The facts on the “bonus”

By MIKE GREEN
President, Local 652

I would like to address a subject that I have received many calls on from retirees in the last few days, the Performance “Bonus” or Profit-Sharing payments that were recently announced. The Performance “Bonus” is paid based on hours worked in the plant during 2010—therefore most retirees are not eligible. GM, I’m sure, didn’t want to pay this out to the employees, but it was a contractual obligation, that doesn’t include retirees in the 2007-11 contract.

Now let’s look at this “Bonus.” Usually “Bonus” refers to something above and beyond what one would normally receive. Keep in mind that the active employees haven’t received a raise in pay since 2005, and gave up their COLA, relief times, vacations and holidays to preserve as many benefits as possible for the the retirees and keep the retirees’ costs to a minimum. This cost each active employee thousands of dollars in lost earnings.

As you well know, our retirees have also made numerous sacrifices with the bankruptcy of General Motors—the loss of Dental insurance, Vision Insurance, the Medicare reimbursement, to name a few. Many of you, as well as myself, never imagined the day would come where GM would go bankrupt. Even though the loss of retiree benefits was a shame, I believe the International did a fine job in protecting our retirees’ pensions and health insurance, the most valuable benefits for most.

I want to remind you that the concessions made by the retirees during the bankruptcy were intended by the International to be short-term concessions. Their plan is to be able to reinstate these benefits beginning in 2012. I can assure all of you that there are resolutions on the table to reinstate and make whole our retirees and their benefits. I attended the recent Special Resolution meeting and all involved are committed to restoring our retirees’ benefits and more.

Local 652 Retiree Chair Mike Bauer, Local 602 Retiree Chair Dorothy Stevens, and other retirees were invited to and attended the February Subcouncil meetings. They thanked the International and Local leadership for all they have done on the retirees’ behalf, and requested their continued help in protecting retirees. The retirees need their help more than ever. They were received warmly and the leadership was impressed by their message and pledged to “make it happen.” I was proud that Mike Bauer and the others not only took the time and effort to attend these meetings, but also in the way they admirably represented the retirees.

On February 15 I was invited to address the Retiree Chapter’s Business meeting. I requested that Mike Bauer be sent to represent the retirees at the upcoming Bargaining Convention. The body in attendance unanimously agreed, I believe that Mike Bauer’s presence and determination will be a benefit to all our retirees at the Bargaining Convention.

The good news is that we have been awarded a new product from Cadillac—the Alpha, which is scheduled to begin full production in the summer of 2012. This will create 600-700 new Local 652 jobs. Much of the credit for us getting this product is because of the quality of work always performed by the Lansing autoworker, active and retired.

Our products and workmanship are STILL world class. The CTS and LGR received the Bronze Award from J.D. Power for quality, the ONLY facility in North America to win an award. The CTS-V wagon was recently named “Top 10 for 2011” by Car & Driver magazine. MotorWeek named the CTS sport coupe the “Best Sport Coupe” for 2011. We are trying our best to continue the legacy you built as the best car builders in the world!

I would like to thank everyone for their support at the rallies being held at the Capitol. We will keep you informed on any events in the future.

Nomination and Election Notices

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Labor News online: www.lansinglabornews.org
Under attack

We still see the effects of winter linger, but spring is peeking around the corner. We saw a bluebird in the backyard just a bit ago, so maybe like robins it is a harbinger of spring.

The unprecedented attacks on working people—and union members in particular—has been something we haven’t seen during our lifetimes. The Republican majority in the State of Michigan is eroding the very fabric that has created the middle class.

We are cognizant that the state is in budget difficulty, but the fixes that are being proposed on the backs of working, middle-class families is mean-spirited and in some cases without justification.

The recent outpouring of union supporters over the Emergency Manager package was a prime example. The very thought of allowing the ability to remove elected officials on top of the slash and burn of the collective bargaining agreements is reprehensible.

The legislation smacks of unconstitutional in the blatant disregard for our vote being counted. In many cases the misgivings of a school board or a city council or even a governor for government entity is not the fault of a union contract or mismanagement.

