

Fellow Local 1520 CAW brothers and sisters,

We ratified a contract 6 months early, with wage and COLA freezes, loss of 40 hrs. vacation per year, started co-pay for prescriptions, after losing a whole shift only 6 months after the previous ratification. Partly due to Ford's decision to stop selling our vehicles to retail buyers. We took our union's advice and ratified so we could "possibly" have an extra year to "fight another day".

At what point are we going to stop bending over? It hasn't been a year since we ratified our last contract. Ford has enough cash to get thru 2009, and our SUB fund was replenished last year. It's not a matter of greed to me. We are getting closer to 2011 everyday, everything we give back now, we lose for a long long time. For what reason?? Ford doesn't plan their future product lines 3 months in advance, they know what the future of STAP is today. They just won't tell us. A one shift plant with mass breaks is one step away from being an idled or shuttered plant. The writing is on the wall, read it.

My point is, the current contract we have right now is not going to put Ford Motor Company into bankruptcy. GM on the other hand is currently on the brink of bankruptcy, they need government assistance now. Ford may as well down the road, but if/when that time comes, Ford will have to reveal what the intentions of STAP as well as the other Ford plants in Canada are, before receiving investment from our government.

I think WE as dedicated workers, deserve better than to be left hanging year after year. I don't have a problem with concessions, when its a two way street. That's called bargaining. It's time for Ford to step up to the plate, and our union to make it happen. If our union won't, then WE as a membership need to send a message to our union leaders. This is not a STRIKE situation for us, WE HAVE A CONTRACT TIL 2011. Ford needs to make a commitment to us, as we have to Ford in recent years. Don't you agree a little??

Steve Dreyer

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