

Live Bait & Ammo #152: Call Off the Dogs, King

GM managers and their partners in the UAW International Concession Caucus are strong arming UAW members in Saginaw into a concession contract designed to sell them to some unnamed cutthroat capitalists who will inevitably strip-mine the site and leave Saginaw with an unemployment line that stretches to Flint.

If they don't ratify the dead-end contract, GM and their partners in the UAW Concession Caucus threaten to wind down operations.

What's the difference? Get sold like cut-rate meat off the back of a gypsy pickup, or closed? Either way it's a wind down.

The only real difference is that the concession contract makes a worker's life more uncertain. Hell, it doesn't even have a successor clause. The new owners will demand more concessions. That much is certain.

The concession contract has lots of buy down language that adds up to loan sharking. Take the deal and you make payments in the form of payroll deductions every week for the rest of your life. The oddest thing about this deal is that it doesn't even pretend to offer job security in exchange for wage cuts.

Get this: the UAW International Cons are telling temp workers that if they don't vote for this sell out contract, legacy workers from other GM plants will bump them off the job. First of all, reliable sources tell us that legacy workers aren't interested in transfers to Saginaw. Second, GM doesn't want to pay legacy wages. The Cons are running out of lies faster than a two timing gigolo. They can't keep track of who they're screwing.

GM laid off scores of workers in Saginaw right after they rejected the Concession Con. How can GM afford to lay workers off while the plant is in "critical status", i.e., they need parts so badly that overtime is mandatory?

It's obviously a short term tactic intended to scare workers. Trouble is, you can stand in front of the firing squad just so long before you stop flinching and demand that your tormentors shoot. The threats have been non stop for the last five years and workers are fed up. It's a volatile situation.

GM and the UAW International Cons have created a very hostile work environment and they should be held legally responsible for any violence that results from the relentless antagonism. Document harassment. Act as witness. Gather evidence in preparation.

There's no legitimate reason for workers to negate the contract that is currently in place. It gives them the best options going forward no matter what GM decides to do. When the contract expires in September 2011, workers should be in a better position to negotiate.

Let's hope Bob King has the sense to call off his dogs before things get ugly.

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