

united transportation union
Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway General Committee of Adjustment GO-245



K.E. Trauernicht, 1st Vice Chairman
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B.R. Hipple, 4th Vice Chairman
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To: Local Chairmen (and members), GO-245

Re: UTU/SMWIA Proposed Merger

During the past several weeks, we have received numerous calls seeking information and guidance with respect to the proposed merger between the United Transportation Union and the Sheet Metal Workers International Association. In the interest of assisting with this decision, I will briefly outline the opinions of this office.

Suffice to say that all of us have given this matter serious thought and consideration. While we were approached earlier by several parties within the organization to openly support this merger, we were not comfortable doing so without the opportunity to examine the facts and attempt to place a realistic balance on the matter.

That said, it is now our opinion that this merger is in the best interest of both our organization and the membership. Although we will be the first to point out a few concerns with the parliamentarian make up of the new organization (SMART), the benefits of this merger appear to outweigh any negative aspects. We will never realize the necessary level of influence with the Carriers until rail unions, and those of similar interests, band together. This merger brings together organizations of similar interests and vision, and provides a means by which our financial resources can be best utilized and preserved.

Please feel free to share our opinions with your members and do not hesitate to contact this office with any concerns or questions.

Fraternally,

R.S. Knutson
General Chairman

R.C. Doyle
Associate Chairman

S.S. Anderson
Associate Chairman