To my 769 Kin,

Up top, I'm going to list a few TL;DR links but I encourage you to read the full email if you have time.

AFL-CIO guidance on ICE:
https://aflcio.org/about-us/programs/immigration-resources

Join the IATSE PAC (Political Action Committee):
https://app7.vocusgr.com/WebPublish/controller.aspx?SiteName=IATSE&Definition=PACActionCenter&SV_Section=PACActionCenter

Become a sustaining member of your local Public Broadcasting:
https://secure.wttw.com/?s=t-web-fy26-pbs-website&utm_source=pbs&utm_medium=web-ad&utm_campaign=wttw-web

It's not great news folks. But we cannot become complacent, and we cannot get used to it, and we cannot obey in advance.

Your Union is working for you and all American Laborers - Major topics addressed during the Quadrennial Convention include strong U.S.-Canada relations, passing worker-friendly policies at the state, national and international levels, celebrating a renewed commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion as well as support for members who may face immigration detention during the ongoing military-style raids.

I received word back from the IA about protocols and procedures for members who encounter ICE and was encouraged to share this information with you:

"Following the recent developments and the resolutions passed at the 70th Quadrennial Convention, the IATSE Communications Department is working on potential guidance/information to be provided to IATSE locals and members in the event of ICE raids, detention, or other immigration related issues.

While IATSE-specific guidance is still under consideration, there are existing immigration resources from the AFL-CIO that you can share with your members.

Here is a link to AFL-CIO resources to help union members know their rights and ensure they are prepared to defend themselves and the immigrant members of their families and communities in the event of workplace or community raids: https://aflcio.org/about-us/programs/immigration-resources

The International will be in touch with any further developments and we implore all IATSE locals and members to report any incidents with immigration enforcement to the International as soon as possible."

The Senate passed the Big Beautiful Bill, which can only be described as a betrayal of American workers – it represents a multibillion-dollar handout to the wealthiest Americans and large corporations, paid for exclusively by workers and their families. Its few provisions that may benefit workers' tax bills – on overtime and tips – are more than neutralized by the costs imposed in lost health care coverage, higher health care prices, lost food assistance, fewer jobs, and higher energy prices.

IATSE members across the country demanded that their Senators remove a reckless provision that would ban states from enacting or enforcing artificial intelligence (AI) protections for a decade, and while this threat to IATSE members' livelihoods was defeated, our call to include critical film and television tax

measures in the package to increase domestic film and television production to bring back American jobs went unanswered by the Senate Republican majority.

As a direct result of the Billionaire class overtaking our highest office, we are losing the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. For the first time in more than five decades, Congress will not be funding the CPB, and we will all suffer for it.
More than 19,000 people who work in public radio and [television] broadcasting," including many IATSE members, "now face an uncertain future with looming job losses and economic pain." Without CPB funding, hundreds of public television and radio stations across the country will similarly be forced to reduce staff, cut programming, or shut down altogether. This action by the Congressional Republican majorities is going to cost IATSE members jobs and we must hold them to account. I encourage anyone who is able to become a member of your local Public Broadcasting support network. I am now donating $10 a month to WTTW. Paid for, now not just in part, by viewers like you:
https://secure.wttw.com/?s=t-web-fy26-pbs-website&utm_source=pbs&utm_medium=web-ad&utm_campaign=wttw-web

As members of a labor union, we have a duty to our fellow workers, we have a duty to our fellow Americans, and we have a duty to ourselves. With every new bill proposed, every new law passed, every new executive order signed, I am reminded that the life we live now, the comfort we and our fellow countrymen find in the protections of labor law, such as the 8 hour work day, 40 hour work week, and overtime pay are all regulations written in blood. We simply cannot forget that the workers who came before us FOUGHT for the rights we have today, (some even in this very city) and it would be a disservice to the lives laid down if we didn't stand up now and fight like hell, not only to keep the progress we've made from slipping away, but in fact to enact more progress in spite of the current regime. The IA is working on Capital Hill for us and all American workers, but they can't fight for us without funding:
https://app7.vocusgr.com/WebPublish/controller.aspx?SiteName=IATSE&Definition=PACActionCenter&SV_Section=PACActionCenter

I don't say all of this to sadden you, or make you feel like there is no hope, or push you toward giving up. Quite the opposite. Now is the time to decide what you care about. Now is the time to rally your village and put your back into it. We are workers. The labor conditions of a free country rest on us. Luckily we live in the city of Big Shoulders and we know we can handle the load together. But only together, and only if we know the magnitude of what we're facing up front and refuse to back down. I am putting my efforts into the labor movement, supporting the arts, and DEI advocacy. This administration is attacking Americans on all cylinders and there are many avenues of protest and advocacy available to each of us. One of the simplest, most important, and most difficult methods of direct advocacy is to, you guessed it: Talk to your uncle. Talk to your cousin, talk to your mom. It should not take stories of personal defeat to engage another person's empathy, but we have become an isolationist society conditioned to only think of ourselves and our close friends and family. You are the most important tool in your own toolbox when it comes to the emotionality of politics and how they affect the middle class. The time to be apolitical is in the past.

We work in entertainment, we are storytellers by nature. Let's use it. Let's reframe the narrative. The real work starts here.

In Solidarity,
Jerica Hucke
TWU Local 769
PAC Co-Liason