

# Amtrak Is Courting a Strike

If you ride Amtrak or MBTA, you may need new travel plans.

For the past two years, the men and women who keep Amtrak's track safe and passable have been negotiating for a fair contract. But Amtrak has said NO! *Our only alternative is to strike.*

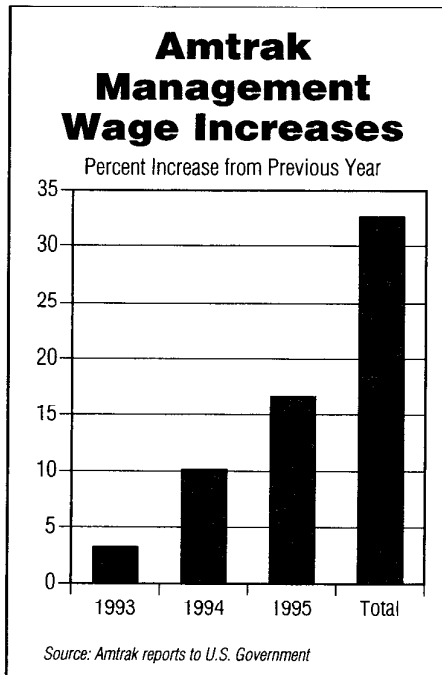
We perform hard and dangerous work in all types of weather to ensure that the trains reach their destinations safely and on time. But Amtrak doesn't want to fairly compensate us. Instead, it is advancing proposals that will destroy our lives and those of our families.

It is up to Amtrak whether the traveling public will have to endure the inconvenience of a rail strike. We are committed to bargaining in good faith and our union, the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, has done so since talks started in November 1994. However, we cannot sit idle while Amtrak tries to muscle us into accepting less than we need to support our families.

Amtrak claims to have no money for raises. Then it turns around and lavishes hefty pay increases on the railroad's management.

In September, freight railroads employing 35,000 of our members reached an agreement with the BMW. The package included modest wage increases (the level of inflation) and keeps the status quo on

benefits and working conditions until the year 2,000.



Amtrak refuses to settle around this package. They want to treat us like second-class workers, lower our overall compensation and worsen our working conditions. We have to worry about mortgages, financing our kids' education and paying for doctors' visits just like everyone else.

All we want is what every major railroad in the country agreed to – a contract that essentially maintains the status quo. *We're not asking to move up, just not to move back.*

## You Can Help

You may be able to help avert an Amtrak shutdown.

Call Tom Downs, President of Amtrak, at (202) 906-3960 and Joe Bress, Assistant Vice President of Labor Relations, at (202) 905-2293.

- Tell them to give us a fair contract.
- Tell them to settle and stop a shutdown.
- Tell them you are making alternative travel plans.



Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees  
1930 Chestnut Street, Suite 607-609  
Philadelphia, PA 19103 • (215) 569-1285