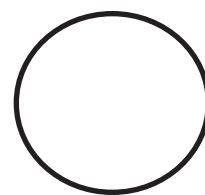


NEWSREEL

OCTOBER

2007



TEAMSTERS LOCAL 399 • SECRETARY-TREASURER LEO T. REED



Leo Reed Re-Elected



**Fighting Foreign Subsidies:
The Battle Continues**



Special Report

How You Can Help Stop Canadian Subsidies

By Leo T. Reed

I know that we are busy right now. I am also aware that in September the Canadian dollar has reached parity with the U.S. dollar and is continuing to rise. It continues to rise. However, don't let this deceive you. Because of illegal subsidies Canada is still taking our jobs. In this issue you'll learn more about a serious problem facing our members, one that threatens the job security of American workers in the entertainment industry.

You'll also learn what Teamsters Local 399 is doing to protect our members' jobs. And how you can help.

As many of you know, more and more television shows and film are being produced in foreign

**PICK UP PHOTO
FROM
PREVIOUS
ISSUE**

countries. The majority of these "runaway" productions are being made in Canada, thanks to the massive subsidies the Canadian government provides to U.S. film producers.

These subsidies harm the U.S. film industry, they steal jobs from Americans, and more importantly, they threaten the job security of our members.

There should be no mistake about what is really happening here: Canada is bribing U.S. film producers to move U.S. film jobs to Canada. And some producers are accepting these bribes, leaving American workers behind.

This is not a new threat and Local 399 is not new to the fight. In the past we've taken Teamsters to Sacramento to rally at the Capitol and we've shut down an outsourcing seminar in Century City.

We've also been busy this summer, fighting to level the playing field. And because this issue affects tens of thousands of workers across the country, we're not alone in the fight.

Here's what we've been up to:

- Local 399 joined a coalition of workers, small businesses and municipalities to file a petition to level the playing field for our members

- Local 399 gave \$100,000 to help pay for legal fees to get the petition filed

You can help protect your job by writing a letter to your Congressional representative—we have a sample letter inside this publication (see page 5).

This is a fight between the hard-working men and women in the entertainment industry, and the film producers who are being enriched by the unfair subsidies.

This is a fight between the "below-the-line" film workers (like cinematographers, special effects experts, casting directors, set designers, truck drivers) and the executives who are happy to fill their jobs when they get north of the border.

It is vital that we show our support of this investigation of Canada's destructive programs. Please, read more about this important topic in this publication.

And please, write a letter to your Representative. On page 5 you'll find a sample letter. Yes we are busy but we can't wait.

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 399

Studio Transportation Drivers
(818) 985-7374

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Secretary-Treasurer

Leo T. Reed

President

Tony Cousimano

Vice President

Randy Peterson

Recording Secretary

Rose Falcon

TRUSTEES

Jack Fisher

George Skinta

Ed Duffy

**Take Action!
Protect your Job!**

Go to page 5

Secretary-Treasurer Leo Reed says he wishes to thank the members for their continued support. "We need everyone to pay attention to the issues, attend meetings, and support their union," he concludes.

Local 399 Continues to Fight Unfair Subsidies

Teamsters Local 399 is fighting to save American jobs in the entertainment industry.

No stranger to this fight, Local 399 has joined a coalition of workers, businesses and municipalities to eliminate unfair foreign subsidies that harm the U.S. film and television industry.

Donating more money than any other union, Local 399 paid \$100,000 to aid in the fight to stop “runaway productions” from taking American jobs north of the border. This money helped pay for the legal fees.

Thanks in part to the Local 399’s commitment and donation, on September 4 the coalition, working through the Film and Television Action Committee, filed a petition with the U.S. trade representative. The Section 301 petition alleges that Canadian television and film subsidies steal jobs from American workers.

With enough support, the World Trade Organization will tackle this important issue. (See page 5 to learn how you can show your support.)

The petition aims to put an end to Canada’s federal and provincial subsidies for foreign film and television production—called the Production Service Tax Credits (PSTCs).

A conservative estimate of the investment and job opportunities lost in the U.S. due to the PSTCs is massive: \$3.7 billion dollars worth of lost production investment—and more than 138,000 lost jobs!

Most Americans don’t real-

ize that more than 50 percent of U.S. feature films are now filmed outside of the country, mostly in Canada. Seemingly quintessential American films like *Independence Day*, *Cinderella Man*, *Chicago* and *Brokeback Mountain* were produced north of the border. Even *The Rudy Giuliani Story* and *The Reagans* were shot in Toronto.

The job loss has been felt across the industry.

Supporters of the coalition include Los Angeles area labor unions, film organizations, and small businesses that range from special effects shops to dry cleaners.

Support also comes from cities across Southern California, as well as Pennsylvania and New Jersey. These local city governments have voiced their support by passing resolutions that recognize the job and revenue losses due to runaway production. These cities support action to keep film work in the United States.

**Take Action!
Protect your Job!**

Go to page 5

Fugitive Production Taking Our Jobs to Hollywood North

Did you know:

- So many U.S. productions are shot in Canada that the country is often referred to as Hollywood North
- U.S. studio execs are quickly given temporarily work permits, but rank-and-file American film workers are refused entry into Canada
- The Canadian subsidies available to U.S. producers are actually based on the number of film jobs that the producer can fill with Canadians

*from *Los Angeles Daily Journal*,
September 12

URGENT!

Take Action! Protect your job!

