

3 Injured as Ford Workers Clash in Rouge Foundry

Many Flee Skirmish at Plant

Company Aids Admit Tension Is High

At least three union men were injured in a series of skirmishes with Negro foundry workers at the Rouge plant of the Ford Motor Co. early today, but the plant continued to operate, and thousands of men reported for duty in other departments in the order in which they were called back by the company.

There were reports that union men had been roughly treated by non-union foundry workers. R. J. Thomas, president of the United Automobile Workers (CIO) gave his assurance that the union has not called a strike and does not intend to do so.

Both union and Ford officials admitted that tension exists between factions of men, particularly in the foundry, and indicated their belief that minor outbreaks may be expected until after the Rouge plant election now being prepared by the National Labor Relations Board.

3 WORKERS INJURED

Three men were treated for minor head injuries today at the headquarters of the DeSoto union local, 8914 Michigan avenue, and were then sent home. They were:

Efin Garin, 13916 Arlington avenue, cut lips and facial bruises; Lygmund Galka, 13238 Mitchell avenue, lacerated lip, and Stanley Plewa, 8396 Smart avenue, head bruise.

Each man said he had been struck by Negro foundry workers who stripped off UAW-CIO badges. Garin said he had been searched. Plewa said he was struck from behind as he punched a time clock.

It was reported that approximately 3,000 foundry workers remained in the plant Thursday night after a rumor had circulated that the union intended to establish picket lines today.

MEN FLEE FOUNDRY

Union men said the rumor was without foundation but explained the situation had led to bitterness and a fear on the part of UAW-CIO members that they would be assaulted. Some men, witnessing today's encounters, left the foundry at once.

At 5 a. m. today, Thomas issued the following statement:

"The UAW-CIO has not called a strike at the Ford Motor Co., nor does it intend to call a strike.

"Our members will report for work this morning as usual in the order in which they are being called back to work by the company.

(Concluded from Page One)

with the avowed intention of not permitting anyone to work today.

"These reports have been accompanied by statements that enemies of the UAW-CIO intend to construe the efforts of those inside to stop work as a strike by the UAW-CIO.

"I repeat that as far as the UAW-CIO is concerned there is no strike in the Rouge plant. The responsibility for any stoppage of work, or any violence which may occur this morning, must rest on other shoulders."

NO VIOLENCE OUTSIDE

Between 6 and 7 a. m. today thousands of men entered the plant at Gates 3 and 4 without incident. Violence occurred inside the plant and was not witnessed by most of the workers, or by observers who checked the orderly ingress of men.

One union man, however, returned to the street from the foundry with the comment:

"You can't wear a union button in the foundry."

Company spokesmen said the plant generally was quiet and that the system of restoring normal production was still in effect.