



drum

VOL. I NO. 2

DODGE REVOLUTIONARY UNION MOVEMENT

UNCLE TOMS

Introduction to Hamtramck's leading Uncle Tom

Easy Ed Benford, who is labor relations supervisor for department 3352, 3353, 9130 Maintenance and skilled trades, is the major shock trooper for the white racist management at Hamtramck Assembly Plant. Mr. Benford is used on a plant wide basis even though he is assigned to specific departments, in an attempt to nullify the racist issue when any black workers are discharged. After discharging black brothers all day long in the plant, in other words, serving as chief butcher for the white racists in control at Hamtramck, he then attempts to pacify out by attending rallies held by indigenous black people in the community. It is a known fact that black workers at the plant need dignified leadership on a management level, but if the company feels that it can pacify the black workers and at the same time hide their racism by hiring the likes of diploma swinging Uncle Tom Benford, they have another thought coming. Mr. Benford is

on management payroll, labor relations, and his job is to roam all over the plant with his natural hair attempting to gain the confidence of black workers in order to stab them in the back in the future. What our black brothers do not realize is that everything that a brother says to Benford is used against them and other brothers. Drum says that Benford has been found guilty of tomism and treason to his black brothers. And through D.R.U.M. we will continue to expose the Benford's at this plant. How can we prevent other black workers from turning into Benfords themselves. Through black unity. Through black unity we can assure that the white power structure at this corporation can never turn another

blackman against his black brother the way they have done with mr. Bedford. Read D.R.U.M. Drum is the voice of Black Unity among black workers

TOMS AT HUBER

Everyone knows that on April 4, 1968, Brother Martin Luther King was assassinated. But only a few people know that on the midnight shift at Chrysler's Huber Foundry there was a strike in protest against Brother King's murder. This strike was organized and carried out by the workers, with the help of, and in opposition to, the U.A.W.'s chief steward on that shift, Mr. Lawrence

If ever there was an example of

PRESSURE

on May 2, 1968 there was a walk out which we all know about. But more important than that, on May 8, Highland Park Corp. headquarters confronted the management at Hamtramck Assembly Plant. Undisclosed informers reveal that if the build-out dead line which is July 19 is not met, that some drastic changes will be made on a supervisory level at Hamtramck Assembly. Hamtramck Assembly being the racist, bigoted capitalist giant that it is, figured that with only 47 days to build-out date, and that it takes 60 days to get a strike deadline, they would take direct action. Massive discharges, racism in hiring, in job placement, and discrimination and random harassment of so called trouble makers. The results of these actions have turned Hamtramck Assembly Plant into a racist, nazi plantation site. Black brothers and sisters we must realize that one more wildcat strike will rid us of all these immediate oppressors. The time to unite is now. It is time to stand up and be counted.

the Uncle Toms that we have been electing to represent us, Lawyer is it. On that night when the deal came down, Lawyer showed his true color, a yellowish white. When the brothers and sisters wanted to show Chrysler Corporation that we would not sit by and let our beautiful brother be shot down without saying or doing a thing, Mr. Lawyer was doing all he could to help Chrysler Corporation build cars. Before, we started agitating for a strike, Lawyer was asked if he could arrange for the company to shut down for one-half hour so that we could somehow pay our respect and show our love for our slain brother. The mighty Lawyer told us that such a thing would be impossible to do. He didn't ask management at all, he just said it would be impossible to do it. When the brothers got indignant behind this action, Lawyer gave us a lecture on the merits of non-violence which really meant non-action. We were just supposed to shed a couple of tears, and keep on making cars for Chrysler, like good little niggers.

The brothers didn't go for that and it was decided that as soon as our paychecks were handed out, the line would be shut-off and we would leave. Sure to plan, when the last paycheck was passed out, the line was shut down. But true to form, only two brothers put their actions where their mouths were. Even though the foremen had the word from upstairs that if we wanted to leave, let us go, Lawyer was raving about how we should stay in the plant. He said such things as if you don't want to work, you should've stayed home. He even went so far as to say that he company would fire anyone who left, which was an out and out lie. It was clear to everybody what was really going down, the company was laying back and letting our union steward do its job, which was simply to keep us working. But in spite of Lawyers help, the strike went off. But,

