



## BREAKING NEWS!

### *AFGE Responds to SSA Broadcast*

Witold Skwierczynski, the Union's Chief Negotiator for the AFGE/SSA National Agreement, has issued a statement in response to a flyer distributed last week by Reggie Wells (Social Security's Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources).

Mr. Skwierczynski states: The Union and its leadership remain hopeful that both sides will reach an agreement quickly and negotiate one that is fair to all employees. I was glad to read that 'SSA is committed to a collaborative and productive labor-management relationship' and AFGE will make every effort to achieve that goal.

"By law, the National Agreement must remain in place until a new contract can be negotiated. Mr. Wells' memo basically reiterates the agency's commitment to follow the law.

**There were no assurances in his statement of June 5**

**that benefits long enjoyed by employees will remain in place in the new contract.**

"Do not assume that Social Security wants to improve the working conditions of its employees. In the past, when the agency has wanted to re-open negotiations, it has been for only one purpose: to reduce or eliminate **and not improve** employee benefits.

"The Union knows that contract bargaining is never easy, but we remain committed to SSA's many talented and dedicated workers who have chosen a life of public service."

**AFGE's full statement will soon be available on the AFGE SSA General Committee Contract website.**

**[www.mycontract2009.org](http://www.mycontract2009.org)**

**An update will be issued.**