That may be the case in some instances, but how is a school board to operate with diminished revenue from property taxes, aging infrastructure, and less per pupil funding?

And don’t even get us started on the unfunded mandates such as “No Child Left Behind.” Why would anyone want to serve in these capacities if the ability to govern is in jeopardy by this legislation?

Another attack has been on the Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The Michigan credit is fixed at 20% of the eligible federal credit. Again we are aware that the budget is broke, but the citizens who benefit from this EITC are those families in the most jeopardy. These families will feed their families, pay rent and utilities, fix their cars, but the citizens who benefit from this EITC are those families in the most jeopardy. These families will feed their families, pay rent and utilities, fix their cars, but the citizens who benefit from this EITC are those families in the most jeopardy. These families will feed their families, pay rent and utilities, fix their cars, but the citizens who benefit from this EITC are those families in the most jeopardy.

Here is a quote concerning the EITC that was in reference to the federal program, but the same thought process and principles apply: “the best anti-poverty, the best pro-family, the best job-creation measure to come out of Congress.” These words were attributed to Ronald Reagan, a Republican who busted the Air Traffic Controllers back in 1981.

The original legislation began as a federal program. President Gerald Ford signed the EITC into law in 1975. The EITC was expanded in 1986 during the administration of President Ronald Reagan, and President George H.W. Bush signed into law a further expansion of the EITC in 1990. Isn’t it ironic that the “new Republicans” have lost their social conscience today?

As we take a breath and refocus on the Local scene, the contract talks are completed with the JLL Unit. The Local 724 Unit members perform various functions at the Lansing Grand River General Motors facility. The Unit is comprised of members who work for a company named Drayton and another called TEAM. They will function uniquely as separate units, but will be considered the JLL Unit of the Local. We also have several Units that will be in contract talks this year. The Alliance Interiors, Dimondale Nursing Care

Lansing Labor News
ISSN: 0023-8384

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Rose Van Schoick, Local 4911

Al’s food for thought: One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young. We all get heavier as we get older, because there’s a lot more information in our heads. Life is too short to wake up with regrets. Love the people who treat you right and forget the ones who don’t.

Local 1753 Meeting Notices
Executive Board, April 12 at 2:15 p.m. General Membership, April 17 at 6:00 p.m.
Executive Board, May 17 at 2:15 p.m. General Membership, May 22 at 6:00 p.m.
All meetings are subject to change upon membership actions.

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A litany of states has taken up the hobby lately of targeting the middle class with tax increases, school budget cuts, elimination of tax credits (especially for the working poor), and the stripping of collective bargaining rights. Budget problems are invariably claimed to be the root of these evils.

“We need a fair and balanced budget!” is the cry heard from every Republican Governor’s mansion across the land. But on closer inspection, is that really what is going on?

In Wisconsin the new Governor needed to include stripping most unions in the public sector of their collective bargaining rights because he said that was needed to battle the BUDGET CRISIS. The unions cried foul to all of his proposed cuts, hoping to keep their rights. He used a surprise stripped version of his bill that included ONLY THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROVISIONS THAT HE WANTED GONE to sneak his plan through. But … he wants us to believe it’s only about the budget.

Here in Michigan Governor Snyder has presented legislation that places emergency powers in the hands of a person or corporation of his choosing. Those powers can be used to break contracts, strip collective bargaining rights, dissolve locally elected government or school bodies, or just about anything they feel they need to do if the Governor cites a BUDGET CRISIS in that area.

Governor Snyder is also trying to raise 1.7 billion dollars in new revenue by taxing retirees’ pensions, eliminating deductions for contributions to public schools, and eliminating the Earned Income Credit (which benefits the low wage earners). Governor Snyder calls this a “shared sacrifice.”

He has stated publicly that everyone needs to pay their fair share. Apparently he doesn’t think that people on a fixed income (retirees) or our working poor (Earned Income Credit) have been giving enough! Well, bless him! He’s taking care of that BUDGET CRISIS for us now, isn’t he! (Heavy sarcasm included for those who can’t read between the lines?)

