



Leaders of the Turkish Miners Federation were welcomed to America this week by ILWU International President Bob McEllrath, Sec.-Treas. Willie Adams, and Coast Committeeman Leal Sundet. The Turkish miners came to support us and our fight for a fair contract at Borax.

**When leaders from the miners union in Turkey came to support us, we said: “Welcome to America, brothers!”**

**When Rio Tinto’s Vice President met our friends from Turkey, he insulted them, had a temper tantrum, and told them to go away.**



Executives at Borax/Rio Tinto are trying to justify cutting our pay, benefits, and job security by blaming the competition in Turkey. But their argument is weak: Borax/Rio Tinto controls almost half the world’s borate market, helping Rio Tinto Minerals to make \$86 million in profit last year.

Leaders at the miner’s union in Turkey have an important message: “We face the same problems as you when we try to win improvements in Turkey; they tell us that the competition from America won’t allow it.”

Pitting workers in one country against workers in another is an old trick for big companies like Rio Tinto. That’s why it’s so important that the Turkish miners volunteered to visit us and express their total support for our contract fight. Their show of solidarity and support is something all of us can understand and respect.

But executives from Borax/Rio Tinto were disrespectful to the Turkish miners when we brought them to observe our contract negotiations on Monday. Company executives had a temper tantrum. Rio Tinto’s Vice President was rude, and even threw a chair. It seemed pretty clear that he wasn’t happy to see workers from different countries coming together to protect good jobs, defend our rights at work, and expose the company’s “divide and conquer” tactics.

Nobody’s buying Rio Tinto’s scheme to divide new workers against old, or create union and non-union operations at our mine. Same goes for pitting us against the miners in Turkey. Today we’re more united and determined than ever to win a fair contract – and we’re standing together with our friends at home and abroad.

**Let’s get Borax back on the right track!**

