

# The Facts **Strikes**

# About the Teamsters

At some point during our campaign to win a union, the employer will talk about how voting for the union equals going on strike. Why? Because the employer wants to distract us from the real issues of winning better wages, benefits and working conditions — of winning a better future for ourselves and our families.

It's a phony issue and employers know it. But that won't stop them from using it as part of their campaign to scare us.

Here are the facts:

- ▷ **Better than 96% of all Teamster contracts are settled without strikes.** When working men and women stand organized and united, employers are more likely to come to agreement without a strike.
- ▷ **Last year, hundreds of thousands of union contracts were negotiated in the United States — with very, very few strikes.** The media, like the employers, give big headlines to strikes, but the truth is they rarely happen.
- ▷ **Strikes are used only as a last resort in all contract negotiations.** There are many ways to persuade and put pressure on employers without striking. Workers most often achieve successful results without ever even thinking about striking.
- ▷ **Before any strike can happen, a majority of the workers must vote to strike.** If we don't want a strike, there won't be one.
- ▷ **Usually, an employer will make every effort to avoid a strike.** Strikes hurt employers. Most employers don't want to take the risk that a strike will disrupt production or distribution. Customers may go elsewhere — and perhaps never return. Employers need productive, satisfied workers. Employers want to protect their investment, not put it in jeopardy.

In the very rare situation when Teamsters decide to strike, they are not alone. They receive support from the International Union and from other unions.

Don't let the bosses distract us. Strikes are not the issue. Winning the pay, benefits, working conditions and respect we deserve are the real issues.

