

Friday October 30, 2009

FORD DEAL ALL SMOKE AND MIRRORS

The workers at the Ford Motor Company of Canada must not be fooled again. As the Ford unit UAW has aggressively rejected further concessions, held onto their right to strike and ask for Solidarity with the CAW Rank and File, the CAW Leadership has bargained once again on behalf of the company.

Miraculously they reached a tentative agreement 2 days before the vote and "secured" product for the resistant bound Oakville Assembly Complex, although they booked a hall 2 weeks ago.

Since 2002 contracts in the Ford unit have been Oakville-centric for the WE MUST STAND UNITED union leadership. OAC has been promised product and 3rd shifts for concessions before and granted those concessions which never materialized in the company living up to its end of the bargain.

The company, which claims to be strapped for cash, found \$2B to invest in Windsor and Oakville, promising Oakville products which have been promised before.

STAP which is slated to close has been dangled regular buyouts. Whew. Shafted once again. Since buyouts have been part of collective bargaining they have been successful at pitting those workers who can take the buyout, such as soon to retirees, against those workers who remain on the line. These buyouts have been helping the company transfer their jobs to lower waged workers and slowly shutting the current workers down.

If Ford achieves majority buyouts at STAP it can lease the facility out or re-open with lower waged workers. In turn for these concessions the workers that remain will eventually be driven down to new hire grow-in rates and eliminate the need to remove the right to strike.

No one is safe. Seniority Rule could eventually be eliminated, reverse layoff or simple lock out. By the end of the day, the Footprint the CAW Leadership achieved today will expire 2012.

In Solidarity,

Lindsay Hinshelwood
Rank and File member, CAW Local 707

PS: Stand United with UAW and Reject Concessions