

Make Plans to Attend the Historic First

National New Directions Conference

UAW New Directions supporters from across the country will gather in St. Louis over the weekend of October 21-22, 1989.

The Conference will feature discussions, debate, resolutions and workshops on strategies and tactics for revitalizing our union.

(See page 4 (insert) for details and registration information.)

**Note: Conference Hotel
Location Changed**

The Voice of

NEW DIRECTIONS

UAW National Edition

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UAW NDM Conference is Rank and File Forum

THE UAW NEEDS NEW DIRECTIONS

The upcoming National UAW New Directions Conference being held in St. Louis, Missouri October 20, 21 & 22 represents more than a meeting of UAW activists and dissidents angry over the actions of our union's current national leadership. It is a response to the decade-long corporate offensive against working people generally and our UAW membership in particular. It is part of a widening resurgence of workers in America who know that strong, militant unions are vital to the maintenance of economic and social justice.

The NDM Conference will be attended by people who care enough about the UAW to want to change it. To make it more democratic. More accountable. And to strengthen it to resist the clutches of corporate co-optation and concessionary self-de-

struction. We want a strong, autonomous UAW. One that understands the necessity of both educating and listening to the rank and file membership.

On September 9th, over thirty members of a nationwide planning committee met in St. Louis to set the Conference agenda. Plans call for sessions to promote serious democratic debate on the role NDM can play inside the UAW, the challenge of next year's crucial collective bargaining round, and how the internal debate on direction can influence the outcome of next Spring's local union leadership elections. The Conference will be highly participatory.

There will be workshops on topics ranging from "Responding to Management's New Agenda", "The Team Concept", "Rearranging Work Schedules", "Outsourcing", etc., to "Legal Rights on the Job and in the Union", "Toxics in the Workplace", and "New Bargaining Initiatives for the UAW".

NDM supporters in attendance will adopt a national NDM organizing and steering structure, and debate and vote on resolutions and initiatives of concern to UAW members.

"The UAW Convention in Anaheim was intended to bury New Directions. Instead, it merely highlighted the fact that for the first time in years there are two political caucuses in the UAW; one representing the top International leadership, and New Directions with its focus on the rights of the rank and file membership."

"Now, the membership can take part in a serious debate about the union's policies."

... New Directions Leader Jerry Tucker

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★ Chase Hotel Closes ★
NDM Conf. moved to Sheraton
St. Louis Hotel

An Injury to One is an Injury to All

Editor's Note: The UAW is made up of many types and sizes of workplaces and locals. The smallest units often face the harshest kind of employer abuse. Sometimes they face it alone, with little attention to their plight. One such struggle currently involves the 200 Local 33 members in Syracuse, NY and their employer, R. E. Dietz Company.

The Local 33 workers situation first came to NDM attention when we received a video tape of a meeting of striking Local 33 members. The video represented a plea for help by the membership. The same video had been sent to UAW President Owen Bieber. That was in April, 1989.

For over a year the 200 members of 47-year-old UAW local 33 in Syracuse, New York have waged a valiant, lonely battle against harsh company takeaways. Their employer, R. E. Dietz Company, a manufacturer of flashing electrical signal lights, has dipped into the arsenal of union-busting tactics to confront a workforce that had already made "competitiveness" concessions in previous years.

In September of 1988, when Local 33's Agreement with Dietz expired, the Company tried to provoke the membership into a self-destructive strike. They fired then-President Arlene O'Connor on vague grounds, and continued to harass the membership and conduct surface bargaining with the Local's negotiating committee. An underlying concern of Local 33 leadership at that time was how much hands-on support from the International Staff they were receiving. The all too common, bureaucratic "let us know how you come out" syndrome was already at work.

On January 9, 1989, reflecting the membership's rising frustration with the company's aggressiveness, Local 33 went on strike. They also filed NLRB charges against the company. The company immediately hired scab replacements. Throughout the late winter and spring, the strikers held firm. Then the NLRB found R. E. Dietz guilty of an unfair labor practice making the job action an Unfair Labor Practice Strike. The Local then voted to unconditionally return to their jobs and work under the terms and conditions of the Agreement which had

expired the previous September. Instead, on June 6, 1989, the company locked the Local 33 members out, and retained the non-union scabs. As of this publication, that continues to be the status of the struggle.

