

# DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 2 OF 16

FOLDER 27

DRAFT OF ARTICLES ELDON  
WILDCAT

An interesting confrontation took place last

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J.U. Sims was elected Committee by Eldon workers in a fair election. He is still a dues paying member in good standing of Local 961. He is entitled to all the rights and privileges of all UAW members including the right to run for and hold office. Sims has not died, resigned, or been recalled nor have charges been filed against him and heard by a Trial Committee. He is still our committeeman.

Since last summer Chrysler has refused to allow Sims in the plant to represent us at the bargaining table. Management has no right to do this, but our Local leadership gladly went along with the bosses. Why?

Who picks our union representatives---  
us or the company? ###



The Wayne County Jail is an inhuman hellhole because it can be no other way under a profit demanding system. There is no money for a decent jail because our taxes are spent to build roads and highways--and the construction corporations get rich. Our taxes are spent for defense, and Viet Nam--and the war corporations get rich. Workers' taxes go up, lay-offs increase, inflation increases, and Nixon gives Big Business a tax break: ~~Money for bombs, money for concrete, no money for human beings.~~

Brothers and sisters, we must understand the Wayne County Jail and the Eldon Avenue Gear and Axle plant are both parts of the same thing. They're both part of a system that puts profits above the welfare of the human beings who live in it and produce the profits it feeds on.

James Johnson was produced by this system, as we all are, and did what he could to destroy it before it destroyed him. He is not a hero, he is not a cold blooded murderer, he is a victim. ~~Basic changes must be made.~~

? strictly true ?

meaning  
the destruction  
of VN

reacted

Query use of word "Hero" when some people (Elmer) treat him as one.

UP - jail conditions  
Be sure to talk about racial population of both the jail & Eldon - and that many prisoners have not been found guilty.

More Broken Promises; More Injured Workers

Anyone who thinks the company intended to keep its promises to clean up Dept. 76 (15 separate items in the August 1970 Memo of Understanding) should talk to Leonard Foster, a Dept. 69 Inspector. (

A week or so ago Foster slipped in a heavy layer of oil in Dept. 76 near the Dept. 72 Cross. He severely twisted his left leg & came close to hitting his head on a machine when he fell. Foster is still hobbling around on a cane and has been given a PQX coding for a sitting down job. But his troubles continue. His so-called "favoring job" requires him to stand up every 5 minutes to perform his inspection job, a tough assignment for a man with an injured leg.

Another man suffered the same type injury in almost the same spot early last week--another victim of the oil slick floors in Dept. 76.

*42 spaces*  
Six prisoners in the Wayne County Jail have gone to court for themselves and the 2,000 other prisoners

Six prisoners in the Wayne County Jail have gone to court for themselves and the 2,000 other people in the dark, dirty and overcrowded jail. The six, ~~black~~ prisoners, ~~black & white~~, and white prisoners, include political prisoners (a white man and a black man), persons accused of arson, murder and narcotics violations and James Johnson, an Eldon worker waiting trial for the killing of two foremen and a jobsetter in Dept. 78 last June. >

Animals in the Detroit Zoo get better care than prisoners in the Wayne County Jail. Conditions there are unbelievable: dark dirty cells, miserable food, overcrowded conditions and no forks and knives to eat with. The mattresses prisoners sleep on are thin and filthy dirty; more often than not the plumbing doesn't work so the floors are caked and crusted with filth.

So-called "mental cases" have it worse. These human beings are often left alone in tiny, cold cells with no lights, no clothes, no bed or blankets and no human company. The toilet is a hole in the floor. Yet these people have been put in this hellhole not on the say-so of a doctor, but of a jail official. The best that can be said of their "medical" care is one doctor "tries" for a few hours each day. The newspapers have been running expose stories; the politicians are busy crying about lack of money and trying to dodge responsibility; nothing changes. Meanwhile, James Johnson and the thousands of other inmates continue to suffer daily and prolonged torture in the Wayne County Jail.

*Many waiting trials*

*In an attempt to correct the barbaric conditions in the jail.*

*The purpose of the lawsuit is to expose the inhuman conditions in the jail and correct them by legally forcing the various government officials responsible for the jail to correct them.*

Eldon workers know about James Johnson's case. We know how and why he cracked under the pressure of working at Eldon. We know he was suspended by management after an argument with his foremen, returned to the plant and shot down three men. We know he was also gunning for his steward and we know why. We know of the dirty dangerous conditions at Eldon. We've been living with them for years while the union has stood by and done nothing. We remember Gary Thompson died last May because of an unsafe jitney. We remember the wildcat strikes last spring in which some of our strongest union people were fired by Chrysler and then ~~sold out by the~~ Local Leadership and Solidarity House. We know Solidarity House wasn't lying when it finally recognized reality and recently said of Eldon: "It is the ghetto of Chrysler Corporation plants. It is dirty, unsafe and practices discrimination in employment." We know these are the conditions really responsible for the deaths of Hugh Jones, Gary Hinz and Joe Nowalski,

X

the Local Leadership and Solidarity House → sold them out.

mv

X

It wasn't a plan on his part just frustration

James Johnson is a sensitive man. He felt deeply about the conditions he encountered each day at Eldon, and can only be accused of doing what he thought had to be done to correct them.

Eldon is a dangerous, dirty factory because Chrysler's only interest is making profits for its shareholders and huge salaries for the bureaucrats at the top. The system must have profits to survive, and Chrysler is an important part of the system. Right now the plant is in such bad shape the only way to clean it up and make it safe would be to shut it down completely for several weeks. In other words, stop all production and (Naturally) lower Chrysler's profits. ~~This will~~ never happen as long as we live in a system that demands profits the way lions in the zoo demand 50 lbs. of fresh bloody meat every day.

for safety sake.

this would workers must

## Charges Filed Against Top Officers

What are we going to do with a Local President who adjourns membership meetings anytime members on the floor oppose his tactics? And what about a Recording Secretary who tries to hide important communications from the membership and the Executive Board? The September membership meeting was a good example of this problem.

*and . . .*  
We had a lot of trouble getting James Franklin to admit charges have been filed against himself, President Elroy and Financila Secretary Gordon Francis by Trustee J.C. Thomas, and he did his best to keep from reading them to the meeting. And then Elroy adjourned the meeting as soon as members began demanding information and discussion of the charges. Just like he did at the August 20 meeting when people started asking hard questions about the sell-out Aug. 1970 Memo of Understanding.

Trustee Thomas' charges state that Elroy has violated both the U.A.W. Constitution and Local 961 By-Laws by:

- 1) not calling a special membership meeting to discuss and vote on the August 1970 Memo of Understanding
- 2) cancelling the July; and August membership meetings without the consent of the membership
- 3) spending union funds without the authorization of either the Exec. Board or the membership
- 4) closing the union hall during the week of 5/27/70 and on 8/12/70 without the consent of either the Exce. Bd. or the membership
- 5) using "scare tactics" and threatening members with loss of their jobs when they came to the hall to vote on the August 1970 Memo of Understanding.
- 6) clearing James Franklin for more than 1 day lost time from the plant without consulting the Exec. Bd.
- 7) appointing his own choices to committee chairs without approval of the Exec. Bd.
- 8) refusing to allow members of the Exec. Bd. to see the contents of the Criterion before publication.



The charges against Recording Secretary Franklin state he

- 1) misplaced or hid the registered letters containing the charges against himself, Elroy and Gordon Francis.
- 2) has distorted the minutes of union meetings for the past 9 months.
- 3) violated Article 6, Section 3 (b) of the By-Laws by being cleared from the plant for union business for more than 1 day per week without authorization of the Exec. Bd.

Charges ~~filed~~ against Financial Secretary Gordon Francis have been filed by J.U. Sims, J.C. Thomas, W. Sparks and F. McKinnon. These charges claim Francis discriminated against the complaining individuals and Tony Moore by imposing a 20.00 delinquency fine and reinstatement fee without making the same assessment against others who have been delinquent in their dues. These are the 5 men who were fired ~~in~~ in connection with the wildcats last spring and who were told by Elroy not to worry about their dues.

