

Live Bait & Ammo #137: SOS has a better Idea

SOS always asserted that Delphi was the lead domino. What happens at Delphi, we said, is the pattern for all auto parts, powertrain, and assembly operations. Our prediction proved accurate.

Now the UAW Concession Caucus is strong-arming the five Delphi sites, which were sold back to GM, to open the contract yet again and break the Master Agreement. “The keep sites will have their own individual agreement which will be plant specific,” the Cons report, as if it’s a done deal. Don’t believe them.

The Concession Caucus is clearly representing the interests of the company rather than the members. Union members will gain nothing by dismantling the Master Agreement. Union members stand to lose not only wages and severance packages, but job security as well.

The Con Caucus asserts “in order to remain competitive, there will be other necessary modifications [no-strike clause?] we must consider and ratify.”

We don’t need a fortune teller to see the future. We can look at past Con Caucus assertions that job security depends on more concessions to know — it’s a lie.

The key word is “ratify”. UAW members do not have to ratify any such nonsense. UAW members do not have to reopen the contract and break the Master Agreement. UAW members do not have to ratify more concessions including a no-strike clause in order to secure jobs. In fact, breaking the Master Agreement makes individual plants less secure.

Delphi sold Kokomo, Saginaw, Grand Rapids, Rochester, and Lockport sites to General Motors in 2009 because GM couldn’t live without them. They’re too valuable. The Delphi-UAW 2007 agreement is legally binding until July 2011 and Document 91 contains the successor clause, “any sale of an operation as an ongoing business would require the buyer to assume the 2007 Delphi-UAW Collective Bargaining Agreement.”

UAW members do not have a justifiable reason to give up wages, severance packages, and a Master Agreement simply to make it easier for GM to sell to Chinese vulture capitalists. Chinese investors have no interest in creating jobs for Americans. They are only interested in acquiring the technology and the patents. Agreeing to break the Master Agreement will not secure jobs, it will only guarantee a quicker sale and further erode wages, benefits, and working conditions.

There is no historical precedent for winning job security by breaking a Master Agreement. It’s a stupid idea. If a company threatened to close a plant because of an organizing drive, the NLRB would file charges. Yet the Con Caucus threatens a loss of jobs with every new contract unless members bow to company demands for more concessions. Extortion is a crime.

The Con Caucus drive to break the Master Agreement is yet another blatant attempt to weaken solidarity and will only lead to further attempts to destroy Master Agreements at Ford, GM, and Chrysler. SOS has a better idea. Follow the example of Ford workers and Vote NO.

UAW members who were active in the successful Vote No campaign at Ford will lead off the meeting January 23 in Detroit at which rank and file members will take stock of their situation, listen to each other, and support each other in the struggle against concessions and self destructive company-unionism.

All UAW members have a vested interest in solidarity. Breaking the Master Agreement at GM parts plants isn’t the end, it’s the beginning of another round of concessions. Meet with us on

Saturday, January 23, 2010

10:30 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Metropolitan Hotel - Detroit Airport

31500 Wick Road, Romulus, MI 48174 (734-467-8000)

where we will engage with each other in meaningful discussion of how rank & file workers can take control of their future.

Lunch will be provided. So please, RSVP [rankfileautomtg@gmail](mailto:rankfileautomtg@gmail.com) or call **734-272-7651**

GreggShotwell@aol.com

www.soldiersofsolidarity.com

www.factoryrat.com

Labor Donated