



VOL 3 NO. 10 DODGE REVOLUTIONARY UNION MOVEMENT

Walter Reuther Is Dead And So Is The U.A.W. Contract

On Saturday, May 23, 1970, Walter Reuther, his wife and nephew died in an airplane crash. That crash also marked the end of the UAW domination and stifling of the just demands of 1,600,000 workers. Since 1946 Walter Reuther had ran the UAW with an iron hand. Slick Walter disposed of all of his opposition with one of his favorite tactics. He played the red-baiting infamous role of King Walter with nepotism (hiring his relatives) and all like the kings of old. Those who were closest to him were his family members. His brother Victor Reuther is head of International Affairs, his wife a frequent speaker for women workers at UAW affairs and his nephew was his body guard. Next in line was his loyal watch dogs, Mazey, Woodcock, Fraser and Bannon. None but the King himself had the polish, finesse and reputation to spellbind the 1.6 million membership in the UAW.

At the 22nd constitutional convention in April this year, Art Fox of Local 600 became the first delegate in 14 years to run against King Walter for President. Needless to say he was overwhelmingly defeated, losing by over 2,800 votes; the vote count was Reuther 3,100, Fox 230. At this convention talks on Reuther's successor were muffled since he was nearing retirement age and had not beforehand really groomed a successor yet. But Doug Fraser, who had worked many years as Reuther's personal administrative assistant, seemed to be the man of Reuther's picking to fill his shoes. Doug Fraser had key positions, he was director of the skilled trades division, the most organized sector of the UAW. He is also head of the 90,000 member Chrysler Department and at the convention in April had been elevated along with three others from a board member at large to a Vice-President position. It seemed to be everyone's contention that Reuther would have from 2 to 4 more years to adequately develop Fraser to fill his shoes. But as fate had it Reuther's death made the Presidency of the UAW fair game for all of the greasy executive board members who had been Reuther's loyal watch dogs.

When the smoke cleared Leonard Woodcock head of the giant 400,000 member G.M. department had won the presidency slot by a vote of 25 to 0. The vote count of 25 to 0 was decided upon to cover up the serious splits and divisions that exists within the UAW. Immediately after the announcement of Reuther

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death caucusing began. Newspapers carried stories of the leading candidates, Mazey, Woodcock, Fraser and Greathouse. Greathouse and Mazey's names were soon dropped. Woodcock and Fraser became the main runners in the field. The pollings before the vote showed that the executive board was split right down the middle with Fraser holding 12 votes and Woodcock polling 13. Yes King Reuther was gone and the UAW was split on the international level with stockpiles of grievances piled up at almost every UAW local in the nation. The auto barons silently watched. It then became necessary in order to maintain its existence and to try to force unity among its ranks for Doug Fraser to withdraw his candidacy. The results and the announcement to 1,600,000 members in the UAW and mass media was that a 25 to 0 vote for Woodcock.

But under the smoke existed the reality that the International Executive Board is split down the middle and the keen eyes of General Motors, Fords and Chrysler Corp. were able to see through the smoke. They wasted no time in congratulating Woodcock on winning his new position and at the same time increased harassment and speedups in the plants. This is contract year and needless to say the auto barons are gleeful and ready to use the split in the UAW to their bargaining advantage. Needless to say they will win the bargaining. So with Reuther's death so died the contract.

In the few weeks since his death a new stage of open class war has already been sparked by the racist owners and operators of the means of production. Already they have began short changing black workers pay checks at Dodge Main and two workers have been killed at Eldon by unsafe working conditions. It should be clear to all that with the watered down and meaningless contract that we slaved with under Reuther that under Woodcock it will be much much weaker and there is the possibility that the auto barons may even refuse to sign a contract.

We must therefore strengthen our resolve and even make greater preparation to struggle more gallantly independently of the racist bureaucratic UAW.

JOIN DRUM SUPPORT DRUM

THANK YOU

In the last edition of Drum, we ran a story about a black G.I., Romis McClendon. We are very happy to announce that the collection for this brother was \$420.36. We are very proud of the way each and every brother and sister dug down into their pockets to contribute.

There are a few points that we would like to bring out at this time:

1. Brother McClendon was not a member of Drum, as a matter of fact very few people knew this brother at all.
2. Some union people refused to contribute to the brother because they thought Drum was taking up the collection. Bertha Drascin and John Rawski, both who are active in the union not only refused to give but they told the brother who was collecting money that he must of thought they were some kind of bank.
3. The local has pledged to buy brother McClendon a color T.V. set.

We also would like to make this clear that this was not a race issue and that many whites made contributions to this brother. So to everyone who worked so hard and to all of you who donated we wish to say Thank You.

