

Support Workers, Not Corporations!

Although American Axle workers have been on strike for over 12 Weeks Striking against Concessions, UAW President Ronald Gettelfinger has announced he has agreed to grant a very profitable American Axle & Manufacturing hundreds of concessions and permission to close 2 plants which is in direct conflict of what the workers are fighting for and a violation of the UAW Constitution.

The UAW Constitution clearly states in article 2, section 1 "To improve working conditions, create a uniform system of shorter hours, higher wages, health care and pensions; to maintain and protect the interests of workers under the jurisdiction of this International Union."

The granting of hundreds of concessions, plant closures, etc. does nothing to comply with this article, in fact, Ronald Gettelfinger's actions are in direct violation of the above article.

The preamble of the UAW Constitution states "the UAW's purpose is to afford the opportunity for workers to master their work environment; to achieve not only improvement in their economic status but, of equal importance, to gain from their labors a greater measure of dignity, of self- fulfillment and self-worth."

Unemployment and poverty do not equate to "gaining from our labors a greater measure of dignity, of self-fulfillment or self-worth". Mr. Gettelfinger has made it clear that, to date, his "leadership" is in conflict with the purpose of the UAW and detrimental to the workers, their families, and the communities in which the workers live.

The Workers of American Axle Demand that Ronald Gettelfinger and the rest of the UAW Bureaucracy begin to follow and enforce the spirit and the word of the UAW Constitution. To this end we are requesting the following action be taken immediately:

1. Remove all concessions from the table immediately!
2. Double Strike Benefits to \$400/wk
3. Assist in the formation of independent strike committees
4. Assist in organizing rallies such as the one scheduled for Hart Plaza. Rallies also need to be held throughout Western New York in an effort to save those jobs.
5. Instruct Union Officials speak to the press concerning the effects of AAM's demands on workers families and the communities in which they live. "No Comment" does nothing to educate the public about our cause or garner much needed media and public support.
6. Setup a speaker's bureau to visit local Unions and Churches.
7. Setup an "adopt a striker" program for Workers experiencing extreme hardship.
8. Instruct the UAW to leadership to bring to bear all of its might against the destruction of workers lives and ultimately, the destruction of our Union. The UAW must do more to engage the politicians that receive the political portion of our Union dues which is significant.

We feel that Ronald Gettelfinger's and the UAW leadership's total disregard of the UAW Constitution is harmful not only to the Workers of American Axle, but to ALL American Workers.