

## Help for workers starts at GE plant

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To the Editor:

We, as state employees, are constantly under assault because we make a decent living, have good working conditions.

State employees work the state hospitals and mental health centers for people without insurance who have gotten sick and need help. Or do we want to be like the people who yelled out at the Republican debate "Let them die" when the question was posed about a patient who did not have insurance? Do you honor the blood that has been shed over the 240 years we have been in existence that our bravest and best have given attempting to create a "more perfect union"? Ask the family members of clients who get treatment here at the Greater Bridgeport Community Mental Health Center. Ask the accrediting bodies of hospitals. Who does a good job and who cares about our clients? Hands down we are on top.

Do the authors of vicious attacks against state employees ever pick up a shovel to fill a pothole on our highways as cars go whizzing by at 70-plus miles per hour? Do the authors of that right wing propaganda ever hold someone down while they were going into a seizure from alcoholic withdrawal or having a psychotic breakdown? The answer is no. The only thing that people who possess that type of rhetoric have done or are currently doing is carrying the water for the elite class who think we are all here to serve them and protect the wealth that they did not even break a sweat in earning. Government, as a whole, runs better than any private industry I know of. Have you ever tried to lodge a complaint against a business and/or product made overseas? Good luck. Wake up, people; class warfare has been declared and the initial casualties are our benefits and living standards.

Why do you think we are more concerned with the poor teenager down the street breaking into our house rather than the industrialist who has abandoned our inner cities after making a gazillion dollars off the sweat of the rainbow coalition of workers; workers who had the nerve to ask for a fair share of the profits for a decent wage? Does anyone remember when the clock on GE stopped on Boston Avenue? What possibilities exist there? We could make those buildings into warehouses for products still made here or abroad and have our harbor, the access point for the East Coast. Save one building for fixing defects after product inspection and one for distribution of spare parts, etc. Make it an "enterprise zone" and forget the taxes; just give people/families a living wage and you will save the government millions.

I think it's accepted now that the real workers' revolution will be to secure a good contract with a living wage, health insurance and a decent retirement. Stop the needless wars that have bankrupted our country and give all that money to the inner cities for job retention and creation in the private sector. State and city employees are sometimes a neighborhood's working-class base because most major industries were able to exit with no strings attached. If a parent did that to their family they would be in jail for dereliction of duty to their family, endangering the welfare of minors, etc. Our politicians stood idly by and waved goodbye hoping that the CEOs would remember them and ask them to go golfing or fishing sometime in the future, while their constituents struggled to keep their heads above water and their bank account out of a deep hole.

Class warfare has been declared! Do we fight? Do we yield, or do we make an overture for labor peace with conditions of fairness and mutual respect? Let's see if we can get that clock to start ticking again on Boston Avenue. All for one and one for all.

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