

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

LOCAL NUMBER 134

600 WEST WASHINGTON BOULEVARD

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60661-2490



December 29, 1998

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In the same week a Republican Congress and Ken Starr conspired to overthrow a popular elected President of the United States, the U.S. Department of Labor and Brother Charlie Chathas conspired to overthrow a popular elected slate of IBEW, Local 134 officers. Neither of these immoral coup attempts will succeed, but we must now waste our time and our money defending the results of an election that was supervised by the U.S. Department of Labor.

*This time Brother Chathas has alleged employer contributions were used to promote the candidacy of several members in the Local 134 election of June, 1998. Brothers and Sisters, speaking for my people and my slate I can assure you the accusations are false and **NO** employer money was used to promote our candidacy. I know the rules frontwards, backwards and sideways - - there is **NO WAY** I would allow dirty money into my campaign. Every penny we spent on the election was raised from dues paying members of this local who wanted three more years of peace and prosperity.*

I've heard the rumor mill is working overtime, so I want to set everyone straight. First, I'm not going anywhere. I am still the Business Manager, and will continue to be the Business Manager as long as you re-elect me. Second, I will fight and beat these false charges just as I've fought and beaten every other attempt to smear me or our local union.

Well, you ask if there is nothing to the charges why were they brought? Good question and here's how I have answered it to the members who have called me. Just before Christmas I received a call from a member asking me to comment on the rumors about the Chathas complaint. I told her Charlie Chathas can not accept the fact a majority of the voting members of this local have rejected him, his followers and his ideas -- not once, but twice in the last four years. Brother Chathas is so deeply in denial, he sadly believes the last two elections were stolen from him.

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The first time he lost he said it was because employers voted. So the U.S. Department of Labor moved in, and using a list supplied by Chathas, revoked the voting privileges of 373 of our members. What happened? The Chathas crew was beaten worse. Now Chathas says the reason they lost was money. They didn't have any and the winners did, so it must have been contractor money. That's his case!

I'll keep you abreast of the legal wrangling, but I can tell you how it will end right now. The U.S. Department of Labor and Charlie Chathas will lose their case, because there is no case. With my integrity and the integrity of my administration on the line the U.S. Department of Labor will find out that we will resist fiercely all attempts to disenfranchise the members of Local 134, IBEW.

Fraternally,



*Michael Fitzgerald
Business Manager/Financial Secretary
MF/br*