

DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT COLLECTION

NEWSLETTERS & NEWSPAPERS

BOX 1 OF 1

FOLDER 23

ELDON ELRUM ELDON AVE
REVOLUTIONARY UNION MOVEMENT

ANOTHER YEAR GONE BY

Another year has passed and things still haven't changed any. Chrysler Corporation is still making super profits off the bent backs of workers and Black workers especially. We slave eight, nine, ten hours a day; five, six, sometimes seven days a week making gigantic profits for Lynn Townsend, Chrysler's chairman of the Board, and the rest of the racist administrators and executives so they can take vacations on the beaches of Miami, Fla., drink martinis while lounging on the decks of their yachts anchored on the shores of the Bahama Islands, buy big fabulous homes, ride on luxury cruises and eat sirloin and eggs for breakfast.

The racist, sellout UAW continues to steal our hard earned cash and we get nothing in return, not one damn thing! Black workers pay dues to a union that somehow forgets we exist until its time to take some more money. While we slave breaking our backs everyday, Leonard Woodcock, Emil Mazey, Doug Fraser and the rest of the sellout union hierarchy at Solidarity House are lounging in the wall to wall carpeted offices. They sit at their huge mahogany desks smoking \$50 cigars while their freshly manicured fingers lift martinis to their fork-tongued mouths. And all the while we're throwing that heavy ass iron for their buddies at Chrysler.

Inside the plant work conditions are still the same. The floors are still covered with grease and oil, nuts, screws and bolts are still scattered (wall to wall) in the work areas, making work that much harder. About as close as we get to an ocean cruise is the pools of water we wade through around our machines, so that every step you take is dripping in danger. The racist ass white foremen are still giving Black workers the blues. When these racists aren't looking over your shoulder checking to see if the job is done, they can be found in a corner laughing and joking with each other.

When is it all going to end? It's got to stop sometime. Black workers, you can stop Chrysler Corp. from messing with you. You can stop the UAW from messing over you.

I.B.A.

INTERNATIONAL BLACK APPEAL



is coming !

EL

ELDON AVENUE

VOL. 111



ELRUM

REVOLUTIONARY UNION MOVEMENT

NO. 1

THE CHARACTER OF THE BLACK WORKERS STRUGGLE IS REVOLUTIONARY IN ESSENCE ! ! !

ELRUM SPEAKS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Brothers and Sisters at Eldon, we of ELRUM take this time to welcome you back from your (well-deserved) holiday. And hope that the New-Year will bring us closer to our goal of unity and liberation of all oppressed peoples of the WORLD.

It would seem appropriate as we start still another year of struggle, to make an assessment of that part of struggle that now is embraced by history, in 1968, the Eldon Ave. Revolutionary Union Movement "ELRUM" made its first appearance at our plant, in the form of a news-letter also called Elrum. This was a direct response of a group of Black workers in the plant, who seeing, as well as being a part of the abnormally hazardous working conditions, insufficient medical dept., and the racist attitude of management, had started to join together in both thoughts and actions to address themselves to the workers for COLLECTIVE action against problems that were and still are common to us all. And as workers in the plant started reading the Elrum newsletter, many started to relate and expose management on an individual basis. Many incidents that happened on a daily basis before, had been looked-over or taken for granted, now became front page articles in Elrum, making Elrum from the beginning a paper of the workers.

There is no doubt that many FORMEN seeing these acts of racism and intimidation being exposed to angry Black workers began to panic (asked for transfers, leaves of absence or just quit their jobs). And Labor Relations began to unjustly discipline workers who they suspected were printing and distributing such a fact sheet. But both management and union (the union also began to panic because Elrum showed where it had failed to deal with the workers problems) had to face the reality that Elrum was there to stay and growing everyday.

Shortly after the Elrum paper hit the plant, a Black strike was called, being that Black workers were most often the victims of the racist attacks and hazardous conditions. The strike would serve a two-fold purpose: one, it would enlighten both Black Workers and many of the importance of the Black Worker at Eldon, and two, it would serve notice to management, that unless its attitudes and actions towards Black Workers wasn't changed, no more gears or axles would come from Eldon. The strike action met with resounding approval from the workers and on January 27, 1969, 85% of the Black Workers at the floor planned did not report to work, many coming to the plant to carry picket signs and encouraging others not to work that day.

On January 27, 1969, Black Workers Power was felt from 6700 Lynch Road, the address of the Eldo Plant, to 341 Massachusetts, Chrysler's World headquarters, and Black workers everywhere had a great feeling of pride when they heard the news that "Black Workers had shut down Eldon Gear and Axle."

Management, sensing the solidarity of Black people everywhere around such a heroic action and courage of the Black Workers at Eldon, decided rather than address itself to the objective conditions inside the plant, to use all their resources to crush the workers spirit and courage. They immediately called a meeting of all foremen and plant protection lackeys, and at this meeting people were asked the names of any workers that would likely take part in such action. The foremen and guards then named workers that had been the least bit rebellious against acts of harrassment and intimidation in the past, names of brothers and sisters were given who didn't smile and kiss ass for Red-necked crackers and bug-eyed Uncle Tom Forman, workers who didn't salute eg-tripping guards were also put on this list which was completed by management. Placing the names of those suspected of being the leaders of ELRUM strategy being to scare the shit out of most workers by keeping them in the streets a few days and crushing ELRUM by firing its leaders. The next day with Black workers returning to work (vowing to hit the streets again if their demands were not met). They had been met with a list of workers who had been discharged (22) and with many of those who returned receiving some form of penalty. The Company now thought they held the upper hand and as they had previously planned discharging all but three of the twenty-two. These three being supposed leaders of ELRUM which were Brothers Fred Holsey, Sylvester Hyman, and Karl Whitner. All three are still out.

Management thinking that they had won a clear and decisive victory began once again to rule with an iron hand. Firing and harrassing Brothers and Sisters at will for nothing more than so-called "looking militant." With managements blatant intimidation, workers began at once to respond and Brothers were discharged for assaults on Foremen (everybody remembers Brother Pee Wee chasing his forman through the plant and beating him with a stick. ELRUM continued to print and relate to the workers' problems and the objective conditions inside the plant. Management, at different intervals, still tried to crush ELRUM's leadership, this time resulting in the discharge of Brother James Edwards on a bogus charge of assaulting three white women in the first-aid department. Lackeys Walter Ector and Carl Paulgroves said that they had reports that Brother James had assaulted these cracker women on a day when in fact Brother James was sick in bed from an injury received in the plant while the company and union refused to recognize James stayed out about 6 months. This one management witnessed once again the Black workers supporting an innocent oppressed man.

Management, getting smarter, immediately brought Brother James back but refused to address itself to the conditions inside the plant. The conditions became increasingly bad. During one period three Black workers were killed. Rose Logan, Mamie Williams, and Brother Gary Thompson. Workers' very lives were being threatened by racist foremen. In one case where the foreman threatened to bash a Brother's brains out a walk-out resulted called for by "old lard belly faggot" Richardson, the president. Management showed just what they thought of the union and Black people by firing all union leadership on the afternoon shift and some foremen on other shifts including J.U. Simms (plant shop committee). They began to roll over not only Blacks but the spineless union as well. "Something had to be done was the cry from the floor." Someone had to do it. HAIL BROTHER JAMES JOHNSON!

We at Eldon have had an eventful two-and-a-half years at this plant, and you may ask what's on the agenda for '71? Our only answer has to be struggle. Black workers struggle. Together we will be victorious!

Salaam,
ELRUM Staff

BEGINNING OF SPEED-UPS

Chrysler cheats its employees out of jobs, work and seniority.

Without the Rank and File members of the Eldon Gear and Axle plant knowing what's happening, Chrysler and the so-called union reorganized jobs to fuck up seniority and working conditions and they run this under the workers as some kind of bull-shit bargaining.

Chrysler is in the process of reorganizing the whole plant, however, I only have information concerning plant Dept. No. 69. Here are the choices that workers in Dept. No. 69 were given:

1. You must give up your inspection rights and become a production worker.
2. Keep your inspection rights and take any open job regardless of the amount of seniority that you have.

JOIN ELRUM
179 CORTLAND
865-8184

SEND ARTICLES
VOICE PROTESTS
SUPPORT THE
LACK WORKERS
STRUGGLE

JOIN ELRUM
179 CORTLAND
865-8184

ASSAULT ON INTEGRITY

To my brothers and sisters of Local 9961 who frequently attend union meetings, but were unable to attend the past meeting of September 20, 1970. It was disclosed at the meeting that certain illegal activities were going on under President Elroy Richardson, Gordon Francis, Financial Sec'y and James Franklin, Recording Sec'y.

Many of our union officers and revolutionary Brothers were discharged, and received no strong support from the membership or the parties mentioned above. Elroy had knowledge of the walkouts and even advocated them, but nitted when it came to keeping the people out too long. For the fear of the International putting the Local in receivership. The fear that receivership could have connected the Executive Branch of our Local with the misappropriation of funds.

J.C. Thomas at the past meeting inquired why the charges hadn't been presented to the membership, because they were part of the communication which was to be read to the membership. Elroy stated that he didn't receive the communication that was sent by certified mail. At that point J.C. Thomas produced a signed receipt of acceptance which James Franklin had signed. After a short verbal battle, Elroy produced the mail and Franklin began to read the charges. After the charges were finished, J.C. Thomas inquired about the other two sets of charges. At this point Elroy ignored Thomas's request and instructed Franklin to proceed to the next order of business. J.C. Thomas informed Elroy that he was violating Robert's Rules of Order. However, Elroy emphatically stated, "I am President." Consequently, Sims rose to the floor and instructed Elroy that he was out of order and that J.C. should have the floor. Elroy debated with Sims and realized that Brother Sims was right. So he ordered the Sargent-at-arms to show Sims to the door. However, the Sargent-at-arms, realizing that Elroy had gone totally mad, refused and stated that Elroy was completely out of order. To even compound matters, Elroy dismissed the meeting without a show of hands. Obviously, Elroy is incompetent in dealing for the basic needs of the Local membership. He has totally disrespected rules and the People!

BROTHER RAPS ON DOPE

For all you niggers, pimps, players and potential drug users, adhere to what I have to rap about. Historically, the White Ghost (dope) has been a black problem. In essence a way to escape the political, economic and social deprivations of life. The White Ghost didn't become a national problem until the white communities became victimized.

Now I shall put emphasis on particular aspects of the dope problem which are very detrimental to Blacks. Our heads have got to be 100% straight to eradicate the evils that are constantly keeping us down. Look at our economic situation, our gains haven't been great. We've been trying for 400 years and the honkie race has used every way possible to suppress the black people. You see Brother and Sister, you let the pusher and the system pacify you to the point that we won't raise hell about better jobs, better housing, better working conditions etc. So brother, and niggers hung up and strung out on the White Ghost QUIT! TAKE TREATMENT! DO SOMETHING! to save your life. Let us all unite to combat this evil or we all will perish.

UNITY OR PERISH!

UNITE OR PERISH'

THE E.L.R.U.M. ROAD IS THE ONLY ROAD!

In the last article we related to you about the inconsistencies of Super-Tom James Preacher Caver. His Super-Tomming activities have substantiated our last article.

Historically, Super Tom Caver has always kissed the honkies' ass for a more favorable position in this racist corporation. For instance, when he was jobsetter in Dept. 82 he kissed the honkies' ass and told on the men about things that weren't his concern. In similar fashion he Super Tommed his way through the whole production office, when he became 3rd shift production steward. As a matter of fact, every constituent of Super Tom Caver, knew that his only goal was to become foreman. To become a tool to implement the honkies' program. To become a kneegrow Super Tom who would be more racist against his own people than any group of KKK could possibly be against Black People.

Super Tom Caver is the perfect product of white racist Amerikkka. He's a whitey oriented Kneegrow whose mind has been taken over by white nationalism.

Now he's foreman and the worst foreman that Black people have ever had in Dept. 72. He disregards the few union principles that were beneficial to his constituents. He subtracts time from Black workers for being one or two minutes late after break, He emphasizes that all he cares about is getting a piece count. But he totally disregards the fact, Blacks have been systematically oppressed, suppressed and under paid. Furthermore, Super Tom Caver has intimidated, harrassed and literally threatened to commit physical abuse against a fellow Black Worker. As a matter of fact, Super Tom Caver perpetrated physical abuse against a white racist general foreman of the inspection department, for trying to hold up his production. Obviously, Super Tom Caver is pushing for a higher position. However, ELRUM holds to the fact that Super Tom Caver is pushing for a coffin on 13 Mile Road.

