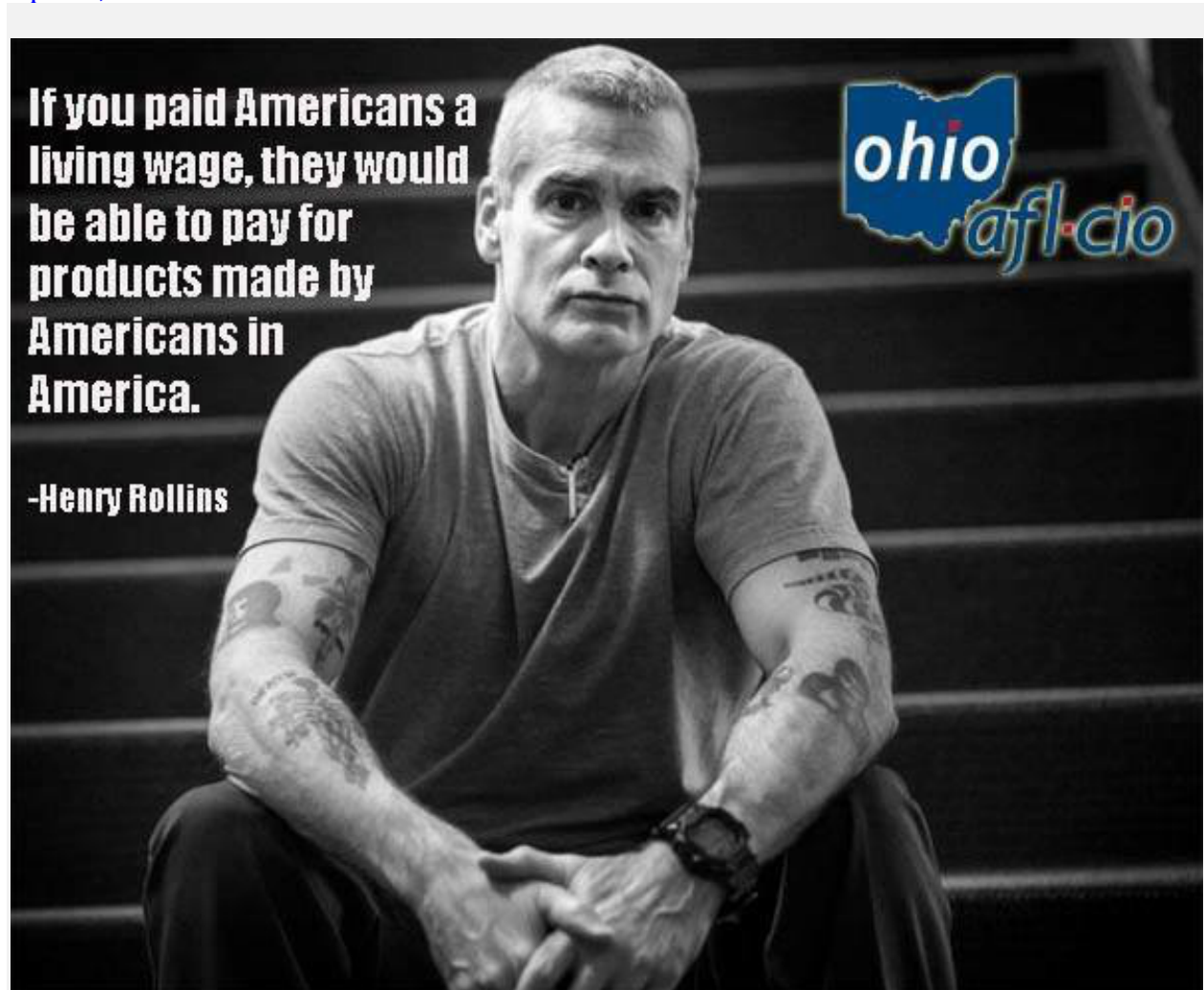


Nothing Says “Hardcore” Like Joining A Union



[Keith E. Lee](#)

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Well, it looks like ole Henry Rollins has finally decided to weigh in on America’s labor issues with this glorious and informative

meme; succinctly advising us of the benefits that membership in the AFL-CIO will have for our country.

I just have one question for the former Mr. Garfield: When you say, “If you paid Americans a living wage...” what the hell do you mean? Can you tell me what a “living wage” is?

I recall how in *Get in the Van*, the Grammy-winning memoir of his years on the road with Black Flag, he stated that each band member was given a Per diem of five dollars a day to live on. They all lived on that for years, so maybe that counts as a “living wage”. Or maybe he pays employees at his 2.13.61 Publications \$50 an hour each, whether they are graphic artists or janitors — it’s all the same, right? This “living wage” you speak of, I mean.

I also recall how in *Get in the Van* he complained about the leftist politics of touring mates The Minutemen. Why, it was almost as though he was suggesting politics sorta spoiled the experience of a good punk rock show! But his main complaint was he didn’t think these guys knew enough about American foreign policy that they could even articulate the issue. I’m glad he’s wised up in his middle age. And especially because I can’t stand his later music or his TV show; at least I can learn economics from the granddaddy of punk.

Now perhaps he can forgo the spoken word shtick and give seminars on macroeconomics to Occupiers. Hell, why stop there?

Maybe he can start doling out financial planning advice to aging punkers. Maybe sideline as a retirement coach. Fill us all in on what the best mid-cap selection is for our 401(k)s. Tell me what mutual fund to invest in Henry! Tell me which one I can choose and still stay true to my punk roots without selling out.

Maybe I should have demanded union scale that time I worked for him manning the merch both at a gig on his 1993 spoken word (ughh!) tour. All I got was \$25 for over two hours of work — enough to afford a tour t-shirt. Thanks Hank! Living wage, my ass!