Food & Beverage Service

Who said anything about food service? Was this one of those General Administrative Services? Well, it could have been -- just call it a support service. At any rate, if an industrial operation has people working there, odds are it has vending machines at a minimum, and may even have an employee cafeteria.

So the vending machines are pretty easy to figure out. Who wants to invest in a bunch of machines that constantly get jammed or steal money, and then you have to keep them stocked with candy, chips and pop. Why tie-up manpower trying to keep up with that stuff? It's bad enough that someone has to buy coffee and filters for the "honor-system" coffee fund. Vending companies will give you a cut of the profits if you let them put machines in your place of work. So this one is a no-brainer.

But what about the "real food?" If you have a big enough operation that would make it advantageous to provide a food service operation, is it in the company's best interest to directly hire food service personnel, including managers, cooks, and servers? Probably not. I don't want to get into the discussion about whether a company should have a cafeteria, that is for others to decide; we just need to know what to do if we have one. Again, there are a lot of companies who do this as their main function, so that means they can probably do it cheaper and more efficient (effective) than you could. I would suggest that you let them.

So, if you are going to have a cafeteria and a bunch of vending machines contracted out, who is going to monitor and maintain these contracts? The Purchasing department will probably not want to, unless they have contract managers. By default it may fall on the shoulders of the person responsible for facilities management. Will it save time and/or money? Probably. Will it free up resources? Absolutely, unless you have pop machine mechanics and cooks hanging out waiting for further orders.

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