**TO ALL YOU SIMPLE MINDED
DEGENERATE NIGGERS**



JOIN ELRUM
179 CORTLAND
865-8184
923-1273

SEND ARTICLES
VOICE PROTESTS
SUPPORT THE
BLACK WORKERS
STRUGGLE AT
ELDON

**"YOU'LL NEVER BE THE
MAN YOUR MAMA WAS!"**



GENERAL PURPOSE AND PROGRAM

The conditions of black and poor people are worsening in this country. Unemployment is two to three times higher, recreation facilities are inadequate to non-existent, employed wage holders suffer from lower paid wages, little to non-existent in skills, housing is extremely scarce, drugs are rampant, and racism has its ugly hand constantly in motion.

The existing agencies, be they Department of Social services, United Foundation and its Torch Drive, courts, hospitals, etc., by their own admission have tremendous problems in alleviating, let alone removing, the wretched conditions of the black and poor people.

As a result, some groups have attempted self-help endeavors only to see them fall for lack of funds. That is to say, some of the existing agencies and government structures have failed to, for whatever reason or bureaucratic red tape, insure life to the programs. In addition, the civil disturbances of 1965 in Watts, California; Detroit, Michigan; and Newark, New Jersey, and subsequent disturbances through the present have epitomized the need for self-help black and poor people to develop a structure that will be in less jeopardy of their programs folding.

International

Black

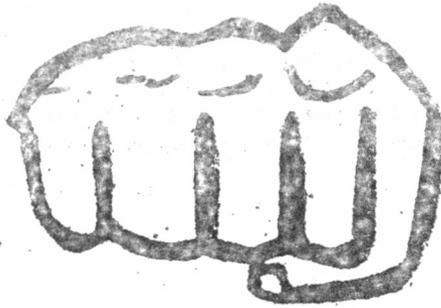
Appeal



**INTERNATIONAL BLACK APPEAL
12019 LINWOOD
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48206
PHONE: 866-1266**

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**ELDON AVENUE
REVOLUTIONARY
UNION MOVEMENT**



rum

**LEAGUE OF
REVOLUTIONARY
BLACK WORKERS**

THE E.L.R.U.M. ROAD IS THE ONLY ROAD!

The ELRUM road is the only road! Why do we say this? Black workers slave eight to ten hours daily, five, six and possibly seven days a week, in the modern day 20th century plant-ations called Eldon Gear & Axle, Hamtramck Assembly, Jefferson Avenue Assembly, Mound Road Engine, Huber and Winfield foundries, Plymouth, Mack Stamping, Dodge Truck, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Oldsmobile, the Ford Rouge Complex and American Motors. We are slaving under the most oppressive conditions ever known throughout the history of mankind. If we take a brief historical view of Blacks working in the many plant-ations, we find that we've been given the hardest, heaviest, filthiest and most dangerous jobs. Jobs which "white workers have traditionally refused to take." Skilled trades, the millwrights, electricians etc., all have been lily-white at all the plant-ations. Supervision at most plants is totally white or has kneegrows who are unconcerned about the welfare of their fellow Black workers. Black Workers slave under all types of unsafe conditions:

1. Racist white and kneegrow Uncle Tom foremen constantly harrassing Blacks.
2. The floors are always slippery form oil and grease; tools and nuts and bolts are scattered over the floors.
3. Ventilation is so ppoor until it seems that there is none at all.
4. You must be on the look out for faulty jitneys because brakes are faulty, horns don't work and they travel at unsafe speeds.
5. Union representatives are never around, if they are it's only to see that you keep the line rolling.
6. Black workers are constantly paying out their hard-earned cash for checkoof union dues, which are being paid to the donothing UAW.

A certain amonut of money is ripped off for the United Foundations who are always totally unresponsive to the needs of the Black Community.

The conditions listed above are just a few of the intolerable conditions which Black Workers slave under. The death like yokes are a constant challenge to our Black manhood. The few white racist, capitalistic vultures who own the means of production constantly exploit our labor through the use of such willing lackeys as racist white general foremen, foremen, union flunkeys and stewards as well as Labor RelationsMORE AND MORE BLACK WORKERS ARE FINDING IT NECESSARY TO TAKE THE E.L.R.U.M. ROAD, THAT IS THE ROAD OF BLACK INDEPENDENT REVOLUTIONARY ACTION ADDRESSING ITSELF TO THE TERRIBLE CONDITIONS THAT THEY LABOR UNDER ON THEIR RESPECTIVE JOBS!!!!

E.L.R.U.M. ROAD IS THE ONLY ROAD!!

ELRUM STANDS UNITED IN SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING BROTHERS

President

JORDON SIMS

..No.71

steward

dept. ... 78, 80, 81

CARL JENKINS

..No.17

(ELECTION SPECIAL)

ELRUM

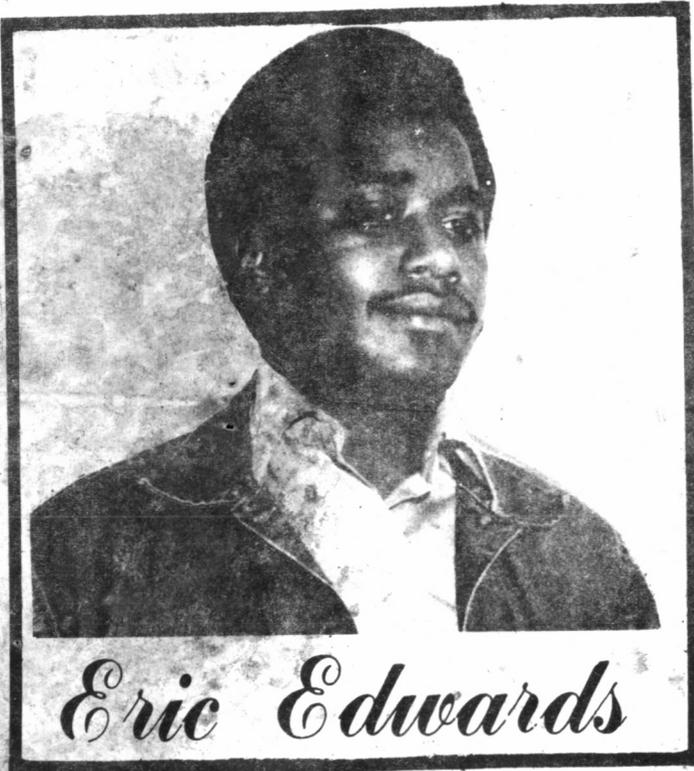
ELDON AVENUE REVOLUTIONARY UNION MOVEMENT

MAY 12-13, 1971

vote for



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Eric Edwards



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for

recording secretary

PROFILE OF ERIC EDWARDS

Brother Eric Edwards was born June 3, 1947, into a system corrupt, racist and exploitive. This system was better known to many Blacks as hell! Bro. Eric had an average black ghetto youth's life. Feeling very harshly about the economic strains and stresses that his family had to undertake on a day to day basis. Furthermore, it was necessary to wage a relentless struggle against the rodents and roaches that constantly infested the slum renting quarters in which the brother lived. While attending high school, Bro. Eric felt the direct hand of exploitation by being forced to work to buy necessary school supplies and clothing to enable him to finish his indoctrination. His employer was a middle-aged white woman who lived in Grosse Pointe. Working at her food store, Bro. Eric worked from sun up to sun down only to be paid fifty cents an hour! However, the minimum wage standard was a dollar and twenty-five cents. Brother Eric finally finished Eastern High School, only to be economically forced to work in the most unsafe, morbid and atrocious place—the automobile factory!! Consequently, the inhumane conditions, the racist management and the incompetence of union officials and the collusion of management and union necessitated Brother Eric to attend college and become actively dedicated and involved in the liberation struggle of Black people. Through the brother's involvement with the Association of Black Students, it became necessary for him to relate and struggle with the League of Revolutionary Black Workers against the inhumane conditions within the plant and in organizing Black workers inside the plant. Presently, because of Brother Eric's profound understanding of where we're at, what we're about and how we're going to get there along with his meetings with many workers all over the country and being a member of the board of directors of the International Black Appeal, the consensus of workers should be to support the brother for Recording Secretary!!!

I firmly support these programmatic demands!!

We demand a cut in union dues. The union already collects 10 million dollars a month from its members and can't defend the rights of the workers. We demand the end of the checkoff of union dues. While the check off was progressive in the 30's, today it prevents workers from disciplining poor union leadership.

We demand 50% U.A.W. investment funds be used to finance economic development in the black community under programs of self-determination, such as, the International Black Appeal. The union now holds over \$90,000,000 in strike funds in white banks. They lost over \$1,000,000 in strike funds when a bank in California folded two years ago. We demand that 50% of all such money be held in the First Independence National Bank and used in the black community.

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BABY!!

The union must fight for a five hour week day and a four day work week. The profit level of industry is high enough to increase employment and end layoffs.

We demand that the grievance procedure be completely revised so that grievances are settled immediately on the job by the workers in the plant involved. The grievance procedure is used to prevent workers from using their strike power to fight abuses from management. Since the procedure completely ties the hands of workers and basically serves company interests, it should be scrapped and replaced by a completely new system.

Elimination of all safety and health hazards in the auto industry. This means cleaning the air in the foundry and redesigning dangerous machinery and cut back in production on hazardous jobs.

The union must fight vigorously against speed up and increases in production standards. The companies should double the size of their work force to meet the present workload. There were 650,000 production workers in auto in 1947 producing 4.5 million vehicles. In 1966, 650,000 workers produced nearly 10 million vehicles loaded with accessories and options. We are working two and three times as hard for the same real income. With today's technology and production standards can easily be cut to reasonable humane lines.

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black workers, power

inner-city VOICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARY BLACK WORKERS

**READ DETROIT'S
ONLY**

**BLACK REVOLUTIONARY
NEWSPAPER**

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EL

ELDON AVENUE



RUM

REVOLUTIONARY
UNION MOVEMENT

VOL. III NO. III

JANUARY 28, 1971

THE CHARACTER OF THE BLACK WORKERS STRUGGLE IS REVOLUTIONARY IN ESSENCE!!!

UNION SELL OUT

It has been 8 months now and Robert McKee, James Edwards, Alonzo Chandler and John Taylor along with committeeman Jordan Sims are still on discharge status from Eldon Avenue. These heroic workers who staged a workers' safety protest of the inhumane, degrading and hazardous to life and limb working conditions practiced on black workers in particular and all workers in general are still fighting the same two-fold battle against management and union.

Committeeman Jordan Sims while participating in the safety protest had already been discharged during the time the original stewards were discharged as a result of Elroy's wildcats. We make this point because now Jordan Sims' case has moved through all the proper channels of our irrelevant grievance procedure and has been thrown out at the last stage (umpire decision). With all the factual information Sims had on union-company activities at Eldon he lost his case in the end on a sell-out by our main sell-out artist Elroy Richardson whose attempts of sell-out have not yet ceased. As you know Elroy called for the two wildcats at Eldon last year that resulted in a rash of discharges of his officials who he didn't back. At Sims' umpire hearing this traitor Elroy denied any part in the walk-outs and stated that Sims and the other stewards were acting on their own while he simply told people to go back to work. Although this is in contradiction to what we know as being fact it was enough to convince the umpire that Sims was just a trouble maker and should not be returned to work. Sims must now pursue the legal courts to get his job back. Elroy Beware!

SELL OUT CONTINUED

Elroy's traitorous tactics have not stopped there. Brothers James Edwards, Robert McKee, Alonzo Chandler along with John Taylor all filed a group grievance. This step was taken to insure fair representation for all involved. But someone, somewhere at Local 961 dropped James Edwards from negotiations while at the same time his name is still on the written grievance. He in effect has no grievance status at all and Solidarity House on down to Local 961 have refused to negotiate for this brother. Yet according to UAW legalities, a grievance once it is written, submitted and has been negotiated cannot be changed. Elroy claims that James Edwards is not in the same district as the other three which makes his name invalid. But we also know that Charlie Thornton at the time was the acting plant shop committeeman which with his signature should have made no difference. And we also know that a group grievance is legal and if the union was actually functioning in our behalf, it would be a big help in negotiating a case such as this.

We know that none of you has to be told what happens when the breadwinner of a Black family is out of work. Not to mention the blacklisting by the company and union which have greatly reduced the chances of these brothers of finding jobs elsewhere in the Big 3 or union shop companies. Needless to say the families of these brothers have suffered enormously. Local 961 Beware! Election time is drawing near.

