



APRIL / MAY 2009 WEBSITE REPORT

WINDSOR ENGINE

STATE OF AUTO INDUSTRY

If someone had told me 5 yrs. ago that Chrysler would be in Chapter 11 in the U.S. and all their plants idled for 2 months and General Motors would also be in Chapter 11 in the U.S. and idling most of their plants for a couple months and that Ford would mortgage the entire company including the Blue Oval in order to survive I would have probably bet my house that it would not happen. But guess what 5 yrs. later that is exactly what has happened. The collapse of the Auto Industry has been devastating, hundreds of thousands jobs have been lost, families and communities ripped apart, and the general public wants to put all the blame at the feet of Unions.

You would think in Windsor, Essex County Communities with all we have done to support hundreds of charities to the tune of millions of dollars and contributed to making everyone's wages better because of our collective agreements no matter what industry or sector they worked in, the public would be a little more supportive of us. But all we get is bashed about how we are overpaid fat and lazy. Well let me say Unions did not cause this Global Financial Crises the blame lies at the feet of the Financial Industry and Speculators who were out to make a fast buck and drove oil prices, stock markets and the housing markets to unsustainable levels as well as right wing governments who refused to listen to Unions about putting an Auto Strategy in place or address Fair Trade not Free Trade.

STATE OF FORD MOTOR COMPANY

I have heard it over and over that Ford is not in bad shape and that they did not ask for Gov't loans and we should not sit with the company and open our collective agreement. If you consider that Ford is living on 30 Billion dollar line of credit that they mortgaged the entire company for and that they have secured lines of credit from the U.S. and Canadian Gov't as well as the fact that they are burning through about 30 million dollars a day not in bad shape then I guess your right. But in the real world they are in just as bad as shape as Chrysler and G.M. they have just been painting a pretty picture for the public to try and steal market share from Chrysler and G.M. and since they financed their own loans before the financial freeze they have been able to keep the Gov't from running the company. But if auto sales continue to stay at a 9 to 10 million sales pace the company will be at Gov't door by the end of the year taping into the credit lines. So when we do go back to the table with the company it is imperative that we demand that Ford maintain a presence in Canada and also get some commitment on future product.

STATE OF THE PLANT

As of this writing June 1/09 engine production remains at 2160 engines per day which is about a 450,000 a year build schedule a far cry from the 700,000 yearly build we were doing 3 short years ago. Our schedule is firming up and there is less down time scheduled as of now. There are 3 dn. shifts scheduled for the month of June those being PP 24, 25, 26, 1 dn. shift per week. We meet with the Company weekly and go through the schedule and hopefully gas prices that are starting to creep up stay low and we can pick up more volume.

With this pace some of the side depts. are starting to work Saturdays to keep up with the engine line. Also we were told that Dept. 8656 Rods will be adding the 3rd shift back on so we will see an increase of about 7 people

W.E.P. SAFETY REP

I would like to congratulate and welcome Jim Turner into our plant as our new H & S Rep. Jim brings over 20 years experience as an elected representative and 6 years as the E.A.P. Safety Rep into our plant, with that kind of experience Jim will be a huge asset to our members. Also I want to thank Joe Paquette for filling in for Ken Cloutier for the last couple of months Joe did an outstanding job representing our members in the safety area.

SUMMER SHUTDOWN

It is very hard to believe that summer shutdown has arrived. Where did the last year go? On behalf of the entire union office we would like to wish everyone a very safe and enjoyable vacation. Everyone has worked extremely hard over the last year. So have a great vacation!!!

In Solidarity,

Jeff Vilag
Plant Chairperson
Windsor Engine