

Live Bait & Ammo #119: Necessity is the Mother of Revolution

Since Bush took the driver's seat every component in the engine of commerce has broken down. Mounting budget deficits, escalating trade deficits, and now as the crash approaches his sidekick filibusters in the rumble seat have developed an attention deficit.

Four million manufacturing jobs were wiped out in the last eight years. Inflation is up, foreclosures are up, unemployment is up, consumer debt is up, and the limbaughs want to hold up a loan to the domestic auto industry on the hopes they can bust the union. Somebody throw a drink in their bloated faces.

The legacy burden of Republican administration has brought the elephant to its knees. A mercy killing is in order.

Republicans want UAW retirees to take a haircut on health care. We already have a Mohawk. The VEBA is only worth about 60% of the liability.

On top of that, active workers gave up a dollar an hour in 2005 to pay for the VEBA. Add in the Cost of Living Adjustments diverted to health care and the average worker is sacrificing about \$5 grand a year for retiree health care.

The big sticking point for retirees is that we already paid for our health care. Why should we have to pay again? Perhaps if we compare deferred compensation to property our Republican friends will respect our rights.

A thirty year mortgage paid off, or a retirement plan built on thirty years of labor. What's the difference?

I paid off a thirty year mortgage. I persevered through tough times and made extra payments in good times.

I worked thirty years in exchange for a pension and health care in retirement. I paid my time and one's time is the most valuable thing on earth.

I have a contract. I have a mortgage. I lived up to my end of the agreement. By what perverse twist of logic do Republicans think I should now pay more, or give up what I earned entirely?

I am burned up. I hope the Republicans do kill the auto loan. It will be a hell of a peg to hang their party hat on and a Christmas that small businesses and retailers will never forget. The name Corker will become a curse word, a proverbial spittoon.

What I look forward to most is the backlash. With millions of workers unemployed, the Republicans may very well hand us the revolution we've been waiting for. Men without work take to the streets. We'll soon find out if the NRA took its stand in defense of the nation or the arms merchants. Either way, necessity is the mother of revolution. I can easily envision hundreds of thousands of UAW retirees marching on Washington and demanding national health care.

Hell yeah. I look forward to it.

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Thirty-nine state AFL-CIO federations, over 100 Central Labor Councils and 400 local unions have endorsed HR-676, John Conyer's "Expanded and Improved Medicare for All" bill. [www.johnconyers.com/healthcare] Attend the national meeting of labor organizations that support HR 676, "Medicare for All." > **Labor for Single-Payer Healthcare Meeting**

January 10-11, 2009

The Crowne-Plaza - Downtown St. Louis

For additional information> www.laborforsinglepayer.org

or contact Organizing Committee Coordinator Mark Dudzic at 201-314-2653 or mdudzic@igc.org
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