

DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT COLLECTION

NEWSLETTERS & NEWSPAPERS

BOX 1 OF 1

FOLDER 24

FO RUM DETROIT FORGE
REVOLUTIONARY UNION MOVEMENT

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 SPECIAL FROM ELDON!!!!

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.

SUPPORT THE ELRUM BROTHERS

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

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865-8184

SEND ARTICLES
VOICE PROTESTS
SUPPORT THE
BLACK WORKERS
STRUGGLE AT
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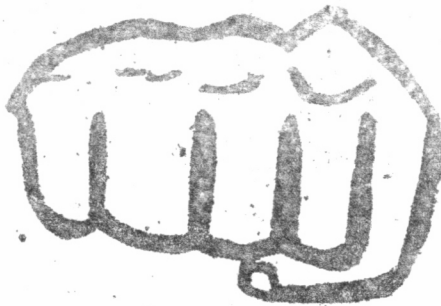
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VOLUME 1



RUM

LEAGUE OF
REVOLUTIONARY
BLACK WORKERS

NUMBER 1

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.

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 year. 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 losses) 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 it has been 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 Ray'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 personnel just calls Ray 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 final 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 (present approximately 15).

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.

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

LONG LIVE THE SPIRIT OF J. J.

UNITE OR PERISH!!!!