



NEW DAY AT UPS

NEWS FOR UPS WORKERS, BY UPS WORKERS!

LOCAL 71 STEWARDS BACK UPS' LIES

by Charles Milton (WCHNC)

At the West Charlotte UPS hub in the lead-up to peak season, hour cuts which have been occurring all year intensified, with UPS forcing part-time inside workers to clock out without receiving their guaranteed 3.5 hours on nearly a daily basis, often sending individuals home who have barely clocked in for more than two hours. For reference, Article 22, Section 5 of the National Master Agreement between UPS and Teamsters states that "All part-time employees governed by this Article shall be provided a minimum daily three and one-half (3-1/2) hour guarantee."

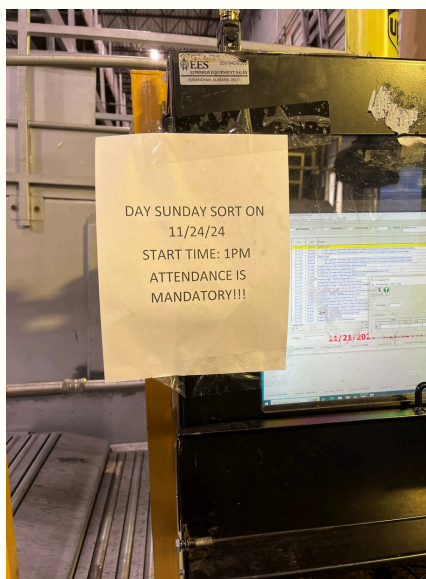
UPSers, rightfully upset about hour cuts and the clear breach of the contract, went to the building stewards to voice their frustrations and were told the flat-out lie that "there was nothing that could be done about it." This is not atypical, as across the country, union stewards—whose role, according to the Teamsters' website, is to "monitor and enforce the collective bargaining agreement"—consistently only enforce the contract on rank-and-file UPSers and not on UPS management.

Forced by typical union negligence, we began agitating about the breach of the contract ourselves and calling for a mass grievance campaign to expose both the company and the union. Right away, we ran up against further lies from both union stewards and UPS management. As UPSers began to demand their 3.5 hours, management spread the falsehood that they needed to have requested it days in advance or that the hour guarantee was based on a weekly cumulative amount. Both were flat-out lies, which when UPSers went to file grievances on, union stewards again backed up.

Entering into peak season, UPS management continued to disregard the contract, forcing almost all part-time inside workers to sign a document requiring them to work six days a week through peak season.

Teamsters Local 71 is not just one poorly run local, but is emblematic of Teamsters as a whole; in fact, Willie Ford, the president of Local 71, is part of

the Teamsters' leadership as an international trustee and a key ally of Sean O'Brien in the South. Local 71 is also indicative of the reformist Teamsters for a Democratic Union as since 2019, the local has been led and often highlighted by TDU.



Management in the West Charlotte hub brazenly violated contract rules regarding refuse-to-sign, guaranteed hours, and forced sixth punches (see picture left) all before peak season really started. The IBT simply looks the other way while companies break their collective bargaining agreements.

ON THE ELECTION OUTCOME

by Frank Loder (WORMA)

The 2024 general election concluded last month, with Trump winning the popular vote and electoral college vote. The final tally of the popular vote was approx. 74 million votes to Kamala Harris and approx 77 million votes to Donald Trump, out of an eligible voting population of about 240 million. Trump and Kamala both had several million fewer votes than their parties got in the 2020 general election, and nonvoters were the largest group, with about 90 million eligible voters abstaining. Therefore, while Trump will officially be the next president, it was in reality the boycottists (including us)

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who “won” the election, although we will not be represented in the next administration. Once again, the elections are proven to be a sham, a way of fabricating a “mandate from the people” for a government whose entire purpose is waging war on the people. The fact that Trump is the commander-in-chief of this war and not Kamala Harris or Jill Stein matters little.

As regards the trade unions, they will likely continue on as they have for the last eighty years. The labor liberal press is bemoaning the potential loss of “historic gains” allegedly made under the Biden administration, but this is a total lie. Under Biden, the trade unions hit their lowest unionization rate on record, strikes were essentially outlawed (outright banned in the case of the rail unions in 2022 and de facto banned through collusion with the UAW and IBT in 2023), and living standards continued to drop. (Not to mention COVID continues to be an issue throughout UPS’ operations, but the Democrats have dropped any pretense of fighting that.) The NLRB’s limited remedial powers may be walked back further under Trump, and regulatory agencies will probably be defunded or otherwise wrecked, but it is wrong to rely on these institutions anyway. The trade union movement gets its strength from the consciousness of the workers, not agreements with the government. UPS will no doubt continue to reap the rewards of their political lobbying. For instance, OSHA allowed inspection search warrants to simply expire this October instead of actually enforcing them. (See “OSHA’s Dropped UPS Safety Warrants Point to Long-Game Strategy” at bloomberglaw.com.) The incoming Trump administration won’t be a reversal of the Biden administration, but rather an extension of its anti-union policies, which will be supported by the corrupt state unions.

