

Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers International Union

10401 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, KENSINGTON, MARYLAND 20895-3961 301-933-8600

JOHN DeCONCINI
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

October 10, 1984

Mr. Edward J. Carlough
President
Sheet Metal Workers Intl. Union
United Unions Bldg.
1750 New York Ave.
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Carlough:

Our unions share many common interests. Among of the lesser known ones is the tobacco industry. Members of both your organization and ours are employed making and distributing a wide range of tobacco products. Because of their union membership they enjoy wages and benefits second to none. But tobacco is a controversial industry. Literally thousands of groups and individual crusaders across the U.S. seek to shut the tobacco industry down, and with it the jobs of your members and ours.

Our union has never taken a position on whether or not people should smoke. Nor do we intend to. That is, and should be, an individual choice. But as trade unionists we have an interest in defending the jobs of our members from the misguided efforts of prohibitionists. In so doing on this question we have often found ourselves side by side with the tobacco manufacturers, instead of across the table. And we have found that working together we can more effectively present to the public the story regarding our members' jobs.

Accordingly, to follow up on past cooperative efforts and to contribute to greater future cooperation among the various segments of the tobacco industry, to improve job security and economic development, and to assist industry employees and employers in solving problems of mutual concern, the Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers International Union and the Tobacco Institute are establishing a labor management committee.

As a union which represents employees of cigarette manufacturers, your organization is hereby invited to join the new Tobacco Industry Labor Management Committee.

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The Committee's primary activities will be public education and research. It will not interfere with any collective bargaining agreements, nor with wages, hours, or any other aspect of employer/employee relationships.

Your involvement in the Tobacco Industry Labor Management Committee will make it a stronger, more effective organization. We hope your organization will choose to participate in the Committee soon. In the meantime, we will continue to send you information on our activities. Should you have any questions or wish further information concerning participating in the Labor Management Committee, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely and fraternally,



John DeConcini
International President

JDeC:bkp
cc: Ralph Willham

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