

# INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

AFL-CIO



OFFICE OF  
JAMES P. HOFFA  
GENERAL PRESIDENT

November 30, 2004

**SENT VIA FACSIMILE AND FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Mr. John J. Sweeney, President  
AFL-CIO  
815 16th Street, N.W., 8th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Re: UTU's Request to Reaffiliate with the AFL-CIO

Dear President Sweeney:

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters is writing to notify the AFL-CIO of its strong opposition to the application and request for reaffiliation of the United Transportation Union with the AFL-CIO.

As you know, prior to its disaffiliation with the Federation, UTU launched repeated attacks against the interest of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. Specifically, contrary to the basic trade union principles set forth in the AFL-CIO Constitution, UTU strategically sought to eliminate the BLET's longstanding representation of engineers by petitioning the National Mediation Board to combine the BLET-represented engineers and the UTU-represented train service employees into a single unit and to order an election. As a result of this flagrant violation of the AFL-CIO Constitution, UTU was twice deemed to be in noncompliance with Article XX of the AFL-CIO Constitution.

Unfortunately, rather than complying with the AFL-CIO rulings, UTU chose to leave the house of labor and proceed with their raid on the BLET. For example, after its disaffiliation, UTU filed an application with the National Mediation Board to obtain single unit representation on the Kansas City Southern Railway. Only after substantial legal and lobbying efforts by the BLET, the AFL-CIO and other affiliates, the National Mediation Board rejected the UTU's application, thus ending that attack on the BLET's jurisdiction. Now apparently UTU claims that it is willing to conform to the AFL-CIO Constitution. Would it have been willing to do so, however, if it had been successful in its legal pursuit to eliminate the BLET's longstanding jurisdiction? Based on its history of continued pursuit of raiding activity in the face of the Executive Council's orders, there is no reason to think so.

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Lastly, even while the new UTU leadership seeks reaffiliation, it is contemporaneously conducting itself in a manner wholly inconsistent with the principles of the AFL-CIO Constitution. As you are aware, the AFL-CIO Constitution prohibits an affiliate from putting out information which brings another affiliate into "public disrepute" or otherwise adversely affects the reputation of another AFL-CIO affiliate. A cursory review of the current UTU website reveals, however, that the UTU is promoting and disseminating anti-Teamster propaganda that would unequivocally constitute a violation of the Constitution if UTU were affiliated. Examples of the many inflammatory article headlines from the UTU website include: "Teamster Corruption Investigation," "Mob Controlled Allegations Rise among Teamsters," "Roots of Corruption," "Is Hoffa Another General Custer?" and "Teamster Election Irregularities." I am fairly certain that the Presidents of the Machinists, CWA, and TCU would not be writing you, as they did, in support of UTU's reaffiliation if the UTU were widely circulating dissident propaganda obtained from within their ranks.

In sum, I urge you to reject UTU's application for reaffiliation. In light of their flagrant attacks on the BLET's historic jurisdiction, its refusal to adhere to repeated orders from the Executive Council, and its more recent propaganda war aimed at the Teamsters, I cannot see how it would be possible for the Teamsters and the UTU to be affiliates of the same labor federation.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I remain,

Fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James P. Hoffa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James P. Hoffa  
General President

JPH/ndh

cc: Don Hahs, President, BLE  
Executive Council