**WE WILL WIN
LONG LIVE ELRUM
LONG LIVE BLACK WORKERS HEROIC STRUGGLES!**

FUNKY BACON

Probably, many people didn't know anything about racist Tom Bacon before he became General Foreman so we shall briefly relate to you some of the events that transpired to bring this racist, honkie, dog fool to the Inspection Department.

He was raised by the average, white, racist, middle class family, never having a meales day or having to toil laboriously to help support the family. Finally, when it was necessary to support himself, he secured a job at Eldon in the skilled trades department as a tool maker assistant.

During this particular time he developed a relationship with Hozebroom, head of the Inspection Department. By getting intimately involved in and out of the plant with Hozebroom through means of bootlicking, ass kissing and simply being a lackey, he secured a job from Hozebroom as Quality Control Analyst.

During the course of this job, racist, honkie dog fool Bacon couldn't get along with the black workers who he came in contact with and his inherent racial attitudes and prejudices appeared. Obviously, not being able to have any decisive control over the black workers with whom racist honkie dog Bacon came in contact, he pursued the same avenue by which he obtained his present job for a foreman's job. After securing the foreman's job, Bacon, possessed with boss mentality, implemented all the animosity he had built up by carrying out unjust penalties, discrimination and out-right intimidation and harrassment of black workers. However, black workers, understanding that no proper recourse would come from the union, prepared to rip that diabolical fool off.

Obviously, scared ass Bacon sensed this and with the greed for more money went and kissed Hozebrook's ass and licked his feet for the General Foreman job which he has now. Now he's in a position to unjustly discipline black workers and order his lackey foremen, particularly Harry Yakey, to do the work of facing the workers.

For instance, Brother Nolan Byrd of Dept. 69 missed his ride to work on a particular night when the roads were covered with ice. As a result, Brother Nolan arrived at work late. Consequently, the guard called the inspection office and made contact with fool ass Bacon who told the guard that he didn't need the brother tonight. So Brother Nolan spoke to the insensitive fool telling him that he had spent his last money to get to work and if he had worked he could have ridden home with a certain brother. Assinine Bacon harshly replied that it wasn't his problem. So Brother Nolan asked if he could enter the plant to borrow some bus fare and insensitive Bacon flatly refused. Consequently, the next night Brother Nolan summoned the steward who showed at break time. The steward, Chuck Burton, decided to take the brother to the superintendent so the brother could explain what transpired. As the brother began to explain, Bacon walked into the office and Chuck called him over. Consequently, Bacon got mad and told lackey Harry Yakey to write Chuck up for keeping Brother Nolan 3 minutes over break. Obviously, this goes to show you the ineptness of the steward and to what extent a racist, honkie dog fool general foreman will go to defend his incorrect views.

This particular thing has been going on in the inspection department on 3rd shift only, when Bacon and his clan come on. Furthermore, it's only a means to unjustly penalize brothers without going through the proper steps. It's Elrum's position that a racist, honkie dog fool like Bacon needs to be dealt with and shall be dealt with very severely.

**LONG LIVE THE HEROIC BLACK WORKERS STRUGGLE
AND DEATH BE TO THEIR ENEMY**

DARE TO FIGHT

DARE TO WIN

**black workers'
unite
stomp racism in
the ass now**

**'OUR THING
IS
ELRUM**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

SHIFT _____

179 CORTLAND
Highland Park, Michigan
865-8184

ELRUM

ELDON AVENUE REVOLUTIONARY UNION MOVEMENT

JAMES WAS PUSHED TO THE BREAKING POINT

Who is James Johnson? James Johnson is you and me. James Johnson is the oldest of seven children in his family. Those closest to him have always known him to be a gentle person, very thoughtful person. He has always looked after the welfare of his family. In search of a better life for himself, James was still in his teens when he left Mississippi for the industrial jungle of Detroit. Here he lived with his uncle, who was able to persuade him to finish school. And so he did, and each day James would travel from Mt. Clemens High to his after school job at St. Joseph's Hospital. Always one to depend upon his own resources, he worked as a kitchen helper there so he could support himself until his graduation in 1955. After graduating he spent two years in the Army, whereupon he received an honorable discharge and returned to Detroit. But Detroit of the late fifties and early sixties offered a particularly hard life for Black people. As has always been the case in the United States what was classified as a "recession" for white workers during this period, proved to be a real depression for Black workers. Finally after months of searching, James found work at the Selfridge Air Force Base cafeteria. For the following three years that passed he worked in the cafeteria for a paltry \$35 a week. Like most Black workers. James had to sacrifice a lot of little enjoyments just to make ends meet. But out of his meager salary he somehow managed to save for the home he was to purchase later. Not one ever to forget his family, however, he regularly sent money back home to his mother down South. In this way, some of his brothers and sisters were able to finish their education.

The recession began to level off during the sixties, but the cost of living continually rose. Like so many other Black workers, James searched for better wages and working conditions. And he continued to save for that house he wanted so badly. But he never forgot his family, or people less fortunate than he. His youngest sister recalls how he would often help people on the street not because he knew them, but because he was just that way. If he thought that any cause would help someone, if only a little, he would support it in any way he could. This is how James Johnson is.

continued on next page

James Johnson is not a worldly man, but he is a man of honor, a gentle man, a man with pride, a man with respect for himself and his fellow men, He is an exceptionally quiet man, one who usually keeps to himself. He is not a man whom you would generally see at parties or in bars. A man who, until now, was without violence in his life. But what circumstances caused a man, much like you and me, a man know for his extreme kindness, to now be charged with the shooting deaths of three men?

James Johnson had beer employed at the Eldon Avenue Gear and Axle Plant for two years. Like other Black workers there, he had to put up with the daily harassments by racist foremen, the lack of proper safety conditions, and the backbreaking and dangerous work. In addition, James was singled out for special harassment because of the fact that he rarely laughed or smiled while on the job. He would be put on certain jobs and given no instruction. Then the foremen would stand around watching him. hoping that he would make a mistake so that they could fire him. But James rarely, if ever, made mistakes on the job. So the supervisors evidently decided that since he was not dumb, he must be a potential troublemaker, and they kept him under constant surveillance.

In May of 1970, James was involved in an automobile accident. His car was a total loss, and the back, neck, and head injuries which he suffered as a result of the accident caused him to undergo treatment twice a week. Because of the seriousness of his injuries, James Johnson's doctor advised him not to go back to work. When James went to get his insurance papers and to tell Chrysler Corporation details of these injuries

he was sent to anovercrowded "Industrial Clinic" where he was hardly even examined. And, in the same way that Chrysler did Sister Mamie Williams, which by ordering her off her hospital bed sent her to her death, they sent James a telegram ordering him back to work immediately. They refused to give him disability payments for the five days he was off the job. Then they sent him a registered letter stating that his insurance had been cancelled. From that time on he was forced to work without any insurance whatsoever.

But James Johnson is you and me. What drove James Johnson to the breaking point?

James was scheduled for vacation on June 1, 1970. The date was posted on the bulletin board. On May 29, which was a Friday, James had "his" foreman sign his time card, and left on vacation after work. When he returned to work on schedule, he noticed that his time card had been pulled from the rack. When he asked the foreman why, the foreman would just shrug his shoulders and walk away. James was forced to work for approximately one month without a time card. One racist foreman had the nerve to continually ask James why he didn't go home, since he didn't have a time card. But James knew that if he went home, they would surely fire him. And so he stayed, and his time card finally "reappeared". But James Johnson is not a violent man. What drove James Johnson to the point of temporary insanity?

Finally on July 15,1970 James Johnson was pushed to the wall. Becasue he was not provided with proper safety gloves, and for that reason refused to work the oven, James was charged with "insubordination" and fired. The kind of life which forced him to scrimp and save his hard earned quarters and dollars so that he could buy the home he always wanted, the financial support of his family, for which had taken a responsibility since his teens; the refusal by racist plant foremen to upgrade him, because he didn't buck dance or grin each time they passed; the constant harassment. the inhumane conditions of work... And, in a manner which all of us oppressed by the foul, racist machinery of Capitalism, are capable, of being driven James Johnson was pushed to the breaking point.

That is why all of us, and not just James Johnson, are on trial beginning April 26. And that is why all of us in turn must put Chrysler on trial that day, put the sellout UAW on trial, must put the vicious system of Capitalist exploitation of trial, must put U.S. "homegrown" racism and imperialism on trial. We cannot afford any more James Johnson's to be "judged" and sentenced by the same racist dogs who daily push the James Johnson in us to the breaking point.

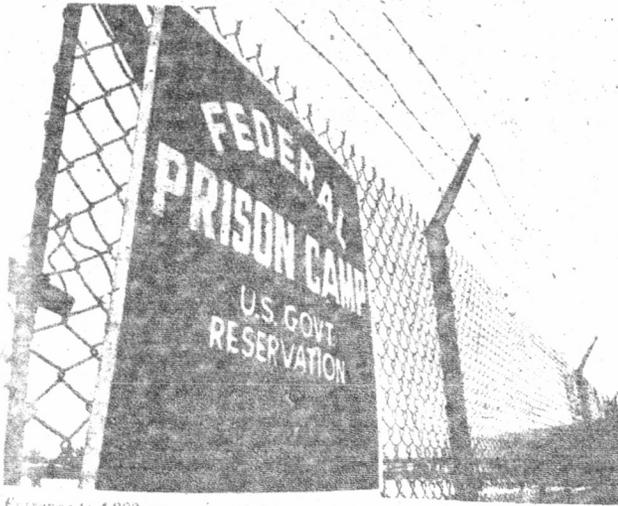
JAMES JOHNSON HAS DARED TO STRUGGLE. LET US ALL DARE TO HELP HIM WIN.

black workers, power

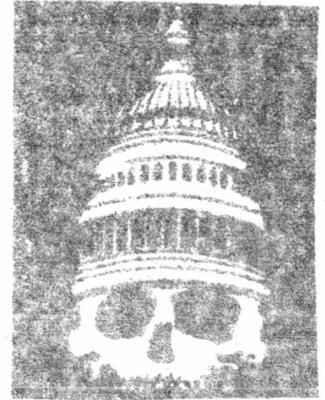
in-ner-city VOICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARY BLACK WORKERS

**READ DETROIT'S
ONLY
BLACK REVOLUTIONARY
NEWSPAPER**



Entrance to 4,200-acre camp at Allenwood, Pa. Ready for any emergency?



UNITE OR PERISH!!!

Several of the articles which have appeared in ELRUM have had the title *Unite or Perish*. This title is not used because the editor and writers of ELRUM cannot think of other titles to head articles, but because it clearly indicates the relationship between the problem we face, achieving unity. **UNITE** and the consequence of not facing that problem, or **PERISH**.

Few people other than the F.B.I., government officials and the owners of large corporations realize that the United States is constructing concentration camps all over the country. Camps already completed are located in Allenwood, Pennsylvania; Avon Park, Florida; El Reno, Oklahoma; Florence, Arizona; Tulalake, California; and Wickenburg, Arizona. Others have been secretly completed and still more are in the planning stages. There is no doubt that the government is constructing these camps to imprison Black people!!!

Most of us, at first glance, would reject such a solution to the race problem as absurd, yet during World War II the United States government imprisoned 120,000 Japanese citizens in concentration camps for periods up to four years!! These people were imprisoned simply because they were Japanese.

The order to imprison the Japanese, Executive Order 9066, was signed by Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt on Feb. 12, 1942. This order gave Army Lt. General John L. DeWitt complete power in dealing with Japanese citizens in this country. General DeWitt, somewhat of an early day Spiro Agnew, was noted for his blatant racist statements e.g. "A Jap is a Jap" and "The very fact that no sabotage has taken place to date is a disturbing and confirming indication that such action will be taken." DeWitt issued Public Proclamation No. 1 designating California, Oregon and Washington as a "military area" and further stated that all Japanese would be removed from this area and placed in "detention centers"; The Wartime Civil Control Administration (W.C.C.A.) was created and evacuation of the Japanese began at once. Camps for the Japanese were set up throughout the midwest. Some of the sites were: Heart Mountain center located in Park County, Wyoming with 10,767 prisoners, Tule Lake Center, Modoc County California with 18,789 prisoners and Colgrade River Center, Yuma County Arizona with 17,814 prisoners. In all 10 centers were set up.