In addition we have been informed that Alternate Steward Nate Smith and some other members have filed charges against Elroy for cancelling the July membership meeting without the consent of the membership. However, James Franklin has so far managed to keep ~~these~~ this ~~an~~ charge from the attention of both the membership and the Exec. Bd.

Wildcat and ELRUM have enlisted some important new members according to our president, Elroy Richardson. Elroy issued a bulletin to the membership last week claiming members of Wildcat and ELRUM disrupted last Sunday's special membership meeting and forced him to adjourn it. This is an outright lie! No one from ELRUM attended the meeting, the only member of Wildcat present in the hall arrived late and never got the floor.

For those who are wondering, here's what really happened. Frank McKinnon, a 3rd shift Chief Steward, got the floor first and requested a roll call of the Executive Board. This request was angrily refused by Elroy. Then J.U. Sims, Chief Committeeman stated the meeting itself was improper because the U.A.W. constitution (Article 19, Section 3) requires all agreements negotiated by a local union to be ratified or voted down in a special membership meeting called expressly for that purpose. The procedure followed last week by Elroy, a membership meeting to discuss the agreement followed a few days later by a secret ballot vote on ratification, violated this provision. Elroy indignantly refused to recognize Sims' question. The final speaker was J.C. Thomas, a Trustee. J.C. raised the same question as Sims. Elroy became enraged at this display of opposition and adjourned the meeting after it had lasted about 20 minutes. Apparently Elroy hasn't read our By-laws lately. They require all membership meetings to run at least 2 hours before they can be adjourned.

Yes, last Sunday's special meeting was disrupted--by a local President afraid and unwilling to face up to the questions of his fellow union officials.

Our readers in Cutter Grind should ask themselves this question: "What kind of union brother would accept weekend overtime work, promise to report for work and then stay home, thus depriving another member of overtime?" A damned poor one, right?

Yet this is what your local president, Elroy Richardson, has reportedly done in recent weeks. Elroy, a skilled tradesman in Cutter Grind, accepted weekend for 4 recent Saturdays, but only showed up for work two times.

Is shafting fellow members out of overtime your idea of building unity in our local union, Elroy?



"Worst of the Worst"

Dept. 70

Skid boxes block the vision of jitney drivers and people on foot in the aisles. Noise covers the sound of the jitneys, many of which had no warning horns until recently, after the Eldon Workers Safety Committee had attempted a plant-wide refusal to work under hazardous conditions such as these.

The air is an atrocity and obviously abnormally dangerous. Excessive heat from furnaces in bays A-15, B-18, D-18, D-20 and B-20. Welding fumes, smoke and dust.

Dept. 71

On the Valiant line management removed safety devices from three Acmes in 1968 to speed up production. These devices stopped the stock cylinders from free wheeling and protected the operators' hands. There's so much oil and water on the stock workers can't see what they're doing when they remove and insert stock into the machine. If they guess wrong/or slip they stand a good chance of ripping and mangling their hands.

Dept. 72

An electrician working in 72 has been severely shocked twice. Why? Because the foreman is so hungry for iron he hurries the electrician and forces him into painful (if he's lucky) errors.

A burr machine was installed near the Cross requiring the operator to turn his back to the Cross, exposing him to being hit in the back by stock falling off the conveyor. Now, here's the interesting part of the story, told to us by a man who ran the job for several years. We're told the burr machine was installed in the same spot formerly occupied by a stock bench. The operator would bring in a Free Press every day, open it on the work bench and read it while a piece of stock cycled through the machine. One night he was approached by his steward who told him to stop reading the paper while working because he could be seriously injured by stock falling off the conveyor. A

short time later the burr machine replaced the stock bench. The man complained to the steward that the burr machine obviously exposed him to the same dangers as reading a newspaper had. The steward refused to write a grievance or take any action whatsoever.

The company had succeeded not only in doubling the man's work, but also in exposing him to an obviously abnormally dangerous working condition.

Last Friday morning Dept. 74, 3rd shift, took effective action against their weak and ineffective Chief Steward, Frank McKinnon. THEY got themselves together, got up a petition demanding a Dept. meeting "to discuss unresolved grievances", and presented it to McKinnon and Committeeman Charley Thornton. Thornton was then required to turn the demand over to the Unit Chairman, L. Williams, Dept. 76, who scheduled the meeting and chaired it.

Dept. 74 had a number of complaints against McKinnon including: failure to respond quickly to calls for assistance, failure to write grievances as promised and half-hearted, half-assed representation on the floor. These men were angry; they weren't polite and they weren't accepting any shuck and jive answers. They demanded and got immediate action on most of their problems and firm promises on the rest. In addition, McKinnon committed himself to at least walk through the department several times a shift to check things out--which he should do anyway.

BUT Dept. 74 also took further action to get themselves effective protection against a hostile foreman. They also elected a "blue button" steward from among themselves. "Blue button" stewards were common in the UAW for many years, but ~~lately~~ lately have not been widely used. You can find "blue button" stewards in the first step of the grievance procedure (paragraph 36, section 1(a) of the master contract) in the language "or an employee designated by a group of employees." Any department can have a "Blue Button" steward. All you do is get together, elect your man and give written notice of the election to your Committeeman and foreman. Management has to recognize a "Blue Button" steward at the first step of the grievance procedure; its in the contract.

The men in Dept. 74 deserve a lot of credit for having the guts to be "trouble makers" to protect themselves. The rewards of their initiative: immediate effective representation on the floor and clear notice to their Chief Steward to either perform or get out.

Incidentally, Dept. 75, 3rd shift, rose up angry against McKinnon last Fall, and took the same action against him.

Elroy, what's going on in District 16?

Everybody, even the politicians, is concerned these days about our involvement in Viet Nam. Even Nixon knows we've got to get out of Southeast Asia or he'll be out of a job. Almost 50,000 have been killed in Viet Nam, and currently we're losing around 50 per week. For what? Most of us realize by now Viet Nam is a rich man's war being fought by working people to protect American business interests in Southeast Asia.

But most of us don't realize the companies are protecting their own interests at home by concealing what should be a national scandal--the deaths and injuries of American Workers on the job.

A recent U.S. Dept. of Labor pamphlet on work injuries and safety statistics proves job injuries and deaths exceed our Viet Nam casualties, and shows how American industry hides many industrial casualties from public view by setting up its own self-favoring accident reporting systems. So far, unions and government agencies have let them get

be exact -

A recent U.S. Dept of Labor pamphlet ~~shows that~~ admits that more people are killed & wounded in U.S. plants ~~than in~~

Vietnam: figures.

And it admits further that U.S. industry reports only about 10% of all casualties suffered in its plants

away with it. Why? Don't they care?  
 Or do they have special reasons for  
 not caring?

*end of  
 article*

According to the Dept. of Labor pamphlet 55 American workers are killed on the job each day, 27,000 are injured, and of these 8,500 are disabled. The pamphlet also states in 1966, the latest figures available, 255 Million man-days were lost because of work injuries, but only 25.4 million were lost due to strikes and work stoppages. Obviously no way to run a railroad--or anything else.

You didn't see these figures in the News or Free Press. Why not?

This is the way it works. In each state industrial deaths and lost time accidents are reported and computed by formulas and rules established by an association of private and government safety officials--company men who act accordingly, and put plenty of loopholes in the rules. In California, for example, it was discovered only 1 out of every 10 injuries is reported.

*Separate  
 article  
 which might  
 come out of  
 practices  
 in the  
 plants -  
 i.e.*

*sent back  
 with PAX  
 instead of  
 sent home*



Chrysler, for instance, doesn't have to report hernias as lost time injuries unless 1) the hernia was the result of a sudden strain (rarely the case with hernias) and 2) the injury was immediately and promptly reported to management.

