

Paid "Obituary"

To the readers of this paper:

This letter is directed to every reader who draws a paycheck or has said "Unions are okay . . . but . . ." The death of a loved one is never easy, it still hurts even when we know it's coming. The 26 hourly and most of the 26 salaried employees of LYNCH CORPORATION are now feeling the pain from the death of their jobs.

Since the Werbe Family, over 30 years ago, allowed LYNCH to be taken over by outsiders, we have had a continuous procession of inept and unqualified management. They borrowed money to close the best little foundry in this area and convert it to a machine shop at 3rd and Jackson St. They have closed plants in Toledo and Defiance, Ohio; Marion, Ind. and New Jersey. They bought product ideas and little companies only to abandon them and all but one of our old product lines. They have borrowed \$10,000,000 and received a \$34,000 tax abatement in these 30 years. One \$5,000,000 loan gave CURTISS-WRIGHT CORP. total control of LYNCH. A CW executive is still President of LYNCH and their Director of Industrial Relations has negotiated the last 4 contracts. LYNCH Machinery now joins another CW victim, Studebaker, in oblivion. In 1981 the current management of LYNCH received a \$500,000 loan from the Anderson Redevelopment Commission, after Don Shepherd, Pres. of LYNCH Machinery told how many jobs would be saved. He promised to keep everyone and hire 17 new people, but instead after one machine was bought 20 people were laid off. In 1983 they asked for another \$500,000 from the City. An hourly employee of LYNCH asked the City Council to delay this loan until we could negotiate language to protect our jobs. Shepherd told the Council ". . . we will close the place down . . ." if the loan was not approved. Needless to say the council had no choice but to approve the loan. This is the money LYNCH is using to take our jobs to Georgia. In May of 1983 LYNCH received a \$34,000 tax abatement. Our UNION President was asked by Shepherd to help LYNCH get this. We have been told by Council Members this abatement probably would not have been given without UNION help. Ask your Council Member about this escapade.

While this was going on LYNCH was busy closing COX INSTRUMENTS in Detroit. From this dead company 4 good machines were replaced with 4 similar but inferior ones. These four pieces and three bought with the \$1 M ARC loans . . . including a marble CNC Insp. table . . . Plus a Japanese CNC lathe from COX that has never been run . . . (We don't think anyone knows how to turn it on) . . . these are the only things LYNCH MACHINERY owns, to the best of our knowledge. Unknown and in secret from its employees LYNCH sold all of its machinery in 1976 to HANOVER TRUST in New York and has been leasing it back ever since. This was done even though our Union had every right to protect us from this, soon to be, fatal ploy. To the best of our knowledge this lease-back expires this year. After the loans and tax abatements were granted, LYNCH GAVE the \$285,000 Jackson St. property to the ARC which then sold it to PRIME BATTERY. An auction was held last winter to dispose of surplus items (no machinery). Another sale is expected in Feb. 85 of machinery that ". . . won't be taken when we move . . ." Like a 'live-in' mate, could LYNCH have walked away at any time?

We have heard rumors for over a year that LYNCH was moving to Georgia or some place in the South. In early summer we learned bits and pieces that made us very worried. When we started to negotiate a new contract in May LYNCH told us they could "no longer afford Auto Industry wages and benefits." We laughed all the way to the rest room at the joke. After we saw their demands we haven't laughed since. LYNCH forced the IDENTICAL terms on its COX employees and then closed them down. Guess whose fault that was blamed on? Starting right after our '81 contract, we have been subjected to constant violations of seniority and other rights and practices. Three examples . . . when all operations were combined into the Crystal St. Plant all chairs and stools were taken away from everyone, even though the average age of the 15 men still working was almost 60 yrs. One 64 year old took early retirement because he couldn't rest his legs while his automatic machine was running a cycle . . . the entrance door we had used for 30 years was locked and we had to walk another 200 feet in the rain and snow to the next door . . . the Operations Manager decided we should go to lunch at 11:30 instead of the 70 year old custom of 12 noon. The office force has been going at this new time ever since. Despite all of this and other harassment, we honored our contract to the letter. LYNCH was so scared we would accept any offer like Emge, Greyhound, Coke and Pepsi did they decided to make us another PATCO. To accomplish this LYNCH demanded:

