

November 14, 2007 - St Paul, Minnesota

*A rank and file group from Ford UAW Local 879 distributed the following leaflet in the Plant last Thursday and Fri*

**Why we should  
VOTE NO!  
on the new contract**

Ford cries broke, but they have the highest paid executives. While we are being asked to tighten our belts because of their mistakes, they're still getting fat off our labor. While Ford was taking record losses last year, the top seven executives brought in well over \$63 million in compensation. Before Ford makes any cuts to rank-and-file living standards or keeps full-time workers at TPT wages, they should first drastically cut executive pay and open their books for everyone to see.

Ford cries broke, but invests billions in new plants all over the world. Ford publicly announced in 2006 a 6-year plan to invest \$9.2 billion in Mexico and invested billions more to expand production in Romania, Thailand Brazil, etc. All investments overseas came from profits made by our labor – but now they say we have to take historic concessions to save the company and save our jobs.

**New hires will make \$14 an hour with reduced benefits.**

This contract condemns our children and grandchildren to have a worse life than we do, even if they never work in the auto industry. What happens in auto sets the standard elsewhere. The rest of Corporate America will use these concessions to demand that their workers take pay cuts, while they laugh all the way to the bank.

**Still no healthcare for Temporary Part-Timers**

While the contract will keep the Ranger plant open until September 30, 2009, most of us will have to continue as temporary part-timers – with no health benefits and at lower wages, even though we do full-time work.

Retirees will lose guaranteed medical coverage and pay more for it. The VEBA retiree medical fund was given over to Ford and is NOT protected against bankruptcy. More than half is in Ford stock or notes, or promises to be over the next 15 years. The VEBA's directors can decide to increase charges and reduce benefits.

**Many more jobs will be lost.**

Every promise of job security includes the language "based on market-related conditions," and Ford can still eliminate shifts and "temporarily" idle plants whenever it wants. Chrysler announced 12,000 job cuts a week after signing the contract. The contract says that TPTers and full-timers with seniority will get preferential hiring at jobs at other Ford plants – but where are we going to work if they're cutting thousands more jobs?

**WE DON'T HAVE TO ACCEPT THIS!**

The UAW has a tradition of fighting heroically to make gains for its members (see pg 12 of local 879's "Autoworkers Fight Back" Oct/Nov 2007 <<http://www.uaw879.org/documents/auto8-9-07.pdf> >). Why has the UAW not done a thing to stand up for Ford and protect the gains made in the past? Why is the union making these historic concessions without even putting up a fight?

By voting no, we can send a message to Ford and the UAW leadership that we won't accept these concessions and we reject this race-to-the-bottom! We can send a clear message that we want a fighting union that cares more about members' bottom line than the Ford's.

In the face of the industry-wide crisis, the only way we can hold back wave after wave of attacks is to mount an all-out drive to unionize the un-organized, lower paid autoworkers, both in the U.S. and internationally.

However, our current leadership has shown no willingness to do this. In fact, their refusal to stand up for their own members jobs, wages, and benefits makes the union an un-attractive option to disgruntled workers at Toyota, Honda and other non-union companies. Why pay union dues, struggle, sacrifice, and risk your job to form a union, if the leadership is going to turn around negotiate wage cuts and layoffs for you? We need to build a rank and file opposition movement to take our union back and rebuild the fighting traditions which birthed the United Auto Workers.

**VOTE NO to layoffs!**

**VOTE NO to VEBA and attacks on our retirement benefits!**

**VOTE NO to two and three tiered wage schemes!**

**VOTE for full-time pay and benefits for all full-time workers! VOTE for full healthcare benefits for everyone! VOTE for workers needs before corporate greed!**

**Leaflet produced by the 879 Votes No Campaign**

**If you agree, help spread the word and get in touch!**

Check out United Auto Workers Local 879 website:

<http://www.uaw879.org/>