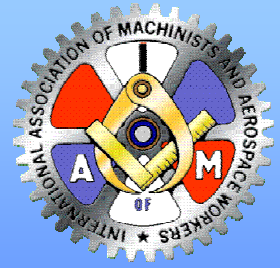


LL839 Machinists Matters



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President's Corner

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By Kathy Petersen

NLRB vs. BOEING

You have probably heard some TV pundits and politicians rambling on about how the unions are going after Boeing and are trying to prevent the company from building a plant in South Carolina. The unions, of course, are portrayed as the bad guys who are preventing job creation, destroying businesses, and conspiring with President Obama to cause the downfall of America, among other things equally ridiculous. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who is openly anti-union, called the NLRB complaint "an attack on our employers trying to keep business in America." (In some alternate universe, I am sure that makes sense.)

Seldom, however, do we actually hear about the facts of this situation. The pundits and politicians must think that TV viewers are too lazy to do any fact checking on their own and will just accept what they are told as gospel. Besides, facts are boring and get in the way of their impassioned rhetoric. But you and I, dear reader, we are neither lazy nor ignorant, and we are going to take a look at the facts.

First of all, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is not a union. It is an independent federal agency charged with conducting elections for labor union representation, investigating unfair labor practices, and remedying those unfair labor practices. The NLRB is governed by a five-member board and a General Counsel (currently

Lafe Solomon), all of whom are appointed by the President of the United States with the consent of the legislature. However, the NLRB does not answer to the President or Congress. The General Counsel acts as an independent prosecutor. He submits the cases he chooses to prosecute to independent administrative law judges. The Board acts as an appellate judicial body that reviews, and has the power to overturn, the decisions of the administrative law judges. (Cases then can be appealed to higher courts.)



Second, the NLRB is not seeking to close the South Carolina plant, nor is Boeing's decision to open a plant in South Carolina (a right-to-work state) the reason why the NLRB brought this action against Boeing. The NLRB issued a complaint against Boeing alleging that Boeing violated Section 8(a)(3) of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) which states it is illegal for employers "to discriminate in regard to hire or tenure of employment or any term or condition of employment to

encourage or discourage membership in any labor organization." In addition, Section 8(a)(1) of the NLRA prohibits retaliation against employees for protected activities such as forming a union, engaging in collective bargaining, and striking.

Now, why in the world does the NLRB think that Boeing's decision to open the plant in South Carolina was in retaliation for past strike activity and/or to stop future strike activity by its union employees? Maybe because Boeing management has said that is exactly what they were doing. This is a quote from Boeing CEO Jim Albaugh: "The overriding factor was not the business climate.

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Presidents Corner cont.

And it was not the wages we are paying today. It was that we can't afford to have a work stoppage every three years." Now, I don't know Mr. Albaugh personally, but it would be my guess that any Boeing CEO would be somewhat familiar with the NLRA. That Mr. Albaugh chose to make a public statement attributing Boeing's decision to open the South Carolina plant to past strikes seems to be a deliberate move on his part. Other Boeing executives have made similar statements to employees and the media. They were not forced to make such comments and indeed appeared to be boasting that they were breaking the law.

The reason the NLRB issued its complaint was not because Boeing moved the 787 Dreamliner production line to South Carolina, a right-to-work state. Kansas is also a right-to-work state and Boeing has had a plant here for many years. No, the reason for issuing the complaint is simple. It alleges that Boeing violated federal law by retaliating against and threatening union members in Washington. Boeing is charged with making coercive statements and threats to employees for engaging in statutorily protected activities and for retaliating against past strike activity by placing the assembly line at a non-union facility in South Carolina.

Despite the facts, Gov. Haley asserts that "the re-

taliation is coming from the president. The retaliation is coming from the NLRB. It is not coming from Boeing." (Alternate universe explanation again.) The NLRB is not even asking that the South Carolina plant be closed down. All it is asking is that Boeing not be allowed to get away with breaking the law and that it keep jobs in Washington. This case is about protections of the National Labor Relations Act and its protections for workers who engage in collective bargaining activities.

And so the war on unions continues. The National Labor Relations Act was enacted in 1935. Section 1 of the NLRA states, in part:

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States to eliminate the causes of certain substantial obstructions to the free flow of commerce and to mitigate and eliminate these obstructions when they have occurred by **encouraging the practice and procedure of collective bargaining** and by protecting the exercise by workers of full freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of representatives of their own choosing, for the purpose of negotiating the terms and conditions of their employment or other mutual aid or protection.

Let's hope that the courts have the courage to uphold the NLRA and all laws protecting the rights of workers.

