

# **DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS**

**BOX 1 OF 16**

**FOLDER 24**

**LRBW ANTI UAW MATERIAL**

**Open Letter to Walter Reuther  
From the Central Staff of the  
League of Revolutionary Black Workers**

**Dear Walter:**

There is no doubt that the U.A.W. is run by a gang of white racists led by yourself. After 30 years of struggle the U.A.W. still has an executive board which is 92% white dominated (8% handkerchief head Uncle Toms), the skilled trades are still virtually closed to blacks; the international reps are still 95% white, and the international staff is 90% white. Black workers are still the last hired, first fired, rarely promoted and work at the hardest, dirtiest, noisiest, most dangerous jobs in the industry. Many local union leaders openly brag of their affiliation with the Ku Klux Klan, their support for George Wallace and their contempt for anything black. With over thirty years of movement behind, the U.A.W. has had plenty of time to eliminate racism within its own ranks, yet, has chosen not to do so.

We know that once again this is your convention, that once again you own the broadwalk, and for 2 more years the game is yours Walter. But we understand how you got here Walter. We understand very very well because we were the victims of your winning strategy. Yes, we forced your hand, we made you get nasty in order to win this time Walter. At Local 600, elections in the Dearborn Assembly Plant were held during a week in which the plant was closed down. Election polls were closed and locked. When Challengers tried to stay with the ballots, they were threatened with the presence of the Dearborn Police Department. At Local 961, at the Eldon Plant, ballot boxes were taken to the POLICE STATION overnight for safe keeping and 3 members of ELRUM and also candidates for the 22nd Constitutional Convention were arrested on trumped up charges 4 days before the election by the DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT. At Local 3, the DRUM slate forced you to do things that you had never done before Walter. You really showed your hand. You couldn't even muster enough retirees to defeat us. You had to call upon the Hamtramck Police Department once again Walter. The police department had to forcibly throw our Challengers out of the Hall at gun point and that was not even enough Walter. You then had to send in George Merrill, a long term gangster in your employ with fifty armed henchmen to take over our Local in the midst of our election.

So it comes of no surprize to us to hear that 90% of the Convention Delegates attended your caucus in Atlantic City, Sunday night. It is no big thing that you won the election for President and it is no big thing that every progressive reform that by some strange tricks might reach the floor was defeated.

Walter, we can not be fooled by the fact that our Sister, Coretta King, is a speaker at this Convention, because this has always been your policy and history has taught us that you cannot change.

But we see that you acknowledged our existence this time Walter, and even though our voices won't be heard from the floor of the 22nd Convention, they will be heard. The Constitutional Convention only lasts for one week Walter, so the struggle is not for the broadwalk by the ocean, that is not where cars and trucks and tanks and planes are produced Walter. Perhaps you have forgotten that fact that our voices will be heard in places you haven't been for a long long time Walter. They will be heard at the gates of Dodge Main - in the sweat shops at Fords - through the smoke and pollution of foundrys. Yes, we will be heard Walter, and heard by you.

So while you are denouncing the DRUM movement and the black workers struggle in general, remember that none of our people are at your Convention - you personally saw to it that they didn't come Walter. But also remember that the delegates do not represent the membership of the U.A.W., but only the most reactionary elements who remain loyal to you.

We want you to know that great anger burns in our hearts. For us, the problems of working at Ford or G.M. are hard realities, not abstractions discussed in your "union leadership" classes. The reality finds us working under conditions synonymous with plantation chain gang slavery; the only difference is that on the plantation we moved down the line and at Chrysler the line moves past us. We work under unsafe conditions - in hot polluted air - incredible noise - and at a pace of work designed for pack animals. Yet our wages are low and our taxes high. What fruits do we reap from our lifelong toil? All around us our houses rot, our schools are inadequate, the streets and alleys are overrun with rodents and kill crazy police, decent food and clothing or medical and dental care is beyond our reach, our children are sent off to war and we have no hope of ever changing any of this if we continue to follow the established leadership and to accept the established order of this society. We are making the revolution, Walter Reuther, and we will win.

**Salaam,  
Central Staff,  
League of Revolutionary Black Workers**

[1969]

Open Letter to Walter Reuther  
From the Central Staff of the  
League of Revolutionary Black Workers

Dear Walter,

As you already know, the League of Revolutionary Black Workers is planning to demonstrate in front of Cobo Hall, Sunday, November 9, during the special U.A.W. convention. So as to avoid any confusion as to the purpose for this action, we are stating our objectives to you via this open letter.

Our specific goals for Sunday are:

- 1) To expose U.A.W. racist practices
- 2) To expose U.A.W. sweetheart union practices
- 3) To expose totalitarian control of the U.A.W. by the Reuther machine
- 4) To present a list of demands for the redress of grievances
- 5) To unite all black workers in the struggle to dispose of you and your henchmen, and to win workers' control over the union and the shops

There is no doubt that the U.A.W. is run by a gang of white racists led by yourself. After 30 years of struggle the U.A.W. still has an executive board which is 92% white dominated (8% hankerchief head Uncle Toms), the skilled trades are still virtually closed to blacks; the international reps are still 95% white, and the international staff is 90% white. Black workers are still the last hired, first fired, rarely promoted and work at the hardest, dirtiest, noisiest, most dangerous jobs in the industry. Many local union leaders openly brag of their affiliation with the Klu Klux Klan, their support for George Wallace and their contempt for anything black. With over thirty years of movement behind, the U.A.W. has had plenty of time to eliminate racism within its own ranks; yet, has chosen not to do so.