Be Concerned

Be There

Important decision on Brother

Robert F. Williams' trial

9:00 a.m. Thurs. Jan. 29, 79

Room 512 - Judge Roumell's C

600 Randolph

(old County Bld)

Support Bro. Rob

Two months ago ELRUM published an article exposing the "Special Conference" for what it was namely a trick, a stalling tactic and a sellout cooked up by the U.A.W. International and Local 961 to keep Black Workers from raising Hell about outrageous plant conditions.

The conference began on Nov. 17, 1969 and ran until Jan. 16, 1970. 58 items and some 370 grievances were discussed by local union officials and the ELDON plant management and at the end of the conference a memorandum of understanding was signed by both parties.

At the last local union meeting Elroy Richardson our local union president was asked if a copy of the results of the "Special Conference" would be made available to the membership. Elroy stated that the stewards and committeemen would receive a copy and that a few copies would be available for anyone else interested.

We of ELRUM feel that all Black workers should be aware of the results of the "Special Conference". We feel that Black workers should be aware of how close to \$5000.00 dollars of our hard earned money was wasted by the local union executive board in a bullshit conference which obtained absolutely nothing. We feel that Black workers should be aware that several hundred grievances were removed and discarded as a result of the Special Conference. And that most importantly we feel that Black workers should understand why Elroy Richardson is trying to hide the results of the "Special Conference". For this reason ELRUM, beginning this week, will publish the results of the "Special Conference" in order that Black Workers will know what really went down.

The Conference was divided into two parts one on "Agenda" and one on grievances. On Jan. 16, 1970 Elroy received an answer from the Eldon management in regards to back grievances. The letter read:

Elroy Richardson
President Local 961 U.A.W.
7575 Lynch Road
Detroit, Michigan 48234

Dear Mr. Richardson:

Relative to Issue No.53 of the Memorandum of Understanding dated Jan. 16, 1970, certain grievances were resolved in a series of meetings. THE INDIVIDUAL DISPOSITIONS SHOWN BELOW SHALL FORM NO BASIS OR PRECEDENT FOR SETTLEMENT OF ANY OTHER CASE' ALL OTHER GRIEVANCES THAT HAVE BEEN PROCESSED THROUGH THE THIRD STEP OF THE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 21, 1969 ARE CONSIDERED RESOLVED.

Below this statement were listed 43 grievances which the company agreed to resolve. All other grievances were THROWN OUT!!! Write-ups, time off etc. still remain on many Black workers records despite Elroy's claim that the special conference language resolved their grievances. It also of importance that no second shift grievances were resolved. This letter was signed by J.G. Hafwer, plant personnel manager and our president Elroy Richardson.

The other part of the special conference was an agenda of 58 items. On Jan. 16, 1970, the bargaining

committee of local 961 and the Eldon Avenue management signed the Memorandum of understanding which read: Memorandum of Understanding, dated, Jan. 16, 1970 between Chrysler Corporation, Eldon Avenue Axle Plant. (hereinafter referred to as the "Corporation" and International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America and its local union no. 961 (hereinafter referred to as the "Union")

I.

Pursuant to the request of the local union, special conferences have been held at the Eldon Avenue Axle Plant since Nov. 17, 1969, to discuss a number of unresolved grievances and other matters contained in an agenda dated Nov. 17, 1969.

II.

A disposition of these matters is as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

III.

All other matters set forth in the Union's agenda and those discussed in the meetings and all similar grievances in the procedure have been withdrawn.

Following this statement was a list of 58 items and the Corporation's answer to each item. Next week the 58 items.

DEATH TRAP IN DEPT. 71

What in the HELL has the company and union done about the dangerous working conditions in Dept. 71.

It has been over a year since ELRUM exposed the matter of the metal platforms in Dept. 71, anything been done about them NO. (why not?)

It has been over six months since the new negro administration took over but we still have the same platforms. Well a brother have to slip and break his neck before those uncle toms who run this union take stand, and what is our never on the spot committeeman C. Thornton doing about it.

Also to work on the baker is to take your life in your hands. Last week the chain broke sending the whole front of the baker crashing down.

Luckily the brother who was working at the time had just moved out of the way had he not he might have lost an arm or been killed. Do you think the company or the Union cares. Hell no! If they cared something would have been done about this condition a long time ago.

It just the way a brother expressed to me last week this 20th century slavery, with Dept. 71 as the plantation and that racist pig, Mad dog Pirate, running dog Fred Long as the slave master. This is a warning to the racist pigs who run Dept. 71 and the Uncle Tom union, that ELRUM is on the case.

All power to Black people.

Power to the revolution with ELRUM at the vanguard!!!

has been brought to the attention of ELRUM that the union and the company have been violating the contract on the deduction of dues and initiation fees of new employees. The agreement between Chrysler Corporation and the U.A.W. states that a new hire who has signed the check off of dues form has 30 days for his initiation fee and dues are deducted. ELRUM has conducted an investigation and found out that this is not being done. In fact ELRUM has found that the union with the aid of the company has been deducting dues and initiation fees from new hires who have worked only two or three days. The thirty day waiting period was set up because the union cannot represent an employee until after 31 days, and is therefore not entitled to receive any money from a new hire until he has worked thirty days. It also states in the agreement that the union cannot deduct dues or initiation fees out of any check which is less than 40 dollars. Why is it then that the company and the union are violating the contract? The answer is clear, the company and the union have conspired to swindle Black workers out of their hard earned money. The company has agreed to deduct dues and initiation fees as soon as possible. This amount about \$27.50 per year goes directly to Local 961 and Solidarity Hours (U.A.W. headquarters) In return the union agrees to represent discharged Black workers or to question and protest firing procedures of the company. The company through a program of high turnover among Black workers saves millions each year since short term employees do not collect health benefits, insurance payments, vacation pay, holiday pay, retirement, pensions, etc. The U.A.W. also gains through the firing of Black workers since auto factories are the main employers of Black workers and once fired a Black worker will invariably seek employment at another auto plant. Many times a Black worker will not state on his application form that he has previously worked in an auto plant realizing that the fact that he was fired might deny him a new job. This allows the U.A.W. to collect the outrageous \$20.00 initiation fee many times over!! The U.A.W. is also not telling veterans of the auto industry services that they do not have to pay an initiation fee to become a member of the U.A.W.

Brothers and sisters it is clear that the U.A.W. and the company are working together to exploit and oppress us. The company through its outrageous working conditions, racist foremen, low pay, and huge work demands is making billions off the backs of Black workers. The U.A.W. through its refusal to demand an end to these same outrageous working conditions, racist foremen, low pay and huge work demands is making billions as the Junior partner to the company.

The time is now!!!

We must unite and destroy this two headed beast!!

Join ELRUM!!!

ELRUM

Eldon Ave. Revolutionary Union Movement

JAMES EDWARDS
DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP

8201 BADGER
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

CALL
865
8184

4120
5771
0613
4876
7745
7189
7219



M
0662
1532
3391
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9388
1954

[42, no?]

ELDON AVE. REVOLUTIONARY UNION MOVEMENT.

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN "TURNED-OUT"

On Jan. 18, 1970 the general membership of Local 961 met in what was suppose to be a membership meeting. We say suppose, because, although it started with some of the characteristics of a democratic function and that's where it ended. The president started with a prayer for the leaders of this RACIST LAND, and to give us strength to endure the inhuman treatment forced on us both in the plants as well as the streets.

The meeting then took on the flair of a Nazi-Regime, with Elroy Richardson ordering Uncle Franklin to read the minutes of the last meeting. Trick Franklin read a portion of the last meeting's minutes, leaving out parts that didn't meet the approval of his favorite Bed-Room-Buddy, Elroy.

After the minutes were read Sister Doris Dent raised the question of why local 961 didn't sponsor the Christmas party the membership approved of in the last meeting. Elroy's reply was that although it had been brought to the membership and referred to the board it was not the minutes of the last meeting. Bullshit!! We must stop curious Franklin from censoring our union minutes!

After the sister's question and the bullshit rebuttal of our local leadership (HA-HA) the state was set for the trend the meeting was to take rest of the day. The brother's and sisters had came out in support of Bro. James Edwards, whose case was outlined in a leaflet that was passed out at the plant the week before the meeting. A petition was also brought to the plant and some very concerned Black People signed in order to take it before the board as was suggested by Elroy Richardson. Elroy who said, "quote": I will push it at the board to ensure it's passage, presented instead a written rebuttal and the board upheld his decision.

Elroy with Don Toomer putting on his leg, told Franklin to read communications, after communications were read a question hit the floor, Bro. Chuck Burton demanded that Elroy let James have the floor and explain his own case. James then took the floor and preceded to explain the charges alleged against him. He also stated that the action directed against him can-not and must-not be looked at as an isolated matter, but as one that concerns the welfare of all Black workers in the plant. It must be noted here, that while Bro. James was on the floor he was interrupted several times by our "Lard Belly Freak of a President, ELROY." Because James expanded on the very serious plight of Black People at ELDON:

Jordan Simms plant shop committeeman then gave a beautiful follow-up speech that summed up the case and the general attitude of management in dealing with Black people in the plant and their total disregard for the U.A.W.

[Jan 1970]

Again ELRUM begins to wonder whether or not the Hitler regime is back in power. President Elroy read the minutes of the recent special conference like a mouse running from a cat which is very similar to a n-e-e-g-r-o lack running from Black people. Why? Because Elroy has a guilty conscience which was so amply put when his "bosom" buddy James Franklin stated, "when we went into the special conference it was like a sunny day until we got into the grievences, and then we knew we should have brought umbrellas because everybody got wet and muddy". With more than 100 persons attending this meeting J.C. Thomas trustee of the second shift and some of our more militant stewards, Tony Moore and Sparks also of the second shift had no alternative but to stand up and show the ineptness and break down of communications between them and our collective bargainers in the special conference. These brothers let everything hit the fan when they stated that the special conference bargainers didn't win one grievance written by a steward on the whole second shift. At this time brother Leonard Foster challenged Elroy on the issue of overtime paid to Elroy and his wild bunch during the special conference, paid for by our money and then came up with token language, and of all things not ratified by the membership. The supplement that they got was challenged by J.C. Thomas on the constitutional fact that it should have been ratified by the membership. He based his argument on Article 37 section 7 which reads, "The Executive Board shall be empowered to represent the local union when urgent business requires prompt and decisive action. In no case, however, shall the Executive Board transact any business that may affect the vital interest of the local union until the approval of the membership is secured, or of the shop organization in the case of an Amalgamated local union." Preacher attempted to justify the boards action but was quickly shot down. Again it was brother J.C. who stood up to Elroy to declare that there hadn't been a financial report in 6 months. Charley McNeely interrupted to make a correction of 2 1/2 years, but was laughed at since he seems to always have some kind of stupid correction to make.

Elroy's follow up to all this was that there would be a financial report available at the next union meeting.

During the union meeting under old business the question of a burgular alarm system was brought before the membership punk president Elroy Richardson said he had priced one for 2000 dollars. Brother J.C. Thomas asked Elroy what in the hell was he doing pricing burgular alarms when he knows its a job of the trustees to price the bugular alarms and the trustees had already priced one for only \$500 which is a saving of \$500. After more intense questioning by J.C. Thomas pretty boy Elroy began to get upset and wouldn't let J.C. speak any more. After repeated demands by brother Thomas to be heard in the meeting Elroy went to some bullshit parliamentary procedure to get to new business to keep

J.C. Thomas from asking more questions.

Also during the meeting brother sparks who is a steward on the second shift brought up a point about the lack of communication between the Leadership and the Membership and how some of the brothers and sisters had learned of the meeting from the leaflet put out by ELRUM about James Edwards when questioned about this recording secretary James Franklin put the blame on Gordon Francis saying that he didn't get the information in time. We of ELRUM believe that this lack of information thing is bullshit, that the union really doesn't want too many brothers and sisters there so they can run that bullshit on them.

James Franklin the recording secretary has did it again by proposing to give \$100 to the Credit-Counslar which is suppose to be a non-profit organization but charges \$3.50 to anyone who needs their help. But the brothers and sisters were not fooled by this proposal to give these hunkies our money.

We of ELRUM realize that Elroy Richardson is being controlled by the honkies down at solidarity House and this is the main reason why his administration isn't doing a damn thing to stop the oppression and exploitation of Black people at Eldon.

* We as Black people can see that we have Uncle Toms - in-office who are not doing anything at all for Black workers. We should stop turning to them and turn to ourselves and get some kind of self help programs going. ELRUM has such a self help program and all we have to do is wake up and work in unity and harmony and victory will be ours.