Well, not really. A little further along in his plan to combat the dreaded BUDGET CRISIS we see that he has included 120 BILLION DOLLARS IN TAX CONCESSIONS to business. So his “shared sacrifice” didn’t work out so well. I think it’s more like a “shaped sacrifice” and I think you know where we are all feeling it!

All across America the same kind of thing is happening. Idaho, Indiana, Ohio, Florida, the list grows every day. The question is what are we going to do about it? We need to fight back! We need to call our representatives and tell them we won’t accept it!

We need to tell them that we see through them. Their excuse of a BUDGET CRISIS is just that! An excuse! And they are using it to strip us of our rights, both at the bargaining table and in our everyday life.

Don’t let it happen. Become active. Join a gathering at the Capitol. Call your Local hall and ask what you can do to help! This is a mess and if we don’t step in and clean it up now, it may be too late. See you at the Capitol!

LOCAL 652
Randy Freeman, Vice President

GimmeFIVE

Once again we are in a struggle for our very existence as union members and our right to belong to a union. With the new Republican Governor and a Republican majoritiy in the State House and Senate they are passing laws, and trying to pass laws against labor, they are systematically trying to eliminate our rights to collectively bargaining.

They are trying to fix the budget by taxing the fixed incomes of retirees, taking from the poor and off the backs of hard-working laborers of this state.

This is a time in our life like no other, a turning point where we all need to be involved with our union to help protect our rights, not just the rights of union members but the rights of all labor throughout our state and the nation.

Now is the time! And a good way to get involved is through UAW President Bob King’s program, GimmeFIVE.

How is the GimmeFIVE program important to you?

“GimmeFIVE” is a national program designed to increase activism, to mobilize for collective action, and to improve our capacity to communicate to members regularly on issues, activities etc. This program is designed to amplify the efforts of the UAW Regions, as well as the International Union.

This is a great way for you to support your International UAW President Bob King, Regional Director Norwood Jewell, Assistant Director Steve Dawes, and your Local President Mike Green by getting involved.

“GimmeFIVE” recruits and engages members in a new and innovative mobilizing program to organize build power and win justice for our union and community. It is the way to get involved. By signing up you will be notified on the fast-paced, even last-minute events that we will need people to show up and support, like lobby days, rallies, and protest.

How to send the text:
Enter (313) 208-9979 in the To: box. Enter Your NAME and Your LOCAL UNION NUMBER in the message box. Press send; once text is sent, you will receive a confirmation text welcoming you to the GimmeFIVE Program.

You can also sign up on line at www.uaw.org and click on the “GimmeFIVE” shortcut or you can check online at www.uawlocal652.org for info.

Local 1753 Nominations & Election Notice
UAW Local 1753 will be holding the triennial election of local union officers. Please be advised that all members with one year continuous good standing in the local union are automatically nominated for all elected offices. Any member wishing to accept nomination must indicate their intentions in writing at the Local Union Hall from 11:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m., April 12, 13, 19, and 20. You may also accept nomination one half hour before and one half hour after the General Membership meeting on April 17. The membership meeting starts at 6:00 p.m. at the hall. Nominations will close at 5:00 p.m. on April 20. No acceptance may be made by phone or by mail. All candidates must sign the fair election code.

General Election: May 12, 2011
Local Union Hall: 9:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
In Plant (across from the cafeteria): 11:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.–11:05 p.m.
Run-off Election: May 19, 2011 (if necessary)
Same Locations and Times Listed Above

All elected offices are for three-year terms. The offices are as follows:

EXECUTIVE BOARD
President Vice President Financial Secretary-Treasurer
Recording Secretary Three (3) Trustees
Sergeant-At-Arms Guide

SHOP COMMITTEE
Shop Committee Chairperson
Committeepersons and Alternates for Districts 1, 2 and Skilled Trades Representatives

CHAIRPERSONS OF STANDING COMMITTEES
Bylaws Civil Rights Community Action (CAP)
Consumer Affairs Community Services Union Label
Education Women’s Recreation Veterans