In light of the clear evidence of incorrigible bigotry, it is incredible to find U.A.W. leaders who propret to be "friends of the Negro". Nevertheless, you seem to underestimate the intelligence of black workers, to assume that your weak pronouncements on Civil Rights, or appearance on a non-violent march will fool black U.A.W. members into forgetting about the real contradictions inside the plants and inside the union.

We haven't been fooled; we haven't forgotten anything, and that is why we will be outside your special convention on November 9.

Because its been so long since you have been inside of a plant, you seem to have forgotten what its like to work long hours on a production line. The hatred that builds up hour after hour, day after day, year after year. If you can remember, just a little of what factory work was like thirty years ago, then you may have some conception of how things are today - only today conditions have actually deteriorated because you haven't had the guts to fight for minimal work standards which can allow a man to work all day and have the energy to stay awake when he comes home and talk to his wife or play with his children. We are angry because of what happens to us every day on our jobs.

When black workers began to organize to improve their plight, some people hoped that you would wake up and begin to address yourself to the needs of your own union members. They thought you would see the massive tide of anger building up inside the auto plantations. Some people actually thought you would be smart enough to at least make token, though insincere, gestures of reform. They were wrong, however. True to your racist nature you responded to the rise of black militancy in the union, to the organization of DRUM, ELRUM, JARUM, the League, the United Black Brothers, with total fear and panic. Your machinery of bureaucrats stepped up harassment of black workers with the full support of the company. Together with management, union officials dropped racial slurs, insulted and nagged black brothers and sisters to provoke incidents which provided excuses for "disciplinary" actions. Many workers were harassed to the point of committing violent, but justified actions against the company-union racists. When your petty campaign could not stop the growth of the League, you resorted to other measures. You fired workers at Ford because of DRUM type activity. At Dodge you sanctioned the dismissal of several DRUM leaders, and at Eldon you conspired with management to fire 26 workers.

ELRUM, DRUM and FRUM were not intimidated by these shoddy acts of economic reprisal. The League has long understood that we must support those who support us. We fought for the workers you abandoned, and most of them were rehired. (We found better jobs for most of the rest of the brothers outside of the auto industry). We operate on a principle you never heard of Walter, its called "brotherhood." When one of our brothers or sisters needs our help, we are there to give it. Thats one basic reason why, in spite of your shoddy intimidation our ranks are stronger and more solid than ever.

You must have really been frightened by our growing strength when you called in the Hamtramck pig department to Mace and Beat workers in the Dodge Local 3 union hall last fall. The threat of one DRUM leader being elected Trustee in that local was so great that the U.A.W. bused hundreds of retired white workers to the polls. The Hamtramck police ticketed the cars of black workers who came to vote and tried to "discourage" black participation in the election. Your cronies committed such flagrant violations

of basic democratic procedure that the NLRB called the election a farce. Still, we were not frightened by your violence; we survived with no serious injuries and continued to organize.

When all the harassment, firings and suspension, violent repression and slick talk failed to stop the growth of the League, you sent out 350,000 letters to U.A.W. members denouncing our movement as "racist" and "communist". This act of desperation, which cost U.A.W. members about \$35,000 in stamps, paper and envelopes was humorous. The arch racist union leaders resorting to the tactics that Joe McCarthy tried to use to destroy many union leaders in the 1950's. Apparently black workers didn't see the humor of your position, however, because DRUM, is still here, ELRUM, JARUM, MACRUM, etc are still here and the League is growing stronger every day.

We oppose any plans that you have to raise union dues. We take this position not because we oppose higher strike benefits, but because we recognize that your machine, so efficient at oppressing its own constituency, is incapable of properly handling the funds which it already controls, or of correctly engaging the auto bosses and the white ruling class in effective struggle. The Nixon administration is leading the nation to a period of bad times for the working man. His so-called anti-inflationary tactics may well lead to an economic crisis resultant in widespread unemployment and reductions in real wages. To struggle against the Nixon administration will require determination, courage, mass support and leadership imbued with revolutionary principles. We cannot beat the white racist ruling class capitalists if we fight the war according to their rules. We cannot protect the interests of workingmen through mild manner legalistic protests. Will you be willing to call upon the community to physically support the struggle against the Nixon led ruling class rats? Will you be willing to call a general strike of all working people, to bring this nation to a grinding halt in the struggle for a decent society. Are you willing to face the guns of the police, the national guard and the army? Will you use the immense resources of the labor movement to arm workers into self defense armies capable of repelling any attempt by the capitalists to repress our struggle. Are you willing to take any and all steps necessary, no matter how hot and violent the fight may become to insure the final victory of black (or for that matter white) workers. Are you willing to bring about the destruction of the system of capitalism and racism which is at the root of our many, many problems in the first place?

