

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



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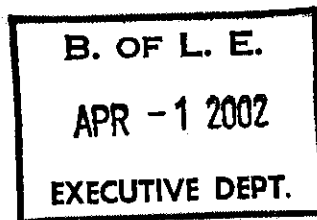
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March 22, 2002

Mr. Byron Boyd
President
United Transportation Union
14600 Detroit Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44107



Dear President Boyd:

I regret that you canceled the meeting that had been scheduled for March 12 with AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Rich Trumka and myself. I had hoped to be able to discuss directly with you the continuing dispute between the United Transportation Union and our affiliate, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

Soon after your cancellation of this meeting, I had the opportunity to read in the BNA's Daily Labor Report an interview with you which seems to imply that the UTU would seek reaffiliation with the AFL-CIO once the current dispute involving the BLE has been resolved.

I would have hoped to discuss this matter in person but I want to reiterate the Federation's willingness to seek a mutually acceptable resolution of this matter. But I also must tell you that at the recent meeting of the AFL-CIO's Executive Council a resolution was adopted expressing strong support for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers in this dispute and authorizing the Federation to take all possible steps to support our affiliate in this matter.

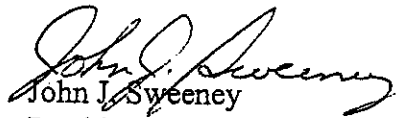
The UTU's continued effort before the National Mediation Board (NMB) to overturn established craft and class distinctions in the rail industry remains a violation of the constitution and bylaws of the AFL-CIO. The AFL-CIO, and all our affiliated unions, support the BLE's position on this matter before the NMB. I am also urging all other affiliated unions that represent railroad industry employees and the AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department to do the same.

While we remain open to the reaffiliation of your national union, such a reaffiliation continues to be jeopardized by this constitutional violation. Should the UTU prevail in changing long-established craft and class rules, it would most certainly not clear the way for the UTU's return to the Federation, as you are quoted as suggesting in the DLR interview. To the contrary, it would remove any such possibility of future reaffiliation, as long as this matter is not resolved to the satisfaction of our affiliate, the BLE.

I remain willing to meet with you and discuss any issues that you believe need to be addressed. But neither the AFL-CIO, nor our affiliated national unions, will stand by while your organization attempts to destroy another national labor organization.

I reaffirm my suggestion that this matter be discussed face to face.

Sincerely,


John J. Sweeney
President

JJS:lh