



International Union of Operating Engineers

1125 SEVENTEENTH STREET NORTHWEST * WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

OFFICE OF GENERAL PRESIDENT • (202) 429-9100



January 16, 2007

Mr. Joseph P. Ward
Treasurer
IUOE Local Union No. 150
20923 S. River Road
Shorewood, IL 60431

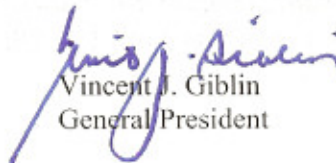
Dear Sirs and Brothers:

My office has received a number of letters and telephone calls over the past several months from certain officers and members of Local Union No. 150 alleging different types of bad acts by one or another current officer of the Local. These communications typically request that the International Union investigate and take some disciplinary action against the offending individual. To date, the International Union has not taken the actions requested. So that the record is clear, this letter will explain my position in these matters.

There will be an election of officers in Local 150 this August and the current officers of the Local have already formed (or are in the process of forming) competing groups to run against each other in that election. Thus far, it has been my view that the primary reason for the above-described complaints to my office—which have been lodged against members of both of the competing groups—has been to seek International intervention to gain an advantage in the upcoming election. The requests have been unaccompanied by any indication of what action the Local itself (or the complaining individual) has taken to address the alleged offense. The nature of the allegations is such that the Local Union or the respective officer appears fully capable of investigating and taking the necessary corrective action.

In the distant past, this International Union was—quite properly—harshly criticized for keeping Local 150 under an extended International Supervision that deprived the Local's members of the authority to govern their own affairs. Local 150 is now a strong, dynamic organization. I will not presume that it is incapable of governing itself or addressing allegations of improper conduct. Furthermore, I will not allow the International's authority to be manipulated for the electoral advantage of either side. The Local's members are entitled to exercise their franchise without International intervention tipping the scales in favor of any particular candidate or slate. Thus, absent strong evidence to the contrary, I will expect that you, as the Local's officers, will fulfill your obligations, appropriately investigate wrongdoing, and address it. Should you fail to do so, the International Union will not simply investigate allegations; it will be obligated to initiate proceedings to take action up to and including the imposition of International Supervision.

Fraternally,


Vincent J. Giblin
General President

VJG:rg

cc: All Officers and Executive Board Members of Local Union No. 150