Of course we know the answer. We know that in the final analysis you will stand with the Nixons, the Fords, the Lynn Townsends, Rockerfellers, DuPonts Mellons and all the other enemies of the black worker and the black population. That is why you are a sniveling, low down, conniving, racist, miserable cheap excuse for a union president; and that is why we are going to destroy you, Walter Reuther, along with all the puppets, hanger-ons and opportunist racists who follow you.

We intend to have a peaceable demonstration, but we want you to know that great anger burns in our hearts. For us, the problems of working at Ford or G.M. are hard realities, not abstractions discussed in your "union leadership" classes. The reality finds us working under conditions synonymous with plantation chain gang slavery; the only difference is that on the plantation we moved down the line and at Chrysler the line moves past us. We work under unsafe conditions. In hot polluted air, incredible noise, and at a pace of work designed for pack animals. Yet our wages are low and our taxes high. What fruits do we reap from our lifelong toil? All around us our houses rot, our schools are inadequate, the streets and alleys are overrun with rodents and kill crazy police, decent food and clothing or medical and dental care is beyond our reach, our children are sent off to war and we have no hope of ever changing any of this if we continue to follow the established leadership and to accept the established order of this society. We are making the revolution, Walter Reuther, and we will win.

Salaam,  
Central Staff  
League of Revolutionary Black  
Workers

TABLE

Racial Distribution of Apprentices  
MANUFACTURING TRADES, APPRENTICE TRAINING SCHOOL

Enrollment as of October 28, 1966

	Total	Negro	% Negro
Total Job Shops (Including Detroit Tooling Association)	883	25	3.0
Total Chrysler	74	13	18.0
Total General Motors	245	28	11.0
Total Stationary Engineers and Electrical Lineman	160	48	30.0
TOTAL	1,362	114	8.7

	Job Shops Including Det. Tool. Assn.			Chrysler Corp.			General Motors			GRAND TOTAL		
	TOTAL	NEGRO	% NEGRO	TOTAL	NEGRO	% NEGRO	TOTAL	NEGRO	% NEGRO	GRAND TOTAL	NEGRO	% NEGRO
Tool Designer	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	0	.0
Die Makers	321	3	.9	30	3	10.0	44	4	9.1	395	10	2.5
Die Cast Diemaker	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	0	.0
Electrician	25	5	20.0	-	-	-	23	3	13.0	48	8	17.0
Machine Repair	29	2	6.9	12	2	16.6	34	3	8.8	75	7	9.3
Machinist	27	1	3.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	1	3.7
Millwright	11	-	-	13	2	15.4	9	2	22.2	33	4	12.1
Model Makers	9	2	22.2	-	-	-	24	5	20.8	33	7	21.2
Pattern Makers	2	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	20.0	7	1	14.2
Sheet Metal Worker	1	-	-	5	-	-	6	2	33.3	12	2	16.7
Pipefitters	8	2	25.0	6	4	66.7	16	1	6.3	30	7	23.3
Tool Makers	174	3	1.7	8	2	25.0	84	7	8.3	266	12	4.5
Tool & Die Makers	240	7	2.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	240	7	2.9
Tool Maker Operator	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	0	.0
TOTALS	883	25	3.0	74	13	18.0	245	28	11.0	1202	66	5.5

STATIONARY ENGINEERING PROGRAM

Trade	Total	White	Non-White	
			Negro	Negro %
Electrical Lineman	18	17	1	6.0
Industrial Refrigeration	60	41	19	32.0
Steam Engineers	82	54	28	34.0
TOTALS	160	112	48	30.0

SOURCE: Apprentice Training School  
 Manufacturing Trades



25  
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25  
50  

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325  
37  

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1175  
65  

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825

25  
1250  

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1275

3700  
25  

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14500  
74  

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90500

200  
25  

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1000  
400  

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5000

MANUFACTURING TRADES, APPRENTICE TRAINING SCHOOL  
 Enrollment Periods: March 4, 1968 - April 19, 1968

	Total	Non-White		Other
		Negro	Negro%	
Detroit Tooling Association	543	5	0.9	1
Job Shops	253	21	8.3	-
Chrysler Corporation	29	2	6.9	-
General Motors Corporation	105	17	16.2	-
Stationary Engineers	97	40	42.1	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>1</b>