The local membership's frustration at the situation is summed up by fired former Local President, Arlene O'Connor, "We knew the company was out to get us, but we expected more help from the International. Our Servicing Rep. Carl Best, never even comes around any more. John Geer, the International Area Director, has held three private meetings with the company on our situation, but hasn't met with our bargaining committee since 1986—1986, mind you!"

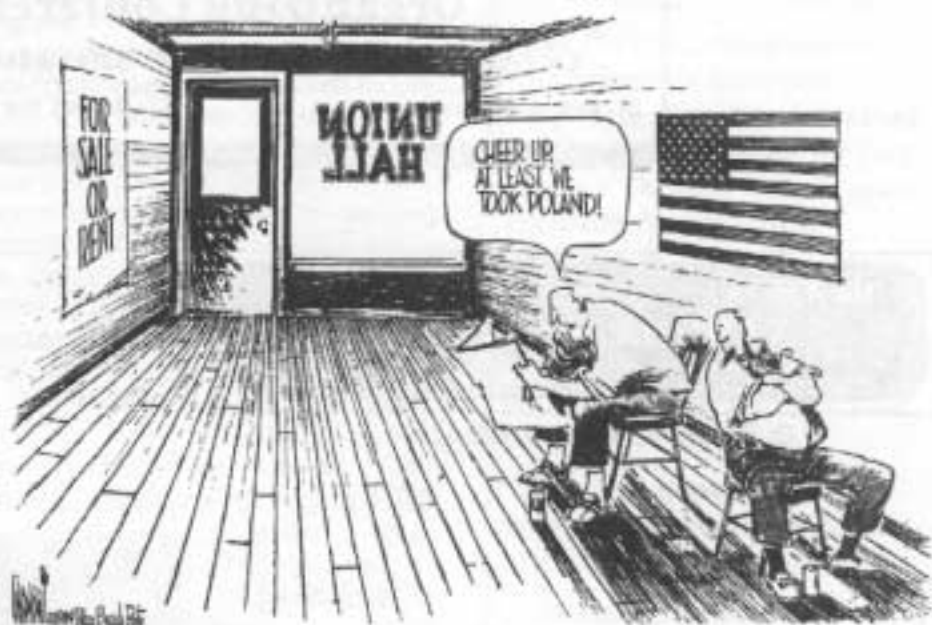
Current Local 33 President Jim Kolb, who took over when Arlene O'Connor resigned in an effort to downplay her own discharge and its relationship to the struggle, said, "The International should have been giving us the same kind of support the Colt Workers (Colt Firearms Company, Hartford, Connecticut) got. We're an old local. We've been paying dues for a lot of years."

"That's why the membership wanted to make the video and send it off to Owen Bieber," Kolb said. "We figured he would at least write, or call, or send somebody to check out our situation. Nothing! We meet with the company nowadays and nobody from the International even comes to the bargaining table with us."

Arlene O'Connor's long years in the UAW caused her to sadly conclude, "The UAW was good when it was willing to fight big business. Now they act like big business."

The struggle of the Dietz workers represents just one of the untold number of adversarial corporate attacks on workers in America today. It is another painful reminder that unionism exists first to stand between its members and their communities, and the ever aggressive corporate world. Some may view the demand of the Local 33 workers for full support and solidarity as annoying and unappreciative of the constraints of today's style of unionism. Others will properly see it as a call for the UAW "to come home."

E.C.



