



The New Informer

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A Stronger, Wiser, Democratic, and Focused Local Union

Now We are Going to Beg for a Contract?

By Bobby Harrison, President, USW Local 8-675

Fellow Union Brothers and Sisters, I could hardly believe my own eyes when I read the latest message on the CPU website. I cannot believe that they, the CPU, allowed this sickening post to remain.

Poor Steve Terry recounts how he struggled to understand Mark George's talk in the recent State of the Mill meeting while his mind wandered over the troubles his coworkers are having. According to Steve, he sat there dazed and confused about what Mark was saying, had time to show concern for a coworker facing bills from a kidney stone and then to wonder why the Company isn't showing more respect for the people who work for them. At first, Steve seemed to be calling for a work slowdown, but then he reversed course and basically begs the Company to do better by us all when the next contract talks occur.

Gone is "Steve the Bully" that we saw when he was angry at the USW, now it is this little guy with an identity crisis who cannot figure out why his world is so messed-up.

Steve, I can clear things up for you without you having to use the Employee Assistance Plan.

First of all, you cannot get a contract because you are part of Roy Hall's mis-leadership. Second, you stated that you trusted the Company more than our union. Third, you split the union, took away its power and money, and

threw out a perfectly good contract. Fourth, you tore apart the health clinic that would have eliminated the worries of the guy with the kidney stone. Fifth, you divorced yourself from an organization that could have explained the State of the Mill meeting to you. Finally, instead of taking responsibility for your and Roy's actions, you are searching around for a scapegoat, you cannot use the USW, so the Company is the handiest second choice. In all truth and honesty, Steve, I do not believe you are confused at all. Instead, I think that you are ducking the fact that you, Roy, and the CPU have made a huge mess of things.

For my part, I don't want to beg the Company for anything. I want a union with real power, real money, and most importantly, in touch with reality. We had all of this with our USW Local and we can have it again. Obviously, not enough of us, the hourly workers, realized this before, however, it is hard to read what you wrote without facing it now.

So, don't wonder or beg for me, Steve. I am looking forward to the day that we all can stand-up once again proudly.

Bobby Harrison

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State of the Mill Since the CPU became the bargaining unit:

- At least 5 employees have been fired.
- One employee regained his job with the help of a private attorney.
- The Company has changed our terms of employment by requiring us to complete the online Summit Safety Program by December 31, 2010, or be terminated. The CPU has not filed any board charges to address this matter.
- Zachery now outnumbers the Mill Maintenance force and is doing more work.
- With our successorship language gone, the Mill is more attractive to any potential buyer.



A Serious Case of Déjà Vu...

On the CPU website forum, there was a link posted, as of May 17, 2010, by an individual who goes by the handle "stopmasseyenergy". This link referred to an article about the USW having comply with a court order to dismantle a blockade at the ongoing strike at Vale (pronounced *valley*).

The website that the link referred to, World Socialist Website (www.wsws.org), is owned by The International Committee of the Fourth International (ICFI).

The Fourth International (FI) is an international communist organization which opposes both capitalism and Stalinism. Consisting of followers of Leon Trotsky, it is dedicated to helping the working class bring about socialism. The Fourth International was established in France in 1938. Trotsky and many of his supporters, having been expelled from the Soviet Union, considered the Comintern (Communist International, also known as the Third International) to have become lost to Stalinism and incapable of leading the international working class towards political power.[1] Thus, they founded their own, competing "Fourth International."

This article is very pro-Vale and is a smack in the face to the striking workers at Vale who have been on strike for almost one year. The Canadian Court ordered the USW to dismantle the blockade or the strikers would have faced legal consequences. There were a few workers who did not want the blockade down, however, these workers would not only have

faced legal consequences, but would have been fired by Vale. The USW is currently negotiating with an agreement with Vale that would include nine striking workers that Vale fired for violating Vales ludicrous policy for striking workers.



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The Vale dispute is a classic example of working people confronting global power. It shows how difficult it is, the perseverance and patience it takes, and the kind of resources required to do it. These workers would have never made it this long without the USW and they know it and appreciate it. It took years of struggle at Ravenswood WV and Pueblo Colorado to bring a decent contract home. But the USW did that and will do so at Vale. It was the patience, persistence, and real union solidarity that the CPU leadership lacks,

and that deficiency is what is wrecking Covington. Check-out the video of our Union Brothers and Sisters at www.usw8675covington.com.