As the Japanese were herded away, greedy business men and government officials confiscated some 250,000 acres of rich farming land, 20,000 automobiles, several thousand homes and business and in all some 280 million dollars of Japanese property.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AGAINST THE WHITE GERMAN OR ITALIAN AMERICANS!!!

Today instead of Executive Order No. 9066 and public proclamation No. 1 the government has the McCarran Act. Under the McCarran Act the President can direct the Attorney General to issue proclamation of Internal Security Emergency in the event of the following:

1. Invasion of the territory of the United States or its possessions.
2. Declaration of war by Congress
3. Insurrection within the United States in aid of a foreign enemy.

Section three covers all riots, rebellions, uprisings, etc. since this racist government will label any attempt by Black people to free themselves as "Communist inspired". When such an emergency exists the government can arrest anyone for anything!!! e.g. Sec. 813 (a) of the McCarran Act states: "Whenever there shall be in existence such an emergency, the President, acting through the Attorney General is authorized to apprehend and by order detain; pursuant to the provisions of this subchapter each person as to whom there is a reasonable ground to believe that such person probably will engage in or probably will conspire with others to engage in, acts of espionage or of sabotage.

The government also provides for camps under section 814 (c) "Persons apprehended or detained under this subchapter shall be confined in such places of detention as may be prescribed by the Attorney General."

Once herded into these camps under vague charges of conspiracy Black people will discover that they have no legal redress as section 814 (f) states that the Attorney General need not reveal any government evidence!!! e.g. but he shall not be required to offer or present evidence of any agents or officers of the government the revelation of which in his judgement would be dangerous to the security and safety of the United States."

Look around you brothers and sisters, in Michigan Governor Milliken and his racist flunkies are trying to send Robert Williams back to the Ku Klux Klan in North Carolina. Attorney General John Mitchell and F.B.I. director J. Edgar Hoover are conducting a relentless campaign against the Black Panther Party, Bobby Seale chairman of the Panther Party was bound and gagged in a federal court for demanding his constitutional right to defend himself. Everyday the forces of repression become more open and blatant as Black people struggle towards freedom. We must act now before the busses to Allenwood, Avon Park, El Reno and the other not yet known camps come to herd us away. Remember -

Armed with the McCarran Act, the government can vamp on us at any time. The camps are waiting.

el



rum

ELDON AVENUE
REVOLUTIONARY
UNION MOVEMENT

LEAGUE OF
REVOLUTIONARY
BLACK WORKERS

1970



Hail James Johnson

On Wednesday evening, July 15, James Johnson, Jr. responded to months of harassment and years of oppression and shot to death two (2) foremen and one (1) job setter at the Eldon Ave. Gear and Axle Plant. Dead were Hugh M. Jones 44, a black production foreman; Gary L. Hinz 32, a white production foreman; and Joseph Kowalski, a white job setter.

Bro. James Johnson was a conveyor loader in Dept. 78, the Brake Shoe Dept., and had been so employed for the past three (3) years. Eldon Ave. Gear and Axle Plant, the home of ELRUM, has some of the worst working conditions of any plant in existence. The plant is so unsafe that all of its 4,500 employees are risking their lives when they walk through the gates. In Dept 72, there is an inch and a half of oil covering the floor of the aisles. The oil comes up over the soles of the workers shoes. The entire ventilation system is inoperative. The jitney trucks have no brakes, lop sided tires, no horns and no lights. The aiseways are blocked by skid boxes, axles and scrap iron. Drill presses, cutters and grinders do not have safety guards. The management at Eldon is one of the most backward managements in town and totally nonresponsive to the just cries of black workers. The plant is the only gear and axle plant the Chrysler Corporation has and is key to continued production of the entire Corporation. Unlike assembly plants where lost production can be made up, overtime or lost time at Eldon means a slow down at assembly plants. Working conditions are so bad that black foremen have been employed for over 10 years in order to moderate racial conflict at the point of production.

All the hourly employees are represented by Local 961 of the U.A.W.--C.I.O. The union President is Elroy Richardson a former black Vice-President who rode the tide of black consciousness to the presidency in the spring of 1969. The local executive board consists of a group of loyal flunkys in the service of every qualm of the President. Local 961 is a backward local with none of the so-called reforms which some other locals have. It has no education department and no good and welfare fund and the union hall is locked more than open. Elroy Richardson is the only Local President out of over 3000 locals to attend the 22nd Annual Constitutional Convention as a Sergeant-of-Arms in Atlantic City in April of this year.

For over the last six (6) months, the already oppressive conditions worsened with the increase in layoffs and accompanying speed-ups of gear and axle production. The first open manifestation of these conditions took place on April 16, 1970, on the midnight shift in Dept. 73, when a white foreman named Ervin Ashlock threatened to bash Bro. John Scotts head in with a pinnion gear. Scott then informed his committeemen and the following procedure ended in the discharge of Bro. John Scott. Elroy Richardson the Union President sent his union Stewards into the shop and ordered the workers out on a wildcat strike. The strike lasted two (2) days and the President got cold feet and ordered the workers back to work. Two weeks later Chrysler Corporation responded by discharging fourteen (14) Union Representatives and once again the plant went on an unauthorized strike. This strike also lasted two (2) days and the workers were sent back to work without any Union representation.

No Union Stewards were reinstated until about mid May which means the workers were forced to toil without any representation what-so-ever. During this period the racist management at Eldon took extreme advantage of the situation by arbitrarily forcing workers to perform two (2) jobs attempting to provoke them to the breaking point. The workers had been beaten down and their spirits defeated by two (2) unsuccessful strikes. They had seen their Stewards discharged in mass and nothing was done about it and if the Chrysler Corporation was bold enough to discharge fourteen (14) union representatives, it was obvious

that individual workers jobs meant nothing. Hope was gone and each worker feared arbitrary discharge for disobeying foremen orders. It was this period of time that witnessed the death of two (2) black workers raising out of harassment from the Medical Department and unsafe working conditions at Eldon. Sister Mamie Williams died in the hospital after being forced back to work by a Chrysler Corporation doctor which was contrary to the orders of her private physicians who had ordered her to bed. Precisely two (2) weeks later Gary Thompson, a 22 year old Vietnam war veteran, was crushed to death under a two (2) ton skid box which fell off of his faulty jitney truck. On June 2, 1970, Gary Thompson was buried and both Local 961 and Chrysler Corporation responded merely by sending representatives to his funeral services. In the weeks since the 1st of June, the Eldon management has continued its wanton arbitrary discharges and suspensions while some of the discharged Stewards are still in the streets.

Needless to say, these are the precise and particular conditions under which Brother James Johnson had toiled under in his last six months at Eldon Ave. Gear and Axle Plant. The events around his personal existence as a black employee at Eldon is intricately inter-twined with the overall objective conditions mentioned above. James Johnson's dept. is Dept. 78 which is brake shoe dept. in which new conveyor belts were added in February. The new conveyor belt ran at such a rate that it threw brake shoes all over the floor adding extra work for James Johnson, the conveyor loader on afternoon shift. On the afternoon shift Dept. 78 is under Steward District 11 which is covered by Clarence Horton who ran unopposed in the last election for steward. Clarence Horton represents three (3) departments: 78 (brake shoe), 80 (brake assembly), and 83 (brake drum). Clarence Horton is a poor union steward who is not even very knowledgeable of union procedure, he is a very poor spokesman and a loyal supporter of Elroy Richardson the Union President. Clarence Horton was discharged along with thirteen (13) other stewards on May 1st, and was not reinstated until the 2nd week in June. For six (6) weeks James Johnson was employed at Eldon with no union representation. In the early part of May, James Johnson was involved in an automobile accident which resulted in the destruction of his automobile and him being placed under doctors care. The medical officials at Eldon Ave. ordered him back to work over and above the recommendation of his own private physicians. These were the same officials who ordered Mamie Williams back to work which led to her death one week later. James had signed up for his vacation time for mid May. After being ordered back to work he left the plant on his two week vacation time which he had previously been granted. James returned to work in the first week in June and was discharged without reason and his vacation pay was denied. At the time of his 1st discharge his union steward was himself still discharged. His first discharge was so flagrant that management was forced to reinstate him two (2) days later on its own initiative. After his reinstatement James Johnson became the object of constant surveillance and harassment. All of the foremen in Dept. 78 are merely highschool graduates and very blatant and bold in the manner in which they exercise their authority. Management has set out consciously to attempt to provoke James in committing an act for which they could discharge him.

On Wednesday evening, July 15, James Johnson was taken off of his job as conveyor loader and replaced by a worker with two (2) weeks seniority. He was then placed on the brake oven job which consists of placing brake shoes in bake ovens which bakes the coating on the brake shoes. The entire operation is done in 120 degree heat. It was at this point that Bro. James Johnson spoke out in protest of being removed from his job. He was taken to labor relations office with his steward Clarence Horton and his General Foreman Jim Rhoades at which point he was suspended for insubordination and told by his steward to go along with their decisions. Management had reached its long awaited objective, they had provoked Bro. James to speak out against his treatment. James Johnson was then escorted out of the plant by plant protection guards. He returned shortly armed with a 30 caliber carbine in a desperate search for his

UNITY

A struggle for unity is a struggle for freedom and if there is no struggle then there is no freedom. United people are able to challenge the wrong, the persecution, the conditions that confront their existence. Strength in numbers which is power is actually a bargaining agent to determine what power will be placed in whose hands. Unity is power, the power to control your lives, the power to control your community, the power to control your job. Black peoples first aim should be unity, because as a divided people your lives, communities, and jobs are controlled by people who should have no power to have this control. We as black people have a human duty which is to develop unity, power, and brotherhood and apply these in their truest framework.

The time is here for all black people to engage in the struggle for unity and power for we as black people have forfeited too much time struggling amongst ourselves. The rejects we have been in this racist land, we will be no longer with unity and power. Black people are struggling all over the world, so let's struggle and unite right here.

POLITICAL PRISONERS OF WAR ARE BACK

Tony Tom Moore and Chicken-hearted Sparks return back to the plant after a brief vacation due to allegedly leading employees out of the plant. This was due, to Elroy Richardson's emotionalism and incompetence in understanding the nature of problems at the plant. However, Moore and Sparks time was extended longer for allegedly participating in a safety walkout. As a matter of fact, James, Edwards, Alonzo Chandler, Robert McKee and John Taylor were discharged for participating in the same safety work stoppage. Economically, Sparks and Moore received money during part of their vacation from the union funds and a benefit was given in their behalf. On the other hand, Edwards, Chandler, and McKee received nothing for struggling in behalf of the masses. Furthermore, several union meetings were canceled in order to circumvent the news from the memberships attention. Moreover, the one membership meeting that was held was quickly cancelled and Edwards, Chandler and McKee were accused by the Elroy, Franklin and Francis clique of disrupting the meeting. As a matter of fact, they were not at the meeting or in the immediate area. In any so called democracy it's the people who have the ultimate power. Therefore, we (Edwards, Chandler and McKee) appeal to our perspective peers to demand to the local and International for a immediate and just reinstatement.

That nation which insists on a society of law and order without prior attention to justice arbitrarily demands submission to tyranny.

LISTEN TO ELRUM RAP
ON THE RADIO.
SUNDAY, SEPT. 6, 1970
ON WXYZ F.M. AT 6:00 P.M.

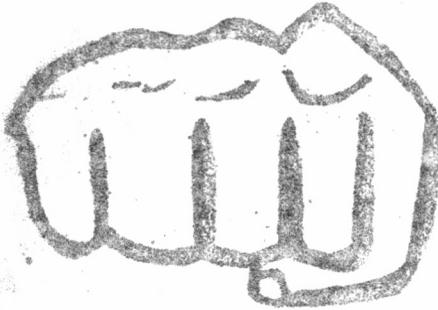
JOIN ELRUM
179 CORTLAND
865-8184
923-1273

SEND ARTICLES
VOICE PROTESTS
SUPPORT THE
BLACK WORKERS
STRUGGLE AT
ELDON

CHAIRMAN FRED
BRO. ROB
BRO. JAMES
BRO. ALONZO
BRO. SONNY
BRO. ERIC

el

ELDON AVENUE
REVOLUTIONARY
UNION MOVEMENT



rum

LEAGUE OF
REVOLUTIONARY
BLACK WORKERS

Vol. III ?

