



**TEAMSTERS
CANADA**

Rail Conference
Maintenance of Way Employees Division

Eastern Region **Newsletter**

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Eastern Region

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Brothers and Sisters,

It is that time again, when everything comes to a complete stop and you get to read about all the occurrences in the Eastern Region for the Month of December. I realize this newsletter is a week early, but I wanted everyone to receive it before Christmas, so here it goes...

As usual, I have been receiving several calls from the members that have been laid-off around this time of year. While the titan computer system is still not fully functional at the head office in Ottawa. It is good practice to call in to the union and let me know the name, employee #, date last worked, and a contact phone #, as to keep your membership status as, "A member in good standing".

While many of you might have noticed, I was able to take 2

weeks annual vacation at the end of the month. I did receive several colorful messages on my answering machine, along the lines of, "For Christ sakes on vacation again !!!". To those members that truly feel this way, it should be noted that this was the first two weeks vacation I was able to take in 2-1/2 years. So it is hard for me to feel to bad about it.

While on holidays, I was informed of a Hi-Rail Collision that occurred on or about the 22nd right at Schreiber involving my own Section crew. While the investigation is still on going to what exactly happened, an ATMS got a TOP and put his truck on the track and proceeded to travel eastward around a curve. It is believed that the ATMS did not follow proper procedures for entering a Main line as per TOP rules, nor was he following the, " being able

to stop with-in one ½ range of vision rule". I am happy to report that there were no injuries, but the patrol truck did not survive. It will be interesting to see the outcome of these violations.

Lastly and I would like everyone to pay close attention to this one, on Friday the 23rd of December, I received several faxes at my office showing that Supervisor Ron Ruthven TMS for the SOSA, sent to every tool-house early in the morning a list of work that, in his eyes, needed to be performed that day. As some of your fellow members previously expressed a desire to go home early to begin the holiday weekend, and as it was past practice, around several parts of the country, for the members to be allowed this small token of appreciation by their front line supervisors, Supervisor Ruthven instead seen fit to give these

members emergency work to perform all day, such as the following: Shovel snow away from every joint and shim any low ties, check every bar to see if there is a crack in it and change if necessary, move different trucks to different locations, watch a snow fighter plow snow from a siding and back track ect.

My favorite part of these work lists is, at the end of everyone he states, "THERE WILL BE NO EARLY QUIT TODAY and have a safe day".

Once reading this, whether on holidays or not, I had to do something. I called Alan Mielke (New Manager of Track SOSA), but wouldn't you know, he was gone home early for the holidays and so were most of the office staff at the GYO in Toronto!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I then Called C.P. Rail Labor relations to get an answer, and they did get back to me with the following, "We got a hold of Henry Rupert (Service Area Manager SOSA), He says he is not aware of any policy to allow employees to go home early for the holidays and he fully supports Ron Ruthven's position". Oh, I almost forgot my favorite Henry Rupert line of all, he sums it all up by saying, "if I'm paying men for eight hours pay then I expect eight hours work". Brothers and sisters, if there is one thing I could leave with you, as the Christmas Season goes by and we enter into a new year of 2006. DON'T EVER FORGET THIS INCIDENT. C.P. RAIL HAS MADE RECORD PROFITS OFF OF THE SWEAT AND HARD WORK OF ITS EM-

PLOYEES. IF CERTAIN C.P. RAIL SUPERVISORS CANNOT EVEN SHOW A LITTLE COMPASSION DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON TO EXPRESS HOW APPRECIATIVE THEY ARE BY ALLOWING MEMBERS TO GO HOME A LITTLE EARLY TO SPEND TIME WITH THEIR FAMILY'S, AND INSTEAD INVENT WORK TASKS TO FILL THE DAY AND SAY THINGS LIKE EIGHT HOURS PAY FOR EIGHT HOURS WORK AND CHOOSE TO TREAT THE MEMBERSHIP LIKE LITTLE KIDS!!!!!!!

So please read this and take from it what you will, not every Supervisor is a bad guy, but there are some out there that need a lesson on respect, compassion, and showing proper gratitude for a job well done!!!

All of you men and women of the TCRC MofWED have done an exceptional job this year, and on behalf of myself and the rest of the Executive Board, Well Done, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!!!

Stay Strong, Stay United, and Stay Proud

J.J. Spikula

Director, Eastern Region