

# March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009

C.A.T. Distribution #19

During our stewards meeting today, it was brought to our attention that the company has not kept their promise of not using spare foremen at time and a half. Naturally this became an issue when we were told our bankers would be denied if the company had to pay time and a half to fill them, a practice we have been working under for over 30 years out here. The thought process behind this is; why should a salaried person be allowed time off at the expense of time and a half and we can't. While it may seem we are hurting our own people by doing this, the fact of the matter is we need to be consistent and if the people doing the work out here can't get a day off, why should the salaried folks get one?

**I'm using this CAT letter to ask all spares to step down.** You all supported us when we asked you to step down when we had a shortage of people out here. If you will recall it was at a time when we had some of our co-workers denied their first pick vacations because of a lack of trained people to fill in. The message you sent was loud and clear and we got more training as well as hired more people. Until we can get our bankers back, we are asking you to step down. We need to get this situation remedied and we need your help to do it.

I also want to use this report to clarify something in yesterday's bulletin. What I signed with the company was an agreement to allow our people to use 5 bankers, or 4 bankers and a paid holiday, instead of using up a vacation. The intent of this article could have been misinterpreted. I have been approached by several members of our Local asking if this was an option and I didn't see how it could hurt us.

As far as negotiations; we did not meet on Monday (by my request) as I needed to discuss issues with the committee before we headed back to the table. Mike Nantelle and I were involved with several conference calls last week that needed to be shared with everyone so we were all on the same page. There was some progress made at Tuesday's negotiations but we have a long way to go. We will meet again on Friday with a CAT letter coming out on Monday to update you. Until then, please ignore the rumor mill. This is a perfect tactic, starting rumors, which will eventually divide and conquer our membership. Don't fall for it....it's the oldest trick in the book.

In the near future, you're area stewards will be getting some training at the union hall. This training will be verbally shared with you on the floor. If the committee can be ready in time, this training will start on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> which will also be our union meeting day. The stewards will be personally contacted for time slot options if we can have our material ready in time. Thank you all for your support and remember to work safe...

In Solidarity,



Bryon Branstrom