Butler Armco Independent Union


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Men and Women of the Butler Armco Independent Union, whether past or present; you, your family and friends are invited to attend a rally to honor our Veterans and to embrace the values and freedoms that they have so valiantly defended. Men and women active in our rank and file, and our retired members, have defended and continue to defend our freedoms at home and abroad. These values and freedoms are constantly under siege. Now is the time for everyone to come together in a visible and potent demonstration of the strength of our Union. This rally is not intended to detract from our Veterans but to honor them, and to stand together in defense against any and all enemies that attack our rights and freedom.

Many of our enemies are quite obvious, yet others remain hidden and faceless. The attacks of September 11, 2001, and the continued threats of violence have created additional stress and anxiety for all Americans. If we take this level of stress and anxiety and couple it with that which is applied by "Corporate America" on today's workforce, the amount of damage it has done to our Union brothers and sisters is staggering.

AK Steel has gone too far in its campaign to harass, intimidate, coerce and threaten the hardworking men and women of Butler who have for the last 75 years made the Butler Operation one of the most profitable plants in the world.

In three short years AK has managed this plant from profit to loss, but it hasn't fired the CEO, Wardrop, or the Plant Manager Mark Tabler. And while the bosses make plans to build a luxury hunting lodge on plant property at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars, Dick Wardrop is making plans to see if AK can weasel out of its commitments and cut our pension benefits for the future. He calls it "sharing in the grief". We question Mr. Wardrops' definition of "grief" as he basks in his $\$ 8.8$ million a year compensation.

While managers make plans to jet around the country for fun, our members are making plans to scale back holiday celebrations because there is no "Profit Sharing" again this quarter. While managers are slithering around the plant to try to catch someone in a real or imagined safety violation, our members are afraid to go to the plant hospital with a scratch or a bump because a suspension is sure to follow.

If you don't think it can happen to you, just ask the fifty-nine (59) members discharged, or the two hundred and twenty-four (224) members suspended, since AK took over in 1999.

Steelmaking is dangerous, as we were tragically reminded one week ago. We don't need to be spied on and harassed to remember that. It's our people who get hurt, our people who suffer, not the managers. We put our lives on the line every day to make the best product in the world. We earn the money that pays for Wardrop's salary, not to mention his $\$ 4.8$ million dollar pension package. We earn the profits that the company squanders and We want to be treated with dignity and shown the respect that we have earned through our blood and sweat.

We, the officers of the Butler Armco Independent Union, will fight for what's right, but you need to stand up, be counted and show the suits and their puppets that our membership is not afraid - See you at the "Diamond"!

Monday, November 11, 2002
3:00PM
Diamond Park
Butler, Pa

