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**Lone Star Steakhouse and Saloon of New Jersey, Inc.
and Local 54, Hotel Employees and Restaurant
Employees International Union, AFL-CIO.**
Case 4-CA-28725

March 13, 2000

DECISION AND ORDER

BY CHAIRMAN TRUESDALE AND MEMBERS FOX AND
BRAME

Pursuant to a charge filed on November 1, 1999, the General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board issued a complaint on November 12, 1999, alleging that the Respondent has violated Section 8(a)(5) and (1) of the National Labor Relations Act by refusing the Union's request to bargain following the Union's certification in Case 4-RC-19665. (Official notice is taken of the "record" in the representation proceeding as defined in the Board's Rules and Regulations, Secs. 102.68 and 102.69(g); *Frontier Hotel*, 265 NLRB 343 (1982).) The Respondent filed an answer admitting in part and denying in part the allegations in the complaint.

On December 13, 1999, the General Counsel filed a Motion for Summary Judgment. On December 16, 1999, the Board issued an order transferring the proceeding to the Board and a Notice to Show Cause why the motion should not be granted. The Respondent filed a response.

The National Labor Relations Board has delegated its authority in this proceeding to a three-member panel.

Ruling on Motion for Summary Judgment

In its answer the Respondent admits its refusal to bargain, but attacks the validity of the certification on the basis of its objections to the election and the Board's unit determination in the representation proceeding. Specifically, the Respondent reiterates its contentions, raised and rejected in the underlying representation case, that the certified unit consisting of kitchen employees is inappropriate because only a wall-to-wall unit of all the nonsupervisory employees in the Respondent's restaurant is appropriate, and that the Union engaged in allegedly improper electioneering in the polling area.

All representation issues raised by the Respondent were or could have been litigated in the prior representation proceeding. The Respondent does not offer to adduce at a hearing any newly discovered and previously unavailable evidence, nor does it allege any special circumstances that would require the Board to reexamine the decision made in the representation proceeding. We therefore find that the Respondent has not raised any representation issue that is properly litigable in this unfair labor practice proceeding. See *Pittsburgh Plate*

Glass Co. v. NLRB, 313 U.S. 146, 162 (1941). Accordingly, we grant the Motion for Summary Judgment.¹

On the entire record, the Board makes the following

FINDINGS OF FACT

I. JURISDICTION

At all material times, the Respondent, a New Jersey corporation, has been engaged in the operation of a restaurant at 3117 Fire Road, Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey. During the 12-month period immediately preceding issuance of the complaint, the Respondent, in conducting its business operations described above, derived gross revenues in excess of \$500,000, and purchased and received at its restaurant goods valued in excess of \$5000 directly from points outside the State of New Jersey. We find that the Respondent is an employer engaged in commerce within the meaning of Section 2(2), (6) and (7) of the Act and that the Union is a labor organization within the meaning of Section 2(5) of the Act.

II. ALLEGED UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES

A. *The Certification*

Following the election held June 23, 1999, the Union was certified on September 8, 1999, as the exclusive collective-bargaining representative of the employees in the following appropriate unit:

All full-time and regular part-time line cooks, prep cooks, cooks, dishwashers, pot washers, sauté cooks, prep persons, and back of the house key employees employed by Respondent at the Restaurant, excluding bartenders, hosts, hostesses, servers, guards, and supervisors as defined in the Act.

The Union continues to be the exclusive representative under Section 9(a) of the Act.

B. *Refusal to Bargain*

Since about September 29, 1999, the Union has requested the Respondent to bargain, and since about September 29, 1999, the Respondent has refused. We find that this refusal constitutes an unlawful refusal to bargain in violation of Section 8(a)(5) and (1) of the Act.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

By refusing on and after September 29, 1999, to bargain with the Union as the exclusive collective-bargaining representative of employees in the appropriate unit, the Respondent has engaged in unfair labor practices affecting commerce within the meaning of Section 8(a)(5) and (1) and Section 2(6) and (7) of the Act.

¹ Member Brame did not participate in that portion of the representation proceeding involving the Board's unit determination. He agrees, however, that the Respondent has not raised any new matters on that issue that would require the Board to reexamine its decision in the representation proceeding. Accordingly, he joins his colleagues in granting the Motion for Summary Judgment.

