

UNITED AUTOMOBILE WORKERS OF AMERICA

LOCAL No. 156
PENGELLY BUILDING
FLINT, MICHIGAN



June 12, 1937

General Motors bears direct responsibility for the outrageous and premeditated violence employed against our peaceful pickets by the lawless police who sent nine of our people to the hospital and tear gassed dozens more.

Certainly the attack upon Flint citizens was the most disgraceful exhibition of irresponsible police leadership in recent years. It casts a black mark on the city.

For four hours, police shot bullets and tear gas into a gallant band of unarmed men who stood for their rights, even though their lives were endangered and many fell wounded.

The entire affair was a well-planned attack to break the strike through terrorism. The police arrogantly refused to allow food into the plant. They hurled a barrage of tear gas into the men whose hands were outstretched and reaching for food.

Neither state nor national authority can permit such police brutality and lawlessness to go unpunished. The time is past in American history when the people of the nation will tolerate such flagrant violations of law, no matter how large and powerful the offender might think himself to be.

We know that Organized Labor and its friends throughout the nation will make felt their vehement protests against this outrage perpetrated under order of General Motors.

The company did irreparable damage to itself by the actions of its agents here last night. No corporation can now claim, with any degree of sincerity, that it has the welfare of its employes at heart when it uses feudal barbarism against them.

The determined spirit of the strikers and their many sympathizers reached its highest level after the cowardly attacks were unable to succeed in their nefarious purpose.

Violence is not the solution to employer-employee relations; this huge corporation must learn. Engaging in true collective bargaining with the United Automobile Workers of America is the only solution to the present situation.

How many more workers will suffer the brutality of company agents before this fact is realized?

We call on all fair-minded citizens to join us in ending the police reign of terror.

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UAWA Organizer

B. J. Widick
URWA editor