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Rail Labor Division

September 28, 2004

Paul C. Thompson, President
United Transportation Union
14600 Detroit Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44107-4250

Dear President Thompson:

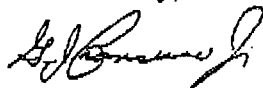
The Rail Labor Division of the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO, (RLD) agreed unanimously on September 21, 2004 to ask the United Transportation Union to stop and rescind its baseless attacks claiming that the International Brotherhood of Teamsters is seeking merger partners with rail unions as a cover for a "raid" on the Railroad Retirement Trust Fund.

The UTU's attacks began in an unsigned "news" article posted on the UTU's website on August 2, 2004. As you well know, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) has merged with the Teamsters and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees' (BMWE) rank and file are currently voting on a merger with the Teamsters. The Rail Labor Division considers the UTU's campaign as nothing more than an attempt to interfere in the internal union operations of the Teamsters, the BLET and the BMWE.

The UTU's campaign of misinformation also has required the Railroad Retirement Board to divert resources to answer this baseless accusation. A representative of the Board informed the RLD members that its General Counsel's office continues to receive written inquiries from rail employees asking about the possible Teamster "raid" on the Trust Fund. In fact, the Board has clearly stated that "a merger between any rail labor union and the Teamsters would not make railroad retirement funds available for payment of benefits under the Teamsters' pension plan."

On behalf of the RLD, I respectfully request the UTU to stop spreading its fable about the Teamsters and the Railroad Retirement Trust Fund.

In Solidarity,



George Francisco
Chair

cc: John Sweeney, President, AFL-CIO
Richard Trumka, Secretary-Treasurer, AFL-CIO