

277
April 26, 1951

Mr. James Hoffa,
2741 Trumbull Ave.,
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Sir and Brother:

Enclosed find copy of a letter received in this office this morning signed by Woodford Emms, 6543 Woodrow Avenue, which is self-explanatory.

Of course, you realize this is a ticklish question and I would appreciate your advising me in case this matter is brought to the Governmental Agencies.

Fraternally yours,

TEF/mvc
Encl:

ACTING FOR DANIEL J. TOBIN
GENERAL PRESIDENT

Woodford Ennis
6543 Woodrow Ave
Detroit, Mich.

International Brotherhood of Teamsters,

Dear Sir:

I have been instructed to write you to see if you could throw some light on the activity and the policy of local 299 of Detroit, Mich. the discriminatory practice against colored over-the-road drivers, which they exclude from their local.

We like any other race have to measure up to or comply to all demands of society and our government, there are no exemptions made for us because we happen to be of the darker race and of a minority group, so, I can't understand why we can't be given the same chance in earning a living as we are given in helping to bear the national burden.

Our Democratic way of life is supposed to be to give each and every man an equal chance to earn his living as long as he qualifies for the job he is seeking, but not so with Local 299 here in Detroit. I'm speaking from experience as Mr. Milton Lloyd and I were told that we could not operate in and out of Michigan even though employed and had been for six months and our equipment was also registered and licensed here in the state and carried M.C.S.P. plates. We were employed by the Scarpan Frt. Lines at 14900 West Warren, Dearborn, Mich and the union refused to let our employers renew our lease Jan. 1st 1951, the union also refused us membership as over-the-road drivers but tried to get us to work for the Texas Cartage Co. which only does city work and of course they could not use equipment as large as ours, so we are now forced to seek employment, outside the state. As I understand it the union is supposed to govern its membership and not free enterprise, something that the public contributes to. Now I'm sorry if I sound a little harsh but it very known that Local 299 controls and dictates to several Frt. Companies here in Detroit, which was the case with Scarpan Frt. Lines and have proof to that effect.

We have also been told by several companies that they would be glad to hire us if the Union would permit, so it seems as if the union is dictating and at the same time discriminating.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
OF TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS,
WAREHOUSEMEN AND HELPERS

OFFICE OF
THOMAS E. FLYNN
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE
PRESIDENT

222 E. MICHIGAN ST.
INDIANAPOLIS 4, IND.

Can't something be done so that we can have a chance to earn
a living without being forced to leave our state to do it.
Would appreciate an answer or advice.

Yours truly,

Woodford Ennis.

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE
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Wesley Ennis
6543 Wessell Ave
Detroit, Mich

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Worford Eunis