TRADE	Detroit Tooling Association				Job Shops			Chrysler Corporation			General Motors Corporation			GRAND TOTAL				
	Total	Non-White			Total	Negro	Negro %	Total	Negro	Negro %	Total	Negro	Negro %	Grand Total	Non-White			Other
		Negro	Negro %	Other											Negro	Negro %	Negro	
Tool Designer	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	
Die Maker	154	2	1.3	1	58	4	6.9	8	1	12.5	24	2	8.3	244	9	3.7	1	
Die Cast Diemaker	1	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	
Electrician	10	2	20.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	75.0	14	5	35.7	-	
Machine Repair	-	9	-	-	22	2	9.1	-	-	-	20	2	10.0	51	4	7.8	-	
Machinist	-	-	-	-	15	2	13.3	2	-	-	-	-	-	17	2	11.8	-	
Millwright	-	-	-	-	19	5	26.3	4	4	-	3	1	33.3	26	6	23.1	-	
Model Maker	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	10	2	20.0	14	2	14.3	-	
Pattern Maker	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	100	3	1	33.3	-	
Sheet Metal	-	-	-	-	4	1	25.0	6	-	-	2	1	50.0	12	2	16.7	-	
Mold Maker	-	-	-	-	21	1	4.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	1	4.8	-	
Pipe Fitters	-	-	-	-	8	2	25.0	5	1	20.0	2	1	50.0	15	4	26.7	-	
Tool Maker	150	1	0.7	-	26	-	-	3	-	-	39	4	10.3	218	5	2.3	-	
Tool & Die Maker	127	-	-	-	69	4	5.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	196	4	2.0	-	
All Around Tool Machinist	89	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89	-	-	-	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>1</b>	

STATIONARY ENGINEERING PROGRAM

TRADE	Total	White	Non-White		Other
			Negro	Negro%	
Steam Engineers	45	24	21	46.7	-
Industrial Refrigeration	52	33	19	36.5	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>-</b>

SOURCE: Apprentice Training School  
 Manufacturing Trades

# SUPPORT BLACK WORKERS

## BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARY BLACK WORKERS ARE CALLING ON ALL COMMUNITY GROUPS, BLOCK CLUBS, PUBLICATIONS, SOCIAL GROUPS, POLITICIANS, STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS - WORKERS GROUPS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, AND INDIVIDUALS TO SUPPORT US IN A MASSIVE CONFRONTATION OF THE U.A.W. CONVENTION AT COBO HALL - NOVEMBER 9th - BLACK WORKERS CAN NO LONGER TOLERATE THE RACIST POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF WALTER REUTHER AND HIS FLUNKYS IN OUR BEHALF. THEIR ACTS OF NOT RESPONDING TO THE JUST GRIEVANCES OF BLACK WORKERS AND CREATING DIVERSIONARY FACADES MUST END NOW.

Name	Address	Phone	Organization
HARRY L SIMMONS	3351 GRAND	869-1923	H.P.C. Assoc Black Stud
F.D. McCullough	13249 HAMILTON	865-6168	H.P.C.C - ABS
Valerie Reynolds	2969 Monterey	8691297	
NELSON R. FEAGIN	8714 E. Forest	921-2675	DEACONS FOR DEF.
Amiz R. Be Akbez	8714 E. Forest	921-2675	Deacons For Defense
<del>Timothy Askey</del>	5124 Cortland	571-1216	
Eric Edwards	7763 Medbury	371-1589	H.P.C. Ass. Black Student
Valle E. Jones	576 Hollis	874-0915	
Gudule J. Kyjama	3276 Hazelwood	899-5451	Republic of New Africa
Silas E. Hudgins	3371 CORTLAND	8835353 X	
PAT CHARLES	16834 PRAIRIE	861-4165	
Edna Brock	15104 PINEHURST	491-0577	
JOHN A. LYLES	19989 GREENLAW	8637388	
GERALD D. WOOTEN	20017 INDIANA	8640342	
GARLAND SANDERSX	89 OWEN	875-1008	
WILLIE LYLES	16225 KENTUCKY	8620260	
Swanet Waters	20201 BRIARCLIFF	8641713	
BROTHERS	8145 SYLVESTER	9213441	
Joe Walker	2911 Monterey	8688660	
DIANE MARTIN	2478 HAZELWOOD	8976283	
Myron Havis	20144 YACAMA	893-7916	
Andrew R. Calhoun	1271 HARDING	8224051	H.P.C. A.B.S.
Joseph Thomas	3660 E HANCOCK	925-3590	DEACONS FOR DEFENSE
Joseph Williams	4715 TOWNSEND	571-2443	
Melvin Williams			
Kuba M. Neal	10833 MACK	8221451	E.S.V.I.D
C.P.C. Cadets	10833 MACK	" " "	" " "
DONALD FULTON	10833 MACK	" "	" "
Donald Perkins	10833 MACK	822-1451	E.S.V.I.D

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Name	Address	Phone	Organization
DAVID Johnson	10833 MACK	822-1451	<del>E.P.C.</del> ESVID
DONALD HOLLOWAY	10833 MACK	822-1451	ESVID
Glenn & Donald	4151 Fisher	571-5343	<del>ESVID</del>
Derek & Pope	4203 McElliston	571-1255	ESVID
COCHISE PORTER	3719 ERARE		
Donald Lyne	9232299	8659 Knodell	
DONALD LYNE	8659 Knodell	9232299	
Debra Alexander	655 W. Kinley	577-4953	A.B.S.
SHIRLEY MYRICK	2250 TOWNSEND	568-2703	A.B.S.
Cassandra Davis	2059 Taylor	896-6367	O.B.S.
Barbara Jones	1410 Pallister	872-3426	O.B.S.
JOANNE NICHOLSON	8259 DeSoto	345-7352	O.B.S.
EUE JONES	1410 Pallister	872-3426	O.B.S.
J. Galbreth	629 Gladstone	871-5934	
DANNY ADAMS	15445 ILENE	4916177	
JANICE CAREY	15351 Woodingham	863-2838	R.B.S.U
LEONARD HIGGINS	4708 WINDCORN	763-5353	B.B.S.U.
REGINALD LEONARD	25882 Monica	863-8871	B.B.S.U
Deidra Brown	1628 NORTHMAN	863-8209	B.B.S.U

