

*An Open Letter from the Steel Companies Coordinating Committee  
to the President of the Steelworkers Union*

# Dear Mr. McDonald: It's time for you to stop trying to mislead the public

Ever since negotiations began, you have been trying to mislead the public about the real issues in the wage negotiations you are carrying on with us

Your weekly advertising distorts facts and tries to sidestep the job we have to do. Despite what you have been saying in print:

**YOU KNOW** that the public, as well as your own membership, is greatly worried over inflation and the high cost of living and does not want the outcome of these negotiations to make inflation worse.

**YOU KNOW** that inflation is not "a fictitious monster created by the American steel industry," the label you applied to it at a recent press conference.

**YOU KNOW** that the dollar today is worth only 48 cents, compared with 1940, because of the inflation which you pretend is not a problem to anybody.

**YOU KNOW** that the basic issue before us is steel wages and other employment costs—and what will happen next to people's dollars if wage-push inflation continues to spread.

**YOU KNOW** that steelworkers are already earning an average wage of \$3.03 per hour, and that the cost of the employee benefits paid by the companies comes to 57 cents per hour more—making a total of \$3.60.

**YOU KNOW** that the steelworkers' average wage and benefits are already higher than those of almost all other workers—and that their advantage has increased greatly in recent years. In wages alone, average hourly earnings in steel are now 84 cents per hour above the average for all manufacturing.

**YOU KNOW** that steel wages and benefits have increased much faster than the cost of living.

**YOU KNOW** that the 288 percent increase in hourly steel employment costs since 1940 has been nearly ten times the 30 percent increase in shipments per man-hour.

**YOU KNOW** that the 30 percent increase in shipments per man-hour results largely from about 12 billions of dollars spent by steel companies from 1946 through 1958 in modernizing their plants and equipment. Certainly the investors are entitled to an additional return on additional investment.

**YOU KNOW** that steel profits—far from being "fantastic," as you have been telling the public—have been on a declining scale since 1950.

**YOU KNOW** that profits vary with the amount of business, and that when business and profits go up, steelworkers are better off.

**YOU KNOW** that profits are essential to provide new and improved tools of production—hence maintain and provide jobs for steelworkers—and to pay stockholders for the use of their money.

**YOU KNOW** that U.S. Department of Commerce reports show that since December 1958—for the first time in modern history—imports of foreign-made steel are greater than the amount exported (your latest advertisement implies just the opposite).

**YOU KNOW** that there is already less work for many members of your union because American steel with its high wage costs cannot compete with low-cost foreign steel.

**NOW-- how do we know that you know these things? Here are three good reasons:**

1. Every one of the above facts and figures is a matter of public record.
2. In your own union convention last fall, members of your organization publicly boasted, "We have the highest industrial wages in America."
3. An official report at that same convention stated that approximately one-seventh of your members owe their jobs to exports of metal and metal products.

We say to you—the use of invalid comparisons and other distortions of fact to produce misleading impressions will only make it harder for both sides to do our job as responsible citizens. Our job is to reach an agreement in the best interest of all concerned—an agreement that will help to curb inflation and help make more jobs.

That is why we have proposed continuing the present high level of wages and employee benefits, without change, for another year.

**THE STEEL COMPANIES COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
375 Lexington Avenue • New York 17, N. Y.

Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corporation • Armco Steel Corporation • Bethlehem Steel Company • The Colorado Fuel & Iron Corporation • Great Lakes Steel Corporation • Inland Steel Company • Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation • Kaiser Steel Corporation • Republic Steel Corporation • United States Steel Corporation • Wheeling Steel Corporation • The Youngstown Sheet & Tube Company

## Epilepsy Advice Wins Award for Columnist

Columnist Ann Landers has been cited by the National Epilepsy League for the best writing on epilepsy by a non-medical writer last year.

The citation further mentions her understanding of the medical and social problems of epilepsy.

Here is the column which won the award:

DEAR ANN: I'm a heartbroken girl who needs help immediately. The young man I want to marry has epilepsy. He told me about it several months ago. I was shocked because I'd never known anyone with epilepsy and it seemed like a terrible thing. I understand it better now and want to marry him, regardless. We are deeply in love.

Since we plan to announce our engagement next month, he insisted I tell my parents. Mother went completely to pieces. She said our children might be feeble-minded. She warned me I'd be miserable if I married a man whose mind might snap suddenly.

My father begged me to give him up. He claims we will always be in financial difficulties because an epileptic who has a fit on the job would be fired and no one would hire him after that. Right now I feel as if I've been hit by a 10-ton truck. Help me—MOLLY.

Dear Molly: Your parents are fearful because they are not informed. If they knew more about epilepsy they wouldn't be so terrified. Unfortunately, all states do not permit persons with his illness to marry. However, such ignorant and archaic legislation is losing out to an enlightened approach.

Epilepsy as such, is not inheritable. A tendency toward seizures may "run in a family," but no more so than a tendency toward tuberculosis, cancer or diabetes.

There's no connection between epilepsy and feeble-mindedness. Some of the world's great geniuses were epileptics—Socrates, Julius Caesar, Napoleon, Dostoevski and Van Gough, to name a few.

It is true that your fiance may have trouble holding a job, but not because of his illness—only because some employers are still living in the dark ages. Epileptics don't have a higher accident rate than other workers and their absentee record is not worse. If you love this boy, go ahead and marry him.

## Torrance Tot Born Without Arm Making Good Progress

Use of artificial limbs and given as much counseling as prosthetic devices is recommended as early as one year of age for children who are amputees as a result of birth defects, according to specialists at Orthopaedic Hospital.

Artificial legs are usually fitted as soon as babies show evidences of wanting to walk, usually when they are from nine to 15 months of age. With this early adjustment to their handicap, specialists find, they learn almost as quickly as do normal children the problems of gait and balance.

PROSTHETIC devices to replace arms generally are prescribed when the patient is a year old. Teaching the child, usually with toys, to open and close the device by using the shoulder muscles is a long and painstaking project.

At Orthopaedic Hospital, parents of such patients are

the children, for much of their adjustment and training is made in the home. The prosthetic device is referred to as child's "toy" for easier identification and more pleasant association.

MAKING rapid progress in adjustment is 3-year-old Joni Duncan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Duncan of 4643 Halison Ave., born without her left arm.

Her favorite plaything is a tricycle which she steers by hooking her "toy" through a ring on the handlebars.

Joni is one of 70,000 handicapped children helped at Orthopaedic Hospital regardless of race, creed or ability to pay. To continue such care, officials are seeking funds to complete a new \$6,500,000 orthopaedic center.



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L. E. VINSON, Div. Pass. Agent  
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