

DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 4 OF 16

FOLDER 17

UAW LOCAL 961 J SIMS
COMPLAINTS LOCAL 961
LEADERSHIP 1970-71

[1970]

"RECOMMENDATIONS AND LETTER TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF LOCAL # 961"

A. Many problems have developed within the primary and secondary leadership of our local Union since the last general elections held in June of 1969. It was stated at that time, by our newly elected executive leadership, that a new era would be established and the local leadership and membership would be brought back in line with our by-laws, the UAW Constitution, and all the high, moral and democratic principals that would truly reflect the voice and the will of our people. It is quite evident that this kind of program has not been initiated nor implemented, the needs of our membership are not properly recognized or serviced, and our total leadership is fighting and floundering aimlessly in an atmosphere of ineptness, ignorance, self-righteousness, and power hungry individualism. There is, no adherence to rules and regulations; there has been no recognition of rights to express opinions or dissent; there has been no real group participation on important issues, a few have assumed the authority to represent the governing body; there has been an absence of any meaningful democratic processes and brotherhood. Instead of seeking improvement, we appear to be perfecting techniques in deception, slander and hypocrisy. An objective evaluation of all of our past and current difficulties and misunderstandings can only lead to one obvious conclusion, we are not doing the job we were elected and expected to do. The entire local Union is without strong positive leadership in times when this kind of leadership is most desperately needed. The year 1970 started on a dark note for workers all across the country and jobs are being lost in all areas. National labor contracts will be up for negotiations throughout the UAW and many other major local Unions in this year of 1970 and this beginning of a National economic decline or recession. Many plants in the Chrysler structure have already committed to reduce their manpower 25 to 50 percent. 1970 is going to be a critical year of decision and trials for all Unions and workers. Our primary job at Local 961 is the re-establishment and the preservation of our Union in this plant so that our membership can look for and get the maximum amount of representation and job protection. Solid local Unions automatically lead to a stronger international Union to represent us at the National Bargaining tables with the giant corporations.

B. The executive board of this Union must be recognized and consulted on all matters of local Union policy and expenditures of local funds. Let it be known at this time that all actions, attitudes, or programs to the contrary would subject such person or persons, officer, representative, or Union member to charges, trial procedures and possible fine, removal from office, a severe reprimand, or expulsion from the Union, local and International.

Current problems for the board of Local 961 to consider and effect resolution thereof;

1. Unauthorized expenditures of funds for Union equipment, maintenance, salaries of office personnel, salaries, expenses, and lost time considerations for the Administration of the local Union's business and the local Union hall.
2. The authorization to expend local Union funds rests only with the local Union executive board, with approval of the membership. No individual or separate group of individuals can presume, assume, or designate this authority. Article 37, Sec. 7 Constitution, and Articles 3, sec. 2 and Article 10, Sections 2 and 7 of our by-laws !
3. All important communications be presented and read at regular or special board meetings so proper action can be taken.
4. The board shall be polled on all matters and decisions of importance or all matters that affect the welfare and the well being of our local Union.
5. Types of service and hours of service will be reviewed and acted upon by the board before implementation of such program or changes in hours.

6. Proper communications will be established between our executive board, the steward's council, and our bargaining committee. Communications or/and records will be written, kept and referred to when questions arise on the board and the information is called for.

7. Regular or special board meetings will not be scheduled or cancelled without written authority from a majority of the executive board.

Violations of UAW Constitution and by-laws of Local #961
Articles 36, paragraph 4 and 37, paragraph 6 & 7 -UAW Constitution-
Article 17, Section 1 * Local 961 By-laws

A regular membership meeting was held January 18, 1970. The local Union officers and executive board members, had important communications that affected the total local Union memberships, production and maintenance and the skilled trades.

Action was taken on these communications, or call letters, by a few officers without consulting the majority of the executive board or the general membership. It is also developing in this local Union leadership, an attitude or philosophy that the membership must comply with any rulings or decisions made by the executive officers or the executive board. Although the opportunity readily presented itself, the membership at the January 18, 1970 meeting were not informed of any mandatory procedures in order to concur with the aforementioned call letters nor were they told of any practical need to cancel the regular Feb. 15, 1970 membership meeting.

The time has come for this leadership to address itself to the needs and welfare of it's membership. Actions and attitudes of recent years and months clearly show the low regard or lack of respect the general leadership has developed for the general membership. Article 3 of our By-laws has become a hoax, a cruel insidious joke, with the membership enduring the brunt of the ridicule and suffering. This should not and cannot last much longer. Our jobs as leaders in the local Union are not to dominate, dictate, subjugate, and repress. Let us rather try to understand, serve, guide, protect, and enlighten our members and insure all that is promised them and ourselves under our Constitution and By-laws with true sincere leadership.

