
Correspondence between P.M. Arthur, Chief Engineer of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers in Cleveland and Eugene V. Debs, President of the American Railway Union in Chicago, July 14, 1894

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Chicago, July 14 [1894].

The Executive Committee of the American Railway Union authorized President Debs to send the following dispatch to Chief Arthur, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Cleveland, Ohio:

The newspapers quote you as having issued an official order to your members requiring them to work with scab firemen, or anyone the companies may employ. It is also reported to us, on what seems reliable authority, that you are issuing letters of recommendation to engineers for the purpose of filling positions vacated by the strikers. In other words, that you are supplying scabs to take the places of striking engineers. We desire to do you no injustice, but wish to be advised of the facts in the case. We are now making history, and do not wish to put any man on record improperly. An early answer will much oblige.

By order of the Board of Directors, American Railway Union,

E. V. Debs.

Chief Arthur's Reply.

Cleveland, O., July 14 [1894].

To Eugene V. Debs, President ARU, Chicago:—

I have advised the members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, when called upon, to attend strictly to their own business as engineers, and be ready to run their engines whenever it could be done with safety, regardless of whom the companies employed to fire the engines. I have not issued any letters of recommendation for members of the B of LE to take the places of strikers. I have advised members of the B of LE that they were at liberty to take the places of any of the members of the Brotherhood who quit contrary to the laws of the Brotherhood, but not to take the places of any of the members of the American Railway Union who had quit by order of that organization.

P.M. Arthur.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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