

CENTER FOR BALANCED TRANSPORTATION

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March 1, 1979

Gordon W. Rogers
P. O. Box 2724
Everett, Washington 98203

Dear Gordon:

Thanks for the copy of your February 25th letter to Mike Sol. Mike and I got together just before Senator Baucus' Butte hearing and had a chance to discuss some of the matters you addressed.

As you can see from the attached draft memorandum -- it has not been sent yet -- our office has been expressing reservations about the organizational side of SORE for some time. I would appreciate it very much if you could review the memorandum and scratch down your quick thoughts. Our tentative plan is to secure agreement from the existing SORE "delegates" and thereby compel Fred and Bill to adopt an organizational structure that will genuinely put the employees in control.

In general, you are correct in noting that Fred is very reserved and easily skirts suggestions that firm organizational procedures are necessary. My own view is that SORE cannot continue as a one-man show. I have deferred my own financial participation in the organization until these steps are taken. We have a strong base in the Three Forks area -- and elsewhere in Montana -- in support of that position.

You and Mike are doing excellent work on the Milwaukee and, in spite of the setbacks and apathy you have encountered, I trust you'll stay at it. It's just too important to let slip.

I'll look forward to hearing from you and, in the meantime, I hope all is going well.

Sincerely,



Rick Applegate
Director

RA:pah

Enclosure

cc: Mike Sol

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P.S.: Here is an exchange of correspondence between Wally Abbey and myself. As you can see, he had a dozen or so Milwaukee managers review our status report. Their criticisms were noticeably weak, if loudly stated. Abbey and I appeared on Montana's Face the State program last weekend. We disagreed on a few points during the discussion and, after the show, tempers flared. He has taken offense to our status report. My basic response is that he has not read it carefully yet.