Send a letter to your Congressional representatives in Washington to tell them you support the petition against Canada's subsidies! It's easy.

1. **Find your Representatives:** Just visit www.congress.org and enter your zip code.
2. **Enter the name of your representative in the following sample letter**
3. **Email or mail a letter to your Congressional representative:**

***President/USTR/Member of Congress
c/o Stewart and Stewart
2100 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037***

Dear President/USTR/Member of Congress:

I am writing to support the Section 301 petition against Canada's subsidies to non-Canadian film and television production. I am a member of Teamsters Local 399 and I have worked in America's film and television production industry as (fill in position or profession) for _____ years.

My ability to earn a living has been deeply harmed by these unfair subsidies designed to entice American producers to film in Canada and hire Canadian citizens for what would be my job if the project were made here in the U.S.

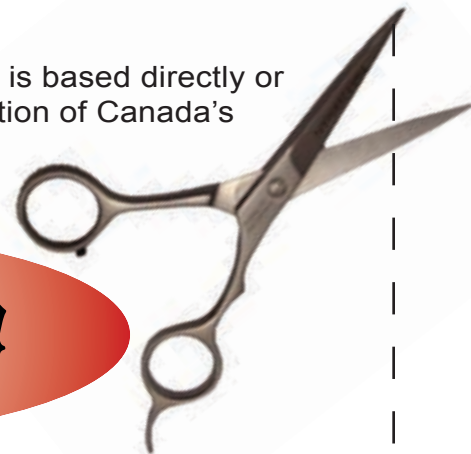
(You can add a sentence or two about what you have experienced personally: Has someone told you that you cannot be hired because the show is going to be shot in Canada? Or that you cannot be hired on a show shooting in the U.S. because you are not a Canadian citizen? Have you lost work when employers you have worked for in the past no longer call on you because they are now working in Canada?)

For my sake and for the sake of every American whose livelihood is based directly or indirectly on film and television production, it is vital that this investigation of Canada's destructive programs go forward so that they may be removed.

Sincerely,

***Your Name
Your Address***

Cut Here!



Hollywood Teamsters: Protecting Our Turf, and Our Jobs

Local 399 has been leading the charge in the years-long battle to keep productions from leaving California because your local is dedicated to protecting Teamster jobs.

As unfair Canadian subsidies continue to steal jobs from American workers in the entertainment industry, Teamsters have remained committed to getting their message across. Teamsters want a level playing field for our members and an end to the bribery that takes American jobs north of the border.

Over the years, Local 399 has demonstrated the force of our conviction with rallies, blockades and high-powered speakers. Teamsters have stormed the State Capitol and forced a symposium on job-stealing to shut down.



Mile-Long Convoy

In 1999, Teamsters drove home the “level playing field” message to legislators in Sacramento with a mile-long convey and a well-attended rally.

Local 399 Teamsters drove their rigs 325 miles to the state capital where they were joined by fellow union members who also sought to shore up the state’s sagging entertainment industry. At the stroke of twelve that day, 200 drivers proudly blasted their horns and then circled the Capitol building for 90 minutes while speakers addressed the crowds.

That day, Secretary-Treasurer Leo T. Reed walked the halls of the Capitol to lobby legislators as well as addressing the supportive crowd outside at the rally. As he spoke, he pointed to the Capitol building behind him and said, “All we want is for the people in this building to do for us what Canada is doing for its workers. All we’re asking from our government is a level playing field.”

Shut Them Down: Saving Our Jobs

As “runaway productions” continue to entice American productions across our borders and threaten the entertainment industry, Hollywood Teamsters have continued to mount successful protests.

In 2003, Local 399 members shut down Avenue of the Stars to publicize and protest Hollywood jobs going to Canada.

A company called Axium was about to hold a seminar on the subject of luring American productions north to Canada.

It was especially insulting that Axium tried to march into the Hollywood Teamsters’ backyard to take union jobs. When they realized their would-be receptive audience had been replaced by hundreds of union workers, united to protect their industry, they wisely decided to cancel their seminar.

Union members blocking a major city street, not to mention 149 Teamster big rigs and production trucks circling the building, would have greeted attendees. As well as 400 cheering members who were determined to let the public know the real issue: productions moving to Canada are damaging California’s economy.

Secretary Treasurer Leo T. Reed opened the rally that day. “You can’t come to our backyard and try to steal our jobs. We have had enough of this.” Prominent speakers including legislators and union leaders joined Reed.



What You Can Do to Protect Your Job

Show your support for your union! Help Local 399 protect your job. Write a letter to your Congressional representative to tell them you want a level-playing field. Go to page 5 for a sample letter.

Facts and Figures on Unfair Foreign Subsidies

Canada's Production Service Tax Credits (PSTCs) have caused significant harm to U.S. industry and workers.

Conservative estimates of damage to the U.S. economy directly attributed to the PSTCs.

- U.S. job opportunities lost (direct and indirect unemployment) = **138,684**
- Direct investment in film and television production lost = **\$3.74 billion**
- Total costs to the U.S. economy, including indirect loss = **\$9.35 billion.**

Growth in movie production employment since the PSTCs were enacted:

In the U.S. = **9.8 %**

In Canada = **70.4%***

***Direct employment in foreign location production in Canada.
Provided by Stewart & Stewart**

Teamsters Local 399
Studio Transportation Drivers
4747 Vineland Avenue, Suite E
North Hollywood, CA 91602

PRESORT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID LOS ANGELES, CA PERMIT NO. 34694