The Teamsters, for their part, are eager to deal with any and every political degenerate. O’Brien called Biden one of the most pro-labor presidents in a Boston Globe interview—then inexplicably didn’t endorse him. Then, O’Brien staged a “democratic” poll (presumably so he could blame the rank-and-file for whatever endorsement he decided on) which Trump won—then inexplicably didn’t endorse him either. Why? O’Brien explained it quite clearly at the RNC. The Teamsters donated tens of thousands of dollars to both parties because they are “bipartisan”—they are willing to sell out the workers to whoever is in power, regardless of Democrat or Republican.

Sean O’Brien and the Teamsters know, however, that they cannot openly come out and say this. Instead, they cover their tracks with reformist demagoguery. The first issue of Teamster magazine after the election ran O’Brien’s RNC speech as an article titled, “Teamsters General President Sean M. O’Brien Address to the American Worker” in which he brags about working with Republican senators on the banned railroad strike, gloats about the “efficiency” of UPS, complains about Amazon’s lack of “national allegiance”, and says, “It needs to be easier for companies to remain in America.” Yet this is capped off with the idiotic claim that he is ready to “fight like hell”.

These scumbags worked directly with the Trump administration to keep us on the job when volume was through the roof, COVID was rampant throughout UPS, and inside workers were getting paid less than unemployment. Then they worked directly with the Biden administration to break the rail workers’ strike in 2022. And we are supposed to take them seriously when they talk about “fighting like hell” for workers? I wonder, how has the \$96,109,153 spent on lobbying and political legislation in the last ten years helped “fight like hell”? (See “Political Economy of the American Labor Movement” at newlaborpress.org.) How does pimping out the Teamsters name to the absolute scum of the earth at the RNC accomplish anything for “the American worker”?

On the other hand, it’s worth noting that one of the only sections of the IBT successfully captured by the reformist Teamsters Mobilize faction was the LGBTQ Caucus—and this authority was used NOT to organize the LGBTQ workers to defend their rights across industries and across collective bargaining agreements, but to endorse Kamala! In fact, the so-called “opposition” within the Teamsters to General President O’Brien completely exposed itself during the election cycle. There is no principled trade union opposition within the Teamsters, but rather a Democrat faction (including the Teamsters National Black Caucus, which is particularly embarrassing given the Democratic Party’s history in the South) and a Republican faction. As both parties are mortal enemies of the labor movement, and nobody in the IBT from any faction has actually self-criticized for the colossal betrayals of the rank-and-file just in the last 16 months, no IBT faction should be taken seriously by any UPS worker.

Contrast the New Dayers in WORMA leafleting in French to warn the Haitian workers about potential wage theft by UPS with Sean O’Brien spewing utter nonsense about “national allegiance” at the Republican National Convention. (Worth noting too that at his September 18 rally in Uniondale, NY, Trump explicitly praised Sean O’Brien accordingly: “And I also want to thank Teamsters President, Sean O’Brien, an amazing man, [...] These are tough people. And together we will secure our borders.”) The New Dayers appeal to the rank-and-file to unite on the basis of their own interests in struggle against UPS and their agents in the government and trade union movement. The Teamsters executives, on the other hand, ally with the government against the interests of the overwhelming majority of the rank-and-file. And this is justified with demagoguery about “international elites” (either a pathetic attempt to deflect from domestic elites, i.e. the people at the RNC with O’Brien, or a crude stand-in for “international Jewry”) and foreign-born workers.

While O’Brien gladhands with incoming-President Trump and incoming Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer, every UPSer must remember that, “As history shows, everything that the State concedes to the people has been taken through popular strength, handed over because of those above’s fear of an explosion from those below.” [“Cast Aside Illusions, Take Up the People’s Struggle” from Nueva Democracia, translation from newlaborpress.org]

New Day is a newsletter produced by UPS workers to rally our coworkers against UPS corporate and their agents in the Teamsters. New Day Committees are for gathering information and disseminating the basic outlook of the revolutionary UPS workers to the rank and file in the operation, as well as a base that our coworkers can use as a launchpad for campaigns around more immediate issues. Our long-term goal is the creation of a revolutionary industrial logistics union.

