



# drum

VOL. I NO. I

DODGE REVOLUTIONARY UNION MOVEMENT

## Wildcat STRIKE

### CHRYSLER'S SCAPE GOAT

On May 2, 1968, a walkout occurred at the Hamtramck Assembly Plant which stemmed from a gradual speed up of the production line. The facts show production soared from 40 units to 58 units an hour, within the short period of a week. The mobility of the worker was retarded to the extent that it was difficult to keep pace. As a result of the walk out, picket lines were set up around the gates and individual workers began to mass.

This situation occurred on the afternoon shift and carried over into the first shift which starts at 6:00 A.M. and 7:A.M. respectively. During the initial picketing, the company sent out photographers who photographed some of the pickets. The pictures were used as evidence against some of the pickets and were instrumental in the discharge and disciplining of certain workers who took part in the walk-out and picketing.

Management, Labor Relations and the Union were well-informed of the existing situations. Little or no action was taken to alleviate the the incredible conditions confronting the production workers. Referring to the above

discharges and disciplinary action taken against the pickets, the overall administration of punishment was overwhelmingly applied to the Black workers who were held responsible for the walk-out which was directly caused by company indifference towards working conditions.

Three Black workers were fired outright, Ten were given thirty days off, and numerous others were given from one to five days off. Why must the Black worker continue to be utilized and exploited beyond humane reasoning and judged by double standards. It is time for Black workers to concern themselves with malicious tactics used by the White Power structure in its attempt to demoralize the integrity of the Black individual.

We urge all Black workers to rally to the support of our Black brothers. We feel the actions taken against these workers were unjust and should not be tolerated. We need your unflinching support. Concern yourselves with the plight of the Black struggle. You have but one life, live it with dignity.

# WILL YOU BE NEXT

the case of Willie Brookins, Jr.

Willie Brookins is one of our black brothers.

Willie Brookins is a member of UAW Local 3.

Willie Brookins has 17 years seniority with the Chrysler Corporation.

Willie Brookins was fired from Hamtramck Assembly Plant on September 11, 1967.

Willie Brookins has a wife and four children.

Willie Brookins had never been arrested before in his life.

Willie Brookins has been charged with felonious assault by a Plant Protection guard at Hamtramck Assembly and might get five years in prison if found guilty.

Willie Brookins is another victim of the union's and managements conspiracy to destroy all workers rights.

Willie Brookins needs your support NOW.

## THE FACTS

On the night of Thursday, September 7, 1967 Willie Brookins was on his way back into Hamtramck Assembly Plant through the over pass gate, after lunch break. He was carrying a paper bag containing two hot sausages purchased at a delicatessen on Jos. Campau. He opened his bag and displayed the contents of it to the security guard nearest him as he passed the guard house. A second guard ordered Willie to show him the contents of his bag, insinuating that there was a bomb in the sack. Willie ignored him and continued into the plant and boarded an elevator. The second guard who had accused Willie of having a bomb in his bag followed him into the plant and boarded the same elevator. They rode to the third floor and both got off of the elevator. Willie proceeded to his work area and began to work checking stock on the line. The guard followed him around for a while and became frustrated. He then went to the telephone and called for the captain of the guards.

Within a few moments, the Captain of the plant guards bolted up the steps and without saying a word grabbed Willie from behind. Willie wrestled and freed himself. Meanwhile the other guard picked up Willie's paper bag, emptied its contents (two hot sausages) on the floor and began stomping them. Willie then picked up a pair of band cutters and forced the two guards away from him. He then laid the cutters down at which time one of the guards seized them and attacked Willie for the second time. Willie flipped one of the guards over his back and by this time all of the brothers on the line had stopped working and rallied to Willie's support. The two plant guards backed off and went to call the notorious Hamtramck Police Dept.

When the Hamtramck Police entered they were greeted by a hail of washers, bolts and nuts and cat calls thrown at them by the workers on the line. The line had been down for about 15 minutes as the workers refused to work until the policemen and guards left. As the policemen approached Willie he shouted, "You prick, we will get you when you get outside."

Willie's steward, Alfonso Newkirk, directed affairs from that point on. Willie was taken to labor relations by Newkirk and his committeeman, John Smith. At this time, Willie was told that he would be sent home for the remainder of that night and the entire next day which was Friday, Sept. 8, and that he would be paid for all of the time he missed.

On Wednesday, September 11 Willie was called at home by his committeeman and told to get to the plant as soon as possible. Willie was met at the gate upon his arrival by his committeeman, John Smith, and taken directly to the employment office. Once in the employment office he was given discharge papers and told by John Smith to go to the Michigan Employment Security Commission and apply for compensation. Meanwhile one of the Plant Protection guards filed charges against Willie for felonious assault upon which Willie was apprehended and released on 500 personal bond. Workmen's compensation was denied Willie at the offices of MESC on the grounds that he had been discharged from Chrysler for assault upon a guard, which falls under the misconduct clause.

The Chrysler Corp. is pressing the case against brother Willie Brookins even though the corporation has already fired him, they are now trying to see that he also gets five years in prison. We have also been informed that the company has threatened to discharge Willie's Steward, Alfonso Newkirk, if he presses Willie's case. Brother Willie contends that Newkirk refuses to bother with his case now, curses him out when he calls him and remarks that, "You are trying to make it hard for all of us." Willis further contends that in trying to get support on the Local level, all he gets are statements such as Andy Hardy's "You should not have gotten a black lawyer to handle your court case."

Brothers and sisters, damn the grievance procedure. Our brother Willie Brookins is up tight. His first attempt to get justice in the courts ended up in a mistrial as the Judge refused to even hear testimony from the defendants side.

We are calling upon all of our black brothers and sisters and the rest of the rank and file membership of UAW local 3 and all progressive community, student and workers organizations to rally to support of Willie E. Brookins. Willie has been fired, fromed up and systematically harrassed by the Chrysler Corporation and our weak kneed, cowardly union "leadership".

YOU MAY BE NEXT

## Racism in Hiring

Lets look at the hiring practice at Hantramck Assembly. While Chrysler is going into the ghetto for common labor, they go to the suburbs for supervision and skilled workers. The Black worker who tries for supervision is told that his attitude isn't right, which means that he thinks BLACK. The black worker who tries out for skilled trades is given a test practicing journeyman to pass. Where the white worker may not be given a test at all. This situation must be stopped now. We as black men and women looking for equal opportunity in employment can not tolerate this. The time to put a stop to this is now.

# New

# Weapon

## CHRYSLER'S NEW WEAPON: IMPEACHMENT OF RIGHTS

Black brothers and sisters comprise 60% of the production workers at Hamtramck Assembly, yet the percentage of Black supervisors and shop stewards are too low to mention. This is not only an insult to our race, but also an open act of bias and racism. Black workers are given the hardest jobs and are fired at the drop of a pin. We are forced to pay union dues, but receive little or no representation. One of the most recent examples of white racism occurred April 27, 1968 when a white female supervisor accused a black worker of using profane language. The brother was fired on the spot, despite the fact that there was no witness of the brother's plea to take a lie detector test. After a complete investigation, this newspaper learned the real reason the brother was fired:

1. He wears a tiki.
  2. He wears his hair in its natural state.
  3. He talks to the other brothers in the group.
  4. The supervisor is prejudiced as hell.
  5. She and the superintendent are lovers.
- This is the type of bullshit that will eventually lead to violent revolution right in the plant.



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