THE 1970 U.A.W. CONTRACT SETTLEMENTS

(The latest stage in the Marriage Settlement)

Every 3 years the U.A.W. National Contract negotiations manages to gain the headlines of Local and National news net work and much is made of the so-called struggle over increased equity for workers. These negotiations have never addressed themselves to the oppressive conditions confronting black workers. Even though the black membership in local unions have swelled in the past ten (10) years and along with that has been an upward turn in rank and file militancy.

The U.A.W. has seldom gained anything for workers in general. They have not gained anything mainly because once again gains for workers have to be made at the point of production by workers themselves and not by pencil pushing U.A.W. Representatives sitting behind conference tables. The past practices of U.A.W. national contracts have shown that even though contracts are signed every 3 years that they mean nothing. The U.A.W. local memberships spend all of the duration of the contracts struggle to force the Big 3 to adhere to the contracts they have signed. In the past 10 years the number of grievances on the local levels have doubled and have been stock piled without any settlement. Locals have proven themselves to be powerless in even maintaining what is commonly called past practices let alone forcing the corporations to adhere to new contract items.

In the past twenty (20) years this is how U.A.W. contract negotiations went. In 1949 the U.A.W. won pensions at Ford without a strike. The following year came pensions at G.M. without a strike although Chrysler was struck. In 1955 Supplementary Unemployment Benefits S.U.B. pay was won without a strike. In 1958, a time of recession, negotiations went differently. Until that year contracts had expired at different times. Talks were stalled by the U.A.W. and workers were forced to work without a contract at Chrysler and Fords until the G.M. contract expired the following year. The results were a lost of many contract rulings as related to working conditions. From 1958 on all contracts were signed in the same year. The contracts in 1961 and 1964 marked a steady down turn as all controls that workers had over working conditions in the late 40's and early 50's were sacrificed for mere wage gains.

9-6-70?

In Sept. of 1967 Ford Motor Co. was struck for seven (7) weeks and the Ford workers gained no advances. As a matter of course the Reuther gang sold the Ford workers out. When the contract was finally signed around Nov. 2, 1967 the U.A.W. had conceded to a 8 cents ceiling on the cost of living allowances. The rationale used at that time by the Reuther gang was that only twice before had the cost of living risen above 8 cents in one years. But even in 1967 inflation was steadily raising and eating away at wages. The 8 cent ceiling settled for by Reuther marked a 26 cent an hour loss in pay for some 160,000 Ford workers, and a saving of some 7,280,000 savings for Ford Motor Co. based upon a 40 hour week.

The rest of the contract was nothing but so much ink on so much paper. So what was the purpose of the seven (7) week strike? It would have been more fitting had the contract been signed on Oct. 31 Halloween day instead of on Nov. 2 because the contract packages was nothing but a bag of tricks. Reuther attempted to use the seven (7) week strike to develop some esprit-de-corps among the U.A.W. members. Striking Ford workers who found other jobs were ordered to give half of their weekly earnings to the Ford strike fund. While workers at G.M. and Chrysler workers were forced to pay 25 dollars extra monthly in union dues in order to help their striking Ford members. Since there were no gains (only loses) from the seven week strike we can only surmise that the strike was an attempt by the Reuther gang to regain the support of some of the disgruntled rank and file members. But many rank and file members saw through the bag of tricks. Most of the striking Ford workers who found jobs not only did not report their jobs but also continued to collect their strike benefits. Many Chrysler and G.M. Locals refused to pay the extra dues (Local 212 of Chrysler) and many individual rank and file members in Locals that did accept it protested the locals decision.

The G.M. and Chrysler Corporation settlement which followed Ford's settlement witnessed numerous wildcat strikes on Local supplements (Local 3).

The above mentioned contract negotiations history shows little or no gains across the bargaining table. In the present 1970 contract talks not one word has been uttered in behalf of black workers. In all three (3) bargaining packages for G.M. Fords and Chrysler Corporations, the entire question of racial discrimination is strangely absent. It's absence is so obvious that it can in no way be considered an accident. In 1967 and 1970 highly organized campaigns by skilled trades and older workers have been witnessed. The recent demonstration at Chrysler Corporation headquarters by skilled workers was applauded loudly by U.A.W. negotiations in the words of Douglas Frazer - head of the Skilled Division for the U.A.W. - "These workers sacrificed their lunch hours to present their case - the demonstration has good timing." The demonstration was obviously an inside job organized and sanctioned by the U.A.W. staff itself. Many of the negotiations including Leonard Woodcock the International President have been seen wearing 30 and out buttons and at the U.A.W. constitutional convention in April of this year over 3/4's of the delegates participated in a 30 and out demonstration.

Why nothing for Black workers? There is not one U.A.W. Staff member black or white who speaks out on behalf of black workers. Even though the most open struggle inside basic industry is the struggle being waged by black workers. Which is witnessed by the raise of revolutionary union movements, black caucuses, wildcat strikes and individual acts of violence (James Johnson) etc. Black workers have attempted every method possible to gain some support from the U.A.W. international staff and have each time been rebuffed. Therefore we must go it alone. The U.A.W. international buracrats and Local Union stooges have placed themselves squarely in the middle between the struggle of black workers and the racist owners and operations of the means of production.

It is incumbent upon us as black workers to address ourselves once again to the racist owners and operators of the means of production as well as the racist bureaucrats of the U.A.W. The League of Revolutionary Black Workers and its affiliates stand united behind the fellow programmatic demands.

TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

We, at Hamtramck Assembly are in the midst of a new Supplement Agreement. (Local negotiations) It should be understood that Local Contracts have no bearing whatsoever with National Contracts. I.E. Blue Cross, Blue Shield, wage increase, holiday pay and dental benefits. Local talks deals only with local problems i.e. working conditions, safety, better language on contractual language, issues of job standards and settlement of grievances. Our local talk teams are making a mockery of bargaining procedures. Not only are they not bargaining for ordinary demands these clowns fail to bargain period. Its the old cat and mouse game "my hands are tied". In the past DRUM has stated emphatically that this was a lie-but research has proven this to be very true. Our informants say that management has enough information on our so-called representatives to put the entire sell out (year in and year out elected officials). Freaks to jail for years.

It is important to understand what this means. First, one would ask what this means to me. Second, how can this effect my wages. The truth of the matter is that it effects you, your wages and your entire family for these traitors to govern and negotiate our contract. Every one remembers Liska's statement about our contract "there will be no strike this year". Well he wasn't lying. Next came the new steward rooms with locked doors and keys, then the in-plant phone, out-plant phones and fans (Yes FANS) now there's a new development. All stewards are given the right to leave and enter the plant at will. If you disbelieve call for one now. The plant committeemen are receiving double pay for their threats. Most carry their time cards in their pocket. Some let their stewards punch them in and out, giving them (11) eleven and (12) twelve hours a day when they are on Official Union business. (which pays for loss time) Plant Protection complains daily about the gate activities but to no avail. Management, Labor relations and personal just calls Liska to remind him that they know.

The issues on the negotiation table are beyond belief. Upon reading them one would feel it was a management policy list. Issues such as; medical excuses, Bond deductions, basic job standards, first aid releases, faulty working equipment, cleaner eating areas and toilets, guards in parking lots, and bull shit like this is what our sell outs are discussing. This must stop. What about areas of discrimination, working conditions, elimination of time study, cut of check off, misuse of Section 77C, speed up, mixed jobs, call in at the gate, gambling, and hold up behind the bars and Chrysler property, job standards (i.e. job description and classification), Review board on all racial grievances, Forman working on hourly jobs, County jail appearances of employment office, mandatory deductions of Bonds and united funds on new employees, systematic racism of job placement (Black body shop; white inspection). General harrassment, better over time distribution of hours, no complusory overtime, integration of entire medical facilities and more black personnel in management position (presert No. 51)

These are a few issues that should be negotiated on but of course the teams should be able to bargain in good faith. Not with a deal or compromise. This can only benefit all workers of local No. 3 not just a selected few - presents administration.

DRUM says conditions couldn't be worse so why not recall all representitives on the grounds of
TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION.

LONG LIVE THE SPIRIT OF J. J.

UNITE OR PERISH!!!!

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR

BROTHER GARY THOMPSON

CHAPEL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

5000 JOY ROAD

11:00 A.M.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 1970

PLEASE ATTEND

Re: Garry Brown's

Death
IN MEMORY OF OUR BROTHER

1970
We, III



GARY THOMPSON

1948

1970

Gary Thompson a 22 year old veteran of Vietnam, who had a pregnant wife and a son, was murdered May 26, 1970 at approximately 6:00 A.M. by Chrysler Corporation.

We are deeply saddened by our Brother and co-worker's death, and express our most sincere sympathies to his saddened family.

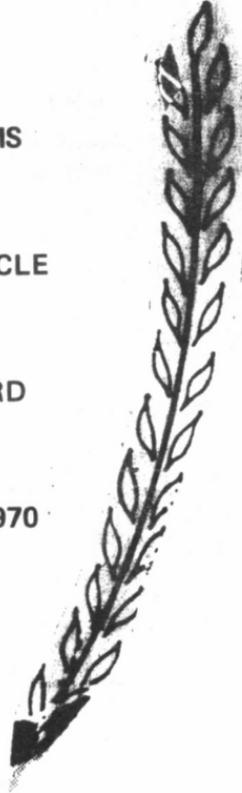
Gary worked in Department 25 as a fork lift driver on the 3rd shift. Gary had come to work on the night of the 25, and as he and most other drivers did, complained to his foreman and his union steward about the non-functioning brakes and the many other hazardous conditions that had become a routine part of their work day. As usual his foreman and steward told him to go to work or go home, that the brakes were not that bad, "because no one had been "killed" recently." Gary knowing that a pregnant wife and son awaited him at home went to work, haunted by the echoing laughter of both his foreman and steward. At approximately 6:00 a.m. on May 26, Gary, thinking that he would again see his family began his last trip to the railroad cars in the rear of the plant. Gary lifted the load and tilted it forward placing it on the edge of the railroad car, then tried to release the clip lever which dumps the scrap into the car but was unable to move the rusted, dirt laden arm. He then got off the forklift and again attempted to release the lever it was then that the forklift, equipped with faulty worn down brakes, and lopsided tires began to back away from the car. The forklift, top heavy with the huge 8 foot long - five (5) foot wide - and six (6) foot deep-filled to the brim-hopper, then tipped over sending its five (5) ton load crashing down on the upraised arms of Brother Gary. Needless to say, brother Gary died instantly, smashed completely under the mountain of steel.

WHY?

Once again ELRUM must write out an obituary. Why? Not because a brother has taken another brother's life in a robbery. Not because a man has had a heart attack. Not because brother Gary Thompson had an incurable disease. But because he had a disease that can and should actively be pushed to become curable. The disease we speak of is managements unconcern and total disregard of safety and work hazards at Eldon and anywhere else that human beings must work.

Just last week sister Mamie Williams was buried and laid to rest because a witchdoctor ordered her back to work, knowing she was not able to work. This was done partly because of a regular outside interference from labor relations plant personnel who are making medical decisions, yet not one of these racist and uncle tom lackies have a medical degree. Before that sister Rose Logan died because of an unsafe jitney along with the same interference by labor relations officials stamped and approved by the same witchdoctor (Scarr). Again we must realise that we are all in jeopardy of the same short comings of these 3 Black workers (Rose Logan, Mamie Williams, and Gary Thompson). We must continue to face the reality that this will not be the last of us that will die because of the profit motivated and racist policies of a so-called democratic society with its so-called liberal and protective agencies such as the nonfunctioning U.A.W. Once again Chrysler has proved that when it comes to risking a man's life or limbs as opposed to making all work areas and equipment safe, you are as good as dead. Once again ELRUM concludes that nothing will change unless we the people change things ourselves. Once again ELRUM says to Chrysler Corporation, "YOU HAVE MURDERED ANOTHER ONE OF OUR BROTHERS."

MEMORIAL SERVICES
WILL BE HELD
FOR
SISTER MAMIE WILLIAMS
AT
EVERYBODY'S TABERNACLE
LOCATED AT
MELDRUM AND WILLARD
2:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1970
PLEASE ATTEND



el rum

ELDON AVENUE
REVOLUTIONARY
UNION MOVEMENT

LEAGUE OF
REVOLUTIONARY
BLACK WORKERS

VOL. 3 NO. 2



IN
MEMORY
OF OUR
SISTER

Mamie Williams



1919

1970

Our beloved sister, Mamie Williams is dead.

