

GENERAL BAKER

Historically the bourgeoisie has attempted to destroy the leaders of the working class. The case of General Baker is no different. General Baker has been employed at the Ford Rouge Plant since September of 1973. On April 15, 1975 General Baker was fired by the Ford Motor Co. for "securing employment under the use of an alias." The fact that General Baker did secure employment under the use of an alias is incontestable. But, the facts are that his discharge is an outright violation of the UAW contract for the Ford Department. The established practice for the Ford Dept., is that there is a 12 month limitation on falsification of application. As established in the Umpire Opinion A-184, May 4, 1945:

"That deliberate material falsification for the purpose of securing employment is a proper cause cannot be doubted. But it equally can hardly be doubted, that some time limitation upon the life of this clause must be implied...One year is a reasonable period which answers both of these requirements."

Why has the Ford Motor Co. chosen to break an agreement that has been on the books for 30 years? One reason is that since his employment at Ford Motor Co. in 1973, General Baker has been in the lead of the struggle to build the Unemployment Committee at Local 600 into a fighting committee for jobs with peace. A militant, fighting Unemployment Committee in one of the world's largest union locals would obviously provide a catalyst for the development of similar committees throughout the U.A.W. and in other unions.

Since his first job with the F.W. Woolworth Co. in 1961, General Baker has been fighting for the democratic rights of the working class. He became an active participant in a drive to unionize Woolworth Co. While this attempt failed by one vote, it did not weaken General Baker's dedication to the struggles of the working class.

While working at Woolworth's, General Baker was also a student at Wayne University, where he joined a student organization known as "Uhuru". The Uhuru organization played an active role in the struggles of the Negro people in the 60's for jobs, quality education and an end to police brutality.

In 1963 General Baker was hired at Ford Rouge where he worked in the stamping plant. He applied for the apprenticeship program and passed the test, but passing the test meant nothing in the case of General Baker and many other Negro workers. General was told that if either of his parents had worked at Ford, that would be worth so many points, or that if he had attended a trade school that would also have been worth so many points, but passing the test wasn't sufficient. This was a striking example of the historic, chauvinistic discrimination against Negro workers attempting to upgrade themselves in the major industries in the USNA.

In 1964, General Baker went to Cuba, where he met many revolutionaries from around the world. Upon his return to Detroit, Ford Motor Co. told him that he could have a job in the trade of his choice (when only a few months earlier he didn't have enough "Brownie points" to qualify for the program.) Chrysler Corporation offered him a job in their management training program, and he had never applied for a job with the Chrysler Corp. Unlike so many of the "revolutionaries" of the early 60's, he refused these attempts to bribe him and went to Dodge Main where he worked on the assembly line.

In 1968 General Baker was fired from Dodge Main for participation in an "unlawful" work stoppage. Chrysler Corp. and the UAW chose to see only the leadership of General Baker. He and another Negro worker were the only two of those participating who were fired. General then became one of the founding members of the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement (DRUM), which went on to lead many of the struggles of the Negro workers against the historic, white chauvinist discrimination that has been perpetuated against Negro workers since their entry into large factories.

The DRUM movement led to the formation of RUM organizations in a number of other plants in the Detroit area, which later led to the formation of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers. Many of the workers who joined the struggles of the LRBW are now victims of the vicious and hated black-listing system, a system in which a detailed history of a workers employ-

ment is kept by the corporations and exchanged between them to deny these struggling workers the chance to work again.

General Baker, like many workers before him, is now a victim of this vicious black-listing. In 1971 he got a job at the Ford Sterling Plant but after 30 days he was fired for falsification of application. Ford Motor Co. had secured his employment history from Chrysler Corp. and fired him because he did not include that history in his application for employment.

At that time, General Baker and a group of other workers began serious study of Marxism-Leninism and later joined the Communist League, which was leading the struggle to build a new-type Communist Party in the USNA — a struggle culminating in September of 1974 when the founding Congress of the Communist Labor Party of the USNA was held.

Needless to say, The Communist Labor Party is proud to have a worker of General Baker's stature as a member. His case is not that of one individual fighting Ford Motor Co., but just one of the many hundreds, nay, thousands of injustices to which militant, politically conscious workers are subjected. The bourgeoisie makes a special target of the General Baker's, singles them out and tries to isolate them from their fellow workers.

But his case, like the many thousands of others, must be linked to the drive towards fascism in this country which is hitting hardest against the Negro and Mexican workers at this time. If this case is lost, it will be one more victory for the bourgeoisie, in their attempt to destroy the rights for which the working class has fought and died. We must fight to support General Baker, and resist and struggle against all attacks on the working class. Once again we must raise the battle cry that, "An injury to one is an injury to all!"

WORKERS
AND OPPRESSED
PEOPLE OF THE
WORLD, UNITE

The Tucson Marxist-Leninist Collective is sponsoring a presentation by General Baker. He will speak at the El Rio Center on the 22nd of October at 7:00 p.m.

