

TRUCK TRIBUNE

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The Spirit of '76

Lately Chrysler has been distributing leaflets called "The Spirit of '76" which talk about the good things that they are doing for us, like table tennis. Not only is Chrysler talking about our 200th birthday, but everybody from Ford and Rockefeller to MacDonald's Hamburgers. But what does the Spirit of '76 really mean to them.

Is the Spirit of '76 the Compact building working 9 hours while thousands of workers from our and other Chrysler plants are on indefinite lay-offs?

Or is it Chrysler messing up everyone who goes on medical?

Is the Spirit of '76 unemployment and inflation or Ford cutting ADC and welfare?

Or maybe the Spirit of '76 is Ford vetoing a bill for funds for education and passing billions for the military budget.

Maybe the Spirit of '76 is the CIA training mercenaries to overthrow established governments, like Angola.

Or is it the rapidly rising prices with only a minimum increase in wages?

Is the Spirit of '76 Watergate, Boston, Louisville, the KKK, the Nazi party, the cruise missiles, etc.?

We in the Communist Labor Party (CLP) are also celebrating the Spirit of '76. Our Spirit of '76 is the fight against the attacks by the Klan, Nazis, MAD and other organizations that attempt to deny the Negro people their freedom.

Our Spirit of '76 is the fight for quality education for all children and to demand the the US nationalize education.

Our Spirit of '76 is the fight for full employment without war, the fight for jobs with peace.

3 Years Is Too Long

Last year the membership of Local 140 voted against a 3 year term of office for stewards and committeemen. We all knew then that two years was long enough!

Now the whole issue is being dragged up again. A new vote on the issue will be taken at the General Membership meeting on Feb. 8 at 10:00 AM. The Local 140 leadership says that a procedural error was committed around the last vote; it was not posted in the plant for a month before the vote was taken. They say we need a three year term because of the costs of the Local elections which are bankrupting the Local. The May 1975 elections cost about \$40,000.

What is at stake? I say that the right to vote is one of the fundamental democratic rights of the UAW rank and file. All over the union movement in the US we can see the capitalists (Big Business) and their agents are maneuvering to take away the democratic rights of the rank and file worker and weaken our ability to fight back against the steadily deepening economic crisis. Look at the steel workers. With the E.N.A. (Experimental Negotiating Agreement) the United Steelworkers union leaders sold out the workers right to strike. Look how weak the Local Union's right to strike is in the U.A.W. (see U.A.W. Constitution, Article 50.) In June of 1974, after the wildcat, 84.5% of the 2,500 local 140 members voting, voted for a strike - and look what happened.

I say that 3 years is too long to have to wait to elect a new steward or committeeman or give a vote of confidence to the one in office. (Three years is also too long a term for the Local officers, but the UAW brass in 1974 didn't even give us a chance to vote on that one.) An election is not just a time to put a new man in office, it's mainly the time for a real political discussion of what needs to be done and who can best do it.

We can not afford to give away our right to vote. Today they are asking for a three year term, tomorrow it will be five years.

As o the financial aspect. How come these elections are costing so much money??? We need to elect an Investigator or Commissioner in Local 140 to investigate and research better and cheaper ways to hold the Local elections. Also we need to investigate how the rest of our union dues are being spent by the Local and International Union (more on this later.)

Signed,

iron mike

PROTECT THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHT OF THE RANK & FILE!!
VOTE ON FEB. 8 AGAINST A 3 YEAR TERM FOR STEWARDS & COMMITTEES

Defend The Children

Only one week left before busing kicks off in Detroit. Forces are clearly consolidating to create violence and attack the children. These people belong to MAD (Mothers Alert Detroit,) and MAP (Metro Area Parents.) These people have clearly stated that they will create as much chaos as possible. We cannot allow them to turn Detroit into another Boston or Louisville.

We understand that some people are against busing, but even they cannot allow these forces to attack our children. We must fight for peaceful integration to insure that our children really get a quality education.

STOP MAD AND MAP!
DEFEND OUR CHILDREN!!!

Jobs Not War

One of the biggest issues in the news right now is the struggle in Angola. And although the vast majority of American people are opposed to any sort of US involvement overseas, it looks as if we are being dragged into another war. There is undeniable evidence of CIA involvement in Angola - the training of foreign mercenaries, highly skilled in the west, most advanced weapons, paid for by our tax money, \$100,000,000 so far. This is the same sort of involvement that the US started in Vietnam in the early 1960's.

It should be clear that the Ford government and their backers in the US ruling class see war as the only solution to the current economic mess. But what would still more war mean for the US working class? Most obviously, we are the ones who must fight, and die, and pay for another war. What did we get out of the Vietnam War but the worst unemployment and inflation since the 1930's. We can see that war is no solution to this crisis of overproduction in capitalist society, but only makes our situation even more desperate.

Instead of another war we demand jobs for all at the expense of the military budget. That is the only real solution for the working class, and the demand of the Communist Labor Party (CLP.)

39 countries have already recognized the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) as the legitimate government in Angola. It is this established government that the US imperialists are trying to overthrow. The CLP demands an end to all US intervention in Angola, and the recognition of the MPLA as the legitimate government of Angola.

SUPPORT THE MPLA!
INDEPENDENCE FOR ANGOLA!
JOBS WITH PEACE!