

DODGE TRUCK SPARK

1-17-2012

Write to: D.T. Spark,
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Sergio Says We Make Too Much

Sergio gave interviews at the Auto Show. Evidently he wants to make us a "contract-of-the-month" club. A Windsor Star reporter wrote that as far as Sergio is concerned, "*hourly wage hikes are a thing of the past.*" The Wall Street Journal quoted Sergio saying, "*When Chrysler does well, they should see the benefits and when we don't, they should feel the pain.*"

Yes, he said "*they,*" not even including himself.

Arrogance and lies. It's a total lie that hourly wages and benefits control anything about an auto company's success. Our wages are less than 9 per cent of a car's list price. The other 91 per cent is all management and its crazy, incompetent, bureaucratic blundering. We create the value and they waste it. Then they say that it's our fault!

Speaking of Waste

Chrysler truckers were told they could not drive up I-94 to cross into Canada at the Blue Water Bridge. Seems like management messed up the toll payments. Truckers delivering to Sarnia had to drive the long way around using the Ambassador Bridge.

How exactly did high wages cause this problem?

Wrong Prescription

We could work for free and the problems at Corporate HQ would not change at all.

Thinking that lower wages will fix the industry's problems is the same as thinking that a sick person can be cured by waving sugar pills in the air.

They need to take some real medicine!

Rolled-Over Temps Get Paid

Long-term temporaries who had been rolled over to full time more than a year ago, were given retroactive step raises at Jefferson but not here.

News flash to Chrysler: we have phones!

The rolled-over temps here got the message and got activated. They got their retroactive pay, too.

Management could see a problem coming and it was not a problem they wanted. So they paid.

The Bosses Cause Their Own Problems

The companies all say that wages must fall, to be "competitive." But they made their own problem. Starting in the 1980s they drastically downsized, threw hundreds of thousands of workers out of jobs that had allowed them to buy cars. From then on the bosses have screamed "competitive" and cut wages and jobs relentlessly. For 30 years they have been doing this and now the results are in. No one is left to buy so many vehicles.

If the industry has a problem, it is because their policies have concentrated too much money at the top and not enough at the bottom.

The problems were created by the way they run things. If the problems are going to stop, then those policies have to be stopped.

Vacation Weeks: Flip-Flops and Chaos

Once again anyone who planned a special vacation with airline tickets and hotel reservations has the rug pulled out from under them.

The new contract gives the company until March 31 to change their minds? And it doesn't require them to pay damages for workers whose plans are upset and deposits forfeited? Unreal!

Everyone who voted NO on that contract knew what they were doing!

MORE VEBA LIES EXPOSED

A Detroit business newspaper printed more of the truth about the retirees' health-care VEBA fund. Chrysler, GM, Ford and the UAW co-conspired to set up this fund in 2010 and shift costs to retirees.

The fund is now \$20 billion underfunded. "*It is anticipated that cost sharing (with retirees) will increase,*" said the fund's statement. A fund director said, "*We knew this was coming.*"

Retirees were told that their fully paid care was good for 80 years. Retirees were NOT told, "*We knew this was coming.*"

Come to the Spark Meeting on January 22:

The U.S. War In Iraq Is Not Over!

The Iraq war was started with a lie about weapons of mass destruction. Now another lie is told — the lie that the war is over.

Come and see a program showing a short film about the real war conditions, and discussion about the hidden war that the U.S. plans to continue.

Program is at the International Institute, at 111 E. Kirby and John R, just off Woodward near the Detroit Public Library. Free parking. Program begins at 5:00 p.m. sharp. Come a few minutes early for refreshments.