

● The letter reproduced here was sent today to the distributors and dealers of Chrysler Corporation.

TO THE DISTRIBUTORS AND DEALERS OF THE CHRYSLER CORPORATION:

DURING the afternoon of Monday, March 8, the C. I. O. Union, directed by persons who were not in our employ, with employes belonging to the Union, seized eight of this Corporation's principal plants in the Detroit area, including its general offices, and are still holding them. Our executives, plant managers and their staffs are being kept out by force.

The agents of the Union took over the plant gates and barricaded them.

They refused to let either the factory employes or office employes leave or enter the plant without their permission. In many cases, they took the company badges of the employes away from them. They did not permit employes to leave the plant unless they signed Union cards.

A military organization manned by this Union's agents was set up in the plants, and the company's plant protection men were ordered out of some buildings, leaving the Corporation's property wholly in possession of these Union agents.

Our mail trucks, carrying company mail from the post office to its offices, were stopped by this union's agents and delivery of mail obstructed.

The company consequently has been unable to carry on its business in its own offices. The company has set up offices elsewhere in Detroit. Its files and office records in the plants are in the possession of this Union.

As is well-known, there was no dispute over wages and working conditions of our 60,000 employes. Our rates of wages are substantially in excess of ninety cents an hour, and the weekly, monthly and annual earnings of our employes have been not only the highest in the history of the company but among the highest of all American industry.

This company has conducted its industrial relations by and in accordance with general acknowledged standards of fairness and equity, with the purpose of giving our employes the highest possible earnings and the best working conditions the prosperity of the business can afford. We have constantly negotiated with these people over a period of more than three years and at their request entered into further negotiations with them on Wednesday, March 3. While these negotiations were going on, the agents of this Union seized the plants.

This Union is demanding a closed shop. They have stated that their demands mean one of three things: either an employe signs up with the Union; or he will be ostracized and subjected to intolerable intimidation and coercion, both in the shop and at home; or Union men will refuse to work with him. Under these conditions, however designated, it is impossible for us to make products of Chrysler quality and Chrysler price.

As citizens of your communities, as well as representatives of the Chrysler Corporation, it is important that you understand these plain facts. In our close relations with you, we believe that we should tell you frankly what our situation is, and we ask you for your understanding and co-operation. We are advising you of it so that you may conduct your affairs accordingly. We ask you to be patient with us in our attempt to do our office work in temporary offices without the records and files necessary for carrying on business in the normal way.

You will recognize that the capture of our plants in time of peace, and what is going on in the plants today, is a form of revolution which concerns not only Chrysler Corporation but concerns you and everybody.

March 12, 1937

K. T. KELLER
PRESIDENT, CHRYSLER CORPORATION