APOYO A GENERAL BAKER

Desde su primer empleo con la compañía F.W. Woolworth en 1961, General Baker ha estado luchando para los derechos democraticos de la clase obrera. Se hizo un participante activo en el intento de sindicalizar la compañía Woolworth. A pesar de que este intento fallo por un solo voto, no debilito a la dedicacion de General Baker a las luchas de la clase trabajadora.

Mientras que trabajaba en la Woolworth, General Baker fue alumno de la Universidad Wayne donde se unio a una organizacion conocida como "Uhuru". La organizacion Uhuru jugo un papel importante durante los sesentas en las luchas del pueblo negro para conseguir la educacion de calidad y el fin de la brutalidad policiaca.

En 1963 General Baker fue contratado en la planta Rouge de Ford donde trabajo en el departamento de troqueles. Solicito entrar al programa de aprendizaje y califico pero calificarse no basto en el caso de General Baker y muchos otros obreros negros. Le dijeron a General que si alguno de sus padres habia trabajado con Ford, eso valdria tal numero de puntos, o si habia asistido a una escuela tecnica, eso tambien le hubiera dado tal numero de puntos, pero pasar el examen no era suficiente. Esto fue un ejemplo claro de la discriminacion chauvinista y historica en contra de los obreros negros que tratan de subirse en las industrias principales de los Estados Unidos de Norteamerica (E.U. N.).

En 1964, General Baker se fue a Cuba donde conoció muchos revolucionarios de todo el mundo. Cuando regreso a su trabajo en Detroit, la campaña (cuando solo pocos meses antes no tuvo bastantes "puntitos" para clasificarse en el programa). La corporacion Chrysler le ofrecio un trabajo en su programa de preparacion administrativo sin que General Baker habia solicitado un trabajo con Chrysler. Al contrario de muchos revolucionarios de los sesentas rechazo a estos intentos de sobornarle y se fue a la planta Main de Dodge donde trabajo en la linea de montaje.

En 1968 General Baker fue despedido de la Main por participar en un paro "ilegal". La corporacion Chrysler y la UAW reconocieron solo a General Baker como lider del paro. El y un otro obrero negro fueron los unicos participantes que se despidieron. General entonces se hizo uno de los fundadores del Movimiento Sindical Revolucionario de Dodge (DRUM) que mas tarde dirigió un gran numero de las luchas de los obreros negros en contra de la discriminacion historica blanca y chauvinista que ha sido perpetuado en contra de obreros negros desde su entrada a las fabricas.

El movimiento DRUM condujo a la formacion de organizacion de organizaciones RUM (Movimiento Revolucionario Sindical) en otras fabricas proximas a Detroit que mas tarde dieron a la formacion de la Liga de Obreros Negros Revolucionarios. Muchos de los obreros que se unieron a la lucha de la Liga ahora son victimas del sistema vicioso y odiado de "fichas negras", un sistema en lo cual las corporaciones se mantienen una historia detallada de los empleos de los obreros para poder intercambiar datos y asi negar la oportunidad de trabajar a estos obreros luchadores.

General Baker, como muchos obreros anteriores, ahora es victima de este sistema vicioso de fichas negras. En 1971 adquirio trabajo en la planta Sterling de Ford pero despues de 30 dias fue despedido por falsificar su solicitud. La compañía Ford habia recibido su historia laboral de la Chrysler y le habia despedido porque no habia incluido esa historia en su solicitud de empleo.

En ese momento, General Baker y un grupo de otros trabajadores empezaron un estudio serio del Marxismo-Leninismo y mas tarde se unieron a la Liga Comunista que estaba al frente de la lucha por construir un Partido Comunista nuevo y distinto en los E.U.N.-- una lucha que culmino en septiembre de 1974 cuando se dio el Congreso Fundador del Partido Laboral Comunista de los E.U.N.

Sin decirlo, el Partido Laboral Comunista se enorgullece de tener la afiliacion de un obrero de la estatura de General Baker. Su caso no es de un individuo luchando en contra de la compañía Ford sino de uno de cientos, no miles de injusticias a los cuales son sometidos los obreros militantes y politicamente concientes. La burguesia hace un blanco especial de los General Baker, los aparta y los trata de aislar de sus compañeros.

Pero su caso, como miles de otros, debe ser ligado a la tendencia fascista en este pais que pega durante a los obreros negros y chicanos en estos momentos. Si se pierda este caso, seria mas que otra victoria para la burguesia en su intento de destruir los derechos por los cuales la clase obrera ha luchado y muerto. Debemos luchar para apoyar a General Baker y resistir luchando en contra de todos los ataques hechos a la clase trabajadora. Una vez mas debemos levantar el grito de batalla: "El daño a uno es un daño a todos."

GENERAL BAKER HABLARA EN EL RIO CENTER EL 22 DE OCTUBER A LAS
7:00 P.M. FAVOR DE IR A ESCUCHARLO.