The same rules apply to back injuries and other strains. The result is many disabling injuries do not appear on Chrysler's Lost Time Injury Reports even though the worker loses time from the job and the company pays Workmen's Compensation. Or if "favoring work" is offered an injured worker, his injury is not reported. (We all know how "favorable" many of these "favoring jobs" are, and all we can do is tough it out.

Why does industry go to such lengths to hide and distort the ugly reality of work injuries and deaths? Because truthfully reporting them would draw attention to an outrageous situation and workers might decide to do something about it one way or the other. In other words it would cost the companies money, and in our economic system the real purpose of our production is not to fulfill human needs; we produce for the expansion of

private capital. The economic system which produces a Viet Nam War to protect Standard Oils' future interests in Southeast Asian off-shore oil deposits also produces the increasingly unsafe conditions all American workers face each day on the job. In Chrysler's eyes spending money for safety improvements is "non-productive expenditure" which does nothing to expand private capital. The company, therefore, spends its money elsewhere, and we pay the price in always painful, often disabling, often fatal work accidents.



The Big Three (especially Chrysler. Especially Eldon Avenue Axle Plant) made a big thing a few years ago <sup>as</sup> with special hiring programs for so-called "hardcore unemployed" workers. Apparently it was nothing more than the usual shuck job you can expect from big business.

The Nixon years are here, the Republicans are on us like ~~foxes in the chicken house~~ <sup>Bible college</sup> Hell's Angels in a ~~union university~~ sorority house, and naturally we have a recession. Naturally. And we all know who gets the shitty end of the stick first in a recession. The "hardcore unemployed," right?" Your fuckin' A.

Does Ford care? GM? Chrysler? <sup>Solidarity House?</sup> ~~The Union?~~ Why should they? They're making theirs. They're all eating red meat and watching color TV.

No one has a followup program to find out what happened to laid off "hardcore" workers. Not even your union.

Why should they?

But a Chrysler public relations flunkey (after a thick steak and several martinis at the Caucus Club) sees a brighter side. He says the people laid off and in the streets can take pride in saying "they were part of the system, and it was economic failure rather than their own failure."

(If you're sitting home wondering what your family'll eat next week what the fuck difference does it make how you got there? You're there and its playing hell.)  
<sup>with your life.</sup>

Understand: these assholes really believe this shit. These stupid chomps really believe that when a man is down and poor its because he's an inferior man and always has been raggedy and inferior and always will be and so will his kids and their kids too AND ITS ALL THEIR OWN FAULT AND NOT THE SYSTEM'S. They really believe this. And they really believe they're superior beings ~~because~~ <sup>MAN'S</sup> because they wear the white collar (proudly) and read a few books in some jive-ass college and live in some plastic-ass ghetto like Bloomfield Hills or Pleasant Ridge.

Besides, they're comfortable. They can always say "Well, it was the economy that fucked up this time instead of the workers. Too bad. Better luck next time." and turn back to their thick steaks and martinis.

These people are not your ~~fr~~ friends. They will give you nothing; anything you get from them you'll have to be strong enough to take. And when you come to take ~~it~~ <sup>what's yours,</sup> that public relations man is ~~going~~ going to see his steaks and martinis disappearing and he's not going to care whether you're "hard core unemployed" or a skilled tradesman with fifteen years seniority. <sup>OR, IF YOU'RE WHITE OR BLACK,</sup> All he's going to see is a dirty, greasy factory worker. The enemy. You.

We won't take a god damned thing from him unless we've got ourselves good and together.

Think about it.

## Chrysler Coffee

If your wife made coffee like this, you'd figure she was poisoning you for your insurance. Or you could ~~could~~ prosecute her for indecent assault on your stomach. You can take it home and clean out your kitchen plumbing with it--or delouse your dog. A man in Dept. 75 says he used it to poison some rats behind his garage. Interstate charges 10¢ a cup for it: 7¢ for the cup, 1¢ for cream, 1¢ for sugar and 1/2¢ for the coffee. The other 1/2¢ is Interstate's charge for its service--exactly what its worth. They charge 1/2¢ for the coffee, but only give us 1/8 ¢ worth per cup. That's how they make their money. They also make a lot of money by having their machines rob us of nickels and dimes. That's why we call the coffee machines "5 and 10 cent men." But Interstate has real pride in its product; it only sells coffee first rejected by White Tower. Foremen drink it all the time. That's to make their breath so bad workers won't come near enough to argue about working conditions. Stewards have to drink it all the time to defend themselves against the foremen. That's why you can always find the stewards in the cafeterias drinking coffee. Drinking Chrysler Coffee makes you a do-it-yourself ulcer expert. Smelling it makes your nose bleed; looking at it makes your stomach hurt. Just thinking about it while you're working makes you nervous and jerky and accident prone. If you spill it on the floor the government moves in and marks the area "Contaminated." Someone should file a grievance against Chrysler Coffee demanding Chrysler apply for Federal Anti-Pollution funds to purify it for human consumption. After changeover Chrysler Coffee will be used instead of kerosene to wash red lead off ~~gear~~ gear sets coming out of Dept. 75.

In Dept. 75 men who finish grind #202 Differential Side Gears use diamond bits to dress off the grinding wheels. You sign for them at the tool crib and return 'em when you leave the company, or you pay for them (about \$100) out of your last paycheck.

There aren't too many diamonds lost, but lots of us in Dept. 75 have had them stolen. Now, these are industrial diamonds; they can't possibly have any real cash value on the street. The only possible reason anyone would have for stealing someone's diamonds is because someone copped his. Probably someone a long time ago lost his diamonds and stole another man's to **get himself off the** hook. And that person stole another worker's to protect himself. And so on down the line.

In other words, Chrysler has created a situation in Dept. 75 which turns workers into thieves--to protect themselves ~~from~~ against another one of management's typically stupid policies.

Maybe not so stupid. The solution is so obvious even a foreman should be able to figure it out--simply install the diamonds permanently on the machines, and when they wear out a jobsetter installs another set. But ~~maybe~~ maybe Chrysler wants to keep us divided and fighting among ourselves.

One of the big problems for the membership of Local 961 has been the By-Laws. No one really knows what they say; even the officers (who should know 'em by heart) frequently misquote them. Or they make up their own By-Laws to suit the situation. Yet the By-Laws are the basic instrument by which Local 961 is governed. In ~~other~~ other words, the By-Laws are a very important economic factor in your life. How much do you know about them? Nothing, probably. Don't feel ~~like~~ like the Lone Ranger. Most of the rest of us don't either. Its partly your fault; you should check out things **that** affect how you earn your living. But its more the fault of the Local's officers, particularly the Rickard administration, for not making sure every new member at least gets a copy of the By-Laws, along with a copy of the Master Contract and the local agreements.

Maybe we expect too much when we expect our poor over-worked union officers to know and follow the By-Laws. Hell, they had a hard time even coming up with enough working copies for the By-Laws Committee to use in its meetings.

Hopefully, a lot of this is behind us. The By-Laws Committee has been actively revising and rewriting the By-Laws trying to bring them up to date and make this a democratic union.

We'll run the important changes to you in future issues, and try to explain them in terms of the problems they're meant to solve. The membership will have to vote on them when the Committee finishes its work, and we'll keep you up to date on that too.

