

# DEREGULATION



RON, I SEE THAT LOCAL 1245 HAS PUT A LOT OF RESOURCES INTO FIGHTING DEREGULATION OF THE ELECTRIC INDUSTRY IN NEVADA.

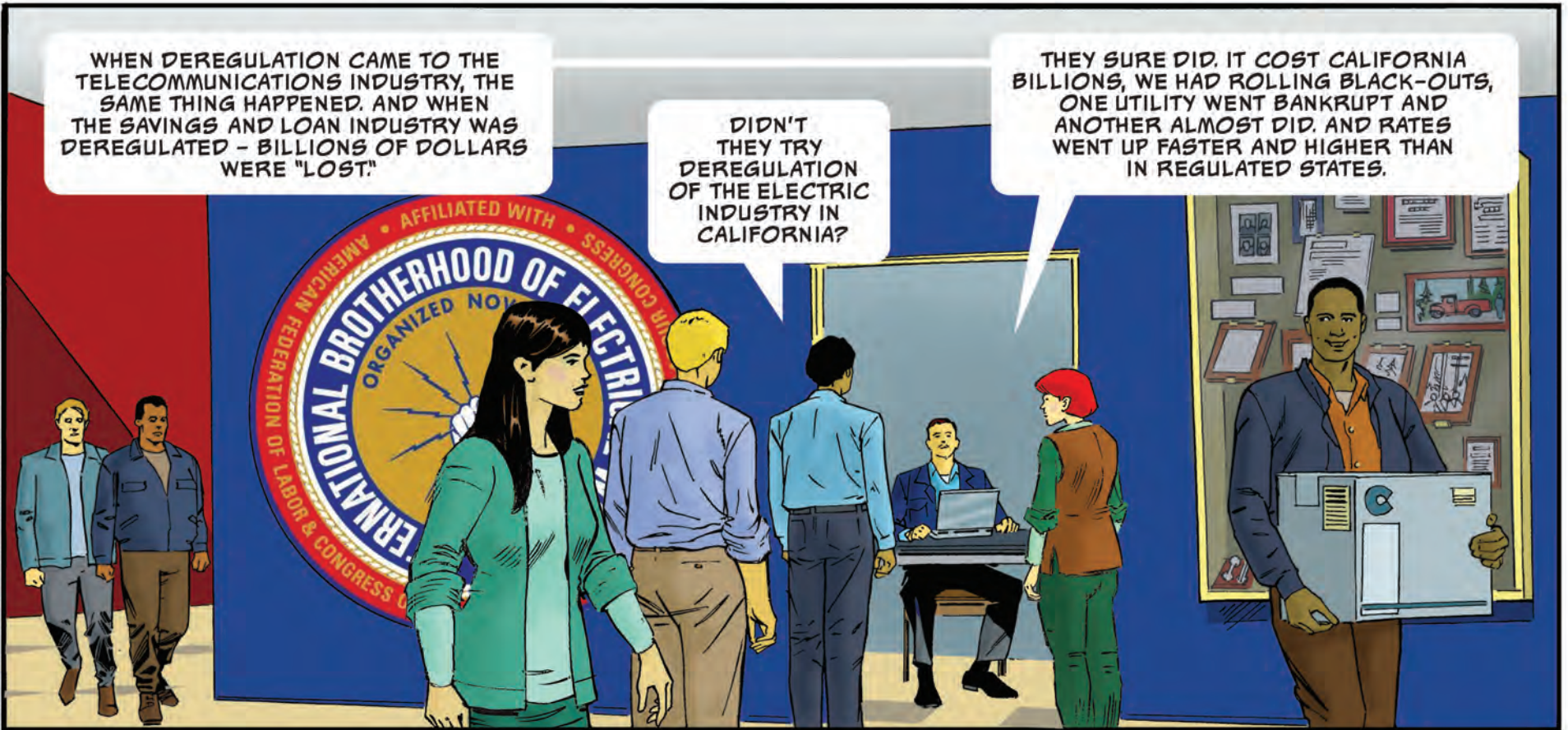
DEREGULATION IS A POPULAR IDEA -- LET IN COMPETITION AND THINGS WILL BE BETTER. BUT WE'VE SEEN IT IN MANY INDUSTRIES OVER THE LAST 35 YEARS, AND THE RESULTS ARE ALWAYS THE SAME- CUSTOMERS AND WORKERS LOSE OUT, WHILE FAT CATS GET FATTER.

YEAH, I SAW THE MONEY WE'RE SPENDING.

THE TRUCKING AND AIRLINE INDUSTRIES WERE DEREGULATED IN THE 1980S. WHO LOST OUT? THE WORKERS. GOOD, MIDDLE-CLASS UNION JOBS WERE REPLACED WITH LOW-PAYING NON-UNION JOBS, OFTEN BY UNSALARIED "INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS"

AND ALL THE ORGANIZERS WE SENT THERE.

WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?



WHEN DEREGULATION CAME TO THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY, THE SAME THING HAPPENED. AND WHEN THE SAVINGS AND LOAN INDUSTRY WAS DEREGULATED - BILLIONS OF DOLLARS WERE "LOST"

THEY SURE DID. IT COST CALIFORNIA BILLIONS, WE HAD ROLLING BLACK-OUTS, ONE UTILITY WENT BANKRUPT AND ANOTHER ALMOST DID. AND RATES WENT UP FASTER AND HIGHER THAN IN REGULATED STATES.

DIDN'T THEY TRY DEREGULATION OF THE ELECTRIC INDUSTRY IN CALIFORNIA?

LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENED IN OTHER STATES. NEW YORK TRIED DEREGULATION- RATES ARE HIGHER THAN THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN. TEXAS DEREGULATED, AND CUSTOMERS ENDED UP PAYING BILLIONS OF DOLLARS MORE BECAUSE OF IT. EVERYWHERE THAT ELECTRICITY HAS BEEN DEREGULATED, LOW-INCOME CUSTOMERS HAVE HAD TO PAY THE MOST IN HIGHER RATES.

SO WHY ALL THE INTEREST IN NEVADA?

A BILLIONAIRE BIG CASINO MOGUL IS TRYING TO DEREGULATE THE ELECTRIC INDUSTRY. HIS ONLY MOTIVE IS TO PAY LESS WHILE FORCING OTHER CUSTOMERS TO PAY MORE. IT ISN'T CLEAR HOW IT WILL PLAY OUT, BUT THEY ARE IMITATING PRECISELY WHAT HAS FAILED IN OTHER STATES.



THINK ABOUT IT. A REGULATED INDUSTRY PLACES SERVICE AND RELIABILITY AND COST ABOVE PROFIT. AN UNREGULATED INDUSTRY PLACES PROFIT FIRST. REGULATED UTILITIES MIGHT NOT BE PERFECT, BUT THEY ARE BEST FOR CUSTOMERS AND EMPLOYEES.