We are Prisoners of the National Debt

(Part 2)

By: Jarrod Lehman

So my last article was about our Nation's Budget Deficit. This month I'm going to talk a little about our trade deficit, as Congress votes on the largest trade agreement since NAFTA. I'm not sure what is going on in this administration, one minute they are making a Job's Bill, wanting to create jobs. The next minute, they are making trade deals with these other Countries that is going to offload and outsource many more American Jobs. Last month there was an article in the newsletter regarding KORUS, and how it will affect American Jobs.

For the month of July of this year, the United States exports were worth a total of 178 billion dollars. For the same month, our imports were worth 223 billion dollars. This means that we are consuming more than we are producing. This can be a problem, especially when you take into consideration that our largest trade partners are China and Japan. When we are buying more goods from them than they are from us, they have more money. So what do these Countries do with all this money you ask? They turn around and finance our debt! China owns approximately 1.4 trillion, Japan owns 900 billion, the U.K. owns 300 billion, and Oil Exporters own over 200 billion. This can become very dangerous. China doesn't have to have a nuclear weapon to wipe out America. All they would have to do is pull their money out, as soon as they pulled out, Japan would be right behind them. This would cause a depression, and devalue the dollar the likes of which we have never seen. What does financial warfare look

like?

In 1956 America had a significant amount of holdings in the British Pound. Britain and France were engaged in a battle against Egypt over the Suez Canal. The Soviet Union had threatened to join the effort on the side of Egypt. America wanted to avoid military action at any cost, and so we demanded that the British and French allies pull out of the region. When our request was denied the U.S. had turned to financial warfare. America threatened to sell-off or dump a significant portion of their holdings of the British Pound. Having done so would have destroyed England's currency. The result was, all British and French military personnel withdrew from the Canal region. Most historians will say this was the exact moment the British Empire ceased to exist.

It used to be that when our government ran a



budget deficit, the citizens would buy savings bonds, or war bonds to help finance our Country's rough times. No longer is this the case. We Americans don't have the extra money to invest; we don't even have the money to put into a savings account. *We'll talk more about the savings deficit next month.* So how much is the current American Debt?

Again you hear, we need fair trade! Be sure to notify your representatives that you will be voting in 2012, and you will recall how they vote on these trade agreements. It's time we put Americans back to work, Countries obviously want our products, so let them buy them. However, we, as Americans, we prefer to BUY AMERICAN.

Drag Week Winner A Spirit Union Steward!!!

By: Jarrod Lehman

Alan Crump Union Steward in Shop 2930 ran in Drag Week a few weeks ago. To participate in Drag Week, you have to drive your car to four different drag strips. They began in Topeka, went to Great Bend, to Amarillo, on to Tulsa, returning to Topeka. Alan won, running a 10.03 at 135mph in the small block naturally aspirated class. Trailer Queen Cars are not allowed!!!



Alan has been at Spirit/Boeing for a combined twenty-two years. He has been a Union Steward for 6 years. His small block Ford makes 493 horsepower to the rear tires. Leroy Roduner and Alan built this motor together in just under a month. Alan is married with two children and lives in Wichita. Alan plans on keeping the car a sleeper, meaning it doesn't look too fast, but when someone wants to go from a stoplight, he will catch them sleeping and knock their socks off!

Southern States Conference

By: Larry Stafford

The Southern States Conference of Machinists was opened by Rickey Wallace, the President of the Southern States Conference of Machinists. He stated the purpose of this Conference was for the Delegates of the Southern Territories to come together for political activity and organizing efforts.



There were six speakers, the first day reporting on a range of topics. Since this Conference was in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, there was a lot of discussion about the anti-Union government in that State and the conflict between Boeing and the NLRB.

Donna Dewitt, President of the South Carolina AFL-CIO spoke on the history of the Union movement in South Carolina and spoke on some of the good things happening in her State.

GST Warren Mart spoke at length of the fight between Boeing and the NLRB and wanted all of the Delegates present to return home and plead with their members to become politically active.

John Winston, Political Director for the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee, reported on the status for taking back the House and holding onto the Senate in the 2012 election.

Dalton Tresvont, Staff Representative to South Carolina's 6th

Congressional Congressman Jim Clyburn, stated that the Congressman was in Washington ready to vote against HR 2587 which is the Boeing versus the NLRB bill.

Dale Hartford, Director of Guide Dogs of America, spoke of the great things they continue to do for the visually impaired. They are working to train 50 dogs a year and 100% of the cost is provided by volun-





Southern States Conference Cont.

teer donations, grants, wills and bequests. The annual Banquet will be held in November and two members of the Southern Territory will be honored.