# BLACK WORKERS

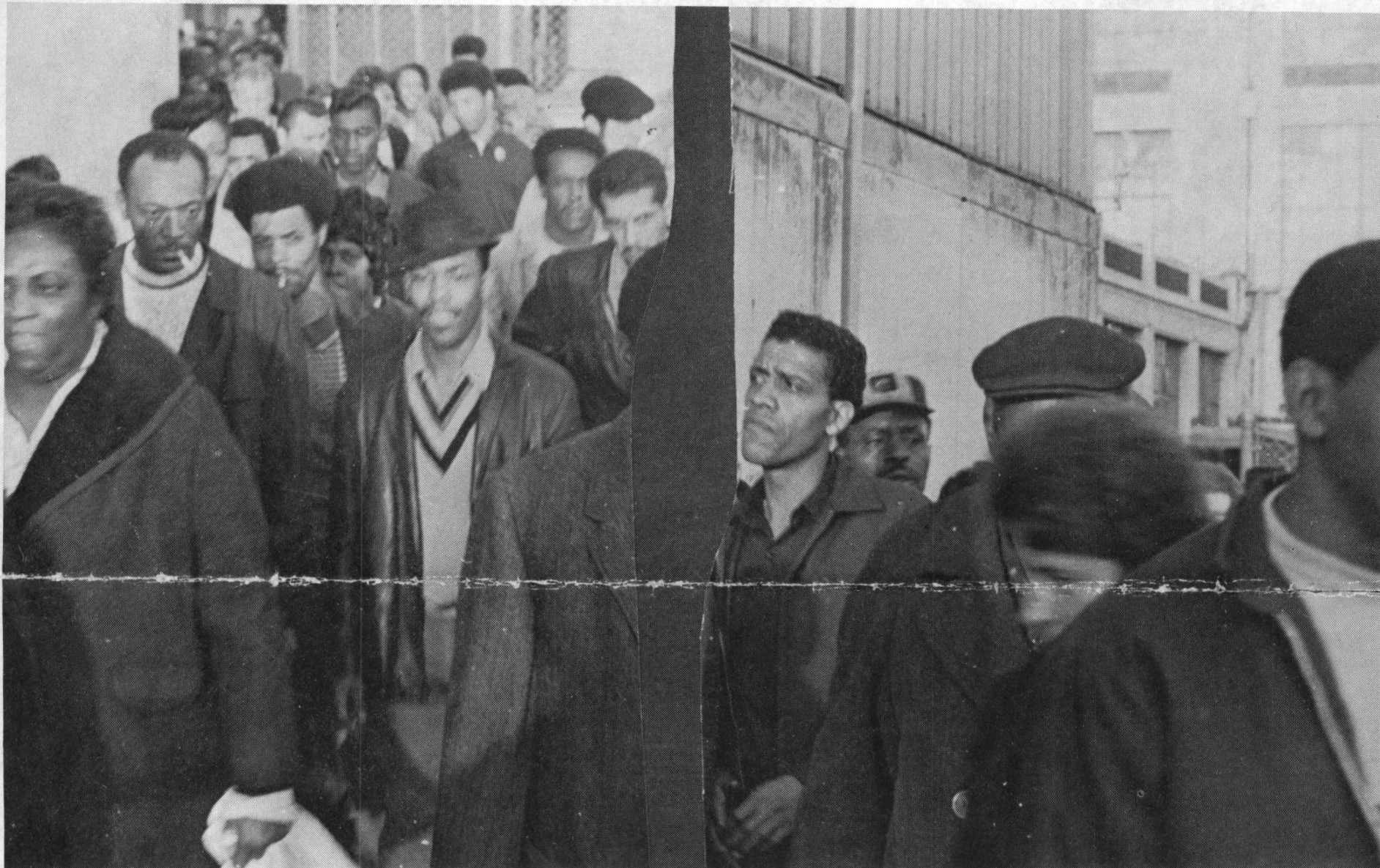
PROTEST

U. A. W

RACISM

## MARCH ON COBO HALL

same as  
ICU - NOV. 69



The leadership of the United Automobile Workers Union has concocted another plot to increase the wealth, power and prestige of the big time white racist union bureaucrats at the expense of the black community and the rank and file black union member. Walter Reuther and his company owned henchmen have called for a special U.A.W. convention to be convened on Nov. 8 & 9, 1969, at Cobo Hall.

