We hear, "Vote Yes for job security." But only unions that fight can protect workers.

Vote No

The agreement eliminates the Job Security Program (jobs bank) and all provisions limiting "the company's right to lay off employees." Employees now in Protected Status "will be placed on indefinite layoff." SUB for laid off workers is limited, depending on seniority. Will short workweek be affected?

This is a pay cut. Loss of nearly $1/hour in accumulated COLA--also future COLA and bonuses. Active workers lose thousands of dollars: try calculating your own annual loss. In 2007 we took huge concessions like half pay for new hires. When workers make less, they buy less, leading to more layoffs. After the 1982 concessions, thousands were laid off.

Relief time is cut to 40 minutes per 8-hour shift.

In 2007, they said a separate VEBA fund protects us from bankruptcy. But gambling health care funds on Ford stock doesn't protect us. The VEBA Committee may "adjust benefits so that benefit levels are consistent with the assets of the Trust." Caterpillar's VEBA ran out while the company was profitable.

"Mechanical Skilled Trades Teams" mean weaker lines of demarcation. And Ford can "place the surplus skilled tradespersons into production jobs at any of those facilities at which production openings exist." For how long?... To keep from laying off skilled trades--or to use them however they want?

Overtime after 40 hours instead of 8.

♦ An Easter weekend holiday is lost in each of 3 years. ♦ Some buyout offers are lower than recently. ♦ "Deviations from product commitments" are "subject to the grievance procedure"…how long will that take? ♦ Do you believe that Ford won't get results of the new physicals required to avoid a $25/month premium? ♦ Electricians and stationary steam engineers excluded from some retirement incentive programs. ♦ Loss of ETAP closes another door to the future. ♦ And Mulally is still a multimillionaire.

Demand a week to look at the full Agreement, not just Highlights. Follow the links at:
www.fortherankandfile.com, www.labornotes.org/auto or www.soldiersofsolidarity.com

In 1992 Local 600 led 3000 marchers honoring the 1932 Ford Hunger March. Now 600 should march to Ford World HQ to say "No" to concessions, and promote demands like quality national single-payer health care for all.

The UAW'S Preamble or mission statement quotes the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident…that all men and women are created equal" with rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness". The Preamble adds "the hope of the worker in advancing society toward the ultimate goal of social and economic justice" (Reference: 2006 UAW Constitution booklet).

The following Local 600 members recommend a No vote. Call or write us if you want to add your name.

[Here there are names of 22 Local 600 members from 9 different units.]

Labor donated, Mar. 2, 2009