There is no emergency necessitating the cancellation of the February membership meeting. The membership has a right to know about and participate in all important local Union affairs or activities. This executive board has no right to deny our members their regular meetings for the personal political gains of a few officers and representatives in the coming Conventions and the elections preceding them.

There are also other pressing matters of great importance to our members that were to be discussed and considered;

1. A detailed financial report with a copy for all members.
2. A review, explanation, and copies of our "New Memorandum" dated Jan. 16, 1970.
3. A report on our economic plight, layoffs and problems related thereto.
4. Comming negotiations, local and national, and what role the local is to play in these areas or programs.
5. We need all of our membership meetings to keep our people informed and active in these times of mounting hardship for our Union.

It is my strong recommendation that the action taken by the executive board on Jan. 6, 1970 to cancel our February membership meeting be rescinded and the meeting be held as scheduled and required in our By-laws and UAW Constitution !


JORDON U. SIMS
Comm. Dist. #2 & Executive Brd Member

1 COMM. DIST. # 2 AND EX. BRD. MEMBER.

[1970]

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RECOMMENDATIONS AND LETTER TO THE EXECUTIVE BRD. OF LOCAL #961

MANY PROBLEMS HAVE DEVELOPED WITHIN THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEADERSHIP OF OUR LOCAL UNION SINCE THE LAST GENERAL ELECTIONS HELD IN JUNE OF 1969. IT WAS STATED AT THAT TIME, BY OUR NEWLY ELECTED EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP, THAT A NEW 'CREA' WOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND THE LOCAL LEADERSHIP & MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE BROUGHT BACK IN LINE WITH OUR BY-LAWS, THE UAW CONSTITUTION, AND ALL THE HIGH MORAL AND DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPALS THAT WOULD TRULY REFLECT THE VOICE AND THE WILL OF OUR PEOPLE. IT IS QUITE EVIDENT THAT THIS KIND OF PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN INITIATED NOR IMPLEMENTED, THE NEEDS OF OUR MEMBERSHIP ARE NOT PROPERLY RECOGNIZED OR SERVICED, AND OUR TOTAL LEADERSHIP IS FIGHTING AND FLOUNDERING AIMLESSLY IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF INEPTNESS, IGNORANCE, SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND POWER HUNGRY INDIVIDUALISMNESS. THERE IS NO ADHERENCE TO RULES & REGULATIONS; THERE HAS BEEN NO RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS TO EXPRESS OPINIONS OR DISSENT; THERE HAS BEEN NO REAL GROUP PARTICIPATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES, A FEW HAVE ASSUMED THE AUTHORITY TO REPRESENT THE GOVERNING BODY; THERE HAS BEEN AN ABSENCE OF ANY MEANINGFUL DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES AND BROTHERHOOD. INSTEAD OF SEEKING IMPROVEMENT, WE APPEAR TO BE PERFECTING TECHNIQUES IN DECEPTION, SLANDER, AND HYPOCRISY. AN OBJECTIVE EVALUATION OF ALL OF OUR PAST AND CURRENT DIFFICULTIES AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS CAN ONLY LEAD TO ONE OBVIOUS CONCLUSION, WE ARE NOT DOING THE JOB WE WERE ELECTED AND EXPECTED TO DO. THE ENTIRE LOCAL UNION IS WITHOUT STRONG POSITIVE LEADERSHIP IN TIMES WHEN THIS KIND OF LEADERSHIP IS MOST DESPERATELY NEEDED. THE YEAR 1970 STARTED OFF ON A DARK NOTE FOR WORKERS ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND JOBS ARE BEING LOST IN ALL AREAS. NATIONAL LABOR CONTRACTS WILL BE UP FOR NEGOTIATIONS THROUGHOUT THE UAW AND MANY OTHER MAJOR LABOR UNIONS IN THIS YEAR OF 1970 AND THIS BEGINNING OF A NATIONAL ECONOMIC DECLINE OR RECESSION. MANY PLANTS IN THE CHRYSLER STRUCTURE HAVE ALREADY COMMITTED TO REDUCE THEIR MANPOWER 25 TO 50%. 1970 IS GOING TO BE A CRITICAL YEAR OF DECISION AND TRIALS FOR ALL UNIONS AND WORKERS. OUR PRIMARY JOB AT LOCAL #961 IS THE REESTABLISHMENT AND THE PRESERVATION OF OUR UNION IN THIS PLANT SO THAT OUR MEMBERSHIP CAN LOOK FOR AND GET THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF REPRESENTATION AND JOB PROTECTION. SOLID LOCAL UNIONS AUTOMATICALLY LEAD TO A STRONGER INTERNATIONAL UNION TO REPRESENT US AT THE NATIONAL BARGAINING TABLES WITH THE GIANT CORPORATIONS.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THIS UNION MUST BE RECOGNIZED & CONSULTED ON ALL MATTERS OF LOCAL UNION POLICY AND EXPENDITURES OF LOCAL FUNDS. LET IT BE KNOWN AT THIS TIME THAT ANY ACTIONS, ATTITUDES, OR PROGRAMS

