

RESISTANCE TO TPP GROWS IN ALL CORNERS

A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL PRESIDENT JAMES P. HOFFA



Hundreds of Teamsters were joined in the streets of Atlanta in October by other fair trade advocates sticking up for everyday Americans who could be hurt by the implementation of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Unfortunately, the negotiators didn't take our advice.

Instead, officials from all 12 TPP countries involved in

the pact came together and attempted to declare victory for the deal. They praised all aspects of the pact, but were largely muted on what the costs would be for workers on both sides of the Pacific.

Protesters warned about the problems the Pacific Rim trade deal could bring to people around the world. Whether it's jobs being shipped overseas and wages being driven down in the U.S., medicine prices going

through the roof, unsafe food and products heading to our shores or a more toxic environment, that wasn't enough to sway TPP negotiators.

But demonstrators weren't alone in their concerns. For example, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), who helped push through fast track trade authority, said the TPP in its current form raised serious concerns. Even Ford Motor Company said the agreement would only worsen an already obscenely large U.S. trade deficit and that Capitol Hill lawmakers should reject it.

In short, this is a bad deal that should be rejected by Congress. As the Teamsters have stressed as part of its new Let's Get America Working campaign, businesses must invest at home, not abroad. And elected officials need to remember who they serve. Corporations aren't people too.

James P. Hoffa



WAREHOUSE News

James P. Hoffa, General President | Ken Hall, General Secretary-Treasurer | Steve Vairma, Division Director



Successful Fight Against Sysco-US Foods Merger Builds Solidarity & New Victories

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The two largest food service companies in the country probably didn't expect that their bid to merge into one distribution giant would unite its drivers and warehouse workers in a fight for job security and better working conditions. But that's exactly what happened at Sysco and US Foods.

Even after Sysco terminated its merger agreement with US foods in June, Teamsters and non-union workers nationwide continue to organize and fight for a better future at both companies.

The announcement that Sysco was dropping its acquisition of its biggest competitor followed a long campaign by Teamsters, customers

and other groups pushing back against the merger. With thousands of Teamster jobs at risk, the union organized to raise awareness and fight back. The decision to call off the merger is a critical step toward restoring labor relations and renewing customer confidence.

Sysco claimed a merger with US Foods would create \$600 million through consolidation of its distribution systems, creating widespread concern about job security and fostering solidarity among Sysco and US Foods workers.

"Our members understood from day one that workers, customers and everyday consumers would pay a heavy price if the top two companies

in the industry merged," said Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa.

Teamsters Warehouse Division Director Steve Vairma said that despite the failed merger, there will be challenges ahead as the companies refine their plans.

"The deal between Sysco and US Foods is severed, but the bond it created between the men and women who work in this industry can't be broken," said Vairma.

First Contract for Sysco Teamsters in Atlanta

Not long after the merger was called off, Teamsters Local 528 members, whose fight to win union representation lasted more than 18 months,

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WAREHOUSE TEAMSTERS FOCUSED ON ORGANIZING, PROTECTING JOBS

The power of our great union lies in the solidarity that exists between our members. Nowhere is this more true than in the warehouse industry, where Teamsters have come together to achieve some important victories over the course of this year.

After many months of mobilizing, raising awareness and holding nationwide actions, 12,000 Teamsters at the two largest food distribution companies received news that Sysco and US Foods were cancelling their merger plans.

The industry-wide implications of a Sysco-US Foods merger were clear to our brothers and sisters who faced the risk of lost jobs, seniority and other devastating consequences had the pairing of these companies been realized. Thanks to the action our members took along with consumers and other allied groups, we stopped a disastrous merger in its tracks.

But our work isn't done. The new bonds of solidarity created in the Sysco-US Foods merger fight will be needed as we forge better labor relations and standards at the two companies. It's already paid off for our brothers and sisters in Atlanta who won their first contract in September.

Our work goes well beyond the industry's top companies. After months of tough negotiations and a strike vote, Teamster warehouse members in Southern California who work for Ralphs, Vons and Albertsons have won a new contract that secures economic improvements for 2,000 members.

Minnesota Teamsters from Local 120 at a Supervalu distribution center also ratified a strong three-year contract after voting unanimously to strike. Along with these victories, much is at stake as we work to defend what we have gained for our members. Safeway Teamsters in Maryland are in the middle of a tense battle with the company to save 900 jobs. Our union is fighting back against anti-worker laws and attacks on collective bargaining.

