## International Brotherhood of Flectrical Morkers

RAY EDWARDS, INTERNATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT
Eleventh District — Missouri, Iowa
Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota



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September 23, 1994

TO: ALL UNION MEMBERS

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Mr. Frank Possinger, Business Manager Local Union 1974, IBEW 13306 Stevens St. Omaha, NE 68137

Dear Sir and Brother:

On November 8, 1994, less than 35 days from the time you receive this letter, the American people will be going to the polls to make decisions which will effect all our futures as members of the Labor community.

I realize the frustration with the imperfections of our political system. Members constantly remind me that politics are nasty, aggravating, disgusting, dirty, underhanded and many more negative descriptions. While some of this is true, the system we have is ours and we <u>must</u>, despite its imperfections, work within it if the interests of working men and women are to get the attention they so richly deserve.

If we do not actively seek the election of our endorsed candidates, who will? If we are not successful, it may be the last opportunity for unionism to begin to turn around its decline and help the vast majority of Americans who work hard for a better future.

Therefore, I am again asking you to do the following five things on a priority basis between now and November 8, 1994.

- (1) Between the day you receive this letter and thirty days prior to the election, register all the members and families. You can consult your State or Central Body on the method of registration, but let's register everyone. IF YOU HAVE MOVED WITHIN THE PAST YEAR, YOU MUST RE-REGISTER. PLEASE GO (IN PERSON) TO ANY OF OUR BRANCH LIBRARIES OR THE MOTOR VEHICLE BUREAU BY OCTOBER 28TH.
  - (2) If you have not made your 1994 COPE contribution, DO SO IMMEDIATELY by forwarding to the International Secretary's Office. Our endorsed candidates need COPE money now.

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If you have voluntary dollars available and want to help, it is permissible to have the membership vote to contribute dues money from Local Union Treasury to IBEW-COPE as long as you notify the COPE office that it is treasury money. This money can be used for Local and State candidates, information, education, training of our members in COPE activities.

- (3) Between now and November 8 by telephone, letter, newsletter, bulletin board, meetings, social functions, inform your members of endorsed candidates and give reasons for our support.
- (4) Solicit volunteers to work with all the Local Union's political activities as well as assist your local Central Body and State AFL-CIO in any political activity that will promote our endorsed candidates.
- See that all your members and families get to the polls on election day, November 8. All our efforts mean nothing if we do not vote. Telephone reminders and discussions on the job sites urging them to vote are vital to our success.

The beginning of a better more secure future starts on November 8, 1994. Not all our problems will be solved immediately, but we can make a start on improving our standard of living with job security and dignity. We do not want to look back on November 9 and wish we had done more, but we want to be proud of the part we had in a victory for a new beginning of government for the people, not government by the rich, of the rich and for the rich and powerful.

Let's put forth our best effort and do everything we can to win November .

Fraternally,

Ray Edwards

International Vice President

Eleventh District, IBEW

RE: js

cc: Int'l Reprs.