

DEARBORN STAMPING PLANT

Loretta Burrell, President

WE'RE PUTTING OURSELVES OUT OF WORK

Last month I talked about the critical condition of Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler in the automobile manufacturing industry because American workers and those who work for Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler in particular, continue to buy foreign vehicles. They continue to do this at the risk of causing the Big 3 to have to lay-off and have production cutbacks.

Well, reality finally set in last week. The Detroit News reported that Ford Motor Company planned to cut production 17% in the second quarter and produce some 200,000 fewer vehicles. It also reported that Ford would lose 5% of the market for the quarter. That would be picked up by the foreign competitors.

The foreign manufacturers are giving what appears to be such good deals that it's hard to resist. They offer deferred payments, cash incentives, low finance rates, etc., so UAW workers are falling for the hype and are purchasing their products at alarming rates. I advise those buyers to look beyond the smoke and mirrors. Ask yourselves why the Big 3 are looking at cutbacks and the foreign competitors aren't. If you buy one of their vehicles, that's one less you (a United Auto Worker) will need to build. Eventually you won't be needed as much, and you'll be laid off. After your unemployment benefits and sub runs out, you still must pay for that great deal (foreign car) you got almost two years prior. But you and several thousand more will be out of a job or working on a job that doesn't pay half as much as the one you had.

We had better start taking care of ourselves. The foreigners don't buy 10% of American-made cars as Americans buy from the foreigners. You will be laid off, out of a job, and out of money. The foreigners will still be producing cars for themselves. But you should remember what a great deal you got – at the time.

RETIREES

We hope all of our retirees are in good health and are enjoying their retirements. We wish our new retirees long, happy, and healthy retirements.

SICK AND SHUT-IN

We wish a full and speedy recovery to all of our sisters and brothers who are on medical leaves. We also remind you to keep your medical leaves current and to call Kristie at 313-845-8174 if you have questions regarding your medical leave. If you have any questions regarding your benefits, call Nona at 313-845-4496.

CONDOLENCES

We offer our deepest sympathies and condolences to all of our sisters and brothers who have recently lost a friend or loved one including M. Mallory, Dept. 5820, who lost her mother; Steven Williams, Dept. 5940, who lost his mother; and to the families of retirees Chuck Davis, formerly of Dept. 5820, and George Hudson, formerly of Dept. 5500, who recently passed. Our prayers are with you.