

ATTENTION CAW GM MEMBERS! WE NEED TO READ THE FINE PRINT

WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT THIS - THEY ARE NOT GIVING US TIME TO LOOK OVER THE FINE PRINT

The CAW has announced that it has come to an agreement with GM and will ratify the agreement this Tuesday and Wednesday, March 10 and 11, 2009.

They are purposely putting it to a vote within a couple of days of the release so that the rank and file will not be able to put a protest together or rally support against these concessions.

They have released the details quickly but with minimal disclosure, so that we don't have time to look the details over.

Some of the major features of the tentative contract include:

1) Extending the contract one additional year, to expire in September 2012.

Why? They haven't respected the life of the current contract, we ratified less than one year ago and they came back for more. How many times will this be reopened to benefit them? If the economy turns around for the best they won't reopen it to give the workers back these losses.

Also, the UAW contract expires in 2011 also, this would give us time to build a strong alliance with the UAW.

2) Base wages are frozen.

Active members already have wages frozen, this would effect the New Hire Grow In, which means they are planning on hiring when things turn around and these new workers will have even less than what they were offering before.

3) Paid time off reduced another 40 hours.

That will total 80 hours in hard, earned vacation that we have given back in less than a year. We pay with our bodies to do these jobs, we need our vacation.

This will also cause auto sector wide layoffs, if we don't get vacation they don't need workers to cover vacation.

4) \$30 a month co-pay premium and reduced caps or increased co-pays for dental, long term care, insurance, and tuition.

This amounts to \$360 a year for prescriptions. Those losing their jobs will need all the tuition assistance they can get.

5) Diversion of annual \$1700 special bonus to offset retiree health care cost.

The company should be paying for health care not the workers. Many workers rely on that bonus to break even and catch up on paying off their own debt.

There are more gains to be lost in this round.

These are only some of the concessions that will make it harder for us to pay our own bills. Ask yourselves, what will they take from us next.

WE CANNOT ALLOW OUR LEADERSHIP TO ASSIST THE BIG 3 IN USING THIS CRISIS AS AN EXCUSE TO ERODE THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS.

The government cannot legally force us to take concessions, therefore, don't let your union force you to make these concessions.

Things are going to get worse, there will be more layoffs and lost jobs.

We must prepare ourselves for the fight back.

In Solidarity,

Lindsay Hinshelwood
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