

IAM

February 5, 2010
Northwest Airlines

#10-04

Air Transport District 143 ✈

Flashpoint

COMMITMENT OR CONTRACT

District 143 has been made aware that Delta Air Lines CEO Richard Anderson has committed to "pay raises" for U.S.-based frontline, non-contract employees effective October 1, 2010. Everyone should question—why not now?

First of all, they are not "pay raises"; more likely they are giving back a fraction of what they have taken from their employees years ago. Secondly, it is very ironic that Mr. Anderson waited to make this announcement as soon as the first IAM representation election (Simulator Technicians) begins with the mere hope of influencing pre-merger Delta and pre-merger Northwest voters throughout their election.

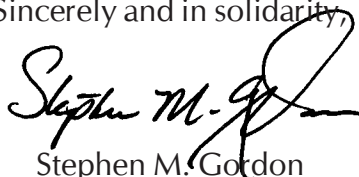
You see, this is nothing new for Delta Air Lines employees. During a previous organizing drive in 1999, Delta Air Lines made similar commitments to their "non-contract" employees a few weeks prior to a representation filing, all in the hope that they could stave off a union representation drive—and it worked for Delta management. But a few years later, Delta Air Lines arbitrarily took whatever they wanted from them—without any say from their employees because they did not have a union to negotiate for them.

Furthermore, in their effort to divide and conquer, Delta Air Lines feels compelled to refuse pre-merger Northwest employees the same increases. They would like you to believe that because of our collective bargaining agreements they cannot give you an increase. This is simply not true. Both District 143 in the past and the Grand Lodge recently have sent letters to Mr. Anderson reminding him that there is **NOTHING** in our agreements that would prohibit him from providing increases to **ALL** Delta Air Lines employees—contract and non-contract.

If Mr. Anderson were truly "committed" to pay increases for Delta employees, then I say—give it to them now; why wait until October? I can assure you, however, Delta Air Lines is not looking to be "industry standard," and we should not settle for anything other than "industry leading." After all, we are now the largest airline in the world!

Remember, there is a big difference between the word "commitment" versus "contract."

Sincerely and in solidarity,



Stephen M. Gordon
President/Directing General Chair



10-004

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