

of machine handles and attachments,  
fan electrical cords,  
jigs and fixtures and clamps,  
anything that works right  
and can't be locked up or nailed down,  
leaving each other without access  
to much indispensable tooling and parts.

Goodstone Aircraft Company really knows how  
to get their employees to treasure and preserve  
its equipment.

#### A WORKING FOOL

Curly  
at the machine next to mine likes to laugh  
at all the hot jobs I get,  
the jobs that have to be done NOW the parts  
that must be finished that planes  
out on airstrips are waiting for so that they can  
take off, the jobs  
that bring expeditors buzzing around my machine pestering  
me with, "When will you have them done?"  
Curly likes to laugh  
when the expeditors come by and point them  
toward my machine saying, "HE gets all the hot jobs!"  
grinning at me as if I were the village idiot,  
as he  
works very SLOWLY as always on his latest gravy job  
that isn't needed for months,  
laughing especially  
at my inability to slow down and totally fuck up  
Goodstone Aircraft Company's production schedule  
like he did a long time ago  
when he decided to make sure  
that he never got any of those hot jobs again.

#### THIN LINE

Every few days  
the K-20 bomber production manager  
grabs the Drill Press Lead Man from behind  
and pulls him back in his swivel chair  
choking his neck  
and grinning/grimacing  
with fun/murderous intent,  
the Lead Man swiveling and the manager choking  
until the Lead Man is pulled out of the chair  
and he and the manager are wrestling across the machine  
shop floor,  
rolling in the paperwork that spills  
out of the expeditors' bicycles

they knock over,  
as they call each other sons of bitches —  
everyone running machines  
or climbing stairways  
or sitting at desks  
around them  
stopping to stare and listen waiting  
to either laugh or rush in to prevent a murder,  
knowing that the Lead Man and the manager  
are no more sure than anyone else  
whether they are joking or not.

#### NO GEORGE WASHINGTON

Curly holds out a time-card the supervisor gave him  
and now he's doing a celebration dance  
like a touchdown scorer in the end-zone,  
flopping about the huge mop of Afro-like curls on his head  
and saying to me,  
"You know, Fred, Goodstone's TESTING me, they say I forgot  
to fill out my timecard last Thursday — the Thursday I  
wasn't here, remember? — and Ron says for me to fill out  
this time-card so I can correct my mistake of not turning  
in a card and get PAID for last Thursday ...," Curly,  
giggling as his uncontrollably delighted smile begins to  
make his eyes water, saying, "You know, Fred, Goodstone's  
testing my MORAL FIBER ...  
they're testing my INTEGRITY ...."  
Curly dance-stepping about  
knowing he need say nothing more,  
knowing that I know as well as he  
that Goodstone  
couldn't have made a more totally misguided  
strategic error.

#### FRUGAL

Though our supervisor  
will not purchase the cutters we need to do our  
jobs on our milling machines  
correctly and efficiently, though  
our cabinets are largely bare of any parallel bars  
or vise jaws or chucks  
or cutters  
which would normally be available to machinists trying  
to do  
the best job they could,  
our supervisor does  
put big padlocks on all of the doors to the cabinets  
and locks  
on all of the gates and doors leading into our  
machine shop area,