

Opinion

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oral quarrel

Responses to bonus question

This week's Oral Quarrel question asked Farmington and Farmington Hills residents: How do you feel about the bonuses and raises recently received by auto executives? What type of compensation do you think auto workers should get in light of multimillion-dollar bonuses?

Following are the responses:

\$50,000 a year, they should be executed.

I think what executives are paid is no body's business other than the shareholders'. Without these executives and shareholders to invest there would be no jobs. I think the auto workers should be willing to accept a reasonable honest day's pay for an honest day's work. That is what I have always tried to do.

I am an hourly worker and I think the presidents of the automotive industry are much more valuable to our society than Isiah Thomas of the Pistons, Simms of the Lions or Morris of the Tigers who earn as much for a part-time job. Nobody complains about their high salaries. I think the older workers in the factory are paid pretty well.

Bonuses received by auto executives within the reality of the performance they have done. As far as auto workers are concerned, they are probably \$3 to \$4 overpaid for the skill level they have achieved.

First of all, I feel that the president of Ford Motor Co. was overpaid last year by about \$8 million. On the second part of the question, I think that the auto workers should get the same percentage of bonuses that the executives did.

Well I think the auto executives are overpaid as it is. It is the same for the automobile workers. I think the price of the automobile should be lowered instead of raising anybody's salary.

I think that the auto-executive bonuses are good except that it should also be transferred to the people working for them. It is a bipartisan thing. They should do it for the executive and for the people.

I think it is the most disgusting thing that has ever happened in the auto industry. I hope the union signs at least a 20-percent increase.

It's unfair. The bonus money should have been shared with all the workers to use as incentive for attendance and performance productivity. A better product would mean more sales. Or the bonus money could have gone into a fund for the unemployed to cover medical care, training, hardship cases and an extension of unemployment checks.

The bonuses are stupid and not in the

best interest of the country. It was a bad move.

I think it is positively ridiculous and if the labor party don't get on their feet and do something, this world is going to the dogs. The poor people are going to suffer as they are doing now through these big executives and Republican Party. I hope the laboring people will get on their feet.

Bonuses are fine and should be given within reason. However, the executive bonuses were very excessive. I feel all workers should receive some compensation. Also the price of cars should be reduced several-hundred dollars, giving the buying public a break and also more incentive to buy.

I think it is a disgrace that these auto executives are getting those kind of bonuses and raises. It's based upon greed which will increase more greed on the part of the auto workers. I don't think the workers should ask for anything. Because this is just one vicious circle around for me and me. And they should start working together and say we, we and look on the part of the country itself.

Greed should be included in the list of deadly sins. Caldwell is a good example of arrogance and greed and this includes the automobile workers. The whole situation is positively obscene.

Memories of mother

ANOTHER Mother's Day has come and gone and what a day it was for The Stroller.

From early morning until dusk fell she seemed to be at his side as he relived all the fond memories he has of her — even though she has been gone for more than three decades.

Never will be forget the morning she took us all — my four sisters and myself — into a little room in our small frame house in an alley back home in the Dutch country.

She had been left a widow and had served The Stroller's father faithfully through a long illness before he went on to the great beyond.

NOW SHE faced the task of raising the family, and The Stroller, the oldest of the five, was only 10 years old.

When she got us seated in the little room she stood up and, weighing every word, she told us that with our father gone we could not have what other children have. She looked at us as she spoke and then added, "But there will be a lot of happiness in your lives if you will make the most of what you have."

She let this thought sink in our childhood minds, then went on, "And don't look over the fence. Never mind what the neighbors have — just enjoy what you have."

It was a lesson The Stroller never has forgotten and is always one of the fondest memories of her.

WHEN THE time came for The Stroller to leave school — even though at the head of his class, she took him aside and calmly told him that just because he no longer could go to school it didn't mean that he had to stop learning.

"Learn a trade," she said, "and what you have in your head no one will steal from you. And I don't care what trade you choose. But always try to be the best."

Then came the night when Grand-

the stroller
W.W.
Edgar

mother Edgar came to visit Mother and her family. "I will help to ease the load on you," she advised Mother. "I will take one of the girls and raise her and support her through school."

MOTHER looked at her and sharply answered, "You will do no such thing. We are all in this boat together. If we reach shore we will all be there and if we go down, we'll go down together."

What a brave soul she was, and The Stroller never will forget that moment. He relives it every Mother's Day.

And on the night he left for Detroit to continue his stroll along the river of printer's ink, he never will forget the farewell she gave. Placing her arm around his shoulders, she said as her parting shot, "If you ever want your watch fixed don't take it to a blacksmith. He wouldn't know what to do with it."

AND SITTING there in his easy chair reliving some of the fond memories came the scene of the evening when he made his first visit back home.

As he walked up toward the door where she was standing, he expected an embrace. Instead, she took one look at him and almost shouted, "Good God, he's got a top coat. He always wanted one."

She didn't ask how he was getting along. The sight of the top coat told its own story.

What a Mother she was, and The Stroller enjoys every moment he spends with her — even if it is only in a memory.

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