

**REPORT OF THE
TRANSPORTATION COMMUNICATIONS UNION
BY NATIONAL PRESIDENT ROBERT A.
SCARDELLETTI**

Thank you Tom

**Greetings to all delegates and guests special
thanks to our Canadian Territory for the great job
they are doing for all of us hosting this historic
convention of our great union.**

I have made a comprehensive report on the activities of TCU in the Official Convention Report of Officers.

I want to use this opportunity to give you some further insight about us.

Yesterday Tom gave you a bio on me I'd Like to add just a few additions which I feel are important for you to know.

I have served as an Executive Board Member of the International Transport Workers' Federation ITF since 1994 a global organization of transportation

unions.

I am also Chairman of the Cooperating Railway Labor Organizations (CRLO) an organization that oversees the railroad national health plan.

One of the largest if not the largest private insurance plan in the U.S. covering over 400 thousand participants at a yearly premium of over \$2 billion dollars.

I have been elected by all of rail labor 12 unions to serve as Chairman of the CRLO since 2001.

Ok that's it on the bio.

Like the IAM we were founded in the railroad industry in the 1800's making us among the first within the labor movement playing a major role building this country almost every city was a railroad stop.

Through the years a half dozen unions have merged with us one example which we are very proud of is the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters founded by a champion of the Civil Rights Movement A. Philip Randolph.

While primarily a railroad union we also have several thousand members outside the rail industry.

Brothers and sisters I am so proud to lead all of our 50,000 members into the Machinists Union the

strongest most courageous union in the labor movement.

For TCU this is historic our first convention more than 100 delegates representing our commitment to the IAM.

While this may be our first convention we have stood tall as Machinists from day one of our affiliation.

There is no question TCU and the IAM are stronger as a result of our historic merger stronger in the Labor Movement stronger on Capitol Hill and stronger at the bargaining table.

We have forged strong bonds of trust in every arena.

We have successfully bargained together on Amtrak commuter railroads and with the nation's freight railroads achieving historic wage and benefit gains for our members.

We have lobbied together on every important issue confronting us in Washington.

We have mobilized together whether it be \$5.00 for the Fight or MNPL.

TCU members have proudly walked the picket lines with our brothers and sisters at Lockheed and Caterpillar.

And because we believe that your fight is our

fight we have made substantial contributions to the strike funds of those locals it is our honor to be in solidarity with those brave brothers and sisters who as union members answered the highest calling that can be placed upon them total economic sacrifice engaging in a strike against their employer for justice and dignity for them for future generations and for all of us.

They put it all on the line and I know they hoped for a better outcome.

But let me say we are all so very proud of each one of them.

Brothers and sisters some day those company bastards will get their due.

To all Union Members throughout North America who put it all on the line Thank you and God bless each and every one of you.

POLITICS

And like our brothers and sisters at Lockheed Caterpillar and elsewhere we now ALL face another historic challenge.

The elections this November pose the greatest risk to the labor movement I have ever seen.

Make no mistake about it if the Republicans win the Presidency and both houses of Congress we will

see an unprecedented all-out assault on every labor law that protects workers and we will have no one to stop them.

Mitt Romney has made it crystal clear one of his top priorities is to break the back of this union and of ALL organized Labor.

I guarantee you every regulation that favors workers will be thrown out the window in the first 100 days of a Romney administration.

Romney will appoint his corporate cronies to every government agency people who hate and despise the labor movement and everything we stand for.

The Department of Labor will be stacked with right-wing anti-union fanatics who will devote their full powers to harassing intimidating and weakening unions so that the wheels of corporate America can

roll over us.

He has called Obama's appointments to the NLRB "labor stooges".

He blasted their decision to block Boeing's union-busting tactic of moving production of its Dreamliner from Washington State to South Carolina.

Romney said "I've taken on union bosses before and I'm happy to take them on again."

He has applauded the attack on collective bargaining rights of union members in Wisconsin

Ohio Indiana and other states.

But he's not satisfied with a state by state attack.

Romney wants National Union Busting legislation.

One reason he picked Paul Ryan to be his running mate is that Ryan is a leader in the radical anti-worker agenda of Congressional Republicans.

