

It looks like Ron Gettelfinger and Bob King want Ford workers to give up more concessions. There is a Ford National Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday in Detroit, where they will try to sell these concessions to the local leadership.

Reportedly, they have agreed to let Ford have the same concessions that they gave to GM and Chrysler. This would mean:

- A no-strike clause for the 2011 contract.
- 6-year wage freeze for new hires.
- Further consolidation and elimination of skilled trades.

I have heard that they will try to sell these concessions by saying that Ford gave them promises of new product in some plants and a \$1,000 bonus tied to meeting some quality goals.

I believe that accepting these or any concessions would be a disaster.

Every time we accept concessions it encourages Ford to come back more concessions.

Accepting a no-strike clause would be like letting the company bust the union. We would have no bargaining power in 2011 when Ford might be making big profits again. Not only would this mean that we would not get back the concessions we have already lost, it would also mean an arbitrator could lower our wages even further.

If we screw the entry-level new hires again, what will they do in the future when they are voting on our wages and benefits and pensions?

As far as promises of product and job security, we have seen promises of job security in every contract for the last 15 years and every contract there are fewer and fewer jobs.

As far as any bonus, what will a \$1,000 bonus mean compared to all the bonuses, raises and COLA we have already given up, not to speak of what we would lose in the next 6 years. It is a joke.

I believe that Ford workers might be ready to vote down a concession contract. We have come close before. Some group of workers has to take the first step to stop concessions, why not us?

Gary Walkowicz

Bargaining Committeeman, Dearborn Truck Plant

UAW Local 600

(313) 737-3166

[GWALK15@peoplepc.com](mailto:GWALK15@peoplepc.com)