Transport Workers Union Local 2015



From the Office of J. Bruce Carlton, Vice President

September 27, 2007

Alexander K. Kummant, President Amtrak 60 Massachusetts Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002

RE: Response to the Special Employee Advisory

Dear Sir:

If your letter to the Amtrak employees weren't so sad it would be comical. First let me address your greeting. Webster's Dictionary defines co-workers as one that is associated in an action with another. Although you have been employed with Amtrak for just one year, many have yet to witness your association in any action with us. I am sure, at least for you that the past year has gone by quickly. As for the rest of us who truly do the labor, the past year seems pretty much like the last seven – all work and not a penny's worth of gratitude from Amtrak. Week after week, day after day we wonder how we can make ends meet while providing for our families on the same compensation we had a decade ago.

As far as the sense of mission that collectively drives our employees – this demeaning comment is a testament to how out of touch management really is. Those of us that work in the trenches exemplify what a sense of mission really is: to do a great job with pride knowing damn well that there are others in a position determined to break the morale and spirit of the employees; to report to our jobs every day with our heads held high, never allowing management the opportunity to distinguish our enthusiasm; opposing those that have a greater plan to disassemble Amtrak piece by piece, people like you and your predecessors appointed to the Presidents position and those in Labor Relations that have had the long term goal to break the backs of the Union. We are not oblivious to the growth of the Quality Assurance department as they oversee vendors. We are all aware that once the Unions are disassembled and management gets their way the only functioning entity will be the Quality Assurance department.

Why do you even attempt to address us regarding worrying about surviving and not about thriving? We are and have been barely surviving and you are most certainly not concerned about us thriving. Answer this – how can one thrive when the outlook is so dim? This \underline{is} day to day for us – a life sentence handed down by you. As far as your well-lit plan those of us in the trenches are feeling left out in the dark.

Next, "Growth is my strategy for the future" This may be yours but not those in Labor Relations. You state that you will invest in our workforce. Just how do you intend to do this as Joe Bress and Charlie Woodcock are undermining your "strategy" while destroying the Union workforce?

You then state "you are the face of the product." You should come down and see the face of Amtrak with no wage increases in 8 years, working 2nd and 3rd jobs to compensate for what has been lost over the years. We are not combined in our strengths and we never have been. There are those with and those without. You state a willingness to invest in our human capital. Our reply is with what? More management? As if we were not already fat with management.

Then comes the most deceitful statement of this letter "Achieving new union agreements". There has been no real effort on anyone's part to have a new union contract. Each time asking for more concessions than any union would accept – no medical benefits for those 60 years old and better and even after 30 years of dedicated service (that would be 29 more years than you) and the demand is no coverage until age 65!

We have held up our end of the bargain. We have remained diligent in our work with quality and safety first because first and foremost we remain dedicated to Amtrak and to the public. Who are you dedicated to? You are not a part of our vision and I wish that you would stop seeing us as gullible sheep that can't see through your deception as you lead us to slaughter.

In reference to your willingness to meet face to face with our Union representation, you had the opportunity to meet with me, J. Bruce Carlton, Vice President of TWU Local 2015. I presented you with a picture of my 3 youngest children, Grace, Christa and Rachel. I tried to convey to you how it is not only the employees who are suffering and sacrificing, but each and every one of our family members who are affected by your decisions and leadership. With all due respect, I will use the exact words you stated to me in front of your "Co-Workers"

Get out of my face! I am sick and tired of hearing that every day!

Sir, we too are sick of having to live this everyday. We realize that you can not and will not do anything about our plight. You showed your true colors by showing your anger towards me by telling me to get out of your face. What did that accomplish? But now I have to wonder what your true intentions are.

You have your marching orders from Joe Bress and the Board but we would appreciate you not putting out your lame imaginary visions for the future that do nothing but make the working man and his family feel worse then they already do.

On a personal note, I will keep your sister and the financial strain of her \$36,000 a year salary in my nightly prayers because she <u>does</u> deserve better. You would think with your recent employment status that you could find her a top management position with a matching 401k plan at Amtrak. I am sure that as a teacher she loves what she does and with a teacher's integrity she wouldn't think of taking charily disguised as a job from a family member.

Sincerely.

J. Bruce Carlton, Vice President Transport Workers Union Local 2015

cc: Amtrak Employees

James Riley, President Local 2015

Gary Maslanka, International Vice President Director Railroad Division TWU