LOCAL 1753 DRAYTON UNIT
Recording Secretary
First Shift Unit Chairperson
Alternate Committeeperson
Second Shift Committeeperson
Alternate Committeeperson
Third Shift Committeeperson
Alternate Committeeperson

Picture ID may be required when voting.
Call the Local Hall at 487-1753 for election results or Run-off results.
June 10-11-12 White Cloud City Campground, White Cloud  
July 8-9-10 Leisure Lake Campground, Sumner  
Aug. 12-13-14 Lakeside Camp Park, Cedar Springs  
Sept. 9-10-11 Rocky’s Campground, Albion  
For further information, call Wagon Master Jay Courser, 517-323-2331.  
There is a lot of activity going on at our state government. It is very important that our retirees be active and participate in the rallies and support our union values. If you have not done so, sign up today for GimmeFIVE.  
GimmeFIVE is a program that keeps our members informed about legislation and rallies critical to our wellbeing. By signing up, you will receive either an email or a phone call if you do not have an email address. It will keep you up to speed on any rallies or lobbying we are doing. The phone call will be a recording of pertinent information. You will not be pressured by anyone to do anything. You can sign up online at http://www.gimmefiveuaw.org or you can sign up at the union hall. If you receive a sign-up form in the mail, fill it out and return it. We all need to stay united and protect working families and retirees.  
April 12 is our next social night, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
The Region 1C Euchre Tournament will be held Wednesday, May 4, at Local 602, starting at 9:00 a.m.  
Retirees and spouses are eligible to play. You may register at any of our retiree functions or call 517-372-7581, extension 147, to leave your name and phone number. Participants are reminded to arrive no later than 8:45 a.m. to sign in. The winners of the Lansing tournament will play in the finals against Flint later that afternoon. Local 602 is located at 2510 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48917.  
Condulesions to the families of Art Baker and Dan Gabel, retirees.  
Condulesions to Neil Carpenter on the passing of his wife, Ardeith.  
The following members and associates are in our thoughts and prayers: Robert Abnerth, Jewell Carrell, Marvin Davis, Barb Folsom, Dave Hodges, Dorothy Housings, Roger and Alice Miller, Wilfred and Millie Pullman, Jean and Leonard Schneider, Willa Wright, and any we may have missed.  
The Lansing Labor News is online at www.lansinglabornews.org.  
The Food Bank could use our help. If possible, bring canned goods to donate when you return to work.  
Send your change of address to:  
Lansing Labor News, 210 Clare St., Lansing, MI 48917. Please include your current address and the old address. You may contact us at the following email address: retiree652@hotmail.com  
Local 1753 members, active and retired:  
We are supporting Nancy Munchbach for re-election as Local 1753’s Financial Secretary. We hope you will, too. She has always done a great job for us, and will continue to do so when re-elected. Please vote on May 12, hall hours 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.  
May 12, at the hall from 9-11:30 a.m.  
Tuesday, June 7, is an Open House at the warehouse. Bring your friends and family, tour the plant, let’s have fun and sell cars!  
Monday, June 13, is the Retirees Picnic at Hawk Island Park. Lunch is at noon.  
We had a scrumptious dinner of corned beef and cabbage with all the fixings at our last meeting, prepared by Nancy Munchbach and yours truly.  
REMEMBER! It’s important to vote. Make sure you have the Hall, 9-11:30 a.m.!  
The retirees’ breakfast is at 8:30 a.m. on the fourth Monday of the month at Jackie’s Diner, 4421 W. Saginaw Street. Come join in the fun!  
All the local obituaries are on pages 6 & 7
Election Notice for UAW Local 652 Members
Acceptances for General Election

Acceptances for the positions below may be made at Local 652 Union Hall, 426 Clare St., Lansing, beginning at 7:00 a.m. Monday, April 11, 2011 until 8:00 a.m. Monday, April 18, 2011. All acceptances must be made in writing at the Local 652 Union Hall, which is open from 7:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. All candidates must sign the fair election code. No acceptance may be made by telephone or by mail and you must be a Local 652 member in continuous good standing for one (1) full year prior to the acceptance deadline to be eligible to run for office.

