

## CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 9

July 21, 2006

### TO ALL LOCAL CHAIRPERSONS:

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

As an ongoing process in the General Chairman's office, we send out Circular Letters as circumstances dictate in regard to issues that are of importance to all of our Membership. We are requesting that you read these documents at your Union Meetings for the Membership's benefit and also place them on bulletin boards for those Members who cannot attend the Union Meeting. Incorporated below are issues of importance for our Membership.

#### *ES* **Railroads Attack Rail Labor:**

The nations rail carriers, represented by the National Carrier's Conference Committee (NCCC) has given indication of their intention of destroying the labor organizations on their property. Please review the attached letter and documents from President Paul Thompson regarding the latest proposal from the carriers in the contract negotiations. The proposal would freeze current wages and lower future wages; eliminate the provisions for exercise of seniority; force engine service employees to operate RCO equipment in order to replace ground service employees; increase time worked for vacation and health and welfare; increase employees cost of health care and reduce benefits; eliminate any and all training of new or current employees; extend the probationary period to nearly one year; eliminate the ability of the employees to engage in any strike activity.

The carriers have made it clear that they intend to force the negotiations to a Presidential Emergency Board. Railroad employees must realize that it is **imperative that changes occur in Congress in the November elections. Every employee's job is a stake.** Circulate copies of President Thompson's letter among the members, and encourage them to be active in the November elections.

#### *ES* **Trip Rate Payments:**

July 1, 2006, the carrier implemented the one cent (.01¢) per hour COLA increase to all wage rates and trip rates. In some instances the carrier reduced the pre-1996 crew consist trip rate allowance. The carrier has taken the position that the crew consist differential is not subject to COLA increases; the UTU disagrees and is progressing the dispute. One year ago on July 1, 2005, the carrier applied the thirty-one cents (.31¢) per hour COLA

increase to the crew consist differential. The carrier has now removed the July 1, 2005, COLA increase from the crew consist payment. When the dispute is resolved in the employees favor the carrier will be required to make restitution.

 **Union Pacific Harasses Injured Worker:**

On May 17, 2006, a Union Pacific employee was injured in Eugene, Oregon. The carrier delayed in transporting the employee to the hospital. The employee, who had severed a portion of his thumb, was eventually taken for medical care by his wife. Once at the hospital, the employee was badgered by a carrier manager to the point that the employee's spouse ordered the manager from the room. As a result of the delay in obtaining medical care, it was impossible to reattach the severed thumb.

If an employee is injured and there is any delay in obtaining medical treatment, the employee or a co-worker should contact emergency services, if necessary dial 911. If any like situations occur on this property please inform this office with all facts.

Trusting this information will aid you in keeping our Membership informed of issues confronting us and with best personal wishes, I remain

**Fraternal ly yours,**



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

**MJR: j g**

cc: Paul Thompson, 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