

## Editorial

# UAW's gain is consumer's loss

The United Auto Workers union scored a victory last week in its contract negotiations with Chrysler Corp., but the American consumer came out a big loser.

Chrysler agreed to an increase of almost \$1 billion in wages and fringe benefits over a two-year period beginning Oct. 1. Chrysler employees will see their paychecks increase by about 25 percent during that period, according to the current edition of Newsweek.

UAW officials are, of course, elated at the outcome, but for the consumer, it signals a return to the dangerous trend of excessive wage increases for autoworkers.

The higher wages are nice for those who receive them, but they force the company that pays them to raise prices and that's where the consumer loses. In the end, it also could be where the UAW's victory

backfires.

If the public refuses to pay inflated prices for the inferior automobiles turned out by Detroit, the Big Three automakers will see more and more of their business go to foreign companies. The UAW may see its members in the unemployment lines again.

Right now, American auto sales are booming. With the economy well on its way to recovery, automobile company profits are bound to skyrocket. We don't deny that the employees should get a share of that extra profit, but a 25 percent increase over two years seems a bit large, especially considering that inflation rates have remained under 5 percent.

Workers at Chrysler have been earning less than the employees at Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Corp. because of wage concessions made several years ago. But it's hard to feel sorry for any of

the UAW members.

The new contract is expected to bring Chrysler salaries up to par with those of the other two major automakers.

According to Newsweek, production line workers currently make \$21.40 an hour at General Motors and \$23.37 an hour at Ford — all of this for a product that continues to decline in quality.

The UAW has been among those unions telling us to buy American-made products, but considering the UAW's constant demands for increased wages and its apparent lack of regard for quality, it is hard to take those please seriously.

The American consumer should not be expected to pay the UAW's inflated wages out of a feeling of patriotism.

## Nixon book decries 'getting peace quick'

Richard Nixon thinks that pacifist activists are "idiots," that people favoring nuclear disarmament are suffering from "a form of radiation sickness," that Soviet leader Yuri Andropov is "a hard-headed pragmatist, not a madman" and that Ronald Reagan would do well to go to Moscow to address the Soviet people on television.

Those are some of the highlights of a new manuscript written by Nixon, called "Real Peace" which is published and distributed privately by the former president. Some 700 copies of the manu-



Bob Greene

script will be printed in book form by Nixon and sent to government officials and leaders around the world. The book will not be available to the general public.

In light of news developments in recent days, Nixon's specific thinking about the prospects of peace — and war — between the United States and the Soviet Union are worth taking note of. Some excerpts:

• On nuclear disarmament: "In his heart everyone knows that the only people who get rich from the 'get rich quick' books are those who write them. But just as there are countless 'get rich quick' schemes, there is a wide array of seductively appealing 'get peace quick' schemes. These are the myths of peace. Myths are fairy tales that people make up about things they otherwise would not understand. . . . Some, out of desperation or supreme naivete, have suggested that an international authority be established to banish nuclear weapons and make sure they are never built again. . . . That the disarmists would propose some outlandish 'world government' shows that most of them, to put the most charitable light on the matter, are living in a dream world, in which problems between nations can be solved by some authority other than national governments. This delusion is a form of radiation sickness. If you look directly at an atomic blast you may go blind; apparently intellectual blindness can result from contemplating the nuclear weapons issue for too long."

• On nuclear war vs. conventional war: "One of the most empty-headed and dangerous fallacies of the nuclear disarmament movement is that the world would necessarily be better off without nuclear weapons. Those who survived the trench warfare of World War I, the allied firebombings in Germany and Japan during World War II, or the Soviets' recent use of chemical warfare in Laos can testify that con-

ventional war brings its own unique horrors. We must not allow our understandable fear of a nuclear war to blind us to the increasingly awful destructiveness of conventional weapons. Conventional weapons killed 15 million in World War I and over 54 million in World War II. Casualties in a conventional World War III would be far greater."