## HIGH SCHOOLS AND AXLE PLANTS

High schools build strong Axle Plant workers twelve ways. Count

them:

- \* High schools have separate parking lots for teachers and students. Axle Plant management parks just outside the factory gate; the employees park far down the street.
- \* Many high schools have uniformed guards in the halls. Plant Protection men constantly patrol the aisles of an Axle Plant.
- \* In High Schools students eat cheap institutional food, 12 to a table, in chrome, stainless steel and plastic cafeterias. They usually have 20 minutes to eat lunch. Axle Plant workers eat cheap institutional food, 14 to a table, in chrome, stainless steel and plastic cafeterias. They have 15-30 minutes to eat depending on their shift.
- \* A teacher almost always assigns a seat to you, and expects you to be in it; you are questioned and sometimes punished if you leave your seat. In an Axle Plant the foreman assigns you a job and expects you be on it and working when the whistle blows. If you leave your work area the foreman comes looking for you.
- \* If you leave your classroom you have to have a hall pass. If an Axle Plant worker is sick or injured on the job, he has to get a medical pass from the foreman.
- \* A student returning from an absence must have a letter from his parents explaining and excusing his ~~absence~~<sup>frequency</sup>. An Axle Plant worker who's been off sick must have a letter from his doctor confirming he was unable to work.



- \* \* High Schools emphasize productive effort and competition for grades. The teacher grades your performance, taking into account your attendance record, your attitude ("citizenship") and your academic output. If he's satisfied with your work, he passes you on to the next grade and you stay in school. Students with good grades and "high citizenship" get scholarships and good citizen awards from the American Legion, Chrysler Corporation and the DAR. Production output is the main criterion of worth in an Axle Plant. At the end of your 90 day probationary period, and when you quit (or are fired), your foreman grades your performance, taking into account your attendance record, your attitude and your skill in turning out gears and axles. If he likes your work, he recommends you <sup>be kept</sup> ~~stay~~ on the job; when you leave the Corporation, he recommends whether or not you should be rehired. Workers with good work records often get the easier jobs.
- \* College prep. students and athletes get most of whatever extra benefits an High School can offer. Skilled tradesmen in an Axle Plant do easier work and get paid more than ordinary production workers.
- \* Teachers do not like troublemakers. The best thing to do if you want to get along is keep your mouth shut, do the work the teacher wants you to do the way he wants it done, and pick up an easy passing

grade. Foreman do not like troublemakers. You won't have any trouble in an Axle Plant if you keep your mouth shut and do the work the way the foreman wants you to do it.

\*If you're a classroom troublemaker the teacher sends you to the office to talk to your counselor or the principal. If your Axle Plant work record is poor, the foreman takes you to the Production Office and the General Foreman decides what to do with you.

\*Your High School will reprimand you, keep you after school, suspend you from class for a few days or longer, or expel you for breaking the rules. An Axle Plant foreman disciplines an employee by warning him verbally, writing him up, giving him days off, or by firing him.

\*If you finish your classroom work early the teacher usually lets you do what you want as long as you stay quiet and don't disturb the other students. When you make your production in an Axle Plant the foreman doesn't care what you do until the end of the shift as long as you don't disturb someone else from getting his production.

Both teachers and foremen carry the message of American Society:

"Get the work out, do a good enough job, and keep your mouth shut."



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"....it isn't the American white man who is a racist, but it's the American political, economic and social atmosphere that automatically nourishes a racist psychology in the white man."

Malcolm X, Autobiography

A basic complaint against all civil rights laws and ordinances and the government agencies set up to enforce them is they don't really attack the problem of racism at its source. Racism is rooted in an economic system that creates and maintains racial discrimination as a means of keeping workers divided and unable to join together to fight for what is theirs. But Civil Rights laws and agencies usually attempt only to smooth over and settle individual cases of racism. We heard recently of a man who took large amounts of a new improved brand of aspirin for a brain tumor. His headaches went away for awhile but they always returned harder than ever. Finally, he needed major surgery. He may die.

COTTON FIBER CONTENT

For whatever it's worth the four men fired last May 27th for their participation in the Eldon Workers Safety Committee (James Edwards, Alonzo Chandler, Robert McKee and John Taylor) have signed complaints with the Michigan Civil Rights Commission against Chrysler, the U.A.W. International and Local 961 protesting their discharges as racially discriminatory.

The complaint against Chrysler states black workers at Eldon are discriminated against by being put in the dirtiest and most dangerous jobs and departments in the plant. Protesting dangerous working conditions at Eldon automatically means protesting this form of racial discrimination. Firing men for protesting unsafe conditions amounts to firing them for protesting Chrysler's racially discriminatory hiring and job placement practices.

The complaints against the Local and the International state they failed to adequately represent the discharged workers and so helped Chrysler in its racist practices.



It'll be interesting to see whether the Civil Rights Commission will investigate the case quickly, thoroughly and aggressively and help get these men back into Eldon. But the real question is whether civil rights laws and agencies are really able to deal effectively with the problem of racism in America, whether they're really responsive to the needs of the people.

Quotes

"A worker is hip to the factory when he sees the work is pointless, learns the shortcuts, and settles down to get his pay from the boss for the least work. But he may be hip only to the factory ~~scene~~ scene, and unhip to politics if he voted for Wallace."

Fifth Estate 2/19/70

"Capitalism is based on making profit for a few white men. These men need two basic things to economically survive; 1) Labor-bodies and hands to do the work; and 2) land-room to expand and new markets. The need for profits forces the creation of a cheap labor force, marginal to the work process, to keep wages down and to divide the majority of people among themselves. The need for profit creates a continual army of unemployed--which grows and diminishes according to the needs of those few on top."

Fifth Estate, 4/16/70

## Charges Filed Against Top Officers

What are we going to do with a Local President who adjourns membership meetings anytime members on the floor oppose his tactics? And what about a Recording Secretary who tries to hide important communications from the membership? ~~and the Executive Board?~~ The September membership meeting was a good example of this problem.

*and others*

We had a lot of trouble getting James Franklin to admit charges have been filed against himself, President Elroy and Financial Secretary Gordon Francis by Trustee J.C. Thomas, and he did his best to keep from reading them to the meeting. And then Elroy adjourned the meeting as soon as members began demanding information and discussion of the charges. Just like he did at the August 20 meeting when people started asking hard questions about the sell-out Aug. 1970 Memo of Understanding.

Trustee Thomas' charges state that Elroy has violated both the U.A.W. Constitution and Local 961 By-Laws by:

- 1) not calling a special membership meeting to discuss and vote on the August 1970 Memo of Understanding
- 2) cancelling the July and August membership meetings without the consent of the membership
- 3) spending union funds without the authorization of either the Exec. Board or the membership
- 4) closing the union hall during the week of 5/27/70 and on 8/12/70 without the consent of either the Exce. Bd. or the membership
- 5) using "scare tactics" and threatening members with loss of their jobs when they came to the hall to vote on the August 1970 Memo of Understanding.
- 6) clearing James Franklin for more than 1 day lost time from the plant without consulting the Exec. Bd. *per week*
- 7) appointing his own choices to committee chairs without approval of the Exec. Bd.
- 8) refusing to allow members of the Exec. Bd. to see the contents of the Criterion before publication.

The charges against Recording Secretary Franklin state he

- 1) misplaced or hid the registered letters containing the charges against himself, Elroy and Gordon Francis.
- 2) has distorted the minutes of union meetings for the past 9 months.
- 3) violated Article 6, Section 3 (b) of the By-Laws by being cleared from the plant for ~~union~~ business for more than 1 day per week without authorization of the Exec. Bd.

Charges ~~from~~ against Financial Secretary Gordon Francis have been filed by J.U. Sims, J.C. Thomas, W. Sparks and F. McKinnon. These charges claim Francis discriminated against the complaining individuals and Tony Moore by imposing a 20.00 delinquency fine and reinstatement fee without making the same assessment against others who have been delinquent in their dues. These are the \$ men who were fired ~~w~~ in connection with the wildcats last spring and who were told by Elroy not to worry about their dues.

In addition we have been informed that Alternate Steward Nate Smith and some other members have filed charges against Elroy for cancelling the July membership meeting without the consent of the membership. However, James Franklin has so far managed to keep ~~these~~ this ~~an~~ charge from the attention of both the membership and the Exec. Bd.