The excuse the Reuther clique has given for holding this convention is "to raise strike benefits". Now we are all in favor of higher strike benefits for brothers struggling against the tyranny of the auto bosses, but we know that Reuther and his boys really are not concerned with the welfare of their own rank and file members. Quite to the contrary, workers who attempt to strike and carry on strong struggles against racism, for higher wages and better working conditions, find that they must fight their own union leadership as resolutely as they do the company. As a result, most strikes are wildcats in which

the union provides neither strike benefits or fight for the rights of workers who are suspended, fired or otherwise face disciplinary actions.

We recognize that the real reason for holding this convention is to provide an excuse for the raising of your union dues!

The record of the Reuther gang does not even warrant a continuation of the present level of union dues. While profits have risen over 50% in the last ten years. Wages have not even kept pace with the rise in the cost of living. Speed up and increases in production standards have made automobile labor a living hell. Reuther is running a sweetheart shop. Hand in hand with Chrysler king pin Lynn Townsend. Billionaire Henry Ford II, and G.M. dictator Edward Cole, the Reuther clique helps extract billions of dollars in profits for the white racist monopoly capitalists of the automobile industry.

Reuther doesn't need anymore of our hard earned, blood and sweat drenched money. He needs to be overthrown, deposed and disposed of along with the cheap gang of cut throat thugs, bureaucrats, crooks and sellout politicians who hold on to his coat tails for dear life.

The U.A.W. needs a special convention. It needs profound changes in its leadership, its tactics, strategy and overall goals. A special convention should address itself to the pressing needs of the black production worker, and the black community. Any so called union convention which does not should be attacked and attacked vigorously by the Black community and the black working class. The time has come for the people to put a permanent halt to the sell out, power made games played by the Reuther bureaucrats at our expense.

# LEAGUE of REVOLUTION

## THE U.A.W. MUST END

## ALL RACIST PRACTISES



**THE U.A.W. must end all racist practises within the Union and fight racism in the company.**

Walter Reuther and his henchmen are a bunch of phoney bigots. Reuther shed alligator tears when Martin Luther King was assassinated and piously marched to Selma, Alabama for "Negro Rights". Yet how many times has he cried over the bodies of black workers who have died in industrial accidents in Detroit auto plants, how many times has he marched for the rights of Black workers in his own back yard. The Reuther concern for civil rights is a cheap facade designed to prevent black U.A.W. members from seeing clearly the deplorable record of the U.A.W. in establishing and maintaining racism in its own shops.

Early in the history of the U.A.W. racism was an established fact. In Chrysler and G.M. plants blacks were often denied employment in all fields except janitorial service. Henry Ford recognized the labor value of the "big black buck" and hired thousands of black men to work in his sweatshops before the U.A.W. was organized. When the U.A.W. first tried to organize Ford Rouge, under the leadership of Reuther and others of his ilk, one of the white unionists demands was that all black men be excluded from employment. It wasn't until the black workers made it clear that if they were to be excluded that there would never be a U.A.W., that the Reuther clique relented and allowed integration of the hardest, dirtiest and lowest paying jobs. The racist union leadership only made this concession after black workers broke picket lines set up by racist white union organizers. After the U.A.W. gangsters promised equality inside the union black workers joined, fought and died to win the struggle for unionization.

The union's promise of equality was, of course, a hollow one. The bigshots first bought out a few of the more weak kneed black labor leaders. "Buddy" Battles, president of the foundry unit at Local 600 once led black workers through U.A.W. picket lines as a protest against union racism; but today Battles is a paid agent of

Reuther, active in stifling militant black action in and outside of the plants. Once a few colored "brothers" had sold out the rest of the black workers were set up as easy prey for the company. "Token" integration of the union leadership didn't allow blacks the political power to effectively demand equality. Even today with 45 to 50% of the U.A.W. membership black, only two of 26 international executive board members are black, and only about 75 of over 1,100 international representatives are black. The few blacks in the hierarchy understand that their jobs depend, upon their jumping in rhythm with Reuther's tune. They are the most conservative element in the leadership of the black community, and the least independent.

Under control of Reuther's racist machine, the black worker has fared no better inside the plant than he has in the union. Racism has been the calling card. Blacks are first of all systematically excluded from the skilled trades, white collar jobs, and all but the lowest level of management. Blacks are employed under the most dangerous conditions. In the foundries, for instance, 95% of the workers suffer from silicosis and other lung diseases and have their life expectancy cut 15 to 20 years short. Black workers are found in great numbers in the stamping plants where fingers and toes are severed almost daily. Blackworkers are found in the trim shops, the body shops, spot welding on final production lines, and anywhere else where men drop dead from exhaustion fighting never ending, constantly accelerating production lines.

Under the Reuther machine black men 50 years old are tied to the production lines while 20 year old white boys get jobs as clerks in the stock dept or in transportation; and the white youngsters are soon promoted to supervisory or other white collar jobs. For the black worker the pressure of production never ceases. In fact, because of the super exploitation of black labor, profits in autos have soared. A process called "niggermation" is more pervasive than automation. Often new black workers are forced to do

the work of two white men. An investigation by members of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers uncovered a typical case at the Ford engine plant where a young brother was producing over 120 units an hour on a job previously worked by two men at a pace of 70 units an hour; the previous men had exercised seniority to get off the job because it was too strenuous.