REMEDY

Having found that the Respondent has violated Section 8(a)(5) and (1) of the Act, we shall order it to cease and desist, to bargain on request with the Union, and, if an understanding is reached, to embody the understanding in a signed agreement.

To ensure that the employees are accorded the services of their selected bargaining agent for the period provided by the law, we shall construe the initial period of the certification as beginning the date the Respondent begins to bargain in good faith with the Union. *Mar-Jac Poultry Co.*, 136 NLRB 785 (1962); *Lamar Hotel*, 140 NLRB 226, 229 (1962), *enfd.* 328 F.2d 600 (5th Cir. 1964), *cert. denied* 379 U.S. 817 (1964); *Burnett Construction Co.*, 149 NLRB 1419, 1421 (1964), *enfd.* 350 F.2d 57 (10th Cir. 1965).

ORDER

The National Labor Relations Board orders that the Respondent, Lone Star Steakhouse and Saloon of New Jersey, Inc., Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey, its officers, agents, successors, and assigns, shall

1. Cease and desist from

(a) Refusing to bargain with Local 54, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union, AFL-CIO, as the exclusive bargaining representative of the employees in the bargaining unit.

(b) In any like or related manner interfering with, restraining, or coercing employees in the exercise of the rights guaranteed them by Section 7 of the Act.

2. Take the following affirmative action necessary to effectuate the policies of the Act.

(a) On request, bargain with the Union as the exclusive representative of the employees in the following appropriate unit on terms and conditions of employment, and if an understanding is reached, embody the understanding in a signed agreement:

All full-time and regular part-time line cooks, prep cooks, cooks, dishwashers, pot washers, sauté cooks, prep persons, and back of the house key employees employed by Respondent at the Restaurant, excluding bartenders, hosts, hostesses, servers, guards, and supervisors as defined in the Act.

(b) Within 14 days after service by the Region, post at its facility in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey, copies of the attached notice marked "Appendix."² Copies of the notice, on forms provided by the Regional Director for Region 4 after being signed by the Respondent's authorized representative, shall be posted by the Respondent and maintained for 60 consecutive days in con-

spicuous places including all places where notices to employees are customarily posted. Reasonable steps shall be taken by the Respondent to ensure that the notices are not altered, defaced, or covered by any other material. In the event that, during the pendency of these proceedings, the Respondent has gone out of business or closed the facility involved in these proceedings, the Respondent shall duplicate and mail, at its own expense, a copy of the notice to all current employees and former employees employed by the Respondent at any time since September 29, 1999.

(c) Within 21 days after service by the Region, file with the Regional Director a sworn certification of a responsible official on a form provided by the Region attesting to the steps that the Respondent has taken to comply.

Dated, Washington, D.C. March 13, 2000

John C. Truesdale,	Chairman
Sarah M. Fox,	Member
J. Robert Brame III,	Member

(SEAL) NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

APPENDIX

NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES
POSTED BY ORDER OF THE
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD
An Agency of the United States Government

The National Labor Relations Board has found that we violated the National Labor Relations Act and has ordered us to post and abide by this notice.

WE WILL NOT refuse to bargain with Local 54, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union, AFL-CIO, as the exclusive representative of the employees in the bargaining unit.

WE WILL NOT in any like or related manner interfere with, restrain, or coerce you in the exercise of the rights guaranteed you by Section 7 of the Act.

WE WILL, on request, bargain with the Union and put in writing and sign any agreement reached on terms and conditions of employment for our employees in the bargaining unit:

² If this Order is enforced by a judgment of a United States court of appeals, the words in the notice reading "Posted by Order of the National Labor Relations Board" shall read "Posted Pursuant to a Judgment of the United States Court of Appeals Enforcing an Order of the National Labor Relations Board."

All full-time and regular part-time line cooks, prep cooks, cooks, dishwashers, pot washers, sauté cooks, prep persons, and back of the house key employees employed by us at the Restaurant, excluding bartend-

ers, hosts, hostesses, servers, guards, and supervisors as defined in the Act.

LONE STAR STEAKHOUSE AND SALOON
OF NEW JERSEY, INC.