Don Wright/Palm Beach Post

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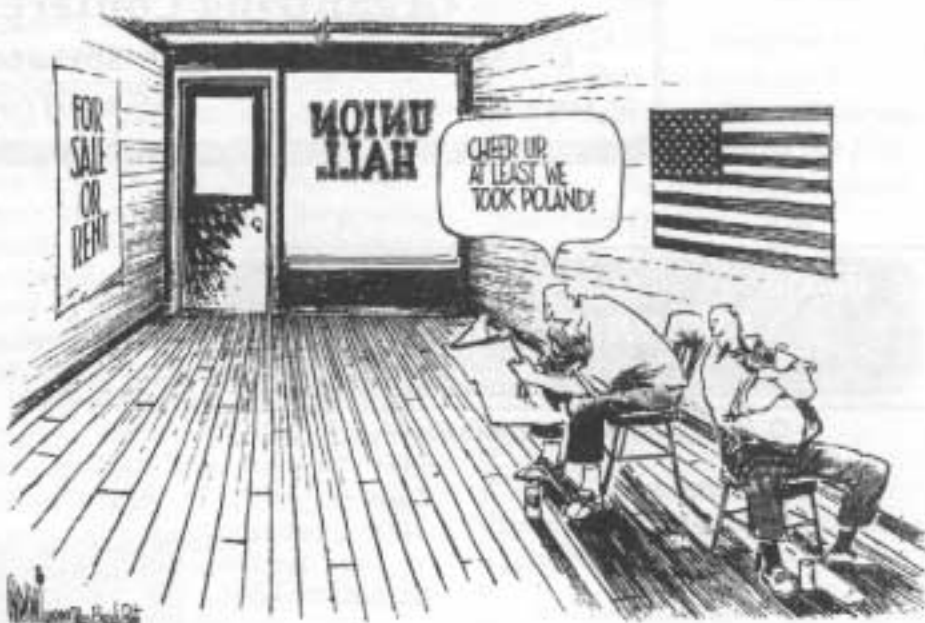
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UAW Secret Political Funds Subpoenaed

The 1989 "win at all costs" election campaign of the UAW International Administration Caucus has already begun to cause public embarrassment to our union. The current U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) investigation of the Region 5 Director's election has resulted in an IEB refusal to respond to 24 separate subpoenas for information regarding UAW Administration expenditures in their vicious campaign to defeat incumbent Director Jerry Tucker.

Having already been found guilty of Federal Election Law violations in the 1986 Region 5 election, the IEB again tarnishes the once proud reputation of our union. As Yogi Berra has said, "it sounds like *deja vu* all over again."

The subpoenas represent an effort by DOL to review the expenditures of the Administration Caucus through the various secret campaign funding devices they utilized to defeat Tucker and Region 1-1B challenger Don Douglas. These records are necessary to determine whether union treasury money or corporate funds

were illegally used in the campaign.

One set of fund documents being subpoenaed is from the notorious "Friends Social Club" (a curious name) which Owen Bieber publicly boasted about several months before the local Convention delegate elections even began. This fund was the product of a request for "voluntary" \$500 contributions from International staff members. These requests were bolstered by hints of retaliation and official displeasure for non-contributors.

Among the other records being sought by DOL are the Administration Caucus' "Flower Funds" which each IEB member in the Administration caucus maintains for political purposes. These semi-secret funds are the result of monthly contributions by International staff members. The Labor Department's investigation additionally is seeking to confirm whether or not local union treasury money and illegal employer contributions (through tribute dinners, etc.) found their way into these Funds as well.

Monies from these "Flower", or political slush funds, are reported to have been funneled into the campaigns against Douglas and Tucker. This is a question which should not only interest DOL, but the UAW membership as well.

In an effort to fend off DOL's statutorily proper request for information, the UAW leadership, acting through a Chicago law firm, has counter-sued the Secretary of Labor to block the enforcement of the subpoenas. The IEB counter-suit alleges, among other things that this is being done to protect "those who associate with (the Friends Social Club) from harassment."

Now that takes a lot of nerve! This, the union's dominant "one-party-state" caucus, with control over all staff and all resources and a history of punishing members who speak out against them - they want protection from whom? Once again, we have to ask, "Whose union is it anyway?"

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October 20-21-22, 1989 • Sheraton St. Louis

St. Louis, Missouri

See Insert for Registration Form

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P.O. Box 6876, St. Louis, MO 63144

— The Local 33 Story
— "Jointness" & the UAW