Local 652 Executive Offices
President
Vice-President
Recording Secretary
Financial Secretary-Treasurer
Three (3) Trustees
Sergeant-at-Arms
Guide

Local Non-Executive Offices
Chairperson, Education Committee
Chairperson, Conservation & Recreation Committee
Chairperson, Community Services Committee
Chairperson, Women’s Committee
Chairperson, Civil Rights Committee

GM Unit
One (1) Shop Committee Chairperson
Two (2) Production Shop Committee persons
One (1) Skilled Trades Shop/District Committee person

Ryder Unit
Unit Chairperson
First Shift
Bargaining Committee person
Alternate Committee person
Second Shift
Bargaining Committee person
Alternate Committee person
Third Shift
Bargaining Committee person
Alternate Committee person
Recording Secretary
Sergeant-at-Arms

AI Unit
Unit Chairperson
First Shift
Committee person
Alternate Committee person
Second Shift
Committee person
Alternate Committee person
Third Shift
Committee person
Alternate Committee person
Recording Secretary
Sergeant-at-Arms

JCIM Unit
First Shift
Unit Chairperson
Alternate Committee person
Second Shift
Committee person
Alternate Committee person
Third Shift
Committee person
Alternate Committee person
Recording Secretary
Sergeant-at-Arms

General Election
Elections for the above offices will be held beginning at 5:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 4, 2011 and run continuously until 5:00 a.m. Thursday, May 5, 2011 at the Local 652 Union Hall, 426 Clare St., Lansing Michigan.

A run-off election, if necessary, will be held at the Local 652 Union Hall, 426 Clare St., Lansing Michigan. The polls will open Monday, May 18, 2011 at 5:00 a.m. and will close Thursday, May 19, 2011 at 5:00 a.m.

LOCAL 724 NOMINATION AND ELECTION NOTICE
ELECTION OF LOCAL 724 OFFICERS, UNIT OFFICERS & UNIT COMMITTEEPERSONS
Date: Monday, May 2, 2011
Time: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Place: UAW Local 724 Hall

RUN-OFF ELECTION (if necessary)
Date: Monday, May 9, 2011
Time: 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Place: UAW Local 724 Hall

– Kim Petrie, Local 724 Election Committee Chairperson
Dean L. Poggiali, Local 724 President

When you vote for Local 724 officers, please support
John Bramble
for Recording Secretary

Vote on May 2!
No union funds were used for this ad.
Ad paid for by:
Committee to Elect John Bramble
UAW Local 2256 Nomination and Election Notice

GENERAL ELECTION

Nomination

All members in good standing are automatically nominated for the offices of President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, Trustees (3), Sergeant-at-Arms, and Guide. Acceptance of nomination may be made in writing to Local 2256 Union Office, 2114 North East Street, Lansing, MI 48906, April 27, 2011 between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. No acceptance may be made by telephone or by mail. Acceptance must include the Date Submitted, Member’s Name, and the Office that the nomination is for.

Election

The Election of the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, Trustees (3), Sergeant-at-Arms and Guide for UAW Local 2256 will be:

May 10, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m.  
2114 North East Street, Lansing, MI 48906

Run-Off Election (if necessary)

In the event a run-off election is needed the Run-off election will be held:

May 17, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m. 
2114 North East Street, Lansing, MI 48906

UAW Local 2256 Unit of BCBSM Election and Nomination Acceptance

For the positions of:

Nomination Acceptance letters will be taken from April 4—April 12, 2011. Letters to be dated no later than April 12, 2011 and sent to the following Election Committee members: Vickie Montgomery, Chair; Sheila Szentl; Mary Holmes; and Christy Jones.

Campaign time frame is scheduled for April 12—April 19, 2011.

Election will be held April 20, 2011

9:00 a.m. — 9:30 a.m.
Location: Flint Office, 4520 Linden Creek Pkwy.
11:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
Location: Lansing Office, 1403 Cresty Rd.
Run-off Election date set for May 4, 2011

No Absentee Ballots

Local 2256 Region 1-C/ BCBSM employees dressed in red on February 4 in support of Go Red for Women Day, an initiative by the American Heart Association to raise awareness for and solidarity, not just for unions, for working people across this great state and country.

