

UAW Cons Workers at Former Delphi Plants

The snake in the GM 2011 contract squirms on page 8 of the Highlights: “. . . your bargaining team stood strong and demanded that what was good for GM was also good for GMCH.” Note the capital letters do not include UAW.

GMCH workers were gerrymandered. Whereas they went into negotiations with a separate national agreement and the right to strike, they now cannot possibly vote the agreement down. They're stuck with a dirty deal.

The four GMCH plants have been set up for sale or closure. Only GMCH employees hired prior to October 1999 have the right to flow back to GM as tier one workers. The majority of GMCH employees do not have the right to transfer to GM at all. Their severance has been eliminated and SUB benefits restricted. In this regard they have no job security in the event of lay off, sale, or closure. They have been set up to be sold just as the former GMCH plant in Saginaw was sold to a Chinese company at reduced wages and benefits in 2010.

Paragraph 1 on page 443 of Part 7 of the White Book states: *“Additionally, the parties agree that should a third party express an interest in any of these sites as an ongoing business, arrangements that modify agreement terms and conditions may be necessary. As a result, the parties acknowledge that future circumstances may dictate that the local parties consider wage and/or benefit reductions in an effort to ensure their operations become competitive within the components industry. In any such situations, the local parties may propose wage and benefit agreement changes to the National Parties for approval. Such changes would remain subject to local ratification.”*

In other words, there is no successor clause and no life raft.

The modifications would be “subject to local ratification” and threats of closure just like Indianapolis Metal Fab. But unlike GMCH workers, UAW members in Indianapolis had the right to transfer back to other GM plants. While GMCH-UAW members have been included in the GM contract, the purpose was not to protect them nor provide them additional job security, but rather to nullify their bargaining power in respect to the right to strike and to negotiate terms and conditions more favorable to workers at GMCH.

Workers at GMCH have been brought back to the hacienda and bivouacked in the wood shed. The infamous Concession Caucus used the four GMCH sites to offset labor costs by setting them up for a quick sale.

Now we know why Bargaining Chairs from the four sites — Lockport, Rochester, Grand Rapids, and Kokomo — were sequestered in Detroit since July. King Bob & Cohorts blew so much smoke up their portholes the poor sailors' eyes looked like puncture wounds. The rubes mistook their bloody vision for a rosy future. Now they'll have to go home and explain to their members how they sold them down the river for a song about solidarity sung by a choir of thieves.

It would serve GM right if this con job went to an arbitrator. Maybe then, salary and benefits for executives would be trimmed down to parity with the non-union transplants.

sos, GreggShotwell@aol.com

www.warriorsoflabor.com

www.soldiersofsolidarity.com

www.factoryrat.com