

Sure, he lives in mansion while employees earn \$3.90/hour, but...

Rich guy's bus workers get OK pay, sez lawyer

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THE OWNER of a bus company accused of paying matrons less than minimum wage refused to answer any questions yesterday.

Charles Curcio — whose Outstanding Transport may pay workers as little as \$3.90 an hour for ferrying disabled adults to programs around the city — was mum about his matrons' meager paychecks.

Workers' weekly pay assumes they spend only four or five hours a day picking riders up in the morning, taking them to programs then picking them up in the afternoon again.

The matrons, who produced pay stubs showing weekly pay around \$200, say the task can take

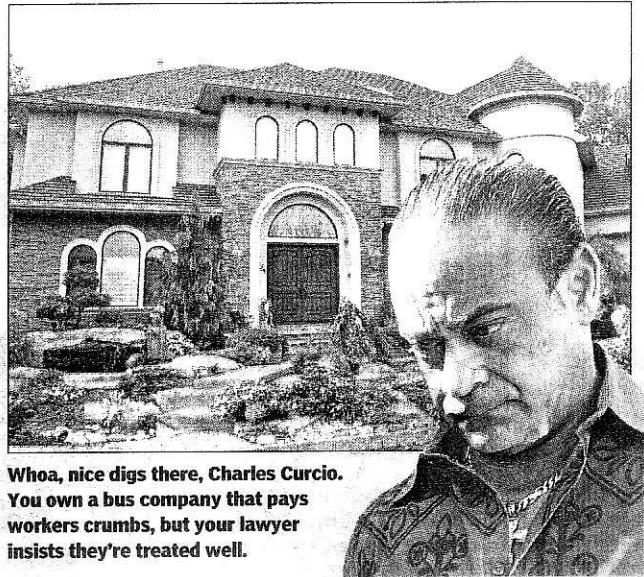
double that time.

The Labor Department is investigating the allegations of the matrons, who are represented by Local 854.

Jeff Pollack, lawyer for Outstanding Transportation, insisted the matrons have "good paying, respectable jobs."

"To be crystal clear, all of our employees work under a union contract, voted on and approved by the members, with drivers earning over \$10 an hour and matrons more than \$8 an hour with paid time off and company-sponsored retirement plans," said Pollack, calling the allegations "harassment, threats and lies."

Curcio, who wouldn't speak to a reporter at his nearly 6,000-square-foot home on Stat-



Whoa, nice digs there, Charles Curcio. You own a bus company that pays workers crumbs, but your lawyer insists they're treated well.

en Island, told the Daily News this week. "It's just some disgruntled employees."

Politicians and advocates yesterday blasted the company for paying so little — and the union for negotiating the contract.

"It just reinforces the need for passing my legislation," said Assemblyman Carl Heastie (D-Bronx), who sponsored the Wage Theft Prevention Act, which calls for stiffer penalties for companies that break the law.

"No person should be making \$3.90 an hour. This kind of behavior is bad for business... these kinds of guys can undercut a business that's doing the right thing."

Teamsters for a Democratic Union are standing with the workers.

"A union contract that pays less than minimum wage? It's a disgrace," said David Levin, an organizer with Teamsters for a Democratic Union.

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