*The next step in this fight is up to the Executive Board. The charges are now in the Board's hands, and they'll have to decide whether they merit being put before the membership and a Trial Committee chosen at the next membership meeting as called for in Section 30 of the Constitution.*

*So the question is — Will the Board be Elroy's willing tools in shutting the membership? Or will they have the guts to put the whole problem in the hands of the membership — where it should be anyway?*

An Axel Plant Dialogue

"What's your job?"

"Jobsetter. I'm a jobsetter."

"Jobsetter? What's that? What do you do?"

"Set jobs."

"Set 'em where?"

"Up."

"Up?"

"Yeah, right. If I see a job, I get down and set the motherfucker up."

"Up?"

"Up."



We hate to keep whipping a dead horse, but we can't seem to forget that the February Membership Meeting was cancelled by the Executive Board for very flimsy reasons, AND EVEN THOUGH A PETITION WITH OVER 800 MEMBERS' SIGNATURES PROTESTING THE CANCELLATION WAS SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IN AMPLE TIME TO RESCHEDULE THE MEETING/ The Board's response: a 10-2 vote to go ahead and cancel the meeting. Clearly a case of callous disregard of the membership's wishes.

(We hope people will remember these things when the next General Election comes around.)

This shit won't go down if the revised By-Laws are approved. The By-Laws Committee recommends this language on monthly membership meetings (Article 18, Section 1 (a) ):

Under Article 36, Section 4 of the Constitution, this Local Union shall have a monthly membership meeting. Regular Membership Meetings shall be held on the 3rd Sunday of each month, whenever possible, at 2:00 p.m. Membership Meetings are matters of vital interest to the Membership under Article 37, Section 7 of the Constitution, and shall not be cancelled without the prior consent of the Membership.

Are you listening, Executive Board?



Everybody knows we got our asses whipped in the special conference with management ended Jan. 16 this year. That must be the case because Local 961 officials haven't said anything about it to the membership <sup>AND you know what be leaving plenty right</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>they'd have some good.</sup> Matter of fact they've tried hard to hide the Memorandum of Understanding from Axle Plant workers. Why hasn't it been read to the membership or published in the Criterion? Wasn't the Feb. membership meeting cancelled so the artfully dodging Richardson administration wouldn't have to discuss it publicly?

We have to work 8 hours a day under half-assed agreements like the Memorandum of Understanding, but we don't have any right to examine or discuss them and vote on whether or not we want them. Is this the way democratic unions are run?

Apparently it is. Under the current By-Laws none of us has any right to vote on any contract or agreement negotiated with Chrysler by Local 961. The ~~current~~ present By-Law (Article 21, Section 2) states:

"All contracts, supplements or amendments negotiated by the Local Union shall, before becoming effective, be approved by the Regional Director, and the Chrysler Department of the International Union."

~~Big~~ Dig it: not a god-damned word about approval by the workers in the plant who are directly affected. This language doesn't even conform to the requirements of the UAW International Constitution (Article 19, Section 3):

"After negotiations have been concluded with the employer, the proposed contract or supplement shall be submitted to the vote of the Local Union membership."

Any Steward can tell you its the local agreements that cause headaches for workers, not the master contract between Chrysler and the UAW. Yet for years the officers of Local 961 (your union) have jammed agreements like the recent Memorandum of Understanding down the membership's throat by simply not informing us of what's going on.

The By-Laws Committee has been revising many of these outdated, <sup>old</sup> ~~current~~-assed By-Laws, and has come up with this language on contracts:

"All contracts, supplements, amendments and Memoranda of Understanding negotiated by the Local Union shall, before becoming effective, first be approved by the membership in a special meeting, and then be referred to the Regional Director and the Chrysler Department of the International Union."

This should go a long way toward solving the problem. At least it'll put pressure on the Bargaining Committee to get the best possible agreements for the workers in the plant.

This should <sup>help</sup> fighten up the Bargaining Committee and keep 'em from going behind our backs with another shuck and jive Memorandum of Understanding that does nothing but shaft the people who have to work under it.

Axle Plant Air

Axle Plant air smells like gorilla fart.

Dept. 70 workers are called "iron lungs." We call 'em that because they've survived so long in the air there--or is it because of all the steel dust in their lungs?

Some nights the vaporized coolant hangs over Dept. 74 like a Lake St. Clair fog bank. Gear cutters there need running lights and fog horns to find their machines.

Dept. 71 is so funky <sup>people</sup> ~~the men there~~ have to breathe pure oxygen through tubes to finish their shift.

Chrysler tried gas masks for everyone in Dept. 72, but it only lasted one day. Too many people walking by the dept. thought it was the Chicago police raiding the Black Panthers and a riot started.

Chrysler is going to make an important by-product ~~put~~ out of Axle Plant air. It'll be sold by the barrel full to "underdeveloped" countries around the world. Clever people, these capitalists. Even if these countries don't have factories yet, they'll smell like they do--and their people will get used to ~~breathing it.~~ <sup>being gassed by poisoned air.</sup>

Police forces across America are going to replace their tear gas and MACE with Axle Plant air. These days they need completely effective crowd control.

There's so much steel dust around the Modern Grinder in Dept. 75 the union should demand giant magnets to clear the air. <sup>The only thing "modern" about the Modern Grinder is its name.</sup>

But Chrysler deserves a little credit for trying. Management pumped the air out of the plant recently, and a brown and purple haze hung over the plant for 24 hours. A dozen pilots from City Airport got lost in it and smothered to death before they could be rescued, and the roof of the plant was covered 2 feet deep with dead birds.

Twenty years of Axle Plant Air and you get "pirate's-disease": sunken chest.

*Axle Plant Air: its a gas!*

### Helping Hands Needed

A lot of new people have been transferred into Eldon lately from other plants, losing jobs they had for years and their plant seniority in the process. Many of these workers were high seniority men at plants like Highland Park Machining which have been phased out of existence by Chrysler, and many of them have been put on painfully difficult and sometimes physically dangerous jobs. The master contract allows this; there's not much we can do about it at this point.

But we all can make life easier for these transferred workers by at least showing them the shortcuts on the jobs they've been given, and by giving them a helping hand once in a while until they've adjusted to their new jobs.

## Where Is It?

Where's the safety shoe store? When is it open for business? Third shift workers are shit out of luck if they want safety shoes unless they're willing to come back to this funky plant between 10 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Even then you need a AAA trip guide and a compass to find the store. Chrysler constantly hypes its safety program, but makes it damned inconvenient to buy ~~back~~ basic safety equipment like steel tipped shoes. If you've ever dropped a pinion or a differential on your foot, you know how important steel shoes are. You know it, ~~the~~ management knows it, even the so-called "safety man" knows it, but its obvious Chrysler's concern for its workers' safety doesn't go beyond a few posters around the plant.

### Eldon - Emphysema Heaven

No one knows for sure what causes emphysema, but almost everyone knows its incurable and always kills ~~its victims~~ by slowly suffocating its victims to death. Even chest specialists admit they don't know what causes emphysema. They do know, though, that an emphysema victim frequently has a history of numerous colds, respiratory infections and bronchitis. And they know factory workers exposed for years to fumes, smoke and dust on the job are among the most frequent ~~the~~ victims of the disease.

For years at Eldon the lathes, grinders, spot welders and cutters in Depts. 70, 71, 72, 76, 73, 74 and 75 have produced clouds of vaporized coolant, fumes, smoke and dust in which human beings ~~are~~ have to work and earn a living. ~~Another character~~

Another characteristic of Eldon is the large (and increasing) number of people who bring Workmen's Compensation claims against the plant for lung diseases, ~~especially~~ especially emphysema.

