

SHOP FLOOR TALK

Putting The Pieces Together

With the first week of contract negotiations under their belts, both sides of the table remain positive that a workable contract can be hammered out.

Sitting at the bargaining table, the Union and the Eaton Corporation listen and discuss each sides wants and needs in an concerned manner. This is done taking into account the impact what each part plays on its employees , their families, community and overall business stability. Although the parties are driven to reinforce their point of view, it is done in a civil manner.

As of this date, the discussions are still dealing with non-economic issues, as neither side has brought forth any monies proposals, waiting until the later part of negotiations. Some things that both parities have come to a tentative agreement on deal with language on job postings, vacation scheduling, and our grievance procedure. As our plant has changed in what it produces over the last three years some of the contract language isn't relevant to our workplace as it is today, so some housekeeping in the wording has also been agreed upon.

The company has presented proposals dealing with contract seniority in the areas of manpower adjustment procedure, recall rights, and layoffs. These items are close to the heart of the union and negotiators could not come to a consensus with the company at this time in this area, so it has been tabled until a later time.

We as members need to support our union leadership and be relentless in our pursuit to obtain a livable contract. As the majority of our brothers and sisters today change their priorities to visions of retirement not everyone will leave the workplace tomorrow. The basis of our current contract is composite of hard work and sacrifices made down though the years, taking into account the betterment of its members and the workplace. Using the words of the Eaton Corp. , "Employees Are Our Number One Asset", lets not let them forget that through the voice of it's union members.

Your Union negotiators are committed to work diligently to obtain a fair proposal and let the membership have it to review prior to the final vote, but they will not hesitate to work up to the final hours to get the best offer possible.

