

# Illegal Strike Demands Cost Workers \$50 Million

## *UAW Bosses Are Guilty, But GM Employees Will Get No Restitution*

On June 27, a federal jury in Detroit found two United Autoworkers (UAW) union bosses guilty of prolonging a strike against General Motors (GM) truck plants in Pontiac, Mich., in order to pressure management to give jobs to relatives and cronies.

But the roughly 5900 GM employees who lost an estimated \$50 million in wages while being kept out on strike to secure UAW bosses' illegal strike demands will get no restitution whatsoever.

"Two UAW union bosses have been caught wielding their federal monopoly-bargaining privileges to get cushy jobs for UAW insiders, at the expense of both rank-and-file workers and GM shareholders," said National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"But justice hasn't been done.

"Neither the perpetrators themselves nor current UAW officers will have to fork over a penny to workers, who lost up to \$20,000 apiece, or shareholders.

"A class-action suit against the UAW and GM that more than 140 Pontiac workers joined was tossed out on a technicality in 2003.

"And GM workers employed at the Pontiac plants in Michigan and at other plants in non-Right to Work states will continue to have to fork over dues or fees to the UAW brass just to keep their jobs — despite the clear evidence that UAW officials have undermined, rather than protected, workers' interests."

### **Clean Unionism and Compulsory Unionism Are Fundamentally at Odds**

The two convicted UAW officials are Danny Douglas, former president of Local 594 in Pontiac and, at the time of the verdict, a UAW international service representative, and Jay Campbell, a former shop committee chairman, now retired.

All legitimate issues in Local 594 bosses' 1997 strike against GM's Pontiac plants were reportedly resolved within 30 days.

But Mr. Douglas, Mr. Campbell, and a third UAW boss who died before he could be put on trial demanded that Mr. Campbell's son, Gordon, and Todd Fante, the son of another UAW boss, be hired for skilled trades jobs for which they were not qualified.

Other evidently unqualified UAW-boss relatives for whom the UAW bargaining team demanded jobs included Jason Beardsley, the son of then UAW President Stephen Yokich's administrative assistant, and David Shoemaker, son of then-international Vice President Richard Shoemaker.

Only when GM caved in by quietly agreeing to hire the UAW scions and provide roughly \$200,000 in phony overtime payments, to be divvied up by the UAW bargaining team, did the strike conclude.

"Though only Mr. Douglas and Mr. Campbell were put on trial for criminal acts, the late Mr. Yokich and Mr. Shoemaker, who just retired this year, also obviously profited from the scheme. It's difficult to believe they didn't know about it," noted Mr. Mix.

"In the late nineties, if not today, corruption in UAW officialdom evidently went all the way to the top.

And federal labor policy, Mr. Mix continued, is in most cases the "silent partner" in Big Labor lawbreaking.

"Half-a-century ago, labor-law scholar Sylvester Petro, himself a former union organizer, foresaw that union corruption would be a growing problem as long as federal law and state laws

promote forced unionism.

"It is as absurd to expect good clean unionism in conditions of extensive compulsory unionism, as it would be to expect good government in a society where the divine right of kings or dictatorship of the proletariat was the central political principle," wrote Mr. Petro.

"Over the years, history has again and again vindicated his assessment. It's time for Congress to take heed."

### **'Power of the Purse String' Is Workers' Power To Control Union Bosses**

"U.S. senators and congressmen need to return to workers the 'power of the purse string' so that they can protest union corruption by withholding their dues, without getting fired," Mr. Mix added.

"The 'power of the purse string' is the single most effective way workers can control union bosses."

Mr. Mix urged Committee members everywhere to contact Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn., 202-224-3344) and House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill., 202-225-2975) to urge them to hold roll-call votes on S.370 and H.R.500, the national Right to Work measures now pending in Congress. 📌



As labor-law scholar Sylvester Petro, himself once a union organizer, wrote half-a-century ago, "It is...absurd to

expect good clean unionism in conditions of extensive compulsory unionism...."