The chief cause of these conditions is probably vaporized coolant made up of soluble oil and water. Constantly breathing it in is bound to irritate workers' lungs and cause frequent coughing, colds, respiratory infections, bronchitis, and finally, fatally, emphysema. Management ~~is~~ constantly insists on its authority to run its shop, but forgets this authority carries with it a responsibility to run its shop safely. Men have died slowly because Chrysler decided it ~~was~~ was too expensive to install proper ventilation ~~systems~~ systems throughout the plant and particularly in the machining and grinding departments.

We understand the company has recently hired outside constructors and started work on a ventilation system over a number of welding and machining departments, apparently as a result of the activities of the Eldon Workers Safety Committee.

Its about time.



"In Memoriam"

Local 961 officers finally got around to recognizing the death of Gary Thompson. They didn't attend his funeral, or even send flowers. But they did publish an "In Memoriam" notice in the June Criterion. The notice pointed out the safety hazards that killed Gary Thompson "had been grieved by his chief steward many weeks prior to the accident."

In other words, they admitted a grievance on safety hazards is about as useful as tits on a boar hog. Its obvious the grievance procedure did nothing to prevent Thompson's death. Its obvious all the grievance procedure does is reduce blood, gut and sweat issues to words on paper--where the company can deal with them safely with no danger of giving up anything important.

Like, for instance, unsafe working conditions.

Dept. 76 - Garland's Swamp

Working conditions in Dept. 76 are among the most dangerous at Eldon. Maching<sup>e</sup> platforms and floors are slick with oil and grease; pools of oil and water stand around most of the machines because of massive leaking. Water pumps on some of the machines require extensive repairs if the machines are shut down. The result is the operators have to pull chips and change tools while the machine is running.

Bay BB 3. Gutter covers not up to standards. They stand too high above the floor and constantly foul up the worksavers.

Same bay. Norton Grinders 31-2179, 31-2360, and 31-2173 have heavy oil leakage.

No chip covers on drill press 31-2394.

Massive oil leakage on drill press 31-2393.

Bays BB 15 and BB 17. Stock truck overloaded most of the time. Floors improperly cleaned.

Bay BB 17. Oil leakage on Gardner 31-955/ and #1 Drill Press DM 3895.

Bay BB 19. Massive oil leakage on #2 and #3 Drill Presses.

Bay AA 19. Chip covers unsafe on #1 Drill.

Bay AA 11. Acme 31-2544 has a bad water pump. Foremen order operators to change tools while the machine is running.

Same bay. Grinder 39-5985 has severe oil leakage.

Bay Z 11. Acme 31-2269 uses excessive oil and water lubricant. Excessive smoke and fumes are the result.

Right now a Dept. 76 worker has a scarred left hand because of Drill Press 31-2271. His left hand was trapped in the machine when his glove caught on a chip. (The machine does not adequately eject chips.) The only stop button is on the left side of the press. He had to hold up the drill with his right hand, and had no way to reach the stop button with his trapped left hand. So he had to jerk his hand free. The result: a badly cut hand. Mgt. tried to give him a day off after this accident.

Used to be jitney repairmen at Eldon when they refused to put up repaired unsafe jitneys out on the floor. Over the years dozens of grievances were filed on the dangerous jitneys in our plant with the results we've come to expect from the grievance procedure-- nothing. But things have changed since the death of Gary Thompson and the activities of the Eldon Workers Safety Committee.

The company recently upgraded 14 men to jitney repair, some of whom had been waiting for almost 2 years. New tires and brakes have been installed on the jitneys. Now you don't have to wonder if the jitney coming down the aisle toward you will be able to stop before you're speared on its forks.

~~Chrysler~~ Chrysler made these much needed obvious changes---but the fired members of the Eldon Workers Safety Committee remain in the street.

Doesn't this strike you as hypercritical?

About a month ago a General Foreman showed his concern for the safety of Axle Plant workers. He gave written orders in the Dept. 75 logbook that no finish grinders or lappers ~~if~~ can wear gloves while they're working since "this is one of the ABC safety rules of working around machines." In fact, the man was so concerned about workers' safety he ordered the Dept. foremen to write up anybody wearing gloves while grinding or lapping gear sets.

WE appreciate his concern for our fingers and hands; we agree workers shouldn't wear gloves around revolving armatures and spindles--especially the raggedy gloves Chrysler supplies; but we can't take seriously management's alleged concern for our health.

We'll believe management is serious about safety when:

- 1) it spends some of its money to vent fumes, smoke, dust and corruption out of the plant and out of our lungs.
- 2) it keeps oil, grease and water off all the aisles all the time.
- 3) it keeps the metal stairs to the johns free of oil and water.
- 4) it does something about the slippery metal platforms many workers have to stand on while they operate a machine.
- 5) it keeps the aisles clear of skids and pallets.
- 6) it stops crowding workers in and around obviously dangerous machinery
- 7) it keeps the safety shoe store open at convenient times for 3rd shift workers.
- 8) it stops its foreman from bombing around blindly on their little scooters without warning people they're coming.
- 9) it repairs all the conveyor hooks that are now letting heavy stock fall--sometimes on workers.
- 10) it hires a competent, humane plant doctor.
- 11) it hires competent, full-time, concerned safety men for all shifts.

We believe all these things are ~~the~~ ABC safety rules of managing a Gear & Axle plant.

But they would all require management to spend some money and take affirmative action to protect its workers. That's probably too much to expect from a corporation that butchers Viet Nameese peasants with its Bullpup Anti-Personnel Missile and ~~it~~ makes

slaves of black workers in South Africa. Its probably too much to expect from Axle Plant management which would rather <sup>try to</sup> protect itself from its employees with heavy screens on the windows than protect workers' <sup>lungs</sup> ~~lungs~~ by venting the bad air from the plant. What we'd better expect is for Chrysler to continue its practice of placing all the responsibility for safety on its workers--because apparently that's management's way of dealing with the problem.

## HIGH SCHOOLS AND AXLE PLANTS

"School is only an extension of toilet training". Jerry Rubin.  
And a year and a half of throwing iron and grinding gears in Chrysler's Eldon Ave. Gear & Axle plant has proven that car factories are a logical extension of American schools. It's obvious in many of the schools' operations must be destroyed or radically changed; it's also patent they're doing a magnificent job of preparing kids to produce and consume in this trick society. High schools build strong Axle Plant workers 12 ways. Count 'em:

- \* High schools have separate parking lots for teachers and students. Axle Plant management parks just outside the factory gate; the employees park far down the street.
- \* Many high schools have uniformed guards in the halls. Plant Protection men constantly patrol the aisles of an Axle Plant.
- \* In High Schools students eat cheap institutional food, 12 to a table, in chrome, stainless steel and plastic cafeterias. They usually have 20 minutes to eat lunch. Axle Plant workers eat cheap institutional food, 14 to a table, in chrome, stainless steel and plastic cafeterias. They have 15-30 minutes to eat depending on their shift.
- \* A teacher almost always assigns a seat to you, and expects you to be in it: you are questioned and sometimes punished if you leave your seat. In an Axle Plant the foreman assigns you a job and expects you to be on it and working when the whistle blows. If you leave your work area the foreman comes looking for you.



- \* If you leave your classroom you have to have a hall pass. If an Axle Plant worker is sick or injured on the job, he has to get a medical pass from the foreman.
- \* A student returning from an absence must have a letter from his parents explaining and excusing his truancy. An Axle Plant worker who's been off sick must have a letter from his doctor confirming he was unable to work.
- \* High Schools emphasize productive effort and competition for grades. The teacher grades your performance, taking into consideration your attendance record, your attitude ("citizenship") and your academic output. If he's satisfied with your work, he passes you on to the next grade and you stay in school. Students with good grades and "high citizenship" get scholarships and good citizen awards from the American Legion, Chrysler Corporation and the DAR. Production output is the main criterion of worth in an Axle Plant. At the end of your 90 day probationary period, and when you quit (or are fired), your foreman grades your performance, taking into account your attendance record, your attitude and your skill in turning out gears and axles. If he likes your work, he recommends you be kept on the job; when you leave the Corporation, he recommends whether or not you should be rehired. Workers with good work records often get the easier jobs.
- \* College prep. students and athletes get most of whatever extra benefits a High School can offer. Skilled tradesmen in an Axle Plant do easier work

and get paid more than ordinary production workers.

