

S.O.S. BULLETIN

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Terror, Intimidation, and Lies at GM

GM and the UAW Concession Caucus are mad because workers in Saginaw overwhelmingly turned down another concession contract. The GM plant in Saginaw has been renamed Nexteer but no matter what name it goes by the leopard hasn't changed its spots. GM's dirty footprints are all over the workers' backs. The plant is profitable and has always been profitable. But the job market is tough as hell in Michigan and GM has always believed in kicking workers when they are down and then jumping on them with both feet for good measure.

GM and the UAW Concession Caucus told workers that if they didn't ratify the concession contract, the plant would be closed. If they do ratify the concessions, the plant will be sold to a Korean or Chinese business partner. The workers are damned if they do and damned if they don't. What GM and the UAW Cons don't understand is that workers have some damns of their own.

Work To Rule

Amidst all the confusion one thing is clear: GM and their partners in the Concession Caucus are professional liars and promise breakers.

The GM plant in Saginaw is in critical status. Overtime is mandatory. GM is rushing to present an Initial Public Offering [IPO] and liberate the executives from government oversight. GM has scheduled nine of its eleven assembly plants to work around the clock through the traditional summer shut down. GM needs those workers in Saginaw to crank out steering gears. Lots of steering gears. High quality steering gears. Workers could not be in a better position for effective Work To Rule [WTR].

Safety First!

Workers are understandably angry and fearful and confused. Management has created a work environment that is hostile and hazardous. When work is stressful, SOS encourages workers to be extra mindful of their own safety and the safety of their coworkers and the consumers. We don't want anyone to get hurt. A faulty steering gear could cause a fatal accident. It's important to remind all our coworkers to be extra cautious about quality and safety. Numbers be damned. Safety and Quality come first.

GM and their partners in extortion are eager to punish. Workers must be extra cautious not to make any scrap because you can be fired for making scrap. If you suspect that any product you are working on is not top quality, shut down, and call out the supervisor. Drive all decision making to the top level. Workers don't get paid to think. We are paid to take orders. Make the bosses make all the decisions. If the supervisor insists on running questionable quality because GM needs the numbers, insist on an AVO

[Avoid Verbal Orders] to document that the decision to run bad parts came from management. If you don't know how to correct, adjust, or repair the machine, don't make a mistake. Tell the supervisor to figure it out. They are the knowledge workers. They get paid to think, not work. Make them earn their salary. Drive all decision making up the ladder. All responsibility for quality should rest on the shoulders of the highest paid employees.

Help keep labor costs down by outsourcing all decisions to the boss. Just follow orders, nothing more, nothing less. If you do what the boss says, you won't get in trouble, but rest assured, it will be something stupid.

Why Do Their Work For Them?

Rick Haglund, in an editorial in the Grand Rapids Press June 20, 2010, cited a study by Sean McAlinden for the Center for Automotive Research that stated: "Salaried workers at the Detroit Three earned an average of \$122,963 in 2008 compared to \$81,506 for their foreign automaker competitors."

Salary workers made concessions in 2009 but GM restored concessions made by salary workers. "Salaries were restored starting Sept. 1, 2009 because GM needs to retain workers and keep them happy," GM spokesman Tom Wilkinson said. "We're into a period where employee morale is really important as we're starting to launch products and rebuild the business." [GM Restores White Collar Pay to Stop the Brain Drain" by Robert Farago, Sept 24, 2009. thetruthaboutcars.com]

We just work. Let the big money boys who had all their concessions restored make all the decisions. That should move the metal faster.

Don't Feed the Wolf

When the wolf comes for your lunch you don't have to unwrap it for him, heat it up, put it in a clean bowl, and spoon feed him with a smile. Pretending the rape is a date doesn't alter the cruelty of the assault. If you feed the wolf (concessions) he will be back for more tomorrow and every day thereafter. Don't feed the wolf.

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**More on-line resources: warriorsoflabor.com, uawtalk.com,
blueovalforums.com/forums/fordemployeeforum.**

This bulletin is put out in the interests of informing workers and renewing the fighting power of organized labor.

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