



# The American Companies

## "News Flash"

April 30, 2008

### MAY 1<sup>st</sup> POTENTIAL WORK STOPPAGES

As reported by several sources early this morning, a planned, but voluntary walkout is scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> as a protest to both the Iraq and Afghanistan wars by employees of the ILWU (International Longshore and Warehouse Union). This "potential" work stoppage is believed to be initiated by the "rank-and-file members of the union" and not that of the executive management.

There is no understanding as to how this may impact the normal flow of operations during the day and at this point both the union and Pacific Maritime Association are treating it as a "regular work day."

Also noted for the same day, there is a nationwide petition amongst truckers encouraging any and all drivers to stop their trucks for the day in protest against the high cost of diesel. There is some rumor that this could even extend beyond May 1<sup>st</sup> and play out over the course of a week.

Please note that much of this is speculation and we are only passing along what we have heard being discussed and written within the industry to keep you informed and forewarned as to conditions that could exist within the market, urging you to keep an eye on both situations.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your local sales representative or local handling office.

Sincerely,

The American Companies

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