

Ford Workers Reject Half-Price Stock Plan

DETROIT, May 27 (AP).—The Ford Motor Co. has offered the CIO United Auto Workers \$500 million, five-year "package," ignoring the union's demand for a guaranteed annual wage.

But the union stood pat today on its year-around wage proposal and denounced the company's offer as "phony."

Offering to sell its stock to 140,000 Ford employees at half price in the tightly knit family enterprise, the company described its proposal as "the most challenging and comprehensive" in the history of the auto industry.

The Ford "package" was dropped dramatically in the heretofore secret and apparently smooth-running contract negotiations late yesterday.

The union's rejection set the stage for what could develop into the most dramatic contract fight since the auto union attained recognition 20 years ago.

Like GM Proposal

Ford Vice President John S. Bugas said the offer "closely parallels" a General Motors proposal reportedly made a week ago.

A news blackout has covered the GM talks. But if Mr. Bugas' statement is correct, the union, by implication, also has rejected the GM offer.

Should company negotiators

adopt a "take-it-or-leave-it" attitude and the union remain unyielding, a major auto strike is a virtual certainty. The current five-year contract with Ford expires next Wednesday. The GM agreement, covering 325,000 employees, runs out six days later.

The Ford offer covered a broad range of benefits from the stock sale plan through higher pensions and wages to a separation pay proposal.

Unofficial estimates pegged the cost to the company at \$85 to \$110 million a year over the five-year period. Cost per hour for each employee was estimated unofficially at 37 cents.

Ten Per Cent of Pay

Under the stock plan Ford employees would be permitted to buy stock in any one year equal to 10 per cent of their gross annual pay.

The stock to be offered for sale presumably would come

from non-voting shares held by the Ford Foundation. The Ford family holds all the voting stock.

The UAW called the Ford package "unfair, unjust and unacceptable."

Ken Bannon, the union's national Ford director, said:

"The stock purchase proposal is obviously a device behind which the company offers crumbs to Ford workers while setting the stage for Ford executives to divide a huge stock melon when the company makes its stock available to the public."

Liked Champagne

EPERNAY, France. — King Henry VIII of England maintained a home and an estate at Epernay, one of the main cities in the French Champagne country, for the express purpose of keeping himself and his court supplied with champagne.

His New Book News to Convict

SAN QUENTIN, Calif., May 27 (AP). — Caryl Chessman, condemned "Lovers Lane" rapist, was "obviously and completely surprised" when told yesterday that his second book was to be published, Warden Harley Teets of San Quentin said last night.

Chessman's publishers, Prentice-Hall of New York, announced the book, "Trial by Ordeal," would be published on July 11, four days before Chessman is scheduled to die in the San Quentin gas chamber.

"We questioned Chessman about it as soon as we received

the report," Warden Teets said. "He assured us that the only manuscript of his second book that has left his cell is the one we have and which is locked up in the prison safe."

"He was obviously and completely surprised, and we believe that he was telling the truth."

Chessman's first crime book called "Cell 2455, Death Row," was cleared by the warden for publication, but his second book was confiscated and locked up when a Sacramento woman attorney received it to go to the publisher.

The first book purportedly described Chessman's early life and how he turned to crime. The second book, Warden Teets said, carries on generally from where the first stopped.

It describes happenings in the prison, names inmates and officials and other banned material, the warden said.

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