- \* Teachers do not like troublemakers. The best way to get along is keep your mouth shut, do the work the teacher wants you to do the way he wants it done, and pick up an easy passing grade. Foremen do not like troublemakers. You won't have any trouble in an Axle Plant if you keep your mouth shut and do the work the way the foreman wants you to do it.
- \* If you're a classroom troublemaker the teacher sends you to the office to talk to your counselor or the principal. If your Axle Plant work record is poor, the foreman takes you to the Production Office and the General Foreman decides what to do with you.
- \* High Schools discipline students by reprimanding them, keeping them after school, suspending them for a few days or longer, or by expulsion. An Axle Plant foremandisciplines an employee by warning him verbally, writing him up, giving him days off, or by firing him.
- \* If you finish your classroom work early the teacher usually lets you do what you want as long as you stay quiet and don't disturb the other students. When you make your production in an Axle Plant the foreman doesn't care what you do until the end of the shift as long as you don't disturb someone else from getting his production.

Teachers and foremen carry the message of America:

"Do what you're told when and how you're told to do

it. Keep your mouth shut. Produce so you can consume; consume so someone else can produce."

~~Six prisoners in the Wayne County Jail have gone to court for themselves and the 2,000 other prisoners~~

Six prisoners in the Wayne County Jail have gone to court for themselves and the 2,000 other people <sup>now</sup> in the dark, dirty and overcrowded jail. The six, black prisoners and white prisoners, include political prisoners ( a white man and a black man), persons accused of arson, murder and narcotics violations and James Johnson, an Eldon worker waiting trial for the killing of two foremen and a jobsetter in Dept. 78 last June.

Animals in the Detroit Zoo get better care than prisoners in the Wayne County Jail. Conditions there are unbelievable: dark dirty cells, miserable food, overcrowded conditions and no forks and knives to eat with. The mattresses prisoners sleep on are thin and filthy dirty; more often than not the plumbing doesn't work so the floors are caked and crusted with filth.

So-called "mental cases" have it worse. These human beings are often left alone in tiny, cold cells with no lights, no clothes, no bed or blankets and no human company. The toilet is a hole in the floor. Yet these people have been put in this hellhole not on the say-so of a doctor, but of a jail official. The best that can be said of their "medical" care is one doctor "tries" for a few hours each day. The newspapers have been running expose stories; the politicians are busy crying about lack of money and trying to dodge responsibility; nothing changes. Meanwhile, James Johnson and the thousands of other inmates continue to suffer daily and prolonged torture in the Wayne County Jail.

Eldon workers know about James Johnson's case. We know how and why he cracked under the pressure of working at Eldon. We know he was suspended by management after an argument with his foremen, returned to the plant and shot down three men. We know he was also gunning for his steward and we know why. We know of the dirty dangerous conditions at Eldon. We've been living with them for years while the union has stood by and done nothing. We remember Gary Thompson died last May because of an unsafe jitney. We remember the wildcat strikes last spring in which some of our strongest union people were fired by Chrysler and then sold out by the Local leadership and Solidarity House. We know Solidarity House wasn't lying when it finally recognized reality and recently said of Eldon: "It is the ghetto of Chrysler Corporation plants. It is dirty, unsafe and practices discrimination in employment." We know these are the conditions really responsible for the deaths of Hugh Jones, Gary Hinz and Joe Nowalski.

James Johnson is a sensitive man. He felt deeply about the conditions he encountered each day at Eldon, and can only be accused of doing what he thought had to be done to correct them.

Eldon is a dangerous, dirty factory because Chrysler's only interest is making profits for its shareholders and huge salaries for the bureaucrats at the top. The system must have profits to survive, and Chrysler is an important part of the system. Right now the plant is in such bad shape the only way to clean it up and make it safe would be to shut it down completely for several weeks. In other words, stop all production and (naturally) lower Chrysler's profits. This will never happen as long as we live in a system that demands profits the way lions in the zoo demand 50 lbs. of fresh bloody meat every day.



The Wayne County Jail is an inhuman hellhole because it can be no other way under a profit demanding system. There is no money for a decent jail because our taxes are spent to build roads and highways--and the construction corporations get rich. Our taxes are spent for defense and Viet Nam--and the war corporations get rich. Workers' taxes go up, lay-offs increase, inflation increases, and Nixon gives Big Business a tax break? Money for bombs, money for concrete, no money for human beings.

Brothers and sisters, we must understand the Wayne County Jail and the Eldon Avenue Gear and Axle plant are both parts of the same thing. They're both part of a system that puts profits above the welfare of the human beings who live in it and produce the profits it feeds on.

James Johnson was produced by this system, as we all are, and did what he could to destroy it before it destroyed him. He is not a hero, he is not a cold blooded murderer, he is a victim. Basic changes must be made.



A white Ford worker, Charles Calloway, was recently murdered in Detroit's 2nd Precinct by a Detroit cop. The October 24th Black Panther incident also occurred in the 2nd Precinct. Six witnesses agreed to the essential facts; two cops beat an unarmed man senseless and then shot him. One witness supported the police version, self-defense. (Naturally.)

Wayne County Prosecutor Cahalan, a clever politician, refused to prosecute the cop. He claimed there wasn't enough evidence. Instead, he gave the case to the Citizen's Grand Jury which discusses and decides cases in complete secrecy--good protection for politician prosecutors and gun happy cops.

Meanwhile, ~~the~~ 2nd Precinct cops harassed and threatened the witnesses almost daily. And the cop was suspended with full pay, a paid vacation until the Grand Jury heard the case. (The 16<sup>B</sup> Black Panthers, with much less evidence against them, are still in jail under heavy bond.)

Then the Grand Jury, by a 9-8 margin, decided there wasn't enough evidence to arrest the cop. So now, the cop is free, and you can guess what's going to happen to the witnesses a few months from now when the public has forgotten the case.

Send your prayers for the witnesses to the usual place.

The lessons are clear: white workers can be the victims of illegal police actions just as black workers have been for years and years and years. And no one, black or white, can expect full and equal protection of the law when a cop has been a criminal.

In Baltimore six Black Panthers were arrested about a year ago on charges of obstructing the arrest of a seventh "Black Panther." The charges were sworn to by seven police officers, but the state's attorney had to ask that the case be dismissed. It turned out that the seventh "Panther" was on the police payroll and the charges were a complete frame-up.

In New York last month three Black Panthers were acquitted of attempted murder and conspiracy to rob a hotel. The defense proved that a New York City policeman planned the entire robbery and supplied the guns.

Here in Detroit 16 young black men and women face conspiracy charges in connection with the October 24 shooting of a police officer. The incident started when some cops harassed some Panthers who were selling the Panther newspaper in the 2nd Precinct on Detroit's Southwest side. ~~The salesmen were arrested on a charge~~ An attempt at arrest was made on a charge of obstructing a public sidewalk, there was a scuffle, and a number of people took refuge in a nearby home, reportedly the Panther headquarters. During the confusion the officer was killed, maybe by someone in the house, maybe by someone in the neighborhood.

Everyone in the house was arrested, and immediately arraigned under extremely high bonds.

However, the person originally arrested and charged with obstructing the sidewalk was recently found innocent of the charge by a Recorder's Court jury. In other words, it appears the cops were way out of line in harassing the Panther newspaper salesmen. Shouldn't they be held responsible for triggering the incident and causing the death of their fellow officer? But this, of course, is no help or comfort to the 16 still in jail under heavy bond.

It should be noted that the 2nd Precinct ranks 6th in Detroit in the average number of citizen complaints against police for the period 1965-68. This precinct also showed the 3rd highest percentage of increase in complaints from 1966 to 1968.