602 Obituaries

Dora L. Meadow – Mother of Betty Meadow-Webb, Chassis (FEM)
Lyle E. Foster – Retired Material
Leond B. Cunningham – Father of Rex Cunningham, Retired Sanitation
Harriet Kuhr – Mother of Rick Kuhr, Electrician (Body)
Stephen Cooney – Quality
Troy Anthony Mazzoni – Son of Clifford Mazzoni, Material Handling (Body) and Reina Mazzoni, Body
Gary Bush – Retired Material Handling
Danya Gates – Sister of Jared McBrien, General Assembly (Chassis 3)
John Joseph Cusick Jr. – Husband of Linda Cusick, Quality (Paint)
Richard Locke – Father of Jim Locke, Retired Material and Father-in-law of Tina Locke, Retired Quality
Pauline H. Ross – Mother of Lori S. Ross, Body
Freddie Ford – Retired
Ronald Menig – Retired
Barbara D. Snow – Retired
Xenia Smith – Retired
Rodrigo Flores – Retired
Irvin Sorrell – Retired
Allen McFarland – Retired
Lawrence Thompson – Retired
Lepha Muzzy – Retired
Francis Sutton – Retired
George Boeseman – Retired
Gerald Kent – Retired

602 Thank Yous

Dear UAW Local 602 Leadership and Membership:

Thank you very much for the donation that you made to the American Heart Association in memory of Don. We are very grateful for your kindness.

Dear Brian, Thank you very much for attending the funeral and for the Bible. It meant a lot to our family and we truly appreciate your support and kindness at this difficult time. Don was a proud union member … Donald Brown Family

$15 off when you bring in this ad

Out-of-pocket expenses on special options. See office for details. Cannot be combined with other coupons or offers. CPN#1014

SVS Vision gives your family great, affordable vision care with the latest frames, caring doctors of optometry and expert staff that cares about you. And as always, we make using your benefits easy. Just come in, choose your perfect glasses, and we’ll do all the rest. We also have exclusive discounts for non-covered UAW-GM retirees.

SVS Vision is still your vision care provider.
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• $1.0 Million Birth Trauma Medical Malpractice Case
• $1.3 Million Auto Death Case

652 Thank Yous
Thank yous were received from:
The Harold Foster Family
The Faye Kraus Family

652 Obituaries
Ardeth Carpenter – Spouse of Neil Carpenter
Shirley Claybaugh – Spouse of John Claybaugh
Shirley Curtis – Spouse of Gorton Curtis
John Kenneth Crawford – Father of Dan Crawford
Anna Fedewa – Mother-In-Law of Dave Plate
Margaret Foster – Mother of Harold Foster
Dan Gabel – Retiree
Montrello Griffin – Son of Hattie Rhinehart
Rosalind R. Griffin – Sister of Carl Quinn
Sheila C. Knights – Spouse of William Knights
Lucille Virginia Kraus – Mother of Faye Kraus
Marilyn Leavitt – Mother of Jerry Stevens, Step-Mother of Joe Leavitt, Sister of Milo Maneval
Samuel Miloszewski – Father of Carol Eifert
Virgil Mead – Retiree, Father of Steve Mead
James W. Moorhead – Retiree
Walter Mosely – Father of Sid Mosely
William Nichols – Grandfather of Billie Jo Catey
Danielle Nicholson – Daughter of Rudolph Griffin
Vaney Pierce – Father of Myrl Pierce
John Salter – Retiree
Helen M. Stowell – Mother of Douglas Stowell
Billie Thompson – Father-In-Law of Gene Spitz
Michelle Wenzlick – Spouse of James Wenzlick
Robert Wiborn – Retiree, Brother of Steve Wiborn, Nephew of Robert Wiborn
Fredrick Zumsteg – Retiree, Uncle of Fred Charles

724 Obituaries
Robert Rivard, Atlas Retiree

1753 Obituaries
Charles R. “Tuna” Jegla
Manuel Rivera, stepfather of Shelley White

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