TO THE CONTRARY WOULD SUBJECT SUCH OR PERSONS, OFFICER, REPRESENTATIVE, OR UNION MEMBER TO CHARGES, TRIAL PROCEDURES, AND POSSIBLE FINE, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE, A SEVERE REPRIMAND, OR EXCLUSION FROM THE UNION, LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL.

CURRENT PROBLEMS FOR THE BOARD OF LOCAL #961 TO CONSIDER AND EFFECT RESOLUTION THERE OF:

1. UNAUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES OF FUNDS FOR UNION EQUIPMENT, MAINTENANCE, SALARIES OF OFFICE PERSONNEL, SALARIES, EXPENSES, AND LOST TIME CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LOCAL UNION'S BUSINESS AND THE LOCAL UNION HALL.
2. THE AUTHORIZATION TO EXPEND ALL LOCAL UNION FUNDS RESTS ONLY WITH THE LOCAL UNION EXECUTIVE BOARD, WITH APPROVAL OF THE MEMBERSHIP. NO INDIVIDUAL OR SEPERATE GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS CAN PRESUME, ASSUME, OR DESIGNATE THIS AUTHORITY. ART. 37, SEC. 7, AND ART. 3, SEC. 2 + ART. 10, SEC. 2 + 7 OF OUR BY-LAWS! CONSTITUTION
3. ALL IMPORTANT COMMUNICATIONS BE PRESENTED AND READ, REGULAR OR SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS SO PROPER ACTION CAN BE TAKEN.
4. THE BOARD SHALL BE POLLED ON ALL MATTERS AND DECISIONS OF IMPORTANCE TO OR ALL MATTERS THAT MAY AFFECT THE WELFARE AND THE WEL BEING OF OUR LOCAL UNION.
5. TYPES OF SERVICE AND HOURS OF SERVICE WILL BE REVIEWED AND ACTED UPON BY THE BOARD BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH PROGRAM OR CHANGES IN HOURS.
6. PROPER COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN OUR EXECUTIVE BOARD, THE STEWARDS' COUNCIL, AND OUR BARGAINING COMMITTEE. COMMUNICATIONS OR/AND RECORDS WILL WRITTEN, KEPT, AND REFERRED TO WHEN QUESTIONS ARISE ON THE BOARD AND THIS INFORMATION IS CALLED FOR.
7. REGULAR OR SPECIAL MEETINGS WILL NOT BE SCHEDULED OR CANCELLED WITHOUT WRITTEN AUTHORITY FROM A MAJORITY OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Jordan U. Sims

[970]

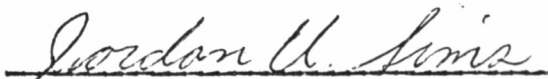
AS SET FORTH IN ARTICLE #30 OF THE UAW CONSTITUTION!

"Statement of Charges"

On March 16, 1970, the continuance of the executive board meeting of March 13, 1970 was in progress and the question of Recording Secretary, J. Franklin, was being discussed relative to the "Unauthorized time" he was spending at the Local Hall on alleged Union business and receiving "lost time" from local Union funds. This matter of expenditure of funds, without authorization of the executive board or the membership, has been discussed many times with Brother Richardson, President, and were on a number of occasions, at executive board meetings in the recent past. The matter was again brought up at the meeting of March 16, 1970 and the Board action taken was to reaffirm our obligations to adhere to the conditions of our By-laws in granting the recording Secretary, Brother Franklin, his one day per week and all other time would have to be authorized by the Executive Board or membership when a proper request was submitted.

