

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 23

December 21, 2004

TO ALL LOCAL CHAIRPERSONS:

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

As an on-going 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.

Union Pacific loses bid to reduce safety inspections:

The FRA has denied a request from UP railroad to allow safety inspections of freight trains to be performed in Mexico. The UP had requested that freight trains received in interchange at Laredo, Texas be allowed to continue operation in the United States without further inspection.

The FRA denied the request, citing inadequate documentation of employee training and qualifications, and a finding that manifest trains inspected in Mexico were in "notably inferior" condition when compared to trains inspected in the U.S. The UTU and the Transportation Communications Union were able to stop the effort to decrease safety and export jobs.

Update on AFL - CIO reaffiliation:

Attached is President Paul Thompson's response to the false allegations circulated by BMW President F. Simpson. Mr. Simpson has taken umbrage that the UTU will not join a proposed coalition of Rail Labor Organizations. The proposed coalition is dominated by the BLET, and it appears the chief negotiator will be a Teamster lawyer. Mr. Simpson does not seem to understand why the UTU would be reluctant to allow a hostile labor group to lead negotiations affecting the UTU members interests.

The documents attached to President Thompson's letter detail a long history of anti-labor activities by the BLE. Chronicled are the BLE attacks on the Fireman craft; the BLE instructions to their members to cross picket lines, both against the Firemen during national strikes, and the UTU on the Soo Line; the sell-out of the Conductors on VIA Rail.

Also attached is a letter from the Wyoming State AFL-CIO supporting the UTU effort to reaffiliate. It is apparent that those labor groups not under the Teamster thumb are supportive of our efforts.

ES **Holiday office schedule:**

The UTU office will be closed December 24 and 31 in observance of the national holiday. We extend our best wishes for the Holidays to all officers, committee persons and members.

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