

Negotiations Update May 2008

Company rejects Guild proposal for interim raise.

In March the Guild proposed a modest 2% interim pay increase, to take into account the fact company negotiators were not available for much of the fall and winter. On April 3, the company rejected the proposal: "We are not interested in an interim wage adjustment."

Company ignores requests for increase in auto mileage allowance.

The Guild has repeatedly sought increases in the mileage reimbursement rate. Currently it is set at 36-cents per mile. This rate was put in place in March of last year, when gas sold for about \$2.56 a gallon. Today gas is selling for a dollar a gallon more, with more increases in sight. When pressed in the issue on May 2, the company responded: "We are aware of it." The Guild is seeking the IRS rate of 50.5-cents per mile.

Company retrogressions still on the table.

The company has not backed off any of its retrogressive contract proposals, including its desire to

- ignore seniority in layoffs,
- change medical, benefits and pensions without bargaining,
- eliminate the cap on the employee share of medical premiums,
- hire outsiders without giving current employees a shot at open jobs,
- double probation periods for promoted and newly hired workers, and
- extend the time disciplinary letters remain active in employee files.

In fairness to the company we should tell you about the wage and benefit improvements the company has proposed. The problem is: there are none. No wage increase, no mileage increase, no nothing.

The only thing standing in the way of the company proposals is you and your union.