HUBER & WINFIELD FOUNDRIES EQUAL OPPORTUNIST POLITICIANS

(Unit elections run-off got only one new face as far as we're concerned and that's because committed Blackness has to be given the opportunity to be dug in the streets of the plantation before the pure direction of DRUM in this time "mission against racism" that we see's in as the stream of history looks on . . . for the change. An opportunity must be used in the real context that Black workers are oppressed and the elimination of it is how the clarity and one mean/bad and beautiful Black Man shall lay it all down on these thin walls of words to reveal all the scars/old ones and the new ones that are coming to brew hatred among Black workers and disunity to prevent the news. The Black News. And just as anyone hates cancer and wants to love all, the Black working men are of a specific race and culture and no faggot, uncle tom, or selfish negro can hide for very long in this "heroic Black workers struggle". The true men who will judge these new and mostly old representatives of/and to/and to change the established and traditional management interest our the Black workers themselves and thru the organ that they themselves created to take part in the revolutionary Black workers struggle against management and their own union. The reality of it all is who is concerned with the well being of the Black workers

UAW? TEAMSTERS? . . . AFL-CIO? . . . ETC? . . . the answer is then why is DRUM or the

LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARY BLACK WORKERS in existence? . . . Because Black workers and we ourselves (who are workers or unemployed workers) have demanded us to be . . . All the Black workers of UAW Local 3 are looking and we will pass it all back for historical notes of that continuous shout of insistence until victory is ours).

Sorry about that long note before discussing what we learned, but it was time that we as a race of people face our problems as such . . . Black People.

The election of the Unit Representatives, such as Stewards and Alternate Stewards, Plant Committeeman and Alternate Plant Committeeman and Etc., went off as could be expected of a well oiled production line of slaves . . . few voters so just a little bit of cheating as par. The Black workers on the day shift in Dept. 9310 even defeated the ace number one banner booty pimp Booker Goins and replaced him with a Brother named Miller. Being new on the line . . . the front line we wish you all the success in our whirlwind stride for change. We know little about you now but the reality of change records all scenes of action, especially revolutionary action that is concerned with the well being of the vast amount of workers, especially the Black worker.

We're suggesting all Stewards and Committeemen with problems to come see us of the League. In order to help them to proceed from these problems to an understanding of the more difficult struggles ahead, the 400 year heroic Black workers struggle in America. Especially you Brother Miller who can be that little spark to start a forest fire or another ferocious do nothing for Black workers.

In all we of DRUM are here and even at the UAW convention where we were called from Black racists species of wild beasts, but yet we were there and will continue to be around and after, till the victory of

the Black worker changing this world around us . . . KEEP ON PUSHIN' . . . DARE TO FIGHT ON . . . FOR THE POWER CHANGE IS IN YOUR HAND . . . JUST CLOSE IT & MAKE A FIST . . . WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES UNITE . . . LONG LIVE DRUM . . . YOUR WEAPON AGAINST THIS RACIST LAND & U.S. IMPERIALISM . . . LONG LIVE THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARY BLACK WORKERS IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST THE RACIST UAW . . . DEATH TO THEIR ENEMIES . . . WE WILL WIN WITHOUT A DOUBT.

GENOCIDE, GENOCIDE, GENOCIDE

Destruction by any means necessary!! White is out to destroy any and all of us by his own means and methods. Today marks the end of integration and the process of Separation. Today is the day of warning, knowledge and survival.

Brother Fred Hunter works in 9170 near the beginning of 9190. On June 2, 1970 at 12:05 P.M. he was crippled for life. It all started around 10:00 o'clock A.M., the hoist, which lifts the bodies to the final leg before drive off, went defunct. Several cars were dropped in the process. This is the old big line. Skilled trades, foreman and superintendents were there to repair the malfunction. While the repair was being made a new body hoist was used. For you Black brothers and sisters who work on that line you recall the continuous stoppages. Well, after continuous failures the decision was made to repair the entire operation during lunch hour. To make the repair, the line had to be cracked (opened). The safety hold was released for repair by Skill Trades (worker assigned). The job was repaired. At 12:00 P.M. when the line resumed that unlatched car continued down the line, at exactly 12:05 June 2, 1970, the car arrived at brother Fred's operation. Seconds later as brother Fred performed his operation for the honky, the car broke loose, crushing, tearing and destroying this beautiful Brother's life. His knees were crushed beyond repair

Drum proclaims that Hamtramck Assembly Plant is practicing Genocide on Black People. Not because its to their local advantage but because its in line with the entire Nixon-Mitchell Southern Strategy program.

