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Company Pays No Taxes 2015

Here is an article someone sent me about the 27 profitable companies that did not pay any income taxes for 2015. Guess who's on that list? Yep, United Airlines.

Here's an excerpt from that article:

Years of deep losses have turned into good news for airlines at tax time. Take United Continental, which reported a \$3.2 billion income tax credit in 2015 despite reporting earnings before taxes of \$4.2 billion. Accounting rules allow the airline to offset taxes due with valuation allowances resulting from losses in past years. During 2015, these allowances amounted to \$4.7 billion which erased the company's \$1.5 billion tax bill based on its normal corporate tax rate.

\$3.2b income tax credit and their last and final offer to us was lowball to say the least. It was an insult and an industry leading contract would be a drop in the bucket compared to their tax credit above.

Here's the link to the news article:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/markets/2016/03/07/27-giant-profitable-companies-paid-no-taxes/81399094/>

Ancillary Fees

Staying on subject many are not aware that airline ancillary fees such as baggage fees are non taxable. In other words, airlines pay no taxes to the government for ancillary fees. In 2014 UAL collected \$5.8b in fees. I have not seen the report for 2015 but I expect it to be even higher. Most of these fees are again tax free.

So what's the company's excuse for not negotiating a industry leading contract? They want to remain competitive. They want to appease their share holders. Well my friends, the next time they want to blame it on the share holders perhaps you should ask those UAL Executives how many share do they own? Seems like a greed issue to me.

Trust

One of the biggest obstacles in our relationship with the IBT is trust. The trust factor started to deteriorate for me two weeks after we became Teamsters when our Business Agent came and visited us at work and a fellow mechanic asked him if they are going to keep all those promises they made when campaigning for us? The BA's exact response was, "that would be unrealistic." Uh oh!!

Now fast forward to these negotiations. We have been in constant negotiations for almost 8 years now. 8 years! Now the trust factor has been totally thrown out the window. This union asks us to trust them. To show solidarity for them. I'm sorry people, this union has done nothing but take care of themselves and we are only secondary.

Example? One word Teamcare. Emails from Bourne stating if this membership doesn't want Teamcare then it will not be in the next proposal but now we hear they are going to repackage it and resale it. Trust? We don't have any trust. Not for this union and not for its latest efforts to influence these negotiations.

Solidarity? Oh we have solidarity no thanks to the IBT. Through our own communication networks we seeked out and found the truth. IBT propaganda no longer works here. We have learned over the last 8 years what the IBT is truly about. I will give the AD some credit. Through this circus of negotiations we have found solidarity among ourselves. We have officially come together as one group. SCAL and SUAL are truly UNITED and stronger. Now we just need a union willing to work with its membership and not against.

Teamcare...again

I find it interesting that with all the emails going back and forth to and from the AD by our fellow workers the AD says one thing but does another. David Bourne stating if we don't want Teamcare then Teamcare will not be in the proposal but meanwhile they keep trying to sell Teamcare to this membership. Note this Teamcare website: <https://myteamcare.org/united/> This site was turned on long before the tally. Fact is the AD wanted and expected this proposal to pass. Fact is my friends, Teamcare will not go away unless this union goes away. ALTA