Mamie Williams 51, who has worked at Chrysler for the past 26 years, is dead today because of the inhumane treatment of Blacks by Chrysler Corporation. Sister Williams who had a long history of sickness and bad health due greatly to the unbearable conditions at Eldon was recently ordered by her doctor to stay at home until such time that he felt she could return to work, shortly after she had taken her sick leave management at the Eldon Plant informed Mamie by telegram and letter that to maintain her job she would have to return to work immediately. The sister fearing her job returned to work and after being in the plant for one (1) week she became deathly sick and passed-out. Management had to carry her out of the plant in an ambulance. The next day she went to her doctor and was placed in the hospital, and on Wednesday, May 13 our beloved sister passed away.

Mamie Williams worked in Dept. 80 - 1st shift on the gangler Press and although she sometimes sworced tirelessly and sometimes extended her work into the break, she was well loved by everyone that knew her, and although we as ELRUM and Black people are saddened by her death, we must also insure that this does not happen again. "WHAT CAN WE DO."

Being that this is our sister, and she was MURDERED by the racist corporation and its lackeys, we ask you to attend the last rites on Wednesday, May 20, at 2:00 p.m. at Everybody's Tabernacle located at Meldrum at Willard.

We ask you to sign the petition dedicating the Local Conference Room in memory of our sister.

We demand three (3) minutes of silence on the day of her rites. (The same as given to Reuther.)

We must unite and stop the injury and murder of our fellow workers.

Brothers and Sisters, we must understand that sister Mamie's death is not an isolated or irregular incident. Living in a country whose economics is based on profit and individual greed it should not be surprising that such things take place. We of ELRUM feel that this incident is very serious because it represents to what extremess America's corporation lackies (witch doctor Scaff) are willing to let the ills of Black employes go. This isn't the first nor will it be the last time a brother or sister will die because of thy unconcerned racist policies of the corporation. Time and time again it has proven its lack of concern for the welfare of its employes (Black employes) or the less than human working conditions that exist not only in this plant but in many others. Just a year ago in department 25 a sister, Rose Logan was ran over by a honkie driving a forklift. She was at the time hurt badly and in a serious state of shock.

She must have had internal injuries after being run over by a ton of steel or more. She was taken to the medical department where she was treated by the no english-speaking fellow that Chrysler calls a doctor. After a speedy examination and an unconcerned wave of the hand, she was sent back to work. After working the rest of the day with injuries that should have been taken care of right away, sister Logan went home. A few weeks later the sister died from the injuries received from this incident. The corporation has proven by its longstanding record that when it comes to a choice of saving a few dollars or risking the life an; limbs of Black employes we are expendable. It's high time our Union did something to stop the intimidation an; dictation that is being handed out by the company's insurance medical bureau.

ANOTHER YEAR GONE BY

Another year has passed and things still haven't changed any. Chrysler Corporation is still making super profits off the bent backs of workers and Black workers especially. We slave eight, nine, ten hours a day; five, six, sometimes seven days a week making gigantic profits for Lynn Townsend, Chrysler's chairman of the Board, and the rest of the racist administrators and executives so they can take vacations on the beaches of Miami, Fla., drink martinis while lounging on the decks of their yachts anchored on the shores of the Bahama Islands, buy big fabulous homes, ride on luxury cruises and eat sirloin and eggs for breakfast.

The racist, sellout UAW continues to steal our hard earned cash and we get nothing in return, not one damn thing! Black workers pay dues to a union that somehow forgets we exist until its time to take some more money. While we slave breaking our backs everyday, Leonard Woodcock, Emil Mazey, Doug Fraser and the rest of the sellout union hierarchy at Solidarity House are lounging in the wall to wall carpeted offices. They sit at their huge mahogany desks smoking \$50 cigars while their freshly manicured fingers lift martinis to their fork-tongued mouths. And all the while we're throwing that heavy ass iron for their buddies at Chrysler.

Inside the plant work conditions are still the same. The floors are still covered with grease and oil, nuts, screws and bolts are still scattered (wall to wall) in the work areas, making work that much harder. About as close as we get to an ocean cruise is the pools of water we wade through around our machines, so that every step you take is dripping in danger. The racist ass white foremen are still giving Black workers the blues. When these racists aren't looking over your shoulder checking to see if the job is done, they can be found in a corner laughing and joking with each other.

When is it all going to end? It's got to stop sometime. Black workers, you can stop Chrysler Corp. from messing with you. You can stop the UAW from messing over you.

I. B. A.

INTERNATIONAL BLACK APPEAL



is coming !

EL

ELDON AVENUE

VOL. 111



RUM

REVOLUTIONARY UNION MOVEMENT

NO. 1

THE CHARACTER OF THE BLACK WORKERS STRUGGLE IS REVOLUTIONARY IN ESSENCE ! ! !

ELRUM SPEAKS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Brothers and Sisters at Eldon, we of ELRUM take this time to welcome you back from your (well-deserved) holiday. And hope that the New-Year will bring us closer to our goal of unity and liberation of all oppressed peoples of the WORLD.

It would seem appropriate as we start still another year of struggle, to make an assessment of that part of struggle that now is embraced by history, in 1968, the Eldon Ave. Revolutionary Union Movement "ELRUM" made its first appearance at our plant, in the form of a news-letter also called Elrum. This was a direct response of a group of Black workers in the plant, who seeing, as well as being a part of the abnormally hazardous working conditions, insufficient medical dept., and the racist attitude of management, had started to join together in both thoughts and actions to address themselves to the workers for COLLECTIVE action against problems that were and still are common to us all. And as workers in the plant started reading the Elrum newsletter, many started to relate and expose management on an individual basis. Many incidents that happened on a daily basis before, had been looked-over or taken for granted, now became front page articles in Elrum, making Elrum from the beginning a paper of the workers.

There is no doubt that many FORMEN seeing these acts of racism and intimidation being exposed to angry Black workers began to panic (asked for transfers, leaves of absence or just quit their jobs). And Labor Relations began to unjustly discipline workers who they suspected were printing and distributing such a fact sheet. But both management and union (the union also began to panic because Elrum showed where it had failed to deal with the workers problems) had to face the reality that Elrum was there to stay and growing everyday.

shortly after the Elrum paper hit the plant, a Black strike was called, being that Black workers were most often the victims of the racist attacks and hazardous conditions. The strike would serve a two-fold purpose: one, it would enlighten both Black Workers and many of the importance of the Black Worker at Eldon, and two, it would serve notice to management, that unless its attitudes and actions towards Black Workers wasn't changed, no more gears or axles would come from Eldon. The strike action met with resounding approval from the workers and on January 27, 1969, 85% of the Black Workers at the floor planned did not report to work, many coming to the plant to carry picket signs and encouraging others not to work that day.

On January 27, 1969, Black Workers Power was felt from 6700 Lynch Road, the address of the Eldo Plant, to 341 Massachusetts, Chrysler's World headquarters, and Black workers everywhere had a great feeling of pride when they heard the news that "Black Workers had shut down Eldon Gear and Axle."

Management, sensing the solidarity of Black people everywhere around such a heroic action and courage of the Black Workers at Eldon, decided rather than address itself to the objective conditions inside the plant, to use all their resources to crush the workers spirit and courage. They immediately called a meeting of all foremen and plant protection lackeys, and at this meeting people were asked the names of any workers that would likely take part in such action. The foremen and guards then named workers that had been the least bit rebellious against acts of harrassment and intimidation in the past, names of brothers and sisters were given who didn't smile and kiss ass for Red-necked crackers and bug-eyed Uncle Tom Forman, workers who didn't salute eg-tripping guards were also put on this list which was completed by management. Placing the names of those suspected of being the leaders of ELRUM strategy being to scare the shit out of most workers by keeping them in the streets a few days and crushing ELRUM by firing its leaders. The next day with Black workers returning to work (vowing to hit the streets again if their demands were not met). They had been met with a list of workers who had been discharged (22) and with many of those who returned receiving some form of penalty. The Company now thought they held the upper hand and as they had previously planned discharging all but three of the twenty-two. These three being supposed leaders of ELRUM which were Brothers Fred Holsey, Sylvester Hyman, and Karl Whitner. All three are still out.

Management thinking that they had won a clear and decisive victory began once again to rule with an iron hand. Firing and harrassing Brothers and Sisters at will for nothing more than so-called "looking militant." With managements blatant intimidation, workers began at once to respond and Brothers were discharged for assaults on Foremen (everybody remembers Brother Pee Wee chasing his forman through the plant and beating him with a stick. ELRUM continued to print and relate to the workers' problems and the objective conditions inside the plant. Management, at different intervals, still tried to crush ELRUM's leadership, this time resulting in the discharge of Brother James Edwards on a bogus charge of assaulting three white women in the first-aid department. Lackeys Walter Ector and Carl Paulsgroves said that they had reports that Brother James had assaulted these cracker women on a day when in fact Brother James was sick in bed from an injury received in the plant that the company and union refused to recognize. James stayed out about 6 months. This time management witnessed once again the Black workers supporting an issue that concerned them.

Management, getting smarter, immediately brought Brother James back but refused to address itself to the conditions inside the plant. The conditions became increasingly bad. During one period three Black workers were killed: Rose Logan, Mamie Williams, and Brother Gary Thompson. Workers' very lives were being threatened by racist foremen. In one case where the foreman threatened to bash a Brother's brains out a walk-out resulted called for by "old lard belly faggot" Richardson, the president. Management showed just what they thought of the union and Black people by firing all union leadership on the afternoon shift and some foremen on other shifts including J.U. Simms (plant shop committee). They began to roll over not only Blacks but the spineless union as well. "Something had to be done was the cry from the floor." Someone had to do it. HAIL BROTHER JAMES JOHNSON!

We at Eldon have had an eventful two-and-a-half years at this plant, and you may ask what's on the agenda for '71? Our only answer has to be struggle. Black workers struggle. Together we will be victorious!

Salāam,
ELRUM Staff

BEGINNING OF SPEED-UPS

Chrysler cheats its employees out of jobs, work and seniority.

Without the Rank and File members of the Eldon Gear and Axle plant knowing what's happening, Chrysler and the so-called union reorganized jobs to fuck up seniority and working conditions and they run this under the workers as some kind of bull-shit bargaining.

Chrysler is in the process of reorganizing the whole plant, however, I only have information concerning plant Dept. No. 69. Here are the choices that workers in Dept. No. 69 were given:

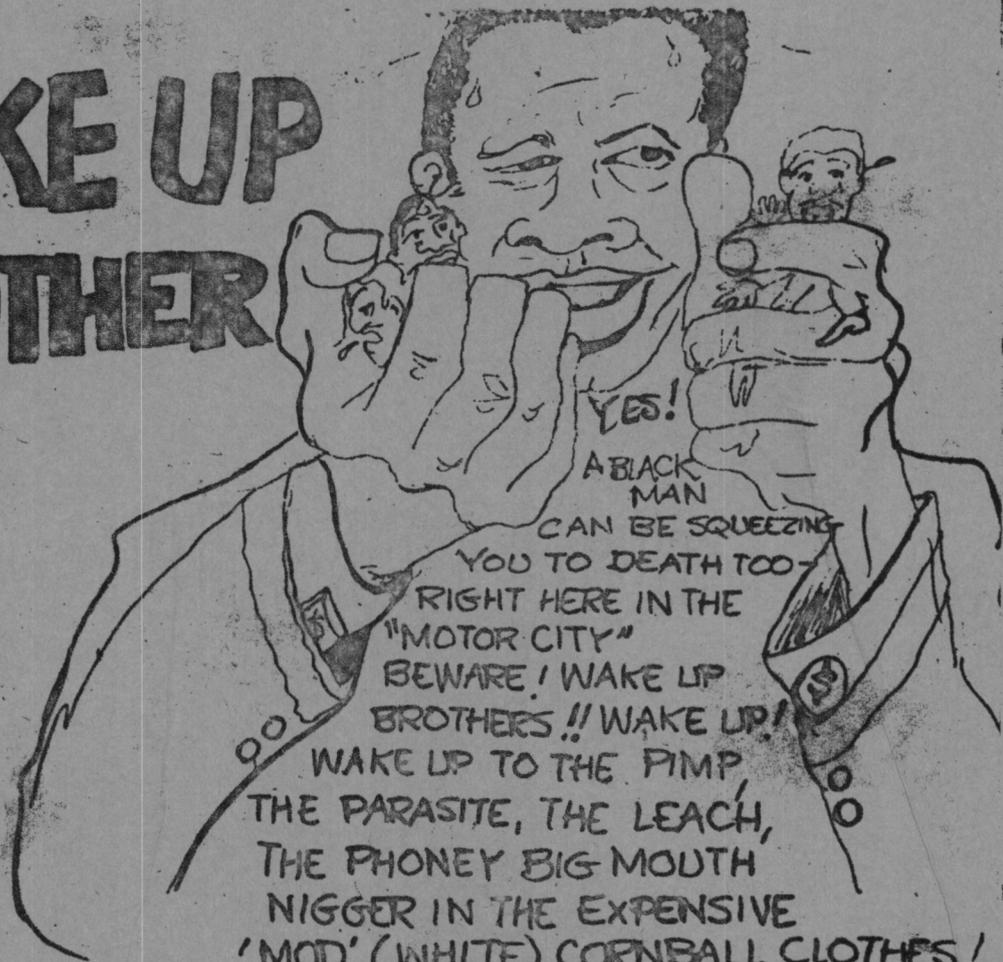
1. You must give up your inspection rights and become a production worker.
2. Keep your inspection rights and take any open job regardless of the amount of seniority that you have.