REASONS:

(1) During the last week of May in 9110 (Body Shop) a Black Brother lost an eye. Another Brother was horse playing and threw a bolt at a white. In turn the white threw it back. The childish negro ducked and an innocent Brother was hit in his glasses by the bolt. His eye had to be removed.

This happened on the seventh floor of the body shop. Anyone who has been there would know safety glasses should have been worn before the accident. (WHICH WOULD HAVE PREVENTED A LOST EYE)

(2) In 9170 near 22 elev. (rear) on May 29, 1970 afternoon of day shift. The day of the check walk out. An enormous visul lenier (1000lb.) machine pushed a lower Air Jack machine (600lb) off its tracks and dropped within inches of a beautiful Black Sister. Upon arrival of skill trade and safety personnel they told the sister "its lucky your insurance was paid up."

(3) In the stock dept. with the new hires, no one has given them instructions on driving; licenses are as remote as integration. These young drivers are very dangerous. Not because they want to be but because Management saw fit not to follow up on safety.

(4) Last but not least, the building itself is falling down. Skill Trades have been responsible for upkeep. Last week it was discovered that pipe fitters are peeking the plant for cracks in the ceiling. (Too

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much weight). They're placing steel brackets to hold the walls and ceiling.

Drum says that Racists Stiller, of safety dept. Kosma the Plant Committeeman of Skill Trades, John Smith Plant Committeeman of Stock dept. (Knee-Grow) and Ray Jones, Plant committeeman of Final (9170) are completely at fault. And further they constitute a conspiracy to eliminate the Black workers of Hamtramck Assembly. So, we further suggest that the above named criminals be placed on the peoples most wanted list and that they honorably resign Now!

JOIN DRUM OR PERISH

COMBAT GENOCIDE

THE ELDON REPORT

Many of the workers have heard about the Eldon Ave. walkout and many of them would like to know what went down. So here it is.

MURDER AT ELDON AVENUE!!

HOW MANY MORE BLACK PEOPLE MUST DIE???

ROSE LOGAN, MAMIE WILLIAMS AND NOW GARY THOMPSON

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1970

Early this morning, Gary Thompson, 22 year old Black Viet-Nam veteran, was crushed to death in the scrap yard of Chrysler's Eldon Gear and Axle Plant. Brother Thompson, a jitney driver in Dept. 25, left the plant at 6:00 a.m., with a huge scrap laden hopper and proceeded into the greasy, chuck hole ridden yard, towards the railroad car used as the scrap container. Thompson lifted the load and tilted it forward placing it on the edge of the railroad car. Thompson then tried to release the clip lever which dumps the scrap into the car but was unable to move the rusted, dirt laden arm. Thompson then got off the jitney and again attempted to release the lever and it was then that the jitney, equipped with faulty worn down brakes, and lopsided tires began to back away from the car. The jitney, top heavy with the huge 8 foot long-five foot wide-and six foot deep-filled to the brim-hopper, then tipped over sending its five ton load crashing down on the upraised arms of brother Thompson. Needless to say Thompson died instantly, mashed completely under the mountain of steel.

Brothers and Sisters, we must understand that this was no accident, no freak occurrence, but cold, calculated premeditated MURDER by Chrysler Corporation. It is a known fact that at least 90% of all the jitney's in the plant are defective in some manner. Many have faulty worn brakes, non functioning horns, and lights which do not operate. The solid rubber tires on many of the jitney's are worn and have huge chunks missing cut of them from rolling through scrap and grease. Safety rails are missing on many of the jitney's and hydraulic lines leaks occur frequently. In spite of all these deadly defects management insists that Black workers drive these death traps in and outside the plant. Red tagged (for repair) jitney's are constantly pressed into service by production hungry foremen without regard to drivers safety.

WHAT IS MANAGEMENT'S REACTION TO THIS MOST RECENT MURDER?????

1. The jitney which Brother Thompson was driving is, this afternoon, in the under manned so called "repair" shop being overhauled so that it can take the life of another Black worker.

2. Management notified the Detroit Police Department of the incident and asked for special patrols to contain any demonstration of anger.

Management has made their position clear, as far as they are concerned, our lives are worthless. The task is ours.

The brothers and sisters should be alarmed. There have been three deaths in less than 90 days. One sister Mamie Williams was ordered by her family doctor to stay in bed. The company ordered the sister back to work. One week later she was dead. Sister Rose Logan was hit by a fork. The company doctor sent her back to work. She died that night of blood poisoning.

You read what happened to bro. Gary Thompson all three of these black people and many others are dying and getting hurt because Chrysler Corp doesn't give a damn about black workers.

The problems at Eldon are not just Eldon problems. These are the same problems at Hamtramck and Huber and Mack and Jefferson. Move now to stop the Deaths in Chrysler Corp.