On this day, March 17, 1970, Brother Franklin is still working at the Union Hall despite the action and the directives of the Executive Board on March 16, 1970. This flagrant and blatant act of disrespect and contempt for the Executive Board of Local #961 and the By-laws of this local is inexcusable and warrants the strongest and fastest action possible to correct this breach of office, By-laws, and Constitution of the UAW! By-laws Art. 3, Secs. 2&3, Art 5, Art. 6, Sec. 3/a/, Art. 10, Sec. 2. UAW Constitution: Art. 37, Secs. 6 & 7.

Because of this obvious breach of, or disregard for, office held, By-laws, UAW Constitution, misuse of funds, or the 961 Executive Board, the recommendation of punishment is a severe reprimand for the Officer or Officers involved and that payment of "lost time" for time spent in the Local Hall after March 16, 1970, that is not duly authorized by our Executive Board members, be withheld!



JORDON U. SIMS
Committee Chairman & Board Member

"STATEMENT OF CHARGES"

ON 3-16-70, THE CONTINUANCE OF THE EX. BRD. MTG. OF 3-13-70 WAS IN PROGRESS AND THE QUESTION OF REC. SEC., J. FRANKLIN, WAS BEING DISCUSSED RELATIVE TO THE "UNAUTHORIZED TIME" HE WAS SPENDING AT THE LOCAL HALL ON ALLEGED UNION BUSINESS AND RECEIVING "LOST TIME" FROM LOCAL UNION FUNDS. THIS MATTER OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS, WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION OF THE EX. BRD. OR THE MEMBERSHIP, HAS BEEN DISCUSSED MANY TIMES WITH BRO. RICHARDSON, PRESIDENT, AND WERE ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, AT EX. BRD. MEETINGS IN THE RECENT PAST. THE MATTER WAS AGAIN BROUGHT UP AT THE MEETING OF 3-16-70 AND THE BOARD ACTION TAKEN WAS TO REAFFIRM OUR OBLIGATIONS TO ADHERE TO THE CONDITIONS OF OUR BY-LAWS IN GRANTING THE REC. SEC., BRO FRANKLIN, HIS ONE DAY PER WEEK AND ALL OTHER TIME WOULD HAVE TO BE AUTHORIZED BY THE EX. BRD. OR MEMBERSHIP WHEN A PROPER REQUEST WAS SUBMITTED.

ON THIS DAY, 3-17-70, BRO FRANKLIN IS STILL WORKING AT THE UNION HALL DESPITE THE ACTION AND THE DIRECTIVES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON 3-16-70. THIS FLAGRANT AND BLATANT ACT OF DISRESPECT AND CONTEMPT FOR THE EXECUTIVE BRD. OF LO. #961 AND THE BY-LAWS OF THIS LOCAL IS INEXCUSABLE AND WARRANTS THE STRONGEST AND FASTEST ACTION POSSIBLE TO CORRECT THIS BREACH OF OFFICE, BY-LAWS, AND CONSTITUTION OF THE UAW!

BY-LAWS; ART. 3; SEC. 2 & 3; ART. 5; ART. 6 SEC. 3 (a); ART. 10 SEC. 2!

UAW CONST.; ART. 37, SEC. 6 & 7!

BECAUSE OF THIS OBVIOUS BREACH OF, OR DISREGARD FOR, OFFICE HELD, BY-LAWS, UAW CONST., MISUSE OF FUNDS, OR THE 961 EX. BRD., THE RECOMMENDATION OF PUNISHMENT IS A SEVERE REPRIMAND FOR THE OFFICER OR OFFICERS INVOLVED AND THAT PAYMENT OF "LOST TIME" FOR TIME SPENT IN THE LOCAL HALL AFTER 3-16-70, THAT IS NOT DULY AUTHORIZED BY OUR EX. BRD. MEMBERS, BE WITH HELD!

Jordan U. Sims, COMM. CHM. + BRO. MEN.

COPIES 8000 E. Jefferson, Detroit, Mich.
To Bro. George Merzelli, Reg. #1 Director
1200 E. 12 Mile Rd., Warren, Michigan

Local #961 Exc. Brd.
7575 Lynch Rd., Detroit, Michigan

LETTER OF PROTEST FOR VIOLATIONS of Art. 31, U.A.W. Const.

On or about March 15th, charges submitted by Me, Jordon U. Sims, to the Local Union Exc. Brd. as per Art. 31, Sec's 1-2- & 3. To this date, April 6, 71, there has been no PROPER RESPONSE nor ACTION TAKEN BY THE LOCAL #961 EXC. BRD. AS IS MANDATED IN ART. 31 of THE U.A.W. CONSTITUTION. It would APPEAR THAT the RULES AND POLICIES established by the UAW Constitution are indeed only APPLICABLE to the MEMBERS OF THE RANK AND FILE and DO NOT APPLY TO CERTAIN PARTICULAR SEGMENTS OF LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL HIERARCHY??

