



July 9 1970

Dear Arm:

Thanks for your letter of July 7th with several enclosures. Glad you like action I took on News Releases Re: Bill Lafayette - or lack of them. I feel quite strongly that those of our profession who are called upon in the hour of extreme need and who demonstrate their ability and devotion to duty far beyond what is expected of them, should be in some way remembered and I have indicated this publically and editorially in our publications. Likewise, I think many of our members would be willing to assist in helping to give recognition where due, hence the release.

I am very QRL at the moment Arm but in reference to your question as to "how Bill Breniman Stands on Unionism"? I can only say that Local #7 of URTA was started in my room at the Alpine Hotel. Also I helped C.R.P.A. when they started and contributed to their publication "CQ" for a year or so, without any remuneration (or much thanks). I have perhaps done as much "unionwise" for our profession - perhaps more so than any of those still in the business.

I do feel however that there are those who lose perspective and allow this one thing to dominate their lives and thinking.

The point I make is that with our group of Wireless Pioneers, many of them in the 70 and 80 year bracket, they have joined for pleasure of renewing friendship with old associates and not for the purpose of "fighting" the union battles all over again.

I think it is quite significant that we have in the top echelon of our organization, men from RCA, ITT and Government. I consider myself among the later as I did have personal management of over four thousand communications personnel in what is now FAA at the time I was Deputy Chief of Communications in Washington D. C. With this number of people you do have a pretty broad exposure to every facet of human activities. I well realize that to get the most production out of your employees that you have to treat them honestly and fairly, being considerate of their problems and welfare. Having taught "Job Relations Training" over the years, I know you can only arrive at honest answers to problems by having ALL THE FACTS. Many solutions are made by those who have only part of the facts, or the facts they have are "slanted", hence while decisions can be made, they sometimes do more harm than good.

I am hopeful that as we progress through life we can become more mature and tolerant of others, especially in our sun-down years. The Society of Wireless Pioneers is NOT A UNION and it is no place to conduct a forum pro or con on the subject.

I am giving liberally of my time - and by liberally I mean an average of perhaps 10-14 hours a day without any monetary remuneration what so ever to promote the well being and pleasure of many people, hence I do not wish to have unharmonious discord enter the picture by bringing up animosities which may have been valid a few years back but should be buried ~~on our present association.~~

Actually I think perhaps we are more concerned with the welfare of those in our profession than are the unions themselves. I think we can, in our own professional and unobtrusive way, perhaps do more to promote the profession than can unions because labor and management generally are already at loggerheads (taken for granted) and anything either of them says is considered in the light of same, whereas we, without strong ties either way can make suggestions without the bias attached. This I strongly believe.

I think the mention of pickets at San Pedro is meant to be facetious but I know that such things can "kill" our good organization, hence I am hopeful that we do not have anything of such nature - even in fun - to mar the San Pedro or any other meeting.

I do realize that there are some who may be jealous of our group or perhaps envious of our accomplishment. Life is never a bed of roses. However, the more we can close ranks in attempting to promote the purpose or tenet of our Society, the more basic pleasure we can bring to the great number of our members.

Prof. Einstein developed the theory of "relativity". I think this might be extended from physics to human relations. I remember that some steamship operators or agencies I worked for ... treated you well, paid you good (for those days) and were at least somewhat concerned with your well-being (such as giving you vacations with pay). Others, were "hungry-feeding" lousy rust buckets that you took because your stomach dictated. I think also there is as much difference between unions - some good and some bad. Unfortunately, many Union heads are only concerned with their "take" and the favors they can give their immediate friends. Any professional man on the "outside" is out of luck or will have to take the crumbs until he learns to bow east three times and say Allah! Right ?

Hence - just lets leave it this way Arm. I have some opinions about both labor and management and sitting from where I do, I think I can see the good and the bad in each... and neither is simon pure (nor am I) however, I am willing to be tolerant and try to be considerate of all those in our profession, thence, I am hopeful that we can all learn to treat our brother brass-pounders with honor and respect. If we can't learn to do this, then I am afraid it will become a "lost cause"... not deserving of the support of prudent and consciencious people.

More later Arm.

73

William A. Breniman

cc - Craig.