JOIN ELRUM
179 CORTLAND
865-8184

SEND ARTICLES
VOICE PROTESTS
SUPPORT THE
BLACK WORKERS
STRUGGLE

JOIN ELRUM
179 CORTLAND
865-8184

WAKE UP BROTHER



YES!
A BLACK MAN
CAN BE SQUEEZING
YOU TO DEATH TOO-
RIGHT HERE IN THE
"MOTOR CITY"
BEWARE! WAKE UP
BROTHERS !! WAKE UP!
WAKE UP TO THE PIMP
THE PARASITE, THE LEACH,
THE PHONEY BIG-MOUTH
NIGGER IN THE EXPENSIVE
'MOD' (WHITE) CORNBALL CLOTHES!
IT'S TIME WE STOPPED FIGHTING & TRICKING EACH
OTHER AND CONCENTRATED OUR NATURAL BLACK
POWER ON OUR REAL ENEMY!

JOIN - ELRUM (ELDON AVE. REVOLUTIONARY UNION MOVEMENT)

LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARY BLACK WORKERS, 179 CORTLAND,

923-1273 HIGHLAND PARK, MICHIGAN 866-8184



ELDON AVENUE REVOLUTIONARY UNION MOVEMENT.

THE HISTORY OF AN OPPORTUNIST

WALTER REUTHER

First I would like to relate to some people who knew the real Walter Reuther. Beatrice Hansen was a member of the socialist workers party, she also worked at Dodge Main. Eugene V. Debs was a socialist leader, as well as a Union Leader, he was also convicted under the Espionage Act and sentenced to ten years in prison. Reuther's father took him to visit Debs with hope that he would be inspired by him to follow in the same path of devotion to working class principle. But Walt followed the exact opposite of Eugene Debs; because while Debs sacrificed his union posts in order not to give up his socialist ideas, Reuther sold out to Capitalism.

Walt is not an enemy of the system, but a defender of capitalism, an apologist of the wage system, and supporter of the idea that workers are fit only to work for the wealthy owners of Industry, and are not fit to own and run industry and society themselves.

Yes, Reuther like the capitalists is satisfied to live with things substantially as they are, instead of fighting to change things Reuther shrugged his shoulders after the Ford settlement and said, "You never gat everything"

The real Reuther is nothing but a pig you pay him 25,000 a year to keep you in slavery. Here are some of the things he did to rise to be President of U.A.W. and how he changed.

Reuther was a slave driving foreman at Fords, and got fired, his name was put on the black list. Reuther got a job at GM Ternstedt, but in order to do this he had to assume a false name. No Union member objected because they knew this kind of procedure was necessary for many workers who would have been shut out from the auto industry for good if they hadn't done something to protect themselves, these little incidents show two things:

THE TOLL OF IMPERIALISM IN NIGERIA

The thirty-month Nigerian Civil war ended January 12 when secessionist Biafra was finally overwhelmed by federal troops. The toll in human lives was at least 2,000,000 dead, more than have in the war in Vietnam.

From the beginning rival imperialist interest intervened in the Nigerian civil war, seeking to deepen their influence on the African continent. Both sides accepted and sought aid from the most reactionary sources, and each accused the other of making important concessions to imperialism to secure military backing.

The governments of the capitalist world did not regard either side as a revolutionary threat to their interests.

Britain, whose British Petroleum-Shell group alone had investments in Nigeria of nearly 500,000,000 became a heavy supplier of arms to the federal government at Lagos.

France, Britain's old colonial rival was Biafra's chief supporter although it never gave the Biafra formal recognition and never provided the volume of aid the British Government gave to the other side. The U.S. maintained an outwardly neutrality, but tacitly supported the Nigerian government, while providing some \$80,000,000 in food for relief for Biafra - a "humanitarian" policy that was also designed to assure its influence there is the Biafrans should win their bid for independence.

The civil conflict was further complicated by the mixing of tribal, class, and regional issues. The country itself was an artificial creation of British imperialism, bringing within arbitrary geographical boundaries people with no common culture or history.

The Nigerian federation united the seminomadic Hausas of the North, the Yorubas of the West, and the Ibos of the East, along with many smaller tribes.

With its 60,000,000 people Nigeria is most populous country of Africa, Biafra, with its Ibo majority claimed 14,000,000 of this number when it seceded on May 30, 1967 an estimated 3,000,000 persons remained in the Biafran enclave at the final collapse. The Ibos, who were once the favored instruments of British rule in Nigeria, became the principal victims of the artificial state after independence.



In that Reuther was by no means the predominant figure in the early days of the UAW that some of his biographers now pretend.

Reuther has changed his attitude toward blacklisting and the use of falsification in applications for jobs in the auto plants.

At the latest UAW convention this year, a worker asked the union to help him because he was fired from GM on the grounds that he had falsified application by leaving out the fact that he had gone to college for a year. Actually the real reason for his discharge was because he was black and his suspected political ideas and affiliations. The convention knew this was the real reason, and Reuther knew it too, but the convention refused to support this worker who had been victimized by the blacklist and Reuther who went through the same blacklist as chairman of the convention did nothing about it.

Brothers and Sisters I am trying to relate how Reuther and the UAW don't care what happens to you. You might think the whole UAW was due to Walter Reuther, but actually the UAW was born because of a great upsurge of the workers, produced by the economic and political conditions of the time. Just as ELRUM was born, because Black people were tired of being exploited. We are locked in a life and death struggle. There can be no identity of interests between so called masters and so called slaves, between exploiters and exploited. And there can be no peace until Black people are triumphant in this struggle. And I mean our struggle against capitalism and oppression, wherever we find it, UAW or the Big Three. This we know for a fact.

All Power to Black People
The Chairman

Next Week more about Walt.

DEATH

to our

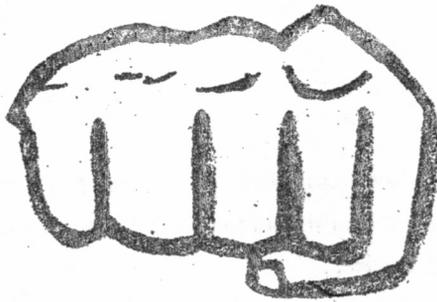
ENEMIES



REUTHER

el

**ELDON AVENUE
REVOLUTIONARY
UNION MOVEMENT**



rum

**LEAGUE OF
REVOLUTIONARY
BLACK WORKERS**

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
ARCHIVES OF LABOR HISTORY
AND URBAN AFFAIRS

end

Once again the time has come, when the U.A.W. (U-ain't-white) sits around the table to open talks of contract negotiations with Chrysler, Ford and G.M. that will ultimately be turned into a package of madness, that will in turn be given to you for acceptance.

Because of the present economic and social trends, this years auto talks looms to be the most difficult since the union's inception, this years auto talks must be closely studied by the workers, who can no longer be expected to be the passive fools of the company and union with their traitorous "confidence men". It looms indeed to be a most difficult year for both the company and the union, for they will try to sell their agreement to black workers, who in many cases constitute the majority of the work force, black workers who have reached a level of awareness that goes beyond the "I'm working for you" line that is the union's daily, black workers who's rage is clearly demonstrated by the individual acts of retaliation against the dogmatic conditions that exist inside the plant. (Ike Jernigan, James Johnson) and black workers who's rage is increasing because to long they have put up with the lies and the trickery of people who didn't have their best interest at heart.

Let us look now at the so-called position paper presented to the Big 3 by Len Woodcock U.A.W. President - it starts with 24 so-called tentative demands, the key demands are as follows:

- 1) Higher Guaranteed Annual Income benefits.
- 2) Improvement of S.U.B.
- 3) Cost of living improvement.
- 4) Inverse Seniority.
- 5) Longer vacations and more paid holidays.
- 6) Family dental care.
- 7) Special attention to the problems of skilled tradesmen and white collar workers.
- 8) Creation of an education fund for U.A.W. members and their families.
- 9) Discussion of pollution control.
- 10) Diversion of money in pension funds for investment in housing and other community projects.
- 11) New plant safety measures including a system of "red tagging" unsafe equipment.

Now lets take these so-called key demands and see how they relate to black workers.

1. Higher Guaranteed Annual income benefits. This only means, that with the chicken-shit raise you receive every three (3) years, when the company issues their annual lay-offs that you will receive a few more dollars from your unemployment benefits, while your family still suffers from the lack of a full pay check. ELRUM'S Reply: Double the present wages, reduce the work week to 30 hours and end unemployment.
2. Improvement of S.U.B. They mean here that they - the company - will increase your S.U.B. pay a few dollars after they lay you off. ELRUM'S Reply: Cut the work week to 30 hours at a 40 hour pay rate, increase employment and end lay-offs and S.U.B.
3. Cost of living improvement. They mean here that cost of living should have no ceiling. ELRUM'S Reply: This is a good demand that should be pushed along with the doubling of wages.
4. Inverse Seniority. This only means that workers with more than 7 years seniority will be laid off first, to let men with less seniority work at times of lay-offs, change-over and short work weeks. ELRUM'S Reply: This is bull shit, the lines should be slowed down so that all workers can be assured a job and at the same time stop all lay-offs, etc.

5. Longer Vacations and more paid holidays. This is a good basic demand that needs to be more detailed. ELRUM'S Reply: There should be no graduated vacation scale, all workers should be granted the full amount of vacation time, not according to years worked but to how long he worked that year.
6. Family Dental care. This is a good demand that should be expanded to cover all employees at every stage of employment.
7. Special attention to the problems of skilled tradesmen and white collar workers. This means that as usual we will stand behind to the K.K.K. dominated skilled tradesmen and any and all of their demands. ELRUM'S Reply: since it is obvious that this department (skilled trades) is and has been given "special attention" it is time now for the union and the company to address itself to the most mis-used and neglected workers (Black).
8. Creation of an education fund for U.A.W. members and their families. This means they the U.A.W. thinks you are a bigger fool than "Chick-the-little) they are asking the company for \$3.5 million to help finance the U.A.W. center in Black Lake, Michigan. We know that if that was to happen, the company has no money where it has no hands. ELRUM'S Reply: The U.A.W. should ask for \$3.5 million which would be matched by the U.A.W. to be invested in the Black Community.
9. Discussion of pollution control. This is good in its place. ELRUM'S Reply: With legislation pending we think this demand should be left in the hands of someone who can and will do something about it, and not be placed on the negotiation table. Instead there should be discussion and action on the most pressing problems, namely racism and bigotry in the plant as well as the union.
10. Diversion of money in pension fund for investment of housing and other community projects. This says continue to spend union monies within organizations that are directly or indirectly controlled by the U.A.W. ELRUM'S Reply: The above should read "Diversion of money in pension funds for investment in Black Housing and other Black Community Projects that are sponsored and controlled by the black people in that community.
11. New plant safety measures including a system of "Red tagging" unsafe equipment. This is another bullshit demand, because what they are asking is already constituted. ELRUM'S Reply: Shut the God-damned plants down until Black workers can work without risk of life or limb.

Yes, this years negotiations are indeed important, and now more than ever before we as Black workers must stand in mass and raise angry fists with the fresh memory of the heartache we suffered as our Black brothers and sisters were killed before our eyes and the pride we felt when our brother and co-worker James Johnson engaged in armed struggle at the point of production.

We must raise our fists and cry together:

WE WILL WIN, WE WILL FIGHT, WE WILL WIN!!!

BLACK WORKERS POWER

(WE WILL WIN)