Black workers earn billions of dollars of excess profits for the white racist corporations because of U.A.W. sanctioned and enforced racist practices. As long as the official representative of black workers perpetuate their continued enslavement we can make no progress; therefore we must use whatever pressure and force we can bring to bear to end all racist practices in the union and demand that the union movement fight to the end against racist practices of the company.

**The Union Must fight Speed-up and Win Better Working Conditions.**

The fault of the U.A.W. doesn't end with racism. Even privileged white workers suffer because of the neglect of duty of the Reuther gang. Speed up, safety hazards and unhealthy working conditions have become regular fare for all auto workers. Through cooperation with the company in increasing production, Reuther and his gang have made millions for the auto barons at the expense of the worker. In 1947, the auto industry produced 4,800,000 cars with a production labor force of 626,000. In 1966 the industry produced 10,560,000 cars and trucks with a production labor force of 668,400. Moreover, the late model cars are bigger and have more accessories and options than anytime before in our history. So black workers are now producing at least twice as much as auto workers twenty years ago.

On the sweat and muscle of black workers the auto companies have doubled and tripled their size. In 1946 Chrysler was worth \$283 Million, today they are worth over \$2 billion, and only 10% of this rise came from the sale of stocks. The rest was squeezed from the backs of

# REVOLUTIONARY BLACK WORKERS

## END HARRASSMENT OF BLACK WORKERS.



black workers. G.M. rose in capital worth from \$1.4 billion to \$8.7 billion with less than 10% new investments; and Ford increased its value from \$771 million to \$4.8 billion with less than one half of one percent in new money. Since 1960 average wages have increased about 25% for black workers; during the same period profits for the white owned and controlled corporations rose 77%, dividends rose 60%, personal interest income rose 80.6%, and undistributed corporate profits rose 93%. While wages rose to an average of \$3.50 hr., inflation wiped out any real rise in our income and we are often forced to work overtime or extra jobs simply to make ends meet. So speed up has reaped untold fortunes for the white auto capitalists while we barely manage to survive. Who's interests do the Reuther gang really represent?

### End Harrassment of Black Workers and Black Revolutionists.

As if the record wasn't bad enough, the Reuther gang cannot leave the black worker to his miserable job. Black people are constantly harrassed and intimidated by the company with the full cooperation of their union "representatives". Brothers, are forced to contribute money to the white controlled United Foundation for instance. If they refuse they are usually punished by some petty unofficial form of discipline. Black men who wear beards or dashikis, tikis, naturals or other symbols of black pride are often intimidated by their supervisors. This harrassment must end, and the union must quit siding with the company, or must be recognized and destroyed as an agent of the company and replaced by a viable organization representing the most progressive sector of the labor movement.

### Fiscal Responsibility to the Black Community

The U.A.W. collects over \$10 million every month from its membership. This money, the bulk of it from the pockets of black workers is used to provide salaries, staff and facilities for the U.A.W. seelout leadership.

Millions of dollars are used by Reuther and his bunch for their pet projects and for investment purposes. The projects, however, are never designed to benefit the black community. Millions are squandered on political campaigns for special conferences and conventions and do nothing for recreation and reform programs in the inner city as well as the suburban areas. But the money (our money) is rarely used to support black candidates (except for known Reuther flunkies) or invested for black economic development, or for independent community organization in the ghetto. Millions of dollars which black Detroit area workers pour into the union coffers every year could be used to build new homes, schools universities, libraries, recreation and social centers, rifle ranges, food co ops, small industries, etc. Instead Reuther supports further blackmail of the black workers by social faggots like the United Foundation. We pay enough in union dues to provide 10 black controlled United Foundations. The money now taken from black workers and administered by the U.A.W. must be turned back into the hands and control of rank and file black U.A.W. members. We have already spent too much in supporting the needs of white America, and we want the white ruling class, also Reuther and the auto barons, to keep out of the business of the black community.

### The Union as a Political Force

A union of workers is power. They can, if they so decide, control the economy of a country as large and powerful as the U.S.A. simply by calling a general strike. When workers are abused by a racist capitalist controlled government, they can respond by closing down the economical heart of the nation. Black workers are drafted, have incredibly high income taxes, state taxes, etc. We are brutalized by the police, and robbed by corrupt politicians, but because of the Reuther leadership we cannot use our natural power to strike, for political reasons. As a result the war goes on, taxes increase, inflation, spirals, cops shoot out children, our schools are undereducating our children and our

community rots in decay. Yet, Reuther does nothing more than preach his "love" for "civil rights". Black workers make up 35% of the industrial labor force as represented by production workers. Our hands actually create the wealth of America, and without us the nation could not continue its existence. This is power, real power, in the very hands of black labor. Because Walter Reuther and his henchmen hold the leadership of "our" union with the sweethearts of G.M. Ford and Chrysler, we have been unable to join together to use our power in our own interest.

The time, however, is coming near. The U.A.W. will either respond to the needs of black folk, or we will move independently of the official unions to exercise the power for our own benefit rather than for the auto bosses and their friends.

