

## POLITICS

Harry

is willing to work through breaks and lunch  
doing whatever obnoxious impossibly difficult unreasonably  
urgent job the supervisor wants him to do  
if it will make the supervisor look good.

The other machinists

always proudly

take their legal union-negotiated breaks and lunches  
and refuse to do unreasonable jobs just because the  
supervisor tries to shove them down their throats.

They end up

working their butts off as the supervisor relentlessly  
hovers about them and turns the feed and speed controls  
on their machines up and relentlessly harasses them  
about leaving their work area.

Harry, on the other hand,

spends 95% of his time kicked back

in a leather swivel chair in front of his machine  
daydreaming

or walking

around the shop bugging other machinists

or reading the newspaper

in a bathroom stall.

At Goodstone Aircraft Company,

being naive

just doesn't pay.

## TICKER-TAPE PARADE

He came back in

one day through the narrow door cut out in the tin wall  
of the steel mill to say hello

to all of us machinists, making the rounds

to shake all of the hands with a big smile when we all

knew that he had brown lung from

sucking in all that steel dust while operating

that grinding machine over in the corner for 25 years

without a respirator. He strutted

and beamed and grinned to be back

for 10 minutes in the shop he had retired from

a year ago.

dying and proud to be

in the place he had given his life for as we stared

at him wishing we could think of him as a hero

rather than a victim.