

Subordinate Lodge 201
22 Rhodora Street
Lowell, MA 01851

August 2, 2001

To The Membership

Re: Proposed Merger With IBB

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Yesterday afternoon the officers of Lodge 201 met to discuss the proposed merger with between the Brotherhood and the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths and Boilermakers (IBB). After discussing the pros and cons of the merger we decided this merger is not something we can recommend to our membership. Further it was agreed that we would act to actively oppose the merger and urge the members of Lodge 201 to vote no on this proposal.

We do not take this stand lightly. Brothers whose opinions and dedication we respect have put out volumes of information both supporting and opposing this merger. In our discussions each of the officers had a copy of the merger document and the IBB by-laws to review beforehand. We also had letters and a synopsis from both sides of the debate raging within the International, its Regions, its Federations and its Subordinate Lodges. I would like to thank Brad Winter for speaking to us in support of the measure. Mike Bessette of the Northeast Federation also joined us speaking in opposition. Their input was greatly appreciated.

In the end it was the elected officers of Lodge 201 who made this decisions to oppose the merger. Trying to sort through all the rhetoric we continued to come back one-way or another to two key points. This agreement does not provide any significant improvement in our bargaining ability within the rail industry. And it does not provide us, we believe, with any measurable increase in political muscle. Any merger with the best interests of the rank and file in mind has to strive to provide these two critical elements. At the very least we have to obtain one or the other. We do not see where this agreement provides either.

Over the course of these next couple of weeks you receive all types of communications concerning the benefits and negatives of this agreement. While we respect the efforts of the merger committee, we do not see that this provides any great benefit to the members. And we will continue our efforts to inform our membership as the vote nears. We are

unanimous both in our opposition to this merger and to the critical necessity of every member of Lodge 201 to cast his ballot when it arrives later this month.

In Solidarity,

James A. Teague
President Lodge 201

Roger Boudreault
Sec.- Treas. 201

Steve Quinn
Vice-Pres. 201

Peter Brander
Local Chairman 201

Richard Bly
Grievance Comm. 201

Steve O'Malley
Grievance Comm.201

Jimmy Sorrentino
Safety Lodge 201

William Daly
Legislative Rep 201

Danny Burke
Finance Comm. 201