

More reasons to Vote No on the concessions

We have signed two other Vote No leaflets along with other Local 600 members. This new leaflet is similar to one during the 2007 concessions. It is just from the two of us. It looks further down the road.
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Where did Big 3 jobs really go?

Most jobs did not go abroad. They were lost to automation or to lower-paid, union or non-union shops inside the US. Toyota plans to make all US-market cars inside the US. The companies don't want to send jobs to Mexico as much as they want US jobs at Mexican wages.

The UAW needs to organize parts makers and transplants like Toyota. How?

1. Show them better UAW contracts, not worse!
2. International labor solidarity. A Tool & Die Committeeperson said a few years ago: "The companies globalized. We didn't." We need joint contract expirations across borders.

Who's to blame?

Ford punishes us for their own crimes. *Their* business model built technologically and environmentally obsolete but highly profitable vehicles. This collapsed as the global energy crisis sent oil prices through the roof.

We need to protect workers' jobs. We need affordable transportation and a world clean enough to live in. Instead, Ford says don't mess with their failed business model—while we lose our jobs, health and children's future. By Ford's figures, we could work FOR FREE and they'd still lose money! Stop letting Ford "solve" problems on our backs.

If the complete agreement is not at "uaw.org", you can find it at these and other sites:
fortherankandfile.com autoworkercaravan.org soldiersofsolidarity.com
factoryrat.com labornotes.org/auto

The UAW made gains historically because workers all across the country, not just at the Big 3, looked to the UAW for leadership. What would that look like today? It would mean organizing workers into unions that fight for all workers.

It's impossible to resolve the economic crisis just inside the auto industry. It can't be solved by Big 3 workers competing with other workers. If Big 3 workers match the wages and benefits at "transplants" in the U.S. from other countries, then theirs will be cut again, and we'll be told to cut ours again! That's a race to the bottom.

The union officers campaigning for a "yes" vote ask us what our alternative is. We need unions that fight, so that they can organize all workers and stop whipsawing us against each other. We need conversion to a system that is good for health care, for the environment and for all workers. This could mean producing trains and buses for mass transit, electric vehicles, wind and water turbines, solar panels, and hospital equipment. A Vote No leaflet from St. Paul mentions the possibility of producing the electric Ranger.

The Big Three auto corporations have proven themselves incompetent to be in charge of manufacturing. The government should take over essentially bankrupt companies. Workers can control such a system if we are in motion--as when the unions were built--and if we have our own political parties. That would make it possible to rebuild manufacturing on a stable basis.

Insuring and providing health care can't be left in the hands of the employers to use as a tool over the heads of workers. We can no longer count on social security, pensions funded by the employer, and individual savings. We need an enlarged social security system that provides decent retirement. Medicare helped aging people, even with its too-limited coverage. It's time for bigger changes. Let's create a single-payer health care system that makes health care a right for all.

The corporations are using the economic crisis to impose greater hardship and gain more control over workers. Instead, we need the opposite. We need to create good and green jobs. We need the Employee Free Choice Act to give unions more chance to organize. Stronger unions could lead the fight to build a comprehensive health care system and to make sure that workers who have retired have a decent standard of living.

The CIO and the Civil Rights Movement won important legislation, but their real power did not come through lobbying Congress. To have the power to win, workers and their unions will have to march in the streets and create new organizations as they did in the 30s and 40s. It's worth studying the Republic Windows and Doors (UE) workers who recently visited Detroit. They won their demands because they took over their closed plant with big community support.



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