

Friday November 20, 2009

## “The Periodical”

For A Reformed Democratic Union

We find it alarming that our own International Union (IUAW) came to us explaining how Ford Motor Company (FMC) is in trouble, that without our help, once again, we would lose work. Then just after we vote down their proposed concessionary modification (that would last up to 2015) FMC posted a 3rd quarter profit. Now, FMC announces intentions on spending \$2.3 billion in Brazil. And during all of this, they keep reaching out to us Union workers asking for concessions to pay for it.

Here are some interesting facts:

FMC spent approximately \$550 million on Michigan Assembly Plant. FMC spent approximately \$490 million on a 3rd assembly plant in China. And is now spending \$2.3 billion in Brazil to expand an assembly plant. No money? Really!!!!

The FMC factory in Brazil to be expanded employs 8500 workers to produce 250k cars per year. The expansion will increase the build to 300k and add another 1000 workers. This factory will use 9500 workers to produce what less than 3500 workers can produce here in the states. Comparable, Really!!!! Makes us wonder what kind of production standard they are held to with nearly 3 times the amount of workers.

In 1980 UAW auto workers earned on average \$30k annually. At the same time the Big 3 top CEO's earned nearly \$2.2 million or 73 times the amount of our blue collar wages. In 2007 UAW workers earned nearly \$50k annually while our top CEO was paid approx \$21.7 million or 434 times the amount of our blue collar wages. Comparable, Really!!!!

We are told that the reason we are losing jobs in the states is the fact that our labor wages and benefits costs are too high. But in a Congressional Special Hearing on the Nation's Healthcare Crisis not one Big 3 CEO mentioned national health care in testimony. Benefit cost? Really!!!!

FMC just announced that in January of next year they are returning Salary; bonuses, 401k match, merit increases and tuition aid. All of this just after we turned down more concessions.

With the adopted 2007 VEBA agreement it allowed the combined Big 3 manufacturers to eliminate \$30 – \$40 billion in liabilities, \$30 – \$40 Billion!!!! What did we Union represented workers gain from this huge concessionary act? We can certainly tell you some of the things we lost; jobs bank, cola increase's, raises, bonuses, Holidays, full wages for new hire's (like our kids), tuition aid, Axle jobs, Dunnage jobs.

We are not saying that spending money to become profitable is a bad thing to do, as long as we workers are not asked to accept concessions to pay for them. Also with the salary side getting bonuses they better lead to UAW workers getting back concessions we took over the past several years. The very same concessions given up to put our FMC in the better position it's currently in.

Brothers and Sisters we can no longer afford to sit idle. We must empower ourselves, get involved and care for one another. We have to act as we did with the last modifications, as a whole, and as a true Union in Solidarity. We must demand, explained in detail, full versions of any and all purposed modifications and negotiated contract changes from this point on. Our futures depend on it.

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