This is the crux of the matter. Black U.A.W. members are over worked, underpaid, abused, misused, and usually refused when they ask for redress. Yet Reuther is calling a convention to raise a strike chest larger than the \$90 million on hand (to be invested by white capitalists). The strike benefits should be raised if the union is really going to struggle against the system. But the Reuther clique isn't interested in the black worker, or his family or his community, he only wants more of your money to do with as he pleases. This policy must stop; the Reuther gang must be confronted, the U.A.W. must begin to represent the interests of black workers.

Join us in the movement to free the black workers from the final chains of slavery to the chains gangs of Chrysler, G.M. and Ford. Join us in our exposure of the Reuther clique of white hearted bandits. Demonstrate with the League of Revolutionary Black Workers.

CONFRONT THE RACIST U.A.W. LEADERSHIP

COBO HALL

NOVEMBER 9, 1969

# CONFRONT THE RACIST UAW LEADERSHIP

WHERE : COBO HALL

WHEN : 11:00 O'CLOCK AM

SUNDAY NOV. 9

BE THERE

## JOIN the League of Revolutionary Black Workers

### WE DEMAND

Our basic demands of the U.A.W. are:

1. Halt U.A.W. racism. 50% representation for black workers on the international executive board. Fire Reuther and elect a black president and one black vice president, 50% of all international staff members should be black. Open skilled trades and apprentices to any black worker who applies. Recognition of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers and its affiliates as the official spokesman for black workers on the local and national level with the power to negotiate black demands on the company and union and the power to call officially sanctioned strikes.
2. We demand that the grievance procedure be completely revised so that grievances are settled immediately on the job by the workers in the plant involved. The grievance procedure is used to prevent workers from using their strike power to fight abuses from management. Since the procedure completely ties the hands of workers and basically serves company interests it should be scraped and replaced by a completely new system.
3. Elimination of all safety and health hazards in the auto industry. This means cleaning the air in the foundry and redesigning dangerous machinery and cut back in production on hazardous jobs.
4. The union must fight vigorously against speed up and increases in production standards. The companies should double the size of their work force to meet the present workload. There were 650,000 production workers in auto in 1947 producing 4.5 million vehicles. In 1966 650,000 workers produced nearly 10 million vehicles loaded with accessories and options. We are working two and three times as hard for the same real income. With today's technology production standards can easily be cut to reasonable humane lines.
5. The union must fight for a five hour work day and a four day work week. The profit level of industry is high enough to allow for more leisure time for workers.
6. The union must fight for an immediate doubling of the wages of all production workers. Since

1960 wages of black workers have risen less than 25%. Yet profits have risen more than 90%. The pitifully small increase the black production workers have received has been completely wiped out by inflation. We know how wealthy the company is. We know how low their labor costs presently are. In fact, we know that it costs less than \$100 in labor to produce a \$3,000 car. We say increase that labor cost to \$200. per car and double the wages immediately.

7. We demand a cut in union dues. The union already collects \$10 million a month from its members and can't defend the rights of the workers.
8. We demand the end of the checkoff of union dues. While the check off was progressive in the 30's today it prevents workers from disciplining poor union leadership.
9. We demand that all U.A.W. investment funds be used to finance economic development in the black community under programs of self determination. The union now holds over \$90,000,000 in strike funds in white banks. They lost over \$1,000,000 in strike funds when a bank in California folded two years ago. We demand that all such money be held in black institutions and used in the black community.
10. We demand that the union end its collusion with the United Foundation. Black workers should contribute only to black controlled charities working for the benefit of the black community.
11. We demand that all monies expended for political campaigns by the U.A.W. be turned over to the League of Revolutionary Black Workers and the Black United Front for black controlled and directed political work.
12. We demand that the U.A.W. end its collusion with the C.I.A., the F.B.I. and all other white racist spy institutions.
13. We demand that the U.A.W. end all interference in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the black community. That community and the black workers in it are to

exercise self determination in all political, economic, social and cultural activities and are to use black contributed union funds in any such activities. This means that the UAW end its affiliation with MDCDA, New Detroit, and other such programs and place all administration authority and funds in the hands of the black community.

14. We demand an end to the harrassment of black revolutionists and their leaders by the auto companies with U.A.W. Cooperation.
15. We demand that the U.A.W. use its political and strike powers to call a general strike to demand immediate:
  - a. An end to the Vietnam war and withdrawal of all American troops.
  - b. An immediate end to all taxes imposed upon workers.
  - c. Increases in profit and industrial property taxes to make up the difference.
  - d. Reallocation of all Federal monies spent on defense to meet the pressing needs of the black and poor populations of America.

The League is calling for all concerned black people to support and participate in this action.

There are several things you can do to help:

1. Lend your name to the list of supporters of the Nov. 9 action.
2. Have your organization endorse the demonstration and encourage members to support.
3. Help publicize the demonstration by passing out literature, word of mouth, announcements at meetings, etc.
4. Come out on Nov. 9th and bring as many people as you can.

A brother from the League will contact you soon to get your signature on a support petition. In the meantime call us at the League office 865-8184 for more information.