

October 2009



USW LOCAL 1137

*Representing the Maintenance, Storeroom,
Transportation and Fire Control employees of
International Paper's Courtland, AL mill*

OFFICERS:

*President: Johnny Phillips
Vice President: James Messer
Recording Secretary: Edwin Smith
Financial Secretary: Ray Boston
Treasurer: Bill Flippo
Trustees: Keith Hensley, Junior Hol-
den, Kevin Messer
Guide: David Dutton
Guards: David Garrison, Robert
Poellnitz*

WE DID IT!

On Friday September 11, President Obama announced that he would stand up for U.S. workers and impose tariffs on Chinese tire imports. This decision was a response to the trade case that our union brought over surges in tire imports that have resulted in thousands of lost jobs in our country.

This move by our President signals a sharp turn from his predecessor, who refused to provide relief in four similar trade cases with China.

The industries in these cases are being decimated.

President Obama's decision in the current case will give our tire workers a fighting chance.

This is a huge victory for U.S. workers, trade law enforcement, and our union. The credit for this win is shared by every one of you who wrote a letter to the President supporting this case. More than 80,000 letters from USW members went to the White House in just over four weeks! These letters came from all industry sectors and all parts of the country and is a show of the strength we have when we act collectively.

Thank you to everyone who took action, and congratulations on the victory.



Enforcing the Rule of Trade Law

By Leo W. Gerard, International President

My union, the United Steelworkers (USW), and three paper manufacturers will have free traders and editorial boards across the nation sputtering, spitting and name calling again this week. They started labeling us "protectionist" last week when President Obama made what should have been considered a straight-forward decision. He implemented a recommendation from the independent, bi-partisan International Trade Commission (ITC) to place tariffs on tires imported from China. The USW had started that process by seeking sanctions in April under special trade safeguard rules, called Section 421, which the Chinese had agreed to obey to gain entrance to the World Trade Organization.

"We believe we've suffered sufficiently..."

Now we've filed a new trade case. We did it with no disrespect or lack of hospitality toward Chinese officials as they arrived in the city of our international headquarters – Pittsburgh – for the G-20 summit. Proof of that is we included as a defendant in this case China's fellow G-20 country of Indonesia, who can keep them company in court. This is not a Section 421 but a more traditional unfair trade case about coated paper, the kind used for car brochures and annual reports. In 2007, the U.S. Department of Commerce found egregious dumping of this paper and improper subsidies by the Chinese and Indonesian governments. But later the ITC refused to impose sanctions because it decided the U.S. industry hadn't been adequately injured. We believe we've suffered sufficiently now. But we know the free traders and editorial boards will vilify us. They've taken up with the Chinese government. And let me be clear that I mean government. The USW is in solidarity with Chinese and Indonesian workers who suffer abuse at the hands of their employers. It is governmental policies that injure us both and that we oppose. Our intent is to hold governments to promises they made to abide by international trade regulations – pledges sworn to gain entrance to the World Trade Organization.

Those rules were meant to make free trade fair.

We want fair trade. Geez. They'll call us "protectionist" for that – like they did with the tire tariff decision. The New York Times derided the tire tariff a "protectionist remedy." The Chicago Tribune slammed it as "blatantly protectionist." A Wall Street Journal columnist said Obama imposed the tariff, not because it was recommended by the ITC, but because the president "owed favors to his friends in Big Labor." *Continued on Page 4*

Say something GOOD about your Union today



Mark Boyles



Our Friend and Brother
September 29, 1963—September 18, 2009
*You are at rest from your labors, may it be in peace.
Thanks for the memories ...*

Retiree Association Lunch - A large number of mill retirees met for food and fellowship on Friday September 25. At least 50 former members of Local 1137 were part of the crowd. It was great to see them again and I'm glad several of our present employees took the opportunity to stop by the tent and visit with them.

www.usw1137.org

*Keith Hensley was the
winner of the
USW jacket
at our September meeting.*

***No Stewards Meeting
This Month
Due to the
Outage***

Everyone, especially our stewards, should check out our website at www.usw1137.org fairly often. We try to keep it updated with the latest information for our members. If you have anything you would like to see posted there, let us know and we will try to do it. We have links there to several interesting websites for union members.

Suggestions and ideas for the newsletter can be turned in to any of the officers. We want this to be interesting and useful for the members of Local 1137 so let us know what you want and need to see in the newsletter and on the website!

Say something GOOD about your Union today

On September 30, 2009, the three Local Union Presidents at Courtland received the following letter:

Recently, you were advised that employees could expect more attention being given to violations of safety rules and policies. This will serve as a follow-up to that communication, and is specific to violations of the Courtland Mill Lock, Tag and Try Policy. The potential consequence of a violation of this policy can be death of an employee or employees. Therefore, the company will view blatant and willful violation of this Policy as potential termination offenses. In these cases, length of service and lack of previous discipline will not be considered mitigating circumstances.

We know you share with us a concern for the potential seriousness of these policy violation. We hope you will share this with your members.

