

# C.R.A.F.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS  
OF ALL NATIONALITIES  
UNITE!!

Concerned Rank And File  
Local 22  
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## BREAK DOWN THE BARRIERS

Brothers and Sisters of Local 22, last week a millwright was rehired at Cadillac after having been fired for several months because of stealing. The object he stole was a peice of metal which he had fashioned into an object for his personal use. We are very happy that this man has been brought back to work, but his rehiring touched off a controversy among some of the workers in his department (block line) as well as among the workers from other departments.

What was the controversy? There are several other men from the block line as well as from Plant 4 and other areas of Cadillac presently fired from the plant for stealing - one of the men has been out for nearly 2 years. These men are black and production workers...the millwright is white and a skilledtradesman.

Let us look at the case of the black production worker. His case involves misappropriation of an extension cord. However, he was never caught with the goods on him going out the door. His case is at the umpire level where, if he loses, that's it in-so-far as union stages of due process go. The union has given up the fight in this case.

What we have to ask ourselves is this: stealing is stealing - but what makes the stealing by the black production worker worth more time off than the stealing by the white skilledtradesman? Discussions with various union officials, even up to the vice-president of the local, has given us no clarity on this point. The union men claim the cases are different. The vice-president claims he wants to talk to the worker and

get him to admit that he had stolen the cord. This admission is necessary, said the vice-president, so that the union would have something to work with.

What kind of an attitude is this for our union officials to have? Why should a man have to admit his guilt when he wasn't guilty. The cover-up and squirming the union men have done on this issue is disgusting. In effect, the union is not defending the rights of all the workers equally and by this inactivity is allowing management to get away with discrimination against the black and other minority workers.

Discrimination against minority workers has been the rule in this country and Cadillac is no exception. But why does the union aid the company in covering it up? We know that discrimination serves the interest of the company because it pits one worker against the other for better jobs or any job at all. It is always in the interest of the boss to have us fighting among ourselves. The union should take the leadership in fighting discrimination in the interest of the equality of all working people and in the interest of unity among the workers. The union leaders know that a house divided against itself cannot stand. But our local does not have this perspective on the situation and instead unites with management by their silence on this issue.

Is this what we want from our union leadership? Do we not want union leadership that acts as lawyers for us instead of as bedpartners with management? We know that the workers of Cadillac are tired of the sell-out, do-nothing leadership we have at this local as well as at the International level. This incident of discrimination is an example of what goes on every day in many ways. But it must be understood by all workers that what they do to one they can do to all. Clearly the discrimination against black workers sets the base for harrasment and arbitrary mistreatment of white workers as well. So we must unite to fight for the equality and dignity of all working people and CRAF fully understands that given the history of this country, the way to dignity and equality of all is through fighting especially ahrd for the rights of the minority workers.

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