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RE: Letter to UTU Membership

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

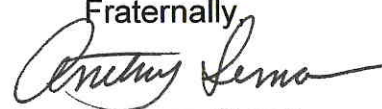
I am writing to you in regard to a recent barrage of newspaper articles and press releases from the MTA concerning labor's role in overtime and work rule issues. It is clear that neither the media nor the MTA is willing to convey labor's message of poor management and a management surplus as the true cause of the agency's fiscal mess.

Helena Williams has made it clear to the press that overtime, work rules and pension padding are a major cause of our railroad's budget problems. She also made a decision to negotiate an issue of overtime through a newspaper reporter rather than a labor leader. This is what the MTA calls partnering up with labor. They throw bombs to the media and wait to see how labor will react.

As the media refuses to print our message, I will make one thing very clear. I will do whatever it takes to expose the enormous salaries of senior staff, which certainly does not include overtime. Here is something you will not read in the newspaper, although I have exposed it time and time again: The top twenty (20) management positions on the LIRR, including President, Vice Presidents, Chiefs, Generals, Superintendents, Directors, etc., total well over 3 Million dollars per year in salary. We have senior staff positions clearing \$200,000 per year for a 40 hour work week. Represented labor works seven days per week, including weekends and holidays to provide the service necessary to run our railroad, while senior management earns the big money to watch from afar.

Make no mistake, we will not partner up with anyone until we are treated with the respect we deserve and have earned over the years. Labor is the backbone of our system and it is time the MTA and the LIRR leadership acknowledges and respects that fact. **As management turns on each other to survive during difficult times, labor will stand united and fight for the good of our members and their families.**

The United Transportation Union will not be broken by scare tactics and bad press. Work hard, stand with me and we will never stop fighting for what we have earned.

Fraternally,

Anthony Simon