

MERGER



WATCH

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IAM Takes Merger Issues to Congress

General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr. and members of the IAM's Transportation Merger Committee have been active this week holding meetings with key Congressional leaders. Congressman James Oberstar (D-MN), influential Chairman of the

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House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, said that if an airline merger is announced he will hold hearings on the proposal. Oberstar has vocally agreed with the Machinists Union's position that consolidation of the nation's major air carriers would have a dramatic negative impact on the country.

"While mergers may mean short-term profits for investors, they inevitably mean long-term losses for workers and consumers," said Oberstar in a statement to the Minnesota State Senate. "The merged carrier is never greater than the sum of its parts. It is

always less, often much less."

In a separate meeting with Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), a member of the Senate's, Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, the IAM stressed the thousands of Northwest Airlines jobs that will be lost in her home state if that airline merges with Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines. Coupled with indirect jobs lost at businesses that provide local services to the airline industry, the negative effect on the State of Minnesota will be considerable.

The Transportation Merger team also met with staff members from the offices of Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, and Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

"There is little support in Congress for airline mergers" said GVP Roach. "In fact, airline boardrooms may be the only place to find people who think industry consolidation is a good idea."

Broken Promises

When two airlines announce a merger, it is immediately followed by promises. Airline executive

assure workers that jobs will be safe and seniority will be protected. *Don't believe them!*

When American Airlines purchased TWA in 2001, those same promises were made to TWA employees. American's then CEO Donald Carty testified before the Senate Commerce Committee and said, "We look forward to adding TWA's 20,000 employees to the American Airlines family," and that American was willing to make "commitments to the 20,000 TWA employees and their families that no one else would make."

In spite of these assurances, the overwhelming majority of former TWA employees are no longer employed by American Airlines. Thousands of mechanics, ramp workers, customer service agents, flight attendants and pilots who were promised careers with American are no longer working in the industry.

IAM Merger Websites

District 141
WWW.IAM141.ORG

District 142
WWW.IAMDL142.ORG

District 143
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