

Bill

MARCH 18, 1976

TDC ACTIVIST NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 4

We're going down to the wire. Next weekend, the local meetings on the contract will be our chance to use the ties we've built up around the country and the attention we've focused on the contract to get thousands of new members involved and transform the pressure we've built into results. So far it's been our organized pressure which has changed these negotiations around. As Pete Camaratta pointed out at the Detroit rally--we can achieve more in the next few days than we have so far in the campaign. **Now is the time to TURN UP THE HEAT!**

This issue of the TDC Activist contains the steps by which we can do that. Events will move very fast and rapid communication is essential. The step by step plans here are how we will collect information and get it back to the membership. We must be in touch, not in the dark.

Go over this issue carefully. We will need to work smoothly to make maximum use of our network and information.

For those of you who've been active but don't have a large or organized group in your local, don't underestimate the possibilities for a last minute surge of interest and involvement. Just like the work you've done so far has got people thinking, the work you do this weekend can get them acting.

For those of you in UPS, the freight contract will have an affect on what you get from UPS. So while the details of this bulletin won't be directly relevant, it is important that UPS people understand what is coming down in freight. Hopefully, you can begin now to organize along these lines earlier and more effectively for the fight with UPS. Finally, if you know of a good fighter in freight who hasn't been involved yet, it is not too late. Pass this along!

BEFORE THE WEEKEND

(1) We have sources of information already, but there is never too much of a good thing. We want contract information from you. If you find out anything about a settlement, plans for an extension, or official strike information--call us in Cleveland at (216)641-0753 and let us know. Even if the information you have is not definite, but represents a "strong rumor," send it along. We can check it out with other places to confirm or deny it. The important thing is that we begin to draw together as much hard information as possible before the weekend, and **YOU ARE THE EYES AND EARS OF THE TDC.**

(2) The union, in most areas, has called for contract meetings on either Saturday, March 27, or Sunday, March 28. But we need to know on what day yours is. **PLEASE** telephone in the time and date of your meeting so we can get the information to you on time to be used.

Also, make sure we have the name, address, and phone number of the person in your local who we should send material to for these meetings. Our plan is to get information to TDC people to use at these meetings and we have to have one responsible person to send them to in every local.

(3) In some areas, TDC has been active for a while and it will be easier for them to work together and have an impact. But it will be possible that new areas will finally get rolling at the last minute and we want to help them all we can. If you know of an area or an individual that hasn't been involved, but who would really work on this, please phone in the name (or names), address (s), and phone number (s) to us in Cleveland by Thursday, March 25.

IF YOU ARE IN A LARGE LOCAL AND HAVE NOT HEARD FROM US BY THURSDAY, MARCH 25, CALL US--(216)641-0753.

ON THE WEEKEND

We want to make sure that the maximum number of local meetings are covered and we have a plan to get usable information to you whether you have a Saturday or a Sunday meeting. **Read this carefully so that you will know what to do.**

Step 1: TDC will prepare a model leaflet that you will receive on either Friday night or Saturday morning if you have a Saturday meeting, and Saturday night or Sunday morning if you have a Sunday meeting. It will arrive by Greyhound Express (pick up at the Greyhound station), Amtrack (pick up at the train station), or Air Express (pick up at the airport). You will be notified by Cleveland TDC as to which to expect. Some areas have access to a mimeograph machine. They will receive stencils and be asked to reproduce their own. If you must reproduce your own, you will be notified. The leaflet will outline the stand we think locals must take in the meetings, whatever contract information is available and relevant, and an account of what happened at other meetings where possible. This means we will try to let the Sunday meetings know what happened at the Saturday meetings elsewhere.

Step 2: Union meetings are often organized so the officials have the upper hand. To put it mildly, most local officials are not going to want our motions to come to a vote or even be discussed. They may rule us out of order, argue that these motions have no legally binding effect (true, but besides the point), or try to adjourn the meeting. We must be organized to prevent these possibilities. For example, if they adjourn the meeting, we stay and urge everyone to stay to discuss the contract, with or without the officials. After all, it is our union, our hall, and our contract. If they rule us out of order, we push for a discussion and a hand vote anyway.

To organize this, you should have a meeting of all the TDC activists and strong supporters before the union meeting so you can plan floor strategy in detail.

Plan to distribute the leaflets outside the hall, but be sure to have people take some in to get around from the inside. If you are prevented from handing them out on the outside, then they can be given to trusted individuals and passed around inside. The point is there should be enough copies inside so that everyone can get a look at one and have the information available to use when they talk.

When you go to the meeting, be sure to stay in large enough groups to get at the microphone, but scatter the groups to cover all the mikes. We want to be sure our ideas get a hearing.

When the meeting is over, keep your group(s) together and leave together.

You should plan to hold a short meeting after the union meeting where you can get names and phone numbers of new people, expand and strengthen your CONVOY network. **BUT DON' FORGET TO GET SOMEONE TO A PHONE AND CALL CLEVELAND RIGHT AWAY!**

Step 3: Immediately following your local meeting, PHONE the results, good or bad, into the TDC office in Cleveland--(216)6410753. Be as detailed as possible about contract information, names, decisions, numbers, etc. This information **must be in by Sunday night so we can put it into the special issue of CONVOY that will be printed the next day.** We are depending on you for fast, accurate, and detailed information so CONVOY can be useful. **PHONE ON TIME!**

Step 4: On Tuesday you will receive your bundle of CONVOY by Greyhound, Amtrack, or air Express. You must pick these up quickly, so have someone with some time assigned to that. Remember, these will be sent COLLECT so have a little cash ready for the freight charges. Arrange a system so that once the bundle is picked up, it can get around your area. (Check CONVOY #6--"Finally Got the News" for ideas on distribution.)

Step 5: This issue of CONVOY will be the most important one yet. It will be our way of letting everyone know what the real sentiment is all around the country. So your distribution network must be ready to get it out right away--late Tuesday or early Wednesday. It should get to the big barns immediately and then to as many smaller places as possible.

NEXT STEPS

In the event of a strike, TDC will put out a **daily CONVOY Bulletin** to keep everyone informed of what is happening. To make this worthwhile, we will have to continue the distribution system described above, but on a daily basis. So, someone in your city should be in charge of getting the daily bulletin reproduced everyday. Someone else should be in charge of distribution in your city.

To make the daily bulletin up to date and accurate, someone should phone into the Cleveland TDC office everyday. With reports coming in from all over the country, the bulletin will inform us all of how widespread and effective a strike is. This, in turn, will help make us stronger. Also, if things are not going well, we will know and be able to pull together and cut our losses. Nobody wants a repeat of the 1970 aftermath and the only way to avoid that is organization and communication.

In summary, the system for the daily bulletin will be:

- 1) **A.M.--**Pick up bulletin at Greyhound, Post Office Express Mail window, Amtrack, or Air Express.
- 2) **A.M.--**Get bulletin reproduced in enough quantity to get the news around your city.
- 2) **A.M.--**Get the bulletin reproduced in enough quantity to get the news around your city.
- 3) **Mid-day & Afternoon--**Get the bulletin out on the street and around town.
- 4) **Afternoon(4-6:P.M.)--**Phone local news into Cleveland and receive whatever news is available.