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*Up Against the Gloom and Doom! Aggressive  
Unionism at Eastern Airlines*

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# To Frank Borman

Barbara Mungovan

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## To Frank Borman

### **Abstract**

[Excerpt] Frank Borman's campaign against the Machinists at Eastern included a flurry of letters to the union's membership. These letters, as has become standard in employer campaigns for concessions, blamed the union leadership for the company's problems and tried to convince the rank and file that the company, not the union, had the worker's best interest at heart. Borman always ended his letters by saluting "his" employees with a hearty "God Bless You."

Barbara Mungovan, an aircraft servicer at Eastern's base in Miami and a member of LAM Lodge 702, sent Frank the following reply in February 1983.

### **Keywords**

IAM, District 100, Eastern Airlines, LAM

*Frank Borman's campaign against the Machinists at Eastern included a flurry of letters to the union's membership. These letters, as has become standard in employer campaigns for concessions, blamed the union leadership for the company's problems and tried to convince the rank and file that the company, not the union, had the worker's best interest at heart. Borman always ended his letters by saluting "his" employees with a hearty "God Bless You."*

*Barbara Mungovan, an aircraft servicer at Eastern's base in Miami and a member of IAM Lodge 702, sent Frank the following reply in February 1983.*

#### TO FRANK BORMAN

In good faith I took a wage freeze and gave you my three point five.  
You said you had to have it, to help Eastern survive.

I gave up things I needed, I gave up a new car  
Then you spent my money on a "Union Bustin' " Seminar

I gave up my vacation and my skiing trip  
And all you gave to me was more gloom and doom lip  
I gave up eating steak—cost of livin' I'm not able  
I'm sure your family thinks of us, when it's on YOUR dinner table

My sons future education is going down the drain  
While you pay eight supervisors to watch one DC 9 plane  
I gave you productivity—You forced me to the fence  
When you gave us some managers lacking common sense

I was written up 'cause I went for coffee too soon  
Yet they don't see it takes an hour to find a dust pan and a broom  
You wanted new planes, we bought three for your fleet  
Then you let good ones die, in the hot desert heat

You've thrown out new seat covers, dumpster loads at a time  
Wasting my money to the very last dime  
I said, Can't you sell them? Or give them away?  
Management told me no—it's cheaper this way. . . .

You never made number one without us behind you  
We all know our jobs and what we have to do  
It hurts when you tell the public the union's to blame  
If this whole community goes down the drain.

Tell them what we gave, the good we have done  
After all it was you who said, "We're number ONE."  
I'm proud to be union, I know I've done my share  
If Eastern's number one, I've helped get it there.

With my IAM Brothers and Sisters—we've carried the ball  
If Eastern shuts down it's not our fault at all.  
Let the stockholders come down here and see things we abhor  
We're not asking for much, just a little bit more.

We've all loved our airline and hope it will live  
We've done more than our share,  
Now it's YOUR TURN TO GIVE.

You feel now you don't need us, after we supported you  
Explain this to my son—it's a hard thing to do  
You say you can fly without us, that it's easy to do  
Frank, if you really think you can, God Bless You. . . .

—Barbara Mungovan