

AUTO UNEMPLOYMENT IN NORTH AMERICA

Dec. 14 (IPS)--Rockefeller-controlled press are now running lurid "layoff scoreboards" daily, bombarding workers with the terror of plant-by-plant layoffs, "source" reports, and rumors. This is intended to create the blur of an unstoppable deluge. The actual pattern is a weapon that can advance working-class organizing.

While certain firings are called "temporary" and others "indefinite," a growing number are already being relocated to slave project areas. Eighty thousand "missing" auto workers were dropped in 1973; 70,000 in 1974. And now with plans to lay off from 298,000 to 377,500 in early months of 1975, the total of permanently fired will rise to 192,000 at minimum.

The Big Three auto producers dropped employment from 745,000 hourly workers in early 1973 to 664,000 in January 1974. That was before the first Oil Hoax.

IPS estimates that another 70,000 auto workers were laid off during the peak of the oil hoax and not rehired. The 150,000 now "missing" workers represent 20 per cent of the workforce.

Big Three total layoffs this month are 209,000. GM reported to this newspaper 64,000 "indefinite" and 41,000 "temporary" this week; Ford reported 18,350 "indefinite" and 21,525 "temporary"; Chrysler, 30,000 "indefinite" and 35,000 "temporary."

Chrysler News Relations spokesman Ronald Owens stated to IPS that "all indefinitely laid off Chrysler workers will most probably never be rehired." It is likely that this is also true for GM and Ford workers, meaning that the 112,000 total workers on "indefinite" layoff will add 42,000 to the "missing" auto worker group for a total of 192,000. Wholly one-fourth of the workforce from January 1973 has been phased out!

GM, Ford, and Chrysler have just announced first quarter 1975 car production cuts of from 40 to 50 per cent compared to first quarter of 1973. 298,000 to 377,500 hourly workers will have to be unemployed, listed as either "indefinite" or "temporary." This means the present 112,000 "indefinite" layoffs should be considered permanent, raising "missing workers" to 192,000 with an additional 106,000 to 185,500 workers divided between "indefinite" and "temporary" for 1975.

12/14/74

IPS B9