

# RED TALES

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(612-726-2230) Newsletter of the MSP ESSC Shop Committee (612-201-0383)

**NMB Rule Change #1** – Despite the fact that it would allow union representation elections in the airline industry to be far more democratic, a proposed rule change is bitterly opposed by Delta Air Lines. On the other side, every AFL-CIO union and many others have weighed in for the change. Forty U.S. Senators and 175 U.S. Representatives, including 13 Republicans, have joined the call for the rule change. There is massive popular support for this overdue change. This was the message conveyed at a press conference held by the Minnesota AFL-CIO at the State Capitol on Monday, December 7.

Minnesota Congressman, Keith Ellison said, “The way it stands now this election is a phony election. How else can you describe it? No other election in our country allows those who don’t vote to have their vote counted. If this were a good way to conduct an election, wouldn’t others use it? Changing the election rule is simple justice. It is democratic.”

Delta flight attendants, baggage handlers, stock clerks, customer service agents, reservation agents and clerical workers attended the conference to show support for the change.

**NMB Rule Change #2** – Meanwhile, in the nation’s Capitol the National

Mediation Board held a public hearing to hear comment on their proposal for a rule change. Offering testimony opposed to the change were the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Airline Transportation Association, Delta Air Lines, Ford and Harrison and others who fear the change could lead to increased unionization among workers.

Speaking for the rule change were the IAM, AFL-CIO, AFA, Communication Workers, Transport Workers Union, Air Line Pilots Association, the Transportation Communication International Union and others.

Robert Roach Jr., General Vice President of the Transportation Department of the IAM said that the new rule will not give unions an advantage. “It will only take the advantage away from the carriers who are opposed to air and rail voter’s rights for the same reason people were opposed to guaranteeing voting rights for women and African Americans – they were afraid to upset the status quo and lose the advantages they enjoy at the expense of others” he said.

The public comment period will end on January 4, 2010. The Board will then review all testimony for 30 days. The Board must render a decision by March 8.

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