

VICTOR L JANECEK

Brothers,

At our last NMB Section 3 meeting on September 26, 2006, the Board informed us that their funding for FY 2007 had not been approved and that they would be operating under a "Continuing Resolution (CR)" at least until Congress returns to session some time in November. Information on this issue may be found on the NMB website.

During the meeting, the NMB, they claim as a result of the financial crunch, informed us that they were considering implementing three policy changes that would impact on us. These changes are:

1. As long as they were operating under a CR, they would only approve payment for arbitrators to write cases. They would not approve money for arbitrators to hear cases;
2. They would not approve any arbitrator travel;
3. On a 6 month trial basis, they would only approve travel for arbitrators in the future if the arbitrator had 10 or more cases to be heard.

Rail Labor has objected to these procedural changes. In our view, this would only lead to a greater backlog of cases. In the case of the IBEW, where it can take some time to have 10 cases ready on any given railroad or in any given Local or System Council, operating under these conditions certainly would not be prudent. As such, the Chairman of our committee, Steve Powers of the BMWE, will be contacting Harry Hoglander of the NMB to further discuss these issues.

I will continue to keep you updated at these matters progress. Additionally, there was a Rail Organizations Arbitration Review (ROAR) committee meeting held in Chicago at the same time our convention was being held in Cleveland. I have just received the minutes of that meeting and the latest information on the arbitrators. If anyone has any questions about any particular arbitrators, please contact this office.

Fraternally,

Bill Bohné, Jr.
Director – IBEW Railroad Department