

# Buy-American theme dominates Carter's courting of UAW votes

By SANDRA ARMSTRONG

Thousands of UAW members cheered President Jimmy Carter Wednesday as he again called on the American population to buy American-made automobiles.

Carter's speech came during a hectic tour of Ford Motor Co.'s Wayne Assembly Plant, where Ford is building its world cars, the Escort and Mercury Lynx. The 30-year-old plant was recently renovated at a cost of \$45 million.



Workers crowded the yard behind the Wayne Assembly Plant to hear President Carter and Ford Chairman Philip Caldwell and UAW President Douglas Fraser.

"American auto workers deserve the chance to compete," Carter told employees on his campaign stop there. "I'm urging American buyers to give you that chance."

Carter and officials from Ford and the UAW stressed what the president said was a "new spirit of cooperation." That cooperation comes at a time when more than 200,000 auto workers in the nation are still unemployed. Late August figures show Michigan's unemployment rate at 12.5 percent.

The Wayne plant employs about

5,000 people, 4,500 of whom are UAW members.

The move to cooperate also follows the Democratic party platform which calls for removal of "unnecessary governmental regulations," labor law reform and protection of workers affected by plant closings.

Adding his voice was Philip Caldwell, Ford board chairman.

"Consultation and cooperation is the American way of life. It's good to get together, but it's better to stay together," he said.

UAW President Douglas Fraser, who is on Chrysler's board of directors, told the Ford employees that American workers "have been maligned lately."

He added that UAW members "can do and will do better. . . It's not going to be easy. We'll have to work at it." Fraser also called on UAW workers to re-elect Carter in November.

IN RETURN, Carter promised that the auto industry would have "the capital it needs to re-tool, to compete, and to maintain its rightful share of the American auto market."

Ford employees seemed to like what they heard. Some waved signs proclaiming that Carter would be re-elected this fall. Others sat on the shoulders of fellow employees to get a better view as UAW representatives presented Carter with a card and cake marking his 56th birthday.

He's (Carter) beautiful, but I love him anyway," said Betty Outchick of Belleville. She said she had stayed after her midnight shift to watch for the president.



President Carter made his way through the crowd of workers following a speech at Ford Motor Co.'s Wayne Assembly Plant Wednesday. There, Carter reiterated his stand on buying things American, especially cars. (Photos by Art Emanuele)

Hassan Makki of Dearborn thought the president was "all right." Lifting a sign urging people to Buy American, he added that the new cars are "the best. Buy one. I've ordered one myself."

But Frank Washburn of Dearborn Heights was skeptical of Carter's statement that "I'm going to be your president when the first of stream of ships starts unloading in Tokyo and Yokohama."

"It's a lot of political rhetoric that I've heard before," said Washburn, adding that he plans to vote for Reagan. "That's a joke — what he said about our making exports to Japan."

FORD WORKERS had just watched as Carter toured their plant on Michigan Avenue, shouting "hustle" and "rush" to the more than 100 media representatives who thronged to each stop along the way.

Guiding Carter along the tour was plant manager Joe Latini of Northville. But it was a sign from Joe Barsone, a Canton Township resident who is president of Local 900 at the plant, that greeted Carter on his arrival. Also welcoming Carter were committee men from Local 900 and Vincent Bruno, education director for Region 1A of the UAW.

Joe Roberts, a Livonia resident who

is supervisor of salaried personnel, took a group of the media on an early tour of the plant.

But they rejoined Carter as he toured the plant, pausing to shake hands with linemen Oliver Wiley and James Owens of Garden City.

Later Harold Poling of Bloomfield Hills presented Carter with a full-length white coat, proclaiming him a quality control inspector.

The tour ended with Carter driving one of Ford's new world cars down the line.

"We may not build many cars today, but we'll have a whole of a good time," Caldwell said.

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