

Other Labor  
Organizations Series

International Fur  
Workers' Union

1937

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INTERNATIONAL  
**FUR WORKERS' UNION**

OF UNITED STATES AND CANADA

AFFILIATED WITH A. F. OF L.

9 JACKSON AVENUE

TELEPHONE, IRONSIDES <sup>6-8306</sup>  
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LONG ISLAND CITY, N. Y., February 3rd, 1937

Mr. Daniel Tobin, President  
International Teamsters Union  
222 East Michigan Street  
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Sir & Brother:

I have received your letter in reply  
to my communication of January 29th, and wish to thank you  
for the promptness in answering it.

With reference to the additional in-  
formation that you request relating to the matter discussed  
in my communication, I desire to state the following:

In the larger shops which employ about forty  
of these chauffeurs and helpers, half of their time  
is spent working inside of the plant performing  
various tasks. The balance of the time they spend  
hauling the furs from the dealers and manufacturers  
to the dressing and dyeing plants and back.

Approximately fifty chauffeurs and helpers  
are employed in smaller shops of which there are a  
majority in the industry. These workers, because  
of the fact, that their shops are small and there  
is less trucking to be done, devote most of their  
time inside of the plants.

Trusting that this information will  
shed more light on the subject, which will enable to guide  
you in your decision and assuring you of our cooperation  
in the future, I am,

Fraternally yours,

*Pietro Lucchi*  
General President-Secretary

BS-AU  
12646

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Washington Hotel  
Washington, D.C.  
February 10, 1937

Mr. Pietro Lucchi, General President-Secretary  
International Fur Workers' Union  
9 Jackson Avenue  
Long Island City, New York

Dear Brother Lucchi:

Your letter of February 3 was received by me here in the hotel yesterday, February 9, 1937, and I have submitted the contents of the letter to our General Executive Board. I am hastening to reply to your letter, and I will endeavor to explain to you the position of our Board.

Some of our representatives from New York claim that those men who are driving trucks, whom you state work a good deal of their time inside the plant, are actually working on trucks more than two-thirds of their time, and some others work exclusively on the trucks, except to carry in or carry out their loads. The standing agreement we have with other organizations where the work of truck drivers is divided is as follows: whatever employment an individual is engaged in for 51% of his time, he shall hold membership in that organization.

Let me explain further. For instance, in a grocery store, where the Retail Clerks claim jurisdiction, sometimes the driver goes into the store to put up orders, and then delivers and takes orders from customers on the outside on a truck. If the individual is working putting up packages, cutting meats, or in any other way within the store for 51% of his time, we agree that he belongs to the Retail Clerks International Union. There are only a very few instances of this kind.

If, on the other hand, the driver is working more than 50% of his time on the road taking orders from jobbers or wholesalers and delivering orders on the truck, even though he works some of his time inside the store, he must be a member of the International

Mr. Pietro Lucchi

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February 10, 1937

Brotherhood of Teamsters and Chauffeurs in the district.

In the case of the men hauling furs, as stated in your letter, our board agrees to the following: that for the present time you admit those people into your organization and do what you can for them and we shall not interfere, but we ask you to agree to turn them over to us whenever it becomes necessary for the protection of our other drivers to have them part of our organization. Our reason for doing this is that you fully understand we cannot surrender jurisdiction over any class of drivers.

My judgment is that if you will pursue this course as suggested here, we will have no serious misunderstanding for some time to come, and I am satisfied that if any question would arise that you and I, or your associates and my associates or successors, will be able to straighten the matter out satisfactorily to all concerned. This is as far as we can go on relinquishing jurisdiction of this class of workers.

Fraternally yours,

DJT:B

Daniel J. Tobin  
General President