

IAM

October 29, 2008

Northwest Airlines

08-11

Air Transport District 143 FOCUS

DOJ Approves NWA-DAL Merger

As many of you have already heard, the United States Justice Department gave antitrust approval for Delta Air Lines to complete the purchase of Northwest Airlines.

This announcement only solidifies that today's government is about big business and not about working men and women. In today's reality with a crumbling economy, daily job losses, and a volatile industry, each and every one of us should question how this acquisition is beneficial to the tens of thousands of employees who have taken major concessions at both carriers.

With a combined debt of \$28.8 billion and \$15.6 billion in unfunded pension liabilities, nobody should assume that things will be as rosy as Delta Air Lines wants you to believe—that's if you still have a job! Delta Air Lines' commitments mean absolutely nothing unless they are backed by a collective bargaining agreement, just as our 1993 Employee Stock Option Plan that Dick Anderson refused to pay, which ultimately was upheld in the bankruptcy court.

Dick Anderson is a modern-day Frank Lorenzo who will stop at nothing to line his pockets from your labor, as well as destroy your right to have a collective voice via Union representation self-evidenced by those on his staff. It is our responsibility to protect our collective destiny through a written contract and not become subject to Company policies that only benefit a few.

Beyond any doubt, over the course of the next several months, management at both carriers will make promises and commitments to each of us in an attempt to lure you away from having a voice in your future – a voice for livable wages, a voice for affordable health care, a voice for your pension, and most importantly a voice that protects your family. Without a collective bargaining agreement we have no voice, no choice; instead, we only have policies.

Together, regardless of gender, regardless of race, regardless of religious beliefs, regardless of carrier affiliation, regardless of class and craft, each of us must come together and focus on defending the future of our livelihoods.



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Fraternally,

Stephen M. Gordon
President/Directing General Chair

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