



'ANGUS BARKS'

By Jeff Francis
AEG Executive Board

Job Preservation Update

The Job Preservation Committee meets each Wed. at 2PM in Bldg 64, under the leadership of Plant I manager Dan DiBattista. Regular attendees include Ed Mills, John Erb and Dick Gentile from management; Jeff Francis, Bill Mannell, Bob Berlan, Jack Connors and Nick Rexinis from Local 201; John LeBlanc and Paul Sanborn from the Planners union.

Our goal is to bring work into Bldg 64 that will replace 15,000 hours of good labor we will lose when the spool job is transferred to Volvo later this year. Our agreed agenda is to identify work that is outside the plant that makes sense to farm in. The Company is motivated to farm-in because Plant I needs more direct labor hours to balance indirect overhead expenses. The Union is motivated because our total membership in the Riverworks has fallen below 2300.

We began meeting last October. So far, 2 fan disk halves (T65,T66) were introduced to the Spool cell, and 3 part numbers were returned in full from Wilmington NC to the Short Shaft cell (T62,T03) and Fan Disk cell (T57). Currently we are discussing turn work on the T28 F404 spool. This part belongs (and will continue to belong) to 1-74, but the initial turn operations were farmed out many years ago.

Issues discussed include programming resources, machine capability, fixture problems, tooling problems and preventative maintenance. The details of process improvements are left for business reviews, by the management and union members who actually work on the parts, and who know the obstacles best. The Committee is open to any suggestions from the floor. So far, cost trends of the returned parts are running better than Lynn numbers from last year, but not yet as good as Wilmington numbers.

All of the farm-in mentioned above resulted from commitments the Company made to the Union during Decision Bargaining, or shortly thereafter. It's the committee's job to ensure these commitments are kept. But Committee members agreed that more needs to be done. There are 3 areas of opportunity:

SHOTPEEN WORK- Previously the Company felt the environmental and safety risks of this work made it impractical. With new machinery, TPCE area proved shotpeen can be done in-house cleanly, with tremendous improvement to cycle time. The largest block of direct labor available for immediate farm-in this year is shotpeen of T700 coolant plates in Bldg 64 and disks in Bldg 74. Plans to farm-in this work has Corporate backing, but got sidetracked due to required drawing changes. After discussions, design engineers gave this project higher priority.

FARMED OUT WORK- The Committee looks for blocks of work that have strong volume or a strong future. One such grouping is turn work on the -305 & -306 disks (CF34-3) and T22&T23 disks (CF34-8). After discussing several alternatives, the Committee supports bringing this turn work into TPCE spacer cell where there's open capacity on the Toshulins.

NEW ENGINE WORK- Right now GE is introducing a new generation of commercial engines (CF34-10, GENX, GP7000), developing a JSF engine, and buying into the Honda engine. For everyone here, it's important the Lynn plant get some of this work. The Sourcing Board chose Bldg 64 CDP cell as the source to develop a CDP seal for the GENX engine.

One disappointment is the Committee has been unable to agree on work for the LeBlond lathes, or 13 other machines that are vacant, or almost vacant in TC64. Naturally the Company prefers to locate new work in new (more productive) machinery. This points out the clear need for new machinery, which is a problem in most machining areas of the plant. In Plant I, \$4 million for investment has been approved this year, which will translate into 3 new machines.

Future columns will report on efforts underway in Bldgs 74, 40 & 85 to farm-in work.

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