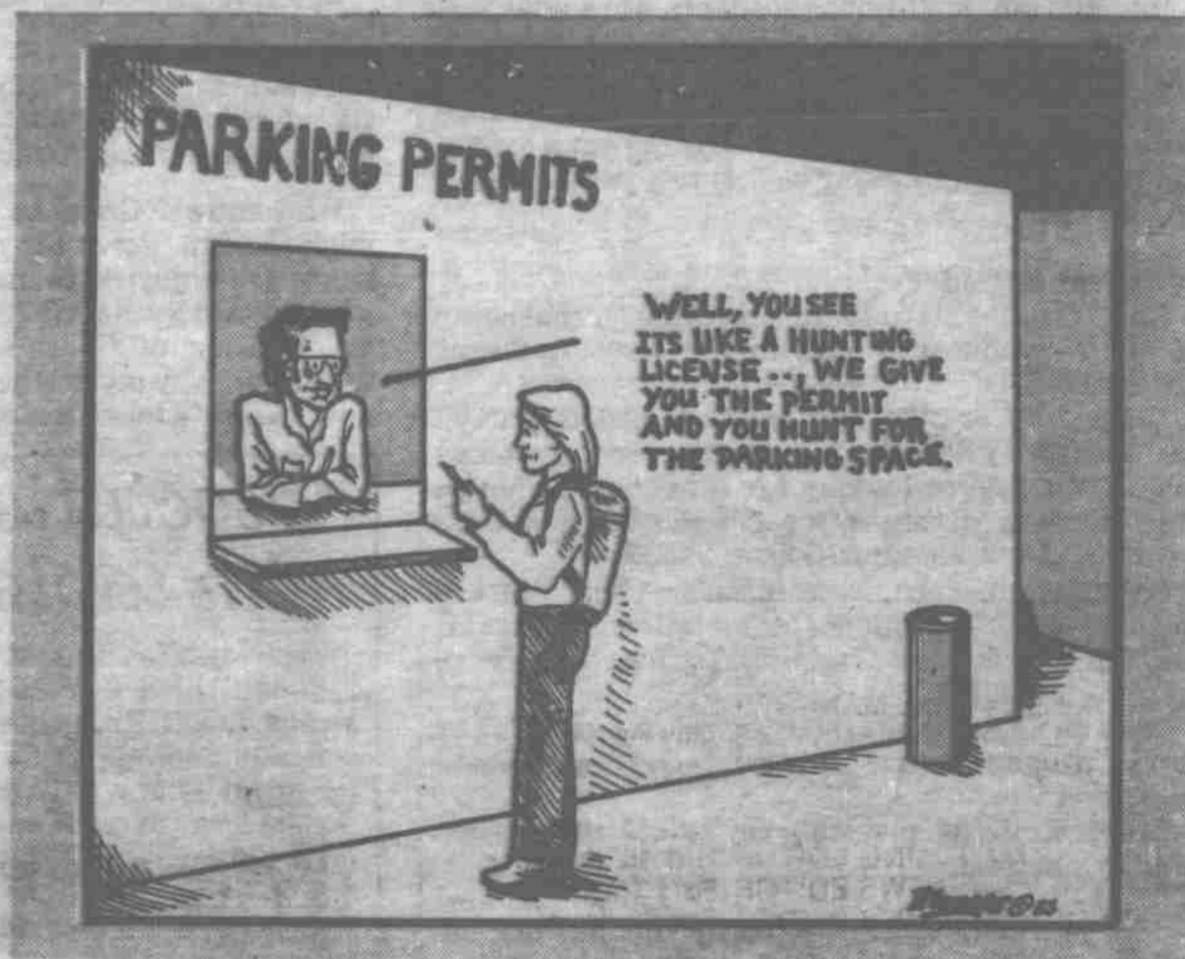
• On Andropov: "The West knows little about Andropov himself. When he came into power, he was the subject of intense speculation in the West. Some media observers suggested that he was a closet liberal, a pussycat who would be easy to deal with because he liked American jazz and drank Scotch rather than vodka. Such commentators are forever confusing style with substance. They are suckers for style because style is their bread and butter. In the 1950s, they dismissed Nikita Khrushchev as a lightweight because he spoke bad Russian, drank too much, wore ill-fitting clothes and had crude manners. They were wrong about Khrushchev, and they are wrong about Andropov. Anyone who claws his way to the top in the murderous jungle warfare of the Soviet hierarchy is bound to be a formidable adversary. Only the strong survive and reach the top in Communist regimes. We know this for sure about Andropov. He is an intelligent, dedicated, ruthless Communist who shares the global ambitions of every Soviet dictator since the Bolshevik Revolution. Those who expect the Soviet Union to moderate its belligerence as soon as Andropov consolidates his power are deluding themselves. Fortunately, however, he is a hard-headed pragmatist, not a madman."