Willie J. Fuller
Human Resources Manager

All we can add to this letter is that each issue will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Please watch out for your co-workers and yourself. These policies cannot be taken lightly, our jobs depend on our adherence to them. I will say that I support safety 100% here at the mill and I want nothing more than for us to have a safe place to work and for each of us to go home unharmed every day. However, I understand the pressure a letter like this puts on us as workers. The added stress of being worried about getting fired just adds to the dangers of the job and could make us more susceptible to making a mental error, especially during the upcoming out-ages. Just always remember, NO JOB IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE CANNOT TAKE THE TIME TO DO IT BY THE POLICY! If you have any questions or any doubts about the correct way to do a job within the boundaries of the mill's safety policy, stop and ask your teamleader or area manager.



Upcoming Meetings:

Monday October 12

Monday November 9*

Monday December 14

3:45 PM

*Our November meeting will need to be changed due to the major outage. At our October meeting we will decide when to schedule the November meeting.

If you have a family member or friend in the military and would like to have his/her contact information published here and on our website, just contact Johnny or Edwin.

Mail: SPC WILSON, ROBERT
HSC 877TH EN. BN.
TASKFORCE BUILDER
FOB SHARANA
APO AE 09311

E-Mail:
ROBERT.WILSON24@US.ARMY.MIL

Also, Jeff Martin of the Chemline Maintenance Crew has a son serving in Afghanistan. I'm sure he would love to receive a note or card of support from anyone here:

Mail: LCPL JESSE MARTIN,
5th Battalion 10th Marines (2d ANGLICO)
Unit 73390
FPO AE 09510-3390

Say something **GOOD** about your Union today

Enforcing the Rule of Trade Law

Leo W. Gerard, International President

Continued from page 1 These people don't know what they are talking about. The New York Times, for example, said, "China has not been competing unfairly on tires – just more effectively, mainly because of its far lower labor costs."

It is unfair trade to abuse workers by not paying them your own country's minimum wage, by failing to give them your own country's required days off and other benefits, by exposing them to grossly hazardous working conditions. Has the New York Times investigated the Chinese tire workers' situation, the way it has other Chinese workers', to determine if they are being mistreated in these ways like so many Chinese workers? If so, it provided no evidence.

In addition, just two paragraphs later, the Times lists numerous unfair trading practices it acknowledges China engages in, practices that give it unfair advantages when selling tires on the U.S. market, including manipulating its currency. Those advantages are far more significant to the price of tires than labor costs. Similarly, the Chicago Tribune editorial was written by someone who apparently did precious little research. It claims the tire tariffs will cause "whopping price hikes," even though Charles Uthus, vice president of the Automotive Trade Policy Council, which opposed sanctions, calculated that the additional cost per tire, at the tariffs recommended by the ITC but later lowered by Obama, would be no more than \$3.50. The Tribune says the tariffs will not bring jobs back home – but the ITC determined they would. Best of all, the Tribune asserts that the tariffs will prompt manufacturers to move production from China to countries without tariffs. Really? Tariffs that will last only three years will prompt manufacturers to abandon plants that cost \$180 million to build?

These people are in love with an ideal: Free trade. It doesn't exist between the U.S. and China. The rules of free trade prohibit subsidizing exports, forcing foreign investors to transfer technology and mandating foreign manufacturers export all products made in the host

country. China so routinely does such prohibited stuff that Cooper Tire provided sworn testimony about it in our Section 421 case. Cooper testified that China required Cooper to export all of the tires from its new Chinese plant for five years.

China cheats. We're just asking that they follow the rules they agreed to when they joined the World Trade Organization – the same sort of rules they will be discussing this week at the G-20. That's not protectionism.

The free traders and the editorial boards also belittled the tire case because none of the tire companies joined the USW. It should be obvious why companies like Cooper could not. And let's make it clear, Goodyear, which has agreed to invest \$600 million in its U.S. plants, made a point of remaining neutral.

In the paper case, the free traders are going to have to choke back that scorn. Three manufacturers are in it with us: Appleton Coated LLC, NewPage Corp., and Sappi Fine Paper North America. Two of them, Sappi and NewPage, have been forced to close plants in the two years since the ITC didn't see enough damage in the U.S. market to impose sanctions in 2007. Those shut downs cost nearly 1,000 workers their jobs and severely injured the mill towns of Muskegon, Mich., and Kimberly, Wis.

Don't just take my word, the word of someone who the Wall Street Journal would dismiss as "protectionist Big Labor," owed a big favor by President Obama. Listen to what businessmen have to say about China and Indonesia:

This is John Cappy, president and CEO of Appleton, "Our goal is to restore fair competition to the marketplace. We are willing to compete with anyone on a fair playing field." Here is Rick Willett, president and CEO of NewPage talking about China, "What we want here is simply enforcement of the rules they signed on to in order to be part of the World Trade Organization."

And, finally, there's Mark Gardner, president and CEO of Sappi, who explains that his company clearly believes in free trade because it imports paper made in its European mills to the United States as well as manufacturing paper here: "We want the laws enforced so we can compete on a fair basis."

Hey, Wall Street Journal, how about those CEOs?



To remember the loneliness, the fear and the insecurity of men who once had to walk alone in huge factories, beside huge machines—to realize that labor unions have meant new dignity and pride to millions of our countrymen—human companionship on the job, and music in the home—to be able to see what larger pay checks mean, not to a man as an employee, but as a husband and as a father—to know these things is to understand what American labor means. -

Adlai E. Stevenson, 1952



Say something **GOOD** about your Union today

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UNION USW LABEL
1137