Two weeks ago we distributed a leaflet at this plant. The reaction by many workers was to ask us what our program is. One page leaflets don’t easily establish a position, but we feel that workers must control all decisions about production, safety, etc. A grievance is what the worker does not like – period!

Sounds nice – but how can it be done, you say?

Our union negotiators work in air-conditioned comfort just like the company negotiators. They are deciding how we will work and live for the next three years. What if WE worked in air-conditioned comfort and THEY had to negotiate in the heat of the foundry, the noise of the production line, or the dirt and filth of most factories? Would we get a better contract?

Would we get a better contract if all union staff officials worked 6 months in the plant (production line, etc.) for every two years on the staff?

Would we get a better contract if all contract negotiations took place in the plants – not in the company’s offices?

We demand NOW that no national agreement goes into effect until all the local demands are settled. The UAW must use the collective power of ALL the workers to back each and every local. In the past the power of the UAW has been used to weaken and isolate the more militant locals.

All safety and production questions must be decided by DIRECT ACTION and not by a grievance. Workers die or are seriously injured whenever:

1. Equipment doesn’t work properly – recently an Eldon Chrysler worker was buried by 3 tons of steel when a jitney’s brakes didn’t work.
2. Oil slicks are on the floor – last year 449,000 workers were disabled by falls alone!
3. There’s lack of proper ventilation – high blood pressure and heart attacks are caused by hot heavy work.

Don’t grieve – ACT! The greatest pension in the world isn’t worth it if you don’t live to collect it. If the national contracts won’t allow direct action then WE must act in spite of the negotiations.

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The Motor City Coalition is a group of workers, students, housewives, and others who are interested in worker’s control of their own lives, both at work and away from work.

We are available to you – the worker – for leafletting, legal defense, or any other type of help we can give. We work for you because we ARE you!