

Sign on.....

Picture this situation: You're going to hop into your car and head for Grant's Pass (or Gramp's Pants, as one of my kids called it when they were little) and head North. You turn on the radio (KINS, of course) and find out that the 101 highway has given out at Devil's Pass, or whatever they call it. You check further and find out there is a rockslide on 299 and a slide on the road from Willow Creek northbound. The way things look right now, that could happen. It might never happen, but it could! U.S. 101 is a very busy highway, and you might not notice just how busy until you stop traffic for an accident or something. One day, years ago, I came around a corner in the Redwoods, just north of False Cove, north of Klamath. I had to slam on the breaks, and my boat fishtailed behind me, but I stopped. There was a small house trailer on fire, along side of the road, and the highway was blocked. We waited for what seemed like forever, but eventually, we headed for home. Being one of the first in line, we were amazed to see just how far the traffic was lined up, waiting to go, heading North. 101 is also very precarious to the south, both at Piercy and just north of Ukiah. My ex-brother-in-law was a laborer for many firms doing work on the 101 corridor. He is very honest and knowledgeable about road construction, and one day he noticed the crew doing something illegal on an underground water hook-up. He told the foreman to fix it, and he refused, so my brother-in-law drove to the Caltrans office in Crescent City and reported it. The company said they would fix it so that he would never work construction again, but his honesty won out and he had more work than he could do. Getting back to the

conditions on the roads, what could we, and the state, do about it if the highway failed? To the state's credit, they are taking the possibility seriously. I know one of the timber companies has a north-south road a ridge or two to the east of 101, but I don't know if it could be converted or not, or whether they would sell it or not.* I had a crazy thought about building a bridge over the ocean coastline, but that's pretty far-fetched. Down in Florida, they have a long bridge going out to the Keys. Whatever happens, something must be done, and I'm thinking it should be done sooner, rather than later. //I'll have to say goodbye to my friend Mario Toso. We weren't close friends, but I'd see him at the oncologist's office and he knew his time was short. Condolences to his family.

Sign off.....

As I read this back, I realized I may not been clear about where my brother-in-law worked at the time of the illegal underground pipe joint incident- It was on the hill going down into Crescent City from the south- right where things needed to be done correctly. If it weren't for guys like him, think how much worse it might be! My hat is off to guys like him who stand up for what's right!