Solidarity in organizing and defending the livelihoods of our members is the best way to beat back these attacks on working families – and that's exactly what Warehouse Division members are doing every day.



SUPERVALU TEAMSTERS APPROVE NEW CONTRACT

Averting Strike Action, Members Win Improved Pay, Benefits & Scheduling

Teamsters Local 120 warehouse members who work at Supervalu's distribution facility in Hopkins, Minn., voted by an overwhelming 8-to-1 margin in June to ratify a three-year contract. The 723 warehouse workers secured improved wages and working conditions, among other gains.

"This is a good contract. We did what we needed to do as a committee, developed a strategy with the International Union and our Local 120, and it worked out great," said Mike Irrgang, a 23-year Supervalu employee, chief shop steward and 42-year Teamster.

"The members made this happen. It was all about them showing unity, sticking together and staying focused on getting a good contract," said Tom Erickson, President of Local 120.

The contract includes wage increases in every year of the agreement, raising the premium hourly pay to over \$26 over the life of the agreement. Improved scheduling policies were also fought for and won in the new Supervalu contract, which brings down mandatory hours on holidays and provides relief from mandatory overtime on weekends.

"Congratulations to Local 120 and the committee for their hard work in reaching a strong agreement," said Steve Vairma, Director of the Teamsters Warehouse Division.

Strike Vote Sends Strong Message

The Supervalu agreement was reached after extensive negotiation sessions and a tremendous show of unity on the part of Local 120 members. In May, the workers voted 468-0 to authorize a strike. A work stoppage could have impacted dozens of Supervalu retail locations and hundreds of grocery distribution clients in the region, including Cub Foods, Coborn's and Lunds & Byerlys.

In the lead up to the strike vote, the company was insisting on a two-tier contract system with no wage increases, no health care benefits and gutted seniority protections. As Local 120 said at the time, the strike authorization was "a rebuke to the company" and a firm rejection of its concessionary demands during bargaining.

"The strike vote was a unanimous demonstration by our members that they were sticking together and acting as one," said Erickson, who says it was the firm support for a walkout that essentially wrote the final contract.

Wages, Pensions and Health Care Benefits Improved



Teamsters Ratify New Contract at Ralphs, Vons and Albertsons

A majority of Teamsters working as drivers, warehouse workers and in dairy and manufacturing at grocery companies Ralphs, Vons and Albertsons in Southern California have ratified a new five-year agreement. The contract raises work standards and compensation for the more than 2,000 employees represented by Teamster locals throughout the region.

"Our members voted to ratify this new agreement because it improves

wages, health care benefits and retirement security," said Rick Middleton, Teamsters International Vice President and chief negotiator. "We bargained for several months with the companies to reach terms that included improvements that our members would want. All the planning and time involved with bargaining was well worth it."

On Oct. 7, a tentative agreement was reached with the grocery companies after three months of negoti-

ations. In September, members voted overwhelmingly to strike after the contract expired.

"It was a challenging process, but we were able to hash out an agreement to raise work standards and compensation for all of our members at Ralphs, Vons and Albertsons," Middleton added.

"Teamster local unions across the state have represented employees of Vons, Ralphs and Albertson's for many years and they take pride in being essential to the delivery of consumer goods for the benefit of working families," said Steve Vairma, International Vice President and Director of the Teamsters Warehouse Division.

Solidarity and Security

Teamster members received solidarity from the broader labor movement in Southern California ahead of the ratification vote, which took place Oct. 16-18.

"On behalf of the L.A. labor movement, we stand with all workers covered by the contract between Teamsters and the three grocery companies," said Rusty Hicks, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO.

"We are proud that our members at Vons, Ralphs and Albertsons will continue to have the security of a union contract," said Vairma.

SYSKO-US FOODS UNITED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ratified a first contract. The agreement secured strong union protections for more than 400 workers at Sysco's Atlanta facility.

"It was an uphill struggle, but these workers stood together through it all to negotiate a strong first contract that will protect them for years to come," said Maurice Cobb, Teamsters Local 528 President.

The three-and-a-half year contract provides

economic gains, job security, seniority, job bidding and protection from wrongful discipline or termination.

"We're now moving into a new relationship with Sysco not only in Atlanta, but across the country," said Vairma. "We want to show Sysco that it's in everyone's best interest to work together to make working families and this company stronger. Atlanta is a perfect place to begin."