I have been informed by Members of the Lo. #961 Exc. Brd. that MY PACKAGE OF CHARGES HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO REG. #1 for DISPOSITION WITHOUT ANY BEING MADE BY MY LOCAL UNION EXC. BRD.?? This BLANTANT IRRESPONSIBLE ACT AND BREACH OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND MORAL ELECTIVE OBLIGATION is SHOCKING, DISTURBING, AND UNACCEPTABLE TO THIS UNION MEMBER.

There are many aspects of this situation and the ACTIVITIES SURROUNDING MY CHARGES SUBMITTED AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF BROTHER MERRELLI'S OFFICE THAT I WOULD INSIST HAVING SOME FORM OF EXPLANATION FROM EITHER PARTY. These are my questions;

(1) Why is it that this Local #961 Exc. Brd., including those charges were FILED AGAINST, REVIEWED AND TOOK ACTION ON MY CHARGES:

(2) Why weren't the CHARGES RULED ON BY THE EXC. BRD. REVIEW COMMITTEE and their DECISION SENT TO ME AS IS REQUIRED BY BY-LAWS AND U.A.W. CONSTITUTION:

(3) What good reason can the EXECUTIVE BOARD OF LOCAL 961 GIVE ME for REFERRING MY CHARGES TO REG. #1 and on WHOSE AUTHORITY ARE MY CHARGES BEING HELD UP IN THIS SEEMINGLY IMPROPER AND UNORTHODOX MANNER:

(4) It is distressing and disappointing enough to be SUBJECT TO AND FORCED TO ENDURE THE INEPT AND IRRESPONSIBLE ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS OF MY OWN LOCAL UNION BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN LEADERSHIP, BUT TO SEE THE SAME LACKADAISICAL ATTITUDE AND RESPONSE (apparently) EXHIBITED BY HE HIGHLY ESTEEMED, EXPERIENCED, AND COMPETENT ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP OF REG. #1 DOES MAKE ME WONDER AND TRULY GIVES ME CAUSE FOR CONCERN. All the people involved in this MATTER, up to this point, (Lo.#961 & reg.#1) have adequate KNOWLEDGE EXPERIENCE AND BACKGROUND IN THE AREAS PERTAINING TO TRIAL PROCEDURES AS SET FORTH IN ART. 31, of the UAW CONSTITUTION dated April, 1970.. I would expect MY LOCAL UNION EXC. BRD. TO ASSUME THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND FULFUL THEIR OBLIGATIONS AS PRESCRIBED IN SAID CONSTITUTION AND EVEN IF THIS IS NOT DONE BY MY RESPONSIBLE AND REPUTABLE LEADERS IN LOCAL #961, I would NOT EXPECT TO FIND THAT PERSONS FROM REG. #1 ARE ASSISTING, AIDING, OR IN ANY WAY LENDING MORAL OR PHYSICAL SUPPORT TO THIS MALICIOUS AND PURPOSEFUL BREACH OF RESPONSIBILITY TO OFFICE, UNION, AND CONSTITUTION...

It has been more than two weeks since I instituted the TRIAL PROCEDURES by the filing of my CHARGES: I have received NO RESPONSE FROM EITHER THE LOCAL UNION NOR THE REGIONAL OFFICE. This does appear to be an OVERSIGHT OR A MEMORY LAPSE GEARED TO SHOW THE PERSONAL FEELINGS OF THOSE INVOLVED FOR ME, AS AN INDIVIDUAL, OR THE LIGHT REGARD IN WHICH THE TENETS OF OUR UAW CONSTITUTION ARE HELD BY CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF UNION LEADERSHIP, (Local and Intl.)...

I am more than anxious to hear from either MY LOCAL UNION OR BROTHER MERRELLI'S OFFICE on the STATUS OF AND THE POSSIBLE RESOLUTION OF MY CHARGES AS SOON AS EITHER PARTY FEELS THE SITUATION REQUIRES IT AND THEY WOULD HAVE TIME OR WOULD TAKE TIME TO ADDRESS THEMSELVES TO THIS (TASK, DUTY, OBLIGATION)???

Jordon U. Sims

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

JORDON U. SIMS, MEMBER, LOCAL #961