both organizations will be necessary to achieve the desired effect. Please contact the members at the locations they will congregate; away-from-home lodging facilities, yard offices, etc. Please use discretion not to interrupt rest or interfere with duties.

Sample letters are included in the information packet. Each member should write a similar letter in their own hand addressed to each of the NMB members. These letters should be faxed to the NMB from a private fax machine (not the carriers). Phone calls should be courteous, yet insistent that our judicial and collective bargaining processes be allowed to continue to resolution. The safety aspects of the carriers proposals should also be stressed.

The railroad carriers are reporting record earnings in their latest reporting periods. The attached articles from Traffic World magazine demonstrate this fact. Their latest demands on the employees reflect unbridled greed and a total lack of concern for safety.

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Other labor organizations and coalitions have pledged to support our efforts, but it must be our effort. No one else will carry our torch. We know that a dedicated effort by a few can have an immense effect; a concerted effort by many will bring success. Enlist the support of your families, neighbors, local merchants, retirees, anyone who will be affected by the devastating proposals made by the carriers.

Time is short before our first lobbying event. Please take the time to immediately begin organizing your local effort. Whatever differences have existed among us must be left behind at this time. Please contact this office with any questions or concerns which you have.

The information in this letter should not be posted or made available to non-members before February 6th.

Fraternally yours,



Michael J. Reedy
General Chairman, G. C. A.

MJR:jg

cc: Paul Thompson, International President - UTU
Rick Marceau, Assistant President - UTU
Dan Johnson, III - General Secretary/Treasurer - UTU
Joe Szabo, Director Illinois State Legislative Board - UTU
Pat Hendricks, Director Iowa State Legislative Board - UTU
Phil Qualy, Director Minnesota State Legislative Board - UTU
Ray Lineweber, Director Nebraska State Legislative Board - UTU
Tom Dwyer, III, Director Wisconsin State Legislative Board - UTU