

President's Report (April)

Brothers and Sisters,

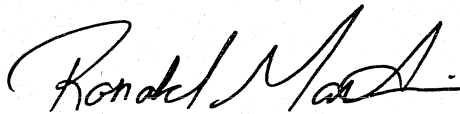
We are well aware of the message that the USPS has been pushing through the media these past few months. The message that 5 day delivery is a "must". The message that more and more cuts to the "workforce" is necessary. The messages that "part-time" career employees are the way to go. The USPS is disseminating these messages because they claim they are in a financial crisis. The Postmaster General has stated that the USPS will lose \$238 billion by 2020.

I bring these messages forward today to let you know...it's all bullshit. That's right I said bullshit. I recently watched the Postmaster General's testimony in front of Congress, which is available on the APWU.org home page. The Postmaster testified along with the head of the GAO during the first session on Thursday. During this nearly 2-hour testimony I learned a few things. The first is that the USPS can not ...I repeat can not lose \$238 billion over the next 10 years. Why, Might you ask? The law will not let this happen. Under current law, which is not going to change only allows the USPS to lose no more than \$15 billion per year. So if the USPS and congress do absolutely nothing over the next 10 years then the most they can lose is \$150 billion. The Postmaster General stated in his testimony that he already has a plan to reduce costs by another \$123 billion over the next 10 years. This can be done without Congresses approval. So, if the USPS and congress do absolutely nothing over the next 10 years the USPS will be approximately \$27 billion in the red, ~~not the \$238 billion management continues to spew out to the public.~~

This \$238 billion figure is nothing more that a scare tactic. It is being used to trick the public into believing 5-day delivery is needed. It is also a scare tactic being used for contract negotiations. The USPS tried this in 1976 where they claimed losses and cried and begged for 5-day delivery. It did not happen then and it's not going to happen now. After watching this testimony my opinion has completely changed. Do I believe the USPS is losing money? Yes I do. But not at the rate they claim. Do I believe the USPS needs some re-tooling? Yes I do. But cutting more and more jobs is not the answer. I think you know what my opinion is. Get rid of the dead weight in Washington! They have no concept on how to run any

organization. They are why we are losing money. They have no initiative to solve the problems we currently face All they want to do is cut, cut, and cut. Those cuts are our jobs my brothers and sisters. This ties into the USPS motto "do more with less". I strongly believe that after watching the testimony that congress is not going to let them get 5-day delivery. In fact, nearly all the representatives stated so to the Postmaster General. I encourage you all to watch this testimony. Also of importance during this testimony was the testimony from Ruth Goldwin, chairperson for the Postal Regulatory Commission, which over sees the USPS. She was emphatic that the USPS has shown no initiative in trying to solve the current problems we face concerning first class mail volumes. I ask my brothers and sisters to watch this testimony...it's worth it!

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald Mathieu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping tail.

Ronald Mathieu, President