

## My Fellow Employees

I have just had the loathsome surprise of reading a company memo titled " Help Wanted AT&T Hiring" dated from Feb 9,09.

I will start by saying that although this is an obvious scare tactic, it nonetheless comes across as a colossal slap in the face. AT&T may pay my salary, but this does not give them the right to insult me. For those of us who do our jobs with pride and diligence to read that the company heads believe us to be incompetent morons with no desire whatsoever to work is utterly inaccurate. This crosses the line!

For many years, my co-workers and I have come to work on-time and well prepared to trade a day's work for a day's pay. Over the years we have seen a reduction in the quality of tools and materials that we are supplied with, a drastic reduction of the staff in our support agencies as well as a wanton disregard for our customers. We have had the bottled drinking water removed and the hot water turned off. It seems to me that our motto has been changed from "There is no job so important , no service so urgent, that we cannot take time to perform it safely" to the catchy new slogan "Do More With Less and Do It Faster, You Idiot!".

All of these changes have come with the explanation that it is to make AT&T competitive in the telecommunications market, but it seems this is not the only reason. We have seen a steady rise in company profits and huge compensations for the top corporate heads. The most recent of these being the cash-out of a large "gift" of stock by our CEO just before he made the announcement that he would forgo his bonus this year as a show of solidarity for the rest of the poor suckers who would not be receiving a bonus this year due to hard economic times. Hard economic times that greedy executives, such as those who currently run this company, have helped to create with their gigantic salaries, enormous bonuses ( OH! Sorry, I mean gifts) and as a reward for years of diligent pillaging, a king's ransom in the form of a golden parachute.

So while the workers sit here and listen to the company's list of demands for the upcoming contract, I wonder how I will make ends meet with a probable rise in health care co-pays, lower per diem and call-out rates, forced overtime, the elimination of sick pay and a meager raise to cover it all. It seems apparent that being competitive in the telecommunications market means returning to the labor laws of the 1850's! What makes it all worse is that we have been told that if we don't like it, then we will be immediately driven out and replaced by some other poor fool who will undoubtedly be trained less and paid less to do our jobs!

Workers will be injured by management's proposed changes to our contract. As an added insult, we are being called easily replaceable mindless "robots"! Well, if it is true that we have become robots, it can only be attributed to the management at AT&T. After all, we were formed by the mold which they themselves have forged.

Now is the time and we are all called into action. We must stand together through this latest pitiful Union-busting tactic.

Promises are the blowing of glittering bubbles;  
Performances are the molding and hammering  
Of iron. - Winston Churchill