

OUR LEADER

Insubordination
is the supervisor's favorite word his eyes flare
as he fires it out of his mouth
at us machinists whenever he can.
Not writing down our names on the roll-call sheet
during one of his shop talks
is insubordination,
not going outside to get our ass chewed out
for laughing at him
is insubordination and not following
any of his insane, incompetent, self-defeating and
insulting orders to the exact letter
is insubordination.

How else can he gain our respect?

THE PERFECT WOMAN

Machinists
strut about their machines as if those machines were
their women. They stick their chests out
and light big cigars and boom out brags
in loud boisterous voices
in front of them as if
those machines had given them the best fuck
or blowjob of their life, a fuck or blowjob
that no woman could ever equal, as they
strut about the machines stroking and polishing and oiling
them, knowing
that those machines are better than any woman because they
will never talk back to them.

MINGLING WITH THE LITTLE PEOPLE

Seeing the company president
not only coming out of the office building to actually
walk around the machine shop
and look at us work,
but SMILING
from ear to ear in his 3-piece suit
as he did it,
had me puzzled until
3 days later the entire nightshift
and much of the dayshift
machinists were eliminated in a massive layoff.

He'd been calculating.