ROSE LOGAN - MURDERED

MAMIE WILLIAMS - MURDERED

GARY THOMPSON - MURDERED

WILL YOU BE NEXT?????????????????

JOIN DRUM

STRENGTHEN THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARY BLACK WORKERS
END THE MURDERS NOW

LONG LIVE THE
HEROIC BLACK WORKERS'
STRUGGLE

EXEC' BOARD MEETING

In the last issue of Drum there was a report on the members of the exec. board, and their racist attitudes. We told of some of the things brought to the board, and left off with Lee Cain trying to get the board to take a position on the Vietnam War; on the Jackson State College black students who were killed along with the Kent State students while protesting against the war. After some argument over if they would support Walter Reuther's statements about the war and Kent students or make a statement of their own, or add Jackson students with the Kent students along with the statements of Walter Reuther. Most agreed that Reuther would have included the Jackson students if he had not died, but the racist honkies on the board wouldn't include the black students. They gave all kinds of excuses such as: The students were wrong, and they would have done the same thing, too if they had been the national guardsmen. The meeting ended as usual. The honky chairman, Ed Liska after not being able to duck out of the questions or put out or shut up one of the main objectors on their racist positions, quickly called the meeting off.

DRUM is not about to accept two more years of racist Board meetings without letting black workers know why and what Liska and his gang are doing. So beware the eyes of DRUM and the black workers are on you.

JOIN D.R.U.M.

TOO MUCH PLAYING

It seems no matter how hard we work, or how much hell we catch, there is always some fool who finds time to play games. If we are ever going to get any kind of respect, we must stop acting like little boys. If anyone is going to play let it be those little silly white boys. Last week I'm sorry to say a white and black worker were throwing bolts at each other. One missed the other, but not the eye of a brother who had nothing to do with it. The man is out, may lose his eye, while the other two will have some time off of work to play, but now, its not so funny. Things like this go on everyday, but most of the time no one gets hurt. Why does every man working in this damn plantation have to pay, pay some fools who mix play with work? As black men who need all the respect and dignity due us we must stop playing and grinning and hee hawing in the honky's face.

A WHITE CONSPIRACY

For the brothers and sisters that are not aware, Dept 9170 final assembly finally has one black general foreman. Although he's only been on the job three weeks he's had at least one verbal conflict with each foreman in his area. This brother is catching hell, but he demands that the lazy crackers get off their asses and earn their money. They have tried every trick in the book to make this black general foreman appear unable to handle his job. First the honkey foremen tried to turn the workers against the brother with no success. Next they tried to get management to turn against him, more than they already are. We want every racist honkey in management to understand and understand clearly that never again will one black brother be used by white trash to destroy another. And to Don Cobb, all we can say is Long live the heroic black workers struggle Brother.

Long Live D.R.U.M.

EXTRA DUES FOR NOTHING!

As most of you know there will be extra dues taken from your checks, two hours pay to be exact, the first week, and second weeks of June, July and August. There are many people who don't want to pay any extra amount of money to the union no matter what its for. The extra money is (suppose) to go for strike funds.

In order to do this there taking advance dues. These dues wouldn't have to be payed until the months of Oct., Nov., and Dec. This is a damn shame, and is really bad on all the new brothers, who not only paying about \$20.00 to join the UAW and not getting any UAW representation but many of them will end up back in the street before they get 90 days. All of this making the exploited brothers poorer and U.A.W. richer.

For those who have not given it much thought check this out before you go along with the program.

1. For about 2 years we have paid over double the union dues we've paid in the past years. Our strike funds should be doubled now since 1/3 of dues goes to the strike fund. Why should you pay any more?
2. Workers don't know who will be the target for the strike, so why pay for a strike you may be in yourselves?
3. Why pay for a strike, for a contract, which will do us little, or no good anyway?
4. The whole principal of someone else such as Liska and the other "leaders" from the local, deciding what should be done with our hard earned cash, is ridiculous. These are the same leaders who along with the double dues want to only have two business meetings a year, which would exclude us. This makes us powerless to have a voice on any damn thing they do at these meetings. These are the same people who refuse to conduct fair elections and have always turned on the black workers who don't accept their policies.
5. Since the extra dues are supposed to be advance dues, there will be no stopping the U.A.W. from coming back in about September and asking for money to help support those on strike.

Perhaps now you are wondering what can you do about it. One way we can stop some of this mess is by cutting off check off dues by signing the form below and taking it to the employment office. Another way is the Join Drum - DRUM is your only weapon against racism in both the union and the company.

Check out Your Mind

Join Drum

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

BADGE _____ DEPT. _____

SEND TO:
DRUM
179 CORTLAND
HIGHLAND PARK, MICHIGAN 48203



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