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PRESS RELEASE

Publicity Department - Frank Winn  
International Union, United  
Automobile Workers of America  
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MR. HOMER MARTIN'S ANSWER TO MR. SLOAN

advertisement

The recent full page / of General Motors claiming intimidation and coercion as the United Automobile Workers' medium of organization is to be expected. Nevertheless, the employees of the Corporation will realize the methods of Mr. Sloan's managers, operating without any organized labor interference, made the slogan "Through at Forty" such a near reality as to invoke a Federal Investigation of the industry. Employees realize that on the production and conveyor lines only youth can serve. Any attempt to right this condition is not labor dictatorship. It is the hope for release from such dictatorship that has given the United Automobile Workers of America its membership, realizing as they do that true collective bargaining means as defined in Webster's International Dictionary, "The bargaining that takes place between employers and employees acting in groups, as under the conditions imposed between labor unions and the employer's associations of the present day."

The United Automobile Workers of America is not attempting to run the plants of the General Motors Corporation, nor are we asking for the closed shop as Mr. Sloan would imply. A closed union shop is one where only members of the Union are permitted to work and requires all the workers to share in the cost of maintaining the Union. This is not one of our demands!

Taking Mr. Knudsen's statement in the Detroit News date of January 2nd that, "...the average rates for all General Motors workers is 78.6 cents per hour" and Mr. Sloan's statement that "40 hours is the standard work week", we can readily understand the impossibility of the G. M. employee with average family purchasing even the lowest priced car produced by the corporation. This is a reflection on the industry which depends largely on the average workman for the sale of its product. To be "justly proud" of such a wage record, failing as it does to justify the purchase of even the lowest priced car produced by the corporation reflects on the social vision of Mr. Sloan.