This ICFI is not the Solidarity Union of the Polish People. The ICFI are true Marxists.

This is very déjà vu of an article that was wrote in a previous Informer. I can handle the vodka, but I hope that they do not make me eat them fish eggs! CPU, you need to investigate your sources before posting anything that is anti-USW, comrades!

George Catlett
General Secretary
USW Local 8-675

**Memorial Day is May 31st!
It is More Than a Double Time and One Half
Day!**



The Mysterious USW 2nd Draft Contract

On the homepage of the CPU website, there is a link that is labeled “Copy of USW Contract”. Upon this document loading, at the top of this document there is the filename that says “USW Covington 2009 Draft #2”.

The CPU states that the Company gave this to them before their first negotiations took place. This is NOT the contract proposal that was voted on in July 2009! There never was a draft #2. Sources in the Mill Management said that they DID NOT give the CPU this.

The CPU claims that this is official, however, upon farther investigation, this copy was given to the CPU by a former HR Manager who was in charge of putting together the 2009 USW proposal before it

was presented to the hourly workforce. This was a rough copy that is not complete or entirely accurate. There is no secret “other contract” that the CPU claims. If there was one, how come the CPU has not taken this and the other secret agreements that the CPU claims to have uncovered to the Department of Labor? This would be a criminal offense on the USW and MeadWestvaco.

The CPU has not because this secret contract does not exist. It is another one of Roy and his henchmen's lame excuses for their inability to deal with the Company.

Copies of the USW 2009 Contract Proposal that was ratified and placed in force before the CPU destroyed it can be obtained at the USW Union Hall.

“It is Not Convenient for Us to Use” Says the Company to the CPU...

As we all know, the salvage winders for two of the paper machines have been shut-down and the work being sent to the Low Moor Converting Plant. The Company is placing the affected employees wherever they please instead of abiding by the now-defunct 2009 USW Contract. After meeting with the Company on this matter, CPU President Roy Sherton Hall stated to an employee that the Company had an agreement with the USW to do this. President Hall even gave the employee a copy of the mysterious USW Covington 2009 Draft #2 to justify.

Even in this mysterious USW Covington 2009 Draft #2, there is nothing mentioning that the Company can place an employee whose job is being cut can be placed anywhere at the Company's discretion. In the authentic USW 2009 Agreement, pages 6 and 30 explain how the bumping is to be done along with a list of the bottom bumpable jobs. Another

hourly employee of 30 years said that HR told him that the bumping rights and other articles in the USW 2009 Agreement is only used when it is convenient for the Company to use.

If the USW was still the bargaining unit, there would be a legal and binding agreement that the Company would have to adhere to.

Did the Company say this to you, Roy? If they did, why not be a true leader and admit this. The Company, whether you consider them good or evil, admits to it.

This blame game is getting old, CPU Leadership! The USW is not the bargaining unit, YOU ARE. By blaming the USW for everything only proves that you cannot adequately defend us and the campaign promises that you made of your strength and power was nothing more than hot air.



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Regular business meetings:
3rd Thursday of the month
at 4 p.m.

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UNION **USW** LABEL
8-675



The USW Local 8-675 Summer Bash 2010! Coming soon to the Jackson River Sports Complex!



First Visit to San Juan!

By George Catlett

On April 26th, 2010, my wife, Mollie, and I visited San Juan, Puerto Rico, during our recent Eastern Caribbean Cruise.

Instead of booking an excursion on board the ship, we decided to tour this beautiful city ourselves with the guidance of Luis Mendoza via cell phone.

As we approached the beautiful capitol building of Puerto Rico, we noticed that police were everywhere along with the Univision Television Network and other Puerto Rican media.

I stopped to ask a police officer about what was happening, he directed me to his sergeant who spoke English. After telling me that Scarface was his favorite movie, he said that the Governor of Puerto Rico was preparing to give a speech.

So Mollie and I proceeded to the front of the capitol building and stopped at the barricade that was erected.



Mayor Padilla with Mollie Catlett.

In less than 10 minutes, a black SVU pulled-up, and a man surrounded by security guards got out and proceeded in our direction. Not knowing who this person was, I asked a guy next to us and he told me that it was the Mayor of San Juan, Jorge Santini Padilla. Instead of being like the prudish politicians

that we have, he came up and introduced himself. Mayor Padilla is very pro-labor and commended the history of the American labor Movement and that he was very proud to be part of the United States.

What an unexpected turn of events!