



International Union
United Automobile Workers of America

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

GENERAL OFFICERS

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GENERAL OFFICES
801-5 HOFMANN BLDG.
DETROIT, MICH.
Cadillac 8146-7-8-9

January 14, 1937

To All Organized Workers in All Unions Within
The American Labor Movement

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We are in the midst of one of the most critical situations that has ever faced organized labor in the United States. General Motors Corporation, the wealthiest and largest automobile manufacturer in the world has set itself the task of defeating and destroying the efforts of its employees to bring about a betterment of wages and working conditions through true collective bargaining.

General Motors has at its call resources of millions of dollars as well as control over means of communication and channels for influencing public opinion such as the press, radio, and many others. Not only have they made every possible effort to spread propoganda against the efforts of its employees but they have used injunctions, tear gas, local and state police, armed troops, vigilante organizations and strike breaking agencies with the result that in a veritable massacre 16 workers have been shot and numerous others injured by bullets and tear gas in the city of Flint. The strikers, while determinedly resisting General Motors' efforts to break them and their organization, have made every effort to preserve order among the strikers and to prevent violence.

If General Motors succeeds in defeating the United Automobile Workers in this strike for standards of living and conditions of work worthy of American citizens it will be a stunning blow not only to the automobile workers but to the whole labor movement. Neither you nor your organization can afford not to give to the Automobile Workers every assistance within your power to give. You are well aware of the effect which public opinion has in maintaining the morale of the strikers and bringing pressure to bear upon General Motors and the government in the direction of a favorable settlement of the strike. Therefore, we urge that you make every possible effort to express by letter, telegram, in the newspapers or by any other means you possess your opposition to the tactics employed by General Motors in the present strikes, with the destruction of civil liberties of the strikers and their families.

We call to your attention the fact that General Motors has for years trespassed on the human rights of their employees, not

only as guaranteed to them by law but by every economic and ethical principle worthy of the name. To counteract the propaganda being given to the public by General Motors we must present the true facts that all may judge rightly.

Make your voices heard by General Motors and the public. You should immediately have resolutions passed in your organization in accordance with the above request and urge upon every individual member the necessity of doing his part in bringing about a successful conclusion of the present strikes. Send copies of telegrams, letters, resolutions and so forth to General Motors in Detroit, as well as to President Roosevelt, Governor Murphy, and to the International Union, United Automobile Workers of America, 804 Hofmann Building, Detroit.

Your sincere efforts will be greatly appreciated. We cannot impress upon you too strongly the necessity of prompt action on this matter.

Fraternally,

Homer Martin

Homer Martin
General President

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