Laid-off GM workers eligible for tuition aid

General Motors Corp. and the United Auto Workers union have announced a \$9.2-million tuition-assistance plan for laid-off GM-UAW workers.

UAW Vice President Donald F. Eph-lin, director of the union's General Mo-tors Department, and Alfred S. Warren Jr., vice president in charge of Gh's industrial relations staff, said as many as 70,000 indefinitely laid-off GM workers who retain recall or rehire rights will be eligible. The program begins Jan. 1, 1984.

"WHAT IS new about his plan," said Warren, "is that all qualified laid-off workers will be able to receive assist-ance in the form of up-front payment to an accredited college, university or certified vocational school.

"This is in recognition of the fact that laid-off employees are less likely to have 'up-front' money for tuition,' he added.

The newly negotiated "GM-UAW National Tuition Assistance Plan for Laid-Off Workers" is an innovative variation

of GM's longstanding Tuition Refund Plan, under which GM employees are reimbursed tuition fees after successfully completing educational courses related to their employment.

The plan provides for "up-front" money and requires only that courses selected by eligible laid-off workers be taken at accredited or licensed schools. Courses of situdy need not be related to the laid-off workers' previous GM em-

"AS A RESULT of the 1982 negotia-

tions, GM and the UAW have embarked upon an ambitious undertaking — providing working and laid-off members opportunities for education and retraining that will prepare them to reenter the workforce and rebuild for the future," Ephlin said.

"This new plan is designed to help laid-off employees improve their chances of re-employment either with-in General Motors or with some other

employer." Ephlin and Warren said the plan will

provide for tuition assistance from a special GM-UAW fund. Tuition will be paid directly to the schools teaching the course in which the participant is enrolled, Qualified workers will be eligible for tuition and fees up to \$1,000 a

step toward worker retraining and job placement undertaken by GM and the UAW as a result of their historic 1982

paid directly to the schools teaching the course in which the participant is abor agreement. The 1982 teacher extending the course in which the participant is abor agreement. The 1982 agreement established as year.

Depending on their seniority with CM and layoff status, program participants many quality for tuition assistance up to four years or a total of \$4,000.

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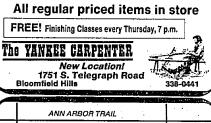
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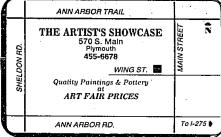
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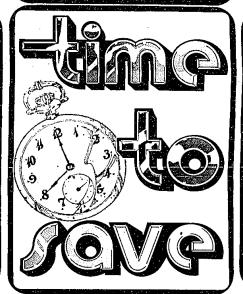
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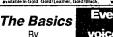
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