International President Tom Buffenbarger gave a rousing speech, as usual; he spoke about the arrogance of the Boeing management team, stating that they were building the plant in South Carolina in retaliation for the strikes by the IAM workers in Washington and Kansas. He is upset at the silence of the Democrats on this issue. He is disappointed with the shutdown of the space program and how we have to hitch a ride with the Russians. So much technology has come out of the space program. He wants

the experienced union members to actively find young Machinists members and mentor them, because they are our future. He said it was time to take each other by the hand and “hang on” because then, no one can defeat us. It is about jobs. Everything good in America has come from the availability of jobs.

The second day we broke out into two groups and attended Seminars on the Youth Outreach in the IAM, Communication with Young IAM Members, Education IAM Stewards, Winspisinger update, National Labor College, and IAM Organizing in the Service Contract Act/In-Plant Organizing.

That night there was a reception recognizing GST Warren Mart, who is retiring at the end of

2011. DBR Steve Rooney presented GST Mart with donations from the Locals in District 70 and two posters signed by the Members from LL839.

Saturday opened with Southern Territory VP Bob Martinez speaking about the beat down we took in the 2010 elections and how we have to educate our members on issues that concern working people in America. Brother Martinez stated that Aerospace is moving away from the north and the jobs are flying south. Business as usual in the Southern Territory is not working. In 2012, all State Council Members and maybe all DBRs will meet in Texas to map out a plan to go back to a grassroots structure. 2012 will be huge for elections and for negotiations. We need to mentor the youth because many members are retiring and their knowledge and experience goes with them. The Southern Territory is the best. It is tough in the south with all of the right to work states, but we will persevere.

I want to thank the membership for sending me to this Conference. A more detailed report will be given to the LL839 President.



New Members for September 2011

Charles Atencio	Troy Atwood	Diana Austin	Tim Bailey	Michelle Barnum
Cody Bennett	Bianca Bolder	James M. Boone	Tammy D. Booth	Michael Boston Sr.
Ryan Boyce	Shauna Canfield	Brian Carnahan	Tony Carter	Winfred Chandler
Arthur Chase	Ray Clarkson	Colt Chattam	Tyler A. Davis	Hieu V. Do
Steven Nhuan Do	Blake A. Edwards	Mark L. Edwards	Mike Ellingson	Tate Fisher
Lisa Gaddie	Glenna Gardner	Jason Gardner	Josiah P. Garrity	William Gleason
Sheila Hammon	James Hardin	Thomas E. Harvey	Dan Hasenbank	Jack Hoyle
Jonathan P. Jenesse	Robert S. Jenson	Seth D. Johnson	Tyson Kelly	Brenda Killman
Shawn R. Lane	Justin L. Law	Nam Le	Shari Lerback	Joshua Lutz
Joshua Lyons	Scott Mace	Quentin Massey	Senesak Matmanivong	Wendy New
Matthew W. McGlothlin	Mario Carlos Moreno	Chauntee R. Moxley	Octavio Navarro	Trung V. Nguyen
Viet D. Nguyen	Ron Ollek	Dustin Otis	Lakeshia Parker	Scott Parker
Sonia M. Parks	Dallas Patterson	Jacob E. Patterson	Linh Ngoc Pham	Matt Preedin
Hunter D. Proctor	John R. Solis	James Starr	Ellen M. Stewart	Dawnell Strunk
Adam T. Stuart	Alan R. Terrell	Randall Thomas	Terasa Tran	Thuy T. Tran
Rory Urbina	Maroon C. Ven	Mike Vining		

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

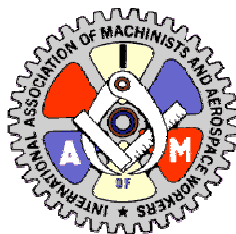
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Monthly Union Meetings

2nd Saturday of the Month

Executive Board meets at 8:00 AM

President - Kathy Petersen

Vice President - Brent Allen

Recording Secretary - Larry Stafford

Treasurer - Joni Pierce

Conductor/Sentinel - Jeff Meis

Trustees - Susan Hiebert, Stan Chapman

Christopher Phillips

Communicator - Dennis Williams

Educator - Roger Stamback

1st Shift In-Plant Rep. - David Eagle

2nd Shift In-Plant Rep. - Howard "HoJo" Johnson

Editor - Jarrod Lehman

We are the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. We belong to Local Lodge 839 of District 70 in Wichita Kansas. We represent the Fighting Machinists of Spirit AeroSystems. We work to give our members a voice on the job.

Visit our website often at www.ll839.org for helpful and timely information.

If you have any questions, contact one of your In-Plant Representatives at 524-1090.

If you have any articles you want published, e-mail the Editor at jlehman@ll839.org.

The opinions expressed in any articles are the opinions of that author not the representatives of LL839

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