• On Reagan and the Russians: "One great benefit of a summit meeting in Moscow would be that President Reagan would have the opportunity to address the Soviet people on television. Not only could he dispel his image in the Soviet press as a reckless warmonger, but he could also present our point of view as the free world's most effective spokesman. Some scoff at the thought that such a speech can accomplish anything. After all, the Kremlin leaders are hardly concerned by their Gallup rating. But I had the opportunity to address the Soviet people in 1959, 1972 and 1974, and if the level of official anxiety over those broadcasts was any measure of their power, it was not insignificant."

I asked Nixon aide Nicholas Ruwe why the former president had decided to write and privately publish the manuscript. Ruwe said that Nixon felt very strongly about current conditions between the United States and the Soviet Union, and had to decide whether to speak out or "to sit back and do nothing."

"He's never favored the latter course," Ruwe said.

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## Vengeance a powerful, dangerous emotion

I was driving home the other evening when a man in a blue Chevrolet cut in front of me — illegally, immorally and dangerously.

"Stupid idiot!" I said aloud, quickly accelerating the two tons of metal in which I sat. I would catch up with him and cut him off the way he'd cut me off. I would teach him a lesson.

But, as usually happens, I was unable to get around him in the heavy traffic and he escaped unpunished. I



Arthur Hoppe

arrived home angered and frustrated. Justice had not been served.

That evening, I was sitting next to an intelligent and attractive woman at dinner. The conversation, as it does these days, got around to The Plane.

She said she was convinced the Russian military was behind the shooting down of the Korean airliner. They wanted to open a confrontation with us, she said, to scuttle the disarmament talks, which they viewed with suspicion.

And, anyway, she said, she was glad President Reagan had closed down the two Aeroflot offices in this country. She wished he could have done more in retaliation. "We have to show them they can't behave like barbarians," she said.

She is a reasonable woman. I'm sure the vast majority of Americans would agree with her. Yet if the Russians do behave like barbarians, I wondered how retaliation would make them better human beings.

Since then, I've been thinking off and on about vengeance. What an overwhelmingly powerful, richly rewarding, grandly destructive, fundamen-

tally sterile emotion it is.

I suppose vengeance was part of us long before we swung down from the trees. I suppose it served a civilizing purpose: Hairy Paleolithic man must have hesitated to brain his neighbor for fear his neighbor would brain him back. And thus vengeance kept an uneasy pace.

Yet vengeance has always borne with it the seeds of tragedy: the sack of Troy, Medea, the salting of Carthage, Salome, MacDuff, the Pied Piper, Moby Dick, the Irish, the Armenians, the Lebanese. . . . Vengeance lies in the dark side of our natures.

The Plane has brought it out again. We ask not what course would best serve our interests; we ask only for vengeance.

"Blood must pay for blood!" cries a California state senator.

"I'm ready to stand up against Communism," writes an irate reader. "What about you?"

And even that intelligent woman who believed the Russian military were behind the tragedy would play into their hands by giving them the confrontation she thought they wanted.

Such a powerful emotion! So powerful that world peace now rests on the concept that vengeance, if unleashed, will destroy mankind. Should the Russians incinerate us, we will incinerate them.

"Mutually Assured Destruction," we call our global strategy. Vengeance is its key. And yet what an unstable emotion it is.

I think of that car I chased. How lucky I was I didn't catch it. How foolish I would have been to dangerously cut him off as he had me. What a stupid, risky course to take. What good would it have done? How contrary to my best interests.

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