

October 13, 2011

Conference call tonight 7PM

Re: A press release around the King/Settles threats if Ford workers vote no.

Dear Autoworker,

We set up a conference call for 7PM tonight and I wondered if we might consider putting out a press release around the King/Settles threats if Ford workers vote no. I've drafted up a short statement (below) so if you have ideas & suggestions about this, please be on the call! Call in number is 641-715-3620, 441958#.

(I'm assuming most of the agenda will be looking at the Chrysler contract. My joke has been that if GM workers get a \$5,000 signing bonus and Ford workers \$6,000, Sergio will want Chrysler workers to pay him a bonus.)

In solidarity,

dianne

We are surprised and shocked that UAW officers responsible for negotiating the tentative 2011 UAW-Ford agreement would, in the middle of the contract vote, state on Facebook that they would immediately call a strike if it was a no vote. There has been absolutely no preparation for a strike. Raising the specter that Ford would then retaliate by locking out 41,500 workers or hiring scabs is clearly an attempt tip the scales by terrorizing the membership.

If a no vote prevails, the mandate would be to send the officials back to the negotiating table. In fact, the October 13 Detroit News quotes President Bob King as saying "If the union doesn't ratify and we had to go back to the table...."

He goes on to say that a subsequent negotiation might be conducted in an even worse economic situation, yet Ford is making huge profits and has a nest egg of \$33.5 billion. Just this March it awarded CEO Alan Mulhally and Chair of the Board Bill Ford, Jr. \$98 million in stock. That is more money than a 4% wage increase for every Ford wage worker!

If a no vote prevails, it will be because workers do not want to institutionalize two tier wages and benefits at Ford. If a no vote prevails, it will be because workers have not seen a wage increase in six years and with the lost of cost-of-living alliances (COLA), they see their frozen wages are being eaten away by inflation. If a no vote prevails, it will be because speed up is taking a toll on their bodies. If a no vote prevails, it is because each job and each plant must be saved.