

## **We have to make this a real strike vote!**

The UAW will be conducting a strike vote at all Ford plants. The top UAW leadership said that this is just a formality that is always done during contract negotiations. According to them, the real decision on what happens in the contract will be in the hands of the UAW negotiators.

But Ford, GM and Chrysler have already made it very clear that they have no intention of giving back the concessions they have taken from us. They have said that we shouldn't be expecting raises; that permanent 2-tier is here to stay; and they don't even talk about the underfunded VEBA, they say retiree health care is now the workers' problem.

It is very clear that if we want to get back even part of the concessions, then we have to be prepared to fight for it. That's why we just can't treat this strike vote as a formality. We have to discuss seriously the possibility of a strike and whether we are ready to do it.

I will vote "Yes" on the strike vote because I am ready to strike, if necessary. I also believe that unless we make it very clear to the companies that we are ready to strike, then the companies have no reason to give us back the concessions they have taken from us.

But this is a decision that we all have to make. It is important that everyone vote in this strike vote and vote according to what you are prepared to do. We have to know where people stand.

The workers at GM and Chrysler aren't having strike votes because they are told that they can't strike. But if the Ford workers make it very clear that we are ready to strike to get back the concessions, then it reinforces the GM and Chrysler workers who want to find a way to let their bosses know that they are NOT going to stand by quietly and just accept whatever contract they are supposed to take.

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