

Mac A. Fleming  
President



Freddie N. Simpson  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees**  
*Affiliated with the A.F.L.-C.I.O. and C.L.C.*

October 24, 2002

**VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL**

Mr. Kennett Cowan, III  
138 - 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33703

Dear Brother Cowan:

This has reference to your letter dated October 15, 2002, wherein you claim to have received a five page letter from Grand Lodge which contained various signatures of officers as well as your name. Your name was identified as "signature by permission."

You claim you never gave me permission to use your name or signature. Brother Cowan, I did not write the letter you refer to and you will not find my signature on it. I note your October 15, 2002 letter to me has been placed on certain web sites claiming I "fraudulently" used your name. As mentioned above, I did not send this letter, and therefore could not have used your name fraudulently.

In situations such as this, one should seek the facts before making accusations. I have done that, and contacted the authors of the letter in question. They inform me that your name was mistakenly taken from a list of officers who supported the original *Members Against Unnecessary Dues Increase (MAD)* effort. They have apologized for this error and have sent a correction to all those who received the letter.

Brother Cowan, I might suggest that if you have in some way assisted the keepers of certain web sites or have influence with regard to the posting of your letter and the banners which accompany it, you relay to them the facts. It is irresponsible for anyone to falsely accuse the Grand Lodge with respect to the matters raised in your letter.

In solidarity,

President

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