Contributions to the defense fund for the 16 persons still in jail should be sent to; N.C.C.F., 12845 14th, Detroit 48238. We think its a good investment.

Meanwhile,

A lot of white workers have been taken in by the current "Law-and-Order" propaganda. The murder recent of William ~~XXXX~~ Calloway, a 23-year-old white factory ~~workx~~ worker

ganda. The recent murder by a policeman of William Calloway, a 23-year-old white factory worker, makes ~~the~~ thing plain.

White workers can be the victims of ~~illegal~~ illegal police actions, just as black workers have been for years and years

just as easily as black workers have been for years and ~~years~~ years and years.

x Except for the skin color of the victim, the Calloway incident is neither new nor unusual. Two cops beat up an unarmed man and then shot him. Six witnesses agree on the important facts.

the essential facts. One witness supports the police version (self-defense, natural ally). The prosecutor claims not enough evidence to arrest the cops! The grand jury, by a narrow margin (9 to 8) agrees. The cops are still on duty, in uniform, wearing their badges. x And their guns. And every other gop in town is getting the idea that a policeman can do no wrong, provided he picks on working people. ###

Robberies in and around Eldon are now averaging over 30 a week. The simple explanation is to blame such crimes on the increasing use of drugs.

But there has always been an increase in crime with every depression, even back when drugs were not a problem. And the present big upturn in holdups started just about the time the big downturn in employment began.

Neither the UAW leadership nor the government has any plans to cut unemployment. Like cutting the work week from 40 down to 35 or 32 or 30 hours. Or even making all overtime voluntary. ###?

If anything is ever done in this direction it will

Probably because with Jones problems already. want support that he bits.

Also - the cops were suspended with full pay - in effect, a paid vacation. But the Panthers involved in the shoot-out a while later were immediately arraigned, indicted & jailed with huge bonds.

23. 23. Jones We should also mention the witnesses in the Calloway case were threatened & harassed by daily 2nd Precinct cops almost daily before the Grand Jury hearing. The Grand Jury hearing itself was a ploy to shield the case from public view & protect both the cops & Cabalan.

16 (Why not just leave it -)



In Baltimore, six Black Panthers were arrested about a year ago on charges of obstructing the arrest of a seventh "Black Panther." The charges were a frame-up; the seventh man was on the police payroll Panther." The charges were sworn to by seven police officers. But the state attorney had to ask that the case be dismissed. It turned out that the seventh "Panther" was on the police payroll, and the charges were a complete frame-up.

In New York last month, three Black Panthers were acquitted of attempted murder and conspiracy to rob a hotel. The defense proved that a New York City ~~police~~ policeman planned the entire robbery and supplied the guns.

Here in Detroit, 15 young black people face conspiracy charges in connection with the shooting of a police officer last ~~XXX~~ October 24. The charges are obviously absurd

Here in Detroit, 15 young black men and women face conspiracy charges in connection with the shooting of a police officer last October 24. ~~The charges are obviously absurd, but these people need money for bail and legal expenses.~~

x If groups such as the Black Panthers are not allowed to exist or function, organizations of working people can soon expect the same fate. x A small contribution to the defence of the Detroit 15 out of that next cost-of-living check, might be a good investment. ###

*The charges could be as much of a frame-up*

*Not so.*

*28 lines*

*N.C.C.F.  
12845 19/44  
Detroit 48238*

*Is it a frame-up?  
Panthers do shoot cops occasionally -*

*you could say  
'maybe a frame up'*

~~SECRET~~

Everybody, even the politicians, is concerned these days about our involvement in Viet Nam. Even Nixon knows we've got to get out of Southeast Asia or he'll be out of a job.

Almost 50,000 have been killed in Viet Nam, and currently we're losing around 50 per week. For what? Most of us realize by now Viet Nam is a rich man's war being fought by working people to protect American business interests in Southeast Asia.

But most of us don't realize the companies are protecting their own interests at home by concealing what should be a national scandal--the deaths and injuries of American Workers on the job. A recent U.S. Dept. of Labor pamphlet on work injuries and safety statistics proves job injuries and deaths exceed our Viet Nam casualties, and shows how American industry hides many industrial casualties from public view by setting up its own self-favoring accident reporting systems. So far, unions and government agencies have let them get

away with it

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away with it. Why? Don't they care?  
Or do they have special reasons for  
not caring?

According to the Dept. of Labor pamphlet 55 American workers are killed on the job each day, 27,000 are injured, and of these 8,500 are disabled. The pamphlet also states in 1966, the latest figures available, 255 Million man-days were lost because of work injuries, but only 25.4 million were lost due to strikes and work stoppages. Obviously no way to run a railroad--or anything else.

You didn't see these figures in the News or Free Press. Why not?

This is the way it works. In each state industrial deaths and lost time accidents are reported and computed by formulas and rules established by an association of private and government safety officials--company men who act accordingly, and put plenty of loopholes in the rules. In California, for example, it was discovered only 1 out of every 10 injuries is reported.

Chrysler, for instance, doesn't have to report hernias as lost time injuries unless 1) the hernia was the result of a sudden strain (rarely the case with hernias) and 2) the injury was immediately and promptly reported to management.

The same rules apply to back injuries and other strains. The result is many disabling injuries do not appear on Chrysler's Lost Time Injury Reports even though the worker loses time from the job and the company pays Workmen's Compensation. Or if "favoring work" is offered an injured worker, his injury is not reported. (We all know how "favorable" many of these "favoring jobs" are, and all we can do is tough it out.

Why does industry go to such lengths to hide and distort the ugly reality of work injuries and deaths? Because truthfully reporting them would draw attention to an outrageous situation and workers might decide to do something about it one way or the other. In other words it would cost the companies money, and in our economic system the real purpose of our production is not to fulfill human needs; we produce for the expansion of

private capital. The economic system which produces a Viet Nam War to protect Standard Oils' future interests in Southeast Asian off-shore oil deposits also produces the increasingly unsafe conditions all American workers face each day on the job. In Chrysler's eyes spending money for safety improvements is "non-productive expenditure" which does nothing to expand private capital. The company, therefore, spends its money elsewhere, and we pay the price in always painful, often disabling, often fatal work accidents.

### Tuesday's Election

Most of us woke up Wednesday morning (the same time we always do, ate the same breakfast we always eat, went to work the same way as always, got there at pretty much the same time, and did the same amount of work for eight hours. Then we went home at the same time we always do, and did it all over again the next day.

Nothing was changed except some new actors in the same old play.

*the day after the election*

*as opposed to daily routine, stress the same difficulty unsafeness etc of the work*

## More Broken Promises; More Injured Workers

Anyone who thinks the company intended to keep its promises to clean up Dept. 76 should talk to a Dept. 69 Inspector who slipped in a heavy layer of oil near the Dept. 72 Cross a week or so ago. He severely twisted his left leg and came close to hitting his head on a machine when he fell. He's still hobbling around on a cane and been given a PQA coding for a sitting down job. But his troubles continue. His so-called "favoring job" requires him to stand up every five minutes to perform his inspection job, a tough assignment for a man with a badly injured leg.

Another man suffered the same type injury in almost the same spot a few days later, another victim of the oil slick floors in Dept. 76.

10% of the approximately 160 separate safety and housekeeping items mentioned in the Aug. 1970 Memo of Understanding concerned conditions in Dept. 76. One of these items stated "Housekeeping conditions in Dept. 76 needs constant attention." The company promised "review available janitorial service and upgrade condition of department. But these are only words on a piece of paper--promises Chrysler has no intention of keeping. Its still a risky proposition to work in Dept. 76."

Well, if Chrysler isn't going to bargain in good faith, and if our Local isn't going to do anything about it, we'll just have to do our own fighting. Maybe a good place to start will be our local agreement. Lets not approve it until Elton is a safe place for all of us to earn a living.