Mr. Lawyer was not finished. After the strike was over and the curfew was lifted so that the mid-night shift could return to work for Walter P. Mr. Lawyer tried to bust a sister (name withheld) who was one of the main people involved in making the brothers and sisters act like Blackmen and Blackwomen. Can you dig this. Our union steward tried to write a grievance on a sister (a union member) for not being a Tomette. He was going to charge this sister with inciting a wildcat strike. It is pleasant to note that Mr. Lawyer was convinced to drop that grievance. However, we can't drop the matter of Lawyer and all the rest of the Tom's who run around pretending to be our representatives. It is about time we get ourselves together and get rid of Uncle Toms like Lawyer. Anytime, a black Union Steward is more concerned about getting Whitey to smile at him than helping his brothers and sisters (unionwise and racewise) he's got to go. Anytime, a black Union Steward is so ready to bust a sister for doing what was right he has got to go. Anytime, a Black Union Steward walks hand-in-hand with a white superintendent while his brothers and sisters have to stand alone and face the company, damnit, he has got to go right now.

But don't be fooled, Lawyer ain't the only one at Huber .. there are more. They sneak around and hide when brothers are about to be fired. They sit on their hands and mumble to themselves while the man runs all kinds of wierd games on us. And, them, they come over, around election time, with a bottle in one hand and a copy of Malcolm in the other (if they can read or think that you dig Malcolm) and tell you what a good job they are going to do for you after they're elected. It's about time we tell Lawyer and the rest of them, if you Tom just once, you have got to go. No more Lawyers, no more Toms.

Editorial Page

SEPARATING MEN FROM BOYS

When the first edition of DRUM was issued, hundreds of black workers witnessed for the first time in their life, and also for the first time in auto making history the first definite step toward a black revolution within a plant.

Have You Ever

Wondered Why

Have You Ever Wondered Why

1. 95% of all foremen in the plants are white
2. 99% of all General foremen are white
3. 100% of all Plant superintendents are white.
4. 100% of all skilled tradesmen are white.
5. 90% of all apprentices are white
6. That systematically all of the easier jobs in the plant are held by whites
7. When ever whites are on harder jobs they have helpers.
8. When black workers miss a day from work they are required to bring 2 doctors excuses as to why they missed work.
9. That seniority is also a racist concept, since black workers were systematically denied employment for years at this plant.

however, due to the importance of our mission and the nature of our methods, we would like to warn the few brothers who for personal, or selfish, or just plain ignorant reasons, chose not to engage in this fight for dignity. Do nothing to abort or impede our inevitable victory. This warning applies to the Sarahs and the Toms, the blue collar and the white. The Brookes, the Benfords, the Sheltons and the Newkirk's and also to the mentally ill homosexual Sally Brown is grooming for her Judas. But to the hundreds of brothers who have chose to fight rather than crawl, we say, let us proceed with caution.

Drum Program

Drum is an organization of oppressed and exploited black workers. It realizes that black workers are the victims of inhumane slavery at the expense of white racist plant managers. It also realizes that black workers comprise 60% and upwards of the entire work force at Ham ramck Assembly Plant, and therefore hold exclusive power. We members of DRUM had no other alternative but to form an organization and to prevent a platform. The Union has consistently and systematically failed us time and time again. We have attempted to address our grievances to the UAW's procedure, but to no avail. The U.A.W. bureaucracy is just as guilty, its hands are just as bloody as the white racist management of this

AN OPEN LETTER TO MANAGEMENT

It seems that the opinion of those in management, who read the First Edition of Drum, was that Drum was not written by Black people. This is a direct insult to our intelligence and integrity. Drum was conceived, written and published by black men interested in equality in employment. What management is saying is that we haven't recognized the problem of racism that exists with in this plant. Now, before we are branded as black nationalists or Black Power advocates, we can tell you that our only weapons are truth and black unity. We don't have to resort to violence or lies, in our fight for equality. Management created and with the total indifference on the part of the U.A.W., has continued to perpetuate this condition of racism that now exists. We with the truth and black unity shall destroy it.

corporation. We black workers feel that if skilled trades can negotiate directly with the company and hold a separate contract, then black workers have more justification for moving independntly of the U.A.W. While DRUM would appreciate the help of management, and the U.A.W., in abolishing the problem of racism that exists.

With or without your help we will put an end to it.

1. DRUM demands that the black worker who has been a victim of open and flagrant racism be put back to work with full pay for all time loss immediately.

**I HAVE A DREAM
GUN**

-A BROTHER