



From The Desk of Joe R. Duncan, PDGC

Update On the National Freight Negotiations

July 19, 2010

Subject: National Freight Negotiations

Re: Meeting on July 7, 2010

TO: All IAM&AW Members Subject to National Freight Agreement

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

I want to take this opportunity to update you on the bargaining session with the National Carriers Committee Conference (NCCC) on July 7, 2010.

The meeting began with the Carrier's re-stating their position of Wages and Health & Welfare and proceeded by distributing to us a highlight of their Health & Welfare **dreams**.

The Carriers continued to advise that 2009 was a very bad year for the Carriers and that 2010 is very uncertain for them and held tight to the position that this would have to be a very tight Agreement and something that we should work with them on.

After a short break our Coalition advised the Carriers that we were not interested in visiting the Health & Welfare for changes the way they wanted and certainly did not think that our members should have to pay any additional employee contributions. Additionally, we advised that the wages would have to be no less than the recent Amtrak Agreements and actually felt they should be more.

We then advised the Carriers that we were at an "impasse" and would be invoking the services of the National Mediation Board. At this point the negotiations stopped and the next day scheduled negotiations were cancelled.

Therefore, please be advised that in a letter, dated July 15, 2010, our International President R. Thomas Buffenbarger filed Application for Mediation with the NMB for the IAMAW. We expect that a NMB Case Number and a Mediator will be assigned this week.

As information, all the Rail Labor Unions in our Coalition have filed for Mediation and we plan to continue working together in joint Mediation and we have advised the Carriers and the NMB of such.

We will attempt to keep you informed as the negotiations continue and I want to thank you for your support.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

Joe R. Duncan
Pres. Dir. Gen. Chairman/Railroad Coordinator

C: R. Roach, Jr.
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District 19 Staff