

April 19, 2006

Mr. Jim Little
President
Transport Workers Union of America
1700 Broadway, Second Floor
New York, NY 10019

Dear Mr. Little:

On behalf of the 2.2 million members of the National Right to Work Committee, please allow me to offer my sympathies for the recent incident of violence perpetrated by IAM organizers against your union's representatives.

I'm sure that you'll agree that these acts of violence are far too commonplace and something needs to be done.

I was heartened to hear that you believe that, "the scale of the intimidation and violence is such that it requires a federal investigation," and that your union will "leave no stone unturned in working for the conviction of the criminals who engaged in the attack."

I agree.

That's why I hope that you'll join the vast majority of Americans and support passage of the Freedom from Union Violence Act (S. 618/H.R. 239).

This measure gets to the root of the problem, allowing federal prosecution for those who planned these acts of violence.

This cycle of violence will never end as long as a select group of people can coordinate acts of intimidation and violence against almost anyone they choose with no fear of facing the consequences.

This year, the National Right to Work Committee is fighting for recorded floor votes in the Senate and House

on the Freedom from Union Violence measures, which now have a total of 30 Capitol Hill sponsors.

The Freedom from Union Violence Act closes a loophole in the Hobbs Anti-Extortion Act, eliminating the union officials' special judicially-created exemption from this law. Shockingly, those who coordinate these acts cannot currently be federally prosecuted under this statute for violence or extortion.

It's sad, but examples of union violence, like those perpetrated against TWU members, are not rare.

In the *Washington Post*, on February 5, 1997, a picketer bragged to a reporter that: "Violence is necessary. The only people that really don't come back are the people that have gotten beaten up."

Then-*New York Daily News* columnist, Mike McAlary, attended a union hall meeting, at which a union official was giving instructions on how to stop newspapers from being delivered and explicitly said:

I don't care what you do. But stop the truck. If you want to burn it, go ahead. But if you're going to burn it, remember what the fireman over in Brooklyn told us. Keep the truck doors open. That makes it burn faster....

In another example, Labor Union International's local 91 in Niagara Falls, NY, has been under an ongoing investigation for the use of threats and intimidation against anyone on their black list.

Prosecutors charge that some in Local 91 formed a "goon squad" within the union who took it upon themselves to determine who would work, and they violently intimidated anyone who went against them.

Beatings, bombings, and bedlam were standard operating procedure against people who did not want to use Local 91.

For some Americans, it is hard to imagine that this kind of violence still takes place, but it's a painful reality for the thousands who have been subjected to campaigns of assault, arson, and even murder.

This legislation would simply establish that the 1946 Hobbs Act applies to all Americans, including union officials. As I mentioned, present law offers a unique exemption for union officials.

It is my hope that you and other TWU officers will join together with Right to Work supporters on this issue.

Sincerely,

Mark Mix
President

MAM/nar