



1941

The River Rouge sit-down strike

In April 1941, Ford remained the last major auto company that refused to recognize unions. When eight Ford employees were fired for joining the UAW, the entire labor force walked out on strike. Ten days later, Henry Ford agreed to recognize the UAW and required all employees to be members. Its leaders included African American organizers, Quill Pettway and Dave Moore.



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¹ Violence Toward A Scab Worker

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² Food for Strikers

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³ Strike Ends

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⁴ Contract Signing

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1941 The Ford River Rouge Plant Strike

Credits:

Lewis, David L. *The Public Image of Henry Ford: An American Folk Hero and His Company*. Wayne State University Press, 1987. Print.

Keywords/Topics:

Politics and Legal Issues

Questions:

1. Why did the workers go on strike?
2. Why was Henry Ford against labor unions?

Links to Internet Websites:

http://www.autolife.umd.umich.edu/Labor/L_Overview/1941Strike_Rouge.htm

http://the-spark.net/o_ford1941.html

<http://www.entrepreneur.com/growyourbusiness/radicalsandvisionaries/article197524-3.html>

<http://revolutionaryworkersgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/The-Strike-at-River-Rouge-guts.pdf>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/peoplescentury/episodes/ontheline/description.html>

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UAW workers attacked any scab worker that they came across.

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During the strike, UAW women made thousands of sandwiches each day to feed picketers.

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Cheers erupt in the street as word of victory spreads. The strike was over and Henry Ford agreed to recognize the UAW.

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On June 20, Philip Murray, Harry Bennett, R. J. Thomas, and George Addes signed the contract between the UAW and Ford Motor Company, officially ending the strike.