

# Apples and Oranges

After leaving our most recent meeting I was left with more questions than answers. One of the most concerning is as follows: Why do they keep getting raises, and or bonuses, if we are in fact losing so much money? I was infuriated by his response. He said, “That would be comparing apples to oranges.” So, Mr. Manager, am I the apple or the orange? Before answering, I would be very careful if I were you. Which “fruit” was it that made the decisions that brought us to where we are today? Why is incompetence being rewarded with pay increases?

I sat there in utter amazement and infuriated silence. There was more spin and deflection than one of those political debates on television. I was insulted at his lack of respect and sheer defiance of our labor union. How quickly the so called educated forget who built this country. It’s time to remind them that this place was built by those who left here with crippled hands and withered backs. We are neither the apple nor the orange, but the foundation of this company and you will soon be reminded of it.

It was clearly obvious that they have no intention of keeping this place open. I need to remind everyone that we were given the same scenario a few years back. It’s painfully obvious what concessions in wages and benefits got us—nothing. It is also clear that they won’t stop until we have been reduced to minimum wage. It is nothing more than another case of corporate greed. It was never enough to make a huge salary, drive a nice car, or go fishing on the yacht. They’ve decided that they want it all.

I walked out of that room with my heart pounding and blood boiling. There have been many days when I felt like a wounded dog, and rightfully so. We’ve been kicked and then kicked some more. Today is different. There is something rising up within each and every one of us. It’s like a wild animal that’s been backed into a corner and foaming at the mouth. They’ve grossly underestimated our ability to fight and the tenacity of the human spirit. The belief of a man or woman that feels they have nothing to lose can be a powerful thing.

I feel like, in light of all the evidence, that we were spat on today. Our ignorance was unjustly and unwisely assumed. How can he look me in the eye and demand more while they are accepting raises? It sickens me and I know it does you as well. The answer is NO—how do you like them apples?

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