

Agents of Order: The Pendulum Shift-UAW

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(out of 5)

Author: Philip L. Garza

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One man's story of the UAW and their dealings with the International Harvester Company.

In 1948, Philip L. Garza was asked a question which would forever change his professional and personal life: would he like to join the union? As an impressionable young Mexican-American worker, Garza quickly signed up and paid his dues (then fifty cents per month). Over the years Garza would spend his time developing his skills as an industrial worker. Throughout the years Garza also found his personal role within the union expanding. From his first position on the Safety Committee, Garza worked his way up from the rank and file membership, being elected to positions such as Union Steward and eventually Local Union President.

Although *Agents of Order* is auto-biographical in nature, its usefulness extends far beyond a typical personal memoir. *Agents of Order* gives the reader a rare glimpse into the culture of the worker's union. Garza's story details the union's influence on its new members, its veteran members, as well as the corporations it battles against. Secret meetings, planning sessions, political mudslinging, contract negotiations, and general union culture, are all explored in a truly honest and straightforward manner.

Agents of Order is a wonderful first person narrative of the union culture and the effect it can have on American business and its workers. The book would be of use to those who are seeking a career in industrial management, as well as those who are seeking a career as an industrial laborer at a unionized facility. Due to its great detail *Agents of Order* could also serve well as research material for those who wish to explore the union culture or the greater field of group-think.