



Down to the wire

They're closing in from all sides and it's down to the wire. So here are some key questions for you: Just how badly do you want to keep your job as a letter carrier and are you ready to fight for it? In all my years as a letter carrier, I would have never guessed that our very existence as a postal service would come down to what actions—or should I say inactions—we take over the next few months.

Hold on to your hat but, even as a Texan, I am at a loss for words as to why some of our members are sitting on the sidelines at this crucial time. The real shocker is the number of calls I get asking, “Why didn’t you tell us we might lose our jobs?” It has to make you wonder if they ever read *The Postal Record* or go to the NALC website.

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Let me try this one more time. The Postal Service is part of the federal government. When the federal government finds itself deep in debt, as we are now, Congress is going to look for ways to cut costs without adversely affecting their re-election chances. Pointing fingers is the easy way out for some politicians. I believe there are some people on Capitol Hill who would prefer to see this country go down the tubes before they would give a dime of their own money to save our great nation.

Don't get me wrong. We have a lot of friends on Capitol Hill trying to do the right thing. The real problem is this huge national debt. Someone is going to have to pay the bill. The easy way out is to just cut the budget until the

bottom line on the balance sheet turns from red to black. Now that looks great on paper, but we are talking about American lives here.

I guess while they're sitting in an ivory tower looking down on the little people, they'll be able to fool themselves by saying the little people had the same chance everyone else had. Well, surprise, surprise—ivory tower people, you are about to meet the working men and women of America. You can stick your heads in the sand and blame us all you want, but we know how this country got into this mess and we are going to see you pay your fair share.

To dig our way out of this mess, it's going to take a lot of elbow grease and some hard choices. Letter carriers can and should lead the way in turning America around. It's our job to first educate our membership on the facts of how America got into this mess and what it's going to take to get us on the road to recovery. Then we have to get our members

to deliver the message to the representatives and local officials.

The NALC website is updated each day with new material and views on postal issues. President Rolando just wrapped up several days of training with the national business agents and the state chairs here in Washington on how to deliver the message.

The next step is up to the NBAs, state associations and local NALC branches. We must get the rank and file engaged. Local branches must set up special meetings even if they have to be held across the street from the post office after letter carriers get off work.

This you can take to the bank: When letter carriers have the facts on how to save the post office and this country, we will deliver! Attend your next branch meeting and get active. It beats standing in an unemployment line any day. ☒