Ryan and his Tea Party cronies have introduced legislation to undo every labor law that protects workers and to slash funding for Amtrak and commuter railroads.

Not to be outdone Romney has taken it a step further he has vowed to end Amtrak and with it 18,000 good union jobs.

And now the attack on labor laws and the ending of Amtrak is officially a part of the Republican

Platform.

Romney has totally embraced the Ryan Budget he calls Ryan's severe cuts in Railroad Retirement Medicare and Social Security “marvelous”.

I call it shameful.

Railroad Retirement by law is funded 100% by the

employers and employees.

It is the legislative result of hard bargaining between rail labor and rail management.

Cong. Ryan sees reducing our hard earned benefits as a way to claim a deficit reduction on the backs of rail workers.

As to Medicare there is no question a Romney Ryan administration will destroy Medicare.

Just the thought of cutting our medical benefits in retirement is horrifying.

One trip to the hospital and you could owe thousands.

And Social Security right now the retirement age is 66 and 67.

They want to take it even further who knows how high.

Do our members want to work to age 69 or 70?

Of course not.

They deserve a retirement with dignity.

**Remember President Bush advocating a 401(k)
plan to replace Social Security?**

**He was supporting the bill written by
Congressman Ryan to privatize Social Security.**

They want you to rely on the ups and downs of the stock market.

You could end up with nothing.

And let's not forget Senator John McCain running for President advocating the end of Social Security?

He proudly stated and I quote

“It’s a disgrace that we pay Social Security taxes for America’s retirees.” He said “It’s a Ponzi

scheme.”

Comparing the lifeline that Social Security provides to millions of Americans to a crooked illegal criminal scheme is not only untrue but also disgraceful.

And Romney is no better.

He calls Social Security a “fraud” “out of control” “a terrible burden”.

**Brothers and sisters it is the goal of the
Republican Party to end Social Security.**

**Railroad Retirement Medicare Social Security
are benefits that WE fought for.**

**They are the benefits that will ensure our ability
to live with dignity and respect in our retirement
years.**

**And brothers and sisters without those benefits
the retirement years for millions of working class**

Americans will be a living hell.

Believe me when I tell you we are truly at a crossroads and our very existence hangs in the balance.

I know we have experienced disappointments during the last four years.

Yes there were times we felt slighted we all know that.

But remember this we got the Presidential

appointments that have helped us.

It was Obama's appointments to the NMB that gave us the PEB that recommended the best contract in the U.S. bar none for rail workers.

It is Obama's DOL under Hilda Solis who is enforcing OSHA Regulations and has fined companies millions of dollars.

And it was Obama's appointment to the NLRB that gave us the historic Boeing Decision.

Brothers and sisters a Romney administration will wage war on our labor movement like no one has ever before seen.

They will destroy the middle class that we have built.

We cannot let that happen.

CONCLUSION

Brothers and sisters I am proud and honored to call Tom Buffenbarger Robert Roach and my Transportation Partner Vice General President Sito Pantoja (Pan-toe-hah) and each other member of the Executive Council my friends as well as many of you.

I am proud to be a part of this great union.

In closing let me sum it all up as I see it and as I believe it I love our labor movement.

I have devoted my life to the work of the union.

And I am so very proud of the accomplishments made by all of us.

Brothers and sisters years ago when I began working nights in the Cleveland rail yards I learned quickly that I could not rely on the company.

We are merely a means to their profit to be discarded at their whim.

I believed then as I do now that it is the union that gives us the strength to live with dignity and respect on and off the job .

Everything we have on the job comes from the union much of what we have at home comes from our paycheck a product of the union contract.

Without the union the company would slash our wages and benefits to rock bottom.

You have never heard a company say we're making enough money let's give some to the employees and you never will.

Corporate greed will grind you into poverty.

I know how tough your job is every day on the front-line at the work-site. I was there I walked in your shoes.

The union is the last line of defense.

Brothers and sisters I salute you.

**Every day you lift up the great North American
worker.**

**You are the guardians of a safe and decent
livelihood.**

You ARE the union.

**God bless you and God bless each of our great
countries Canada and the United States!**