- (1) The right to subcontract any and all work, even to bring outsiders in and laying us off.
- (2) We had to pay \$250 emp. and \$500 insurance deductible for our family each year. They could choose the Insurance Company and change when ever they chose to.
- (3) Our seniority would be raped. No wage or fringe benefit matters or means anything unless we have seniority. A man with 43 yrs. at LYNCH could have been laid off forever and one with 1 or 5 yrs. could take his place and never be laid off . . . this is no exaggeration . . .
- (4) But the cruelest and most vicious thing was done to our retirees. We at LYNCH have always held our retirees to a high esteem and honor . . . probably because of the high skills and ability they passed on to us and the life time of working beside them. Until 2 years ago any retiree was always welcome to visit LYNCH and was welcomed with fond memories and affection by all salaried and hourly workers. We have the smallest pension in this area ("remember auto pay and benefits") and to help our retirees, 25 yrs. ago we gave up pension money so the retirees would have some insurance. To this day we get a 3rd class pension for that reason. On June 30 LYNCH cancelled all insurance on Disabled, Early and Medicare HOURLY employees.

No man with an ounce of self-respect could stand for that. On June 22nd the 26 hourly employees of LYNCH MACHINERY by a vote of 23 to 0 struck over those 4 issues. Up to \$140 weekly pay cuts, \$625 per year in Cost of Living, \$710 vacation pay per year and other cuts averaging \$6100 per man per year . . . these things paled in light of the other 4. We have since found out only 7 men might (?) have had a job even then. That is how many Foremen and Office people have been working on our jobs the last 4 months. One of their 4 Vice-presidents has been driving their big truck, once and sometimes twice a week to his hometown, Hamilton, Ohio with our work. The other subcontracting work goes to Muncie. All of this after you and we gave them the money to do it.

Since June 22, 3 of our people have retired, one on disability. Six more will be old enough to retire this year. The remaining 17 are either Journeymen or are highly skilled in their job. We would appreciate any help in finding jobs for men who are from 46 to 63 years old and have given 25 to 43 years of service to one employer. We tried to extend the contract for 1 year . . . you can guess what their answer was. We have filed a law suit against LYNCH on the retirees insurance. In the meantime, we have been receiving strike benefits from the UAW and OUR UNION has been paying the retirees insurance since July 1st.

One final comment . . . To the hundreds of honorable Salaried and Management former co-workers we have known and those still there, we wish you all the best, as you too search for jobs. Many of us have worked side by side, with respect and consideration for each other for our common good. We are all victims of those whose lust for power and greed for money is beyond our control. If you wish, say a prayer for all of us and the people at MILLER - VICKERS - HYDRO INC. in Brainbridge, Ga. It could be that Anderson's gain will be Bainbridge's loss.

The Members of UAW LOCAL 777
Charles E. Stephens, President

Walter R. Trennepohl, Vice Pres.
James Alexander

Lynch Files

Continued From Page One

mine if or what Reuther replied.

The suit names the following 31 persons as parties in the suit as being agents and employees of Local 777: Lige E. Hickey, president; Russell L. Hazel, vice - president; James M. Coble; Norman C. Allen; Edward J. Kerr; Richard A. Jones; Morris W. Reed; Thomas L. Coble; Darrell L. Arrowood; Jack L. Romine; Francis E. Wiley; John C. Ehman; Gary L. More; Clyde H. Wilson; Burnice N. Jackson; Daniel Edwards; Larry D. Rinehart; Robert E. Morehead; Charles O. Johnson; Bobby K. Troy; James K. Goodman; James E. Morse; Roy E. Ramsey; Verlin B. Cox; Andrew McBurney; Jimmy E. Smith; George D. Dawalt; Donald M. Cross; James P. Carroll; James L. Buckley; and Gerald Kingen.

In the suit filed by the firm Busby, Austin, Cooper, and Farr, the company alleges that an agreement entered into on Sept. 6, 1965 between Lynch and the union, covering a unit of hourly - rated production and maintenance employees at the two local plants, continues in full force and effect to June 1, 1969.

The contract provides in Article, 17, Sec. 1, "There shall be no strikes, sitdowns, slowups, stoppages of work, or interference with production on the part of the employees during the term of the agreement. Before a strike is called, negotiations must have continued for five days at the third step of the grievance procedure and not even then unless a strike is declared by the membership of Local Union No. 777 and is authorized by the International Union, UAW, AFL-CIO."

The suit further alleges that defendants Cable, Arrowood, Romine, Wiley, Ehman, Moore, Wilson, Jackson, Edwards, Rinehart, Morehead, Johnson, Troy, Goodman, Morse, Ramsey, Cox, McBurney, Smith, Dawalt, Cross, Carroll, Buckley, and Kingen engaged in an unlawful strike and work stoppage on Friday, Aug. 18, at 8:30 p.m. and have continued to engage in the strike in violation and willful disregard of the agreement.

Lynch continues that the company has been required to discontinue all operations at both plants, suffering nearly \$50,000 each day that the plants are

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