

## **Labor Research Review**

Volume 1 | Number 4 Up Against the Gloom and Doom! Aggressive Unionism at Eastern Airlines

Article 8

1984

# To Frank Borman

Barbara Mungovan

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@ILR. It has been accepted for inclusion in Labor Research Review by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@ILR. For more information, please contact jdd10@cornell.edu. © 1984 by Labor Research Review

## 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 abhore 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