As the Dispatcher goes to press, a dramatic escalation is occurring at the Ports of Auckland in New Zealand where 292 striking dockworkers have been notified that they are “redundant” and will be terminated, according to a letter from the private employer who operates the nation’s largest public port.

The March 7 letter from the private operator, known as the “Ports of Auckland,” was sent to the Maritime Union of New Zealand President Gary Parsloe. The letter says the company has decided to “contract out stevedoring,” which will make union workers “superfluous.”

Emergency mobilization

ILWU International President Bob McEllrath announced an “emergency mobilization” of representatives from ILWU Longshore Division locals who will converge on Auckland within days. “This sacking is an injury and insult to every docker in every port around the world,” said McEllrath, who concluded a series of meetings in early March with the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA), Maritime Union of New Zealand (MUNZ), and other union leaders from around the world who attended the MUA Convention. The ILWU delegation included Vice President for Hawaii, Wesley Furtado, Vice President, for Mainland, Ray Familathe, and Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams.

Rapid response

“We’re putting boots on the ground in Auckland within 72 hours,” said McEllrath who issued the solidarity call after discussions with the MUNZ and allies around the world. The lightning-fast deployment will make it possible for longshore workers from the ILWU and around the world to converge on Auckland for actions on Saturday, March 10.

Community solidarity

The MUNZ organized a “Family day of solidarity” event that attracted families from far and wide to visit Auckland’s Teal Park where musicians and speakers entertained supporters who came to show their support for saving good jobs at the port.

Employer declares war on New Zealand dockers

A

continued on page 6
Dear Editor,

Last month I wrote a letter to my local newspaper, The Daily Breeze, challenging their editorial supporting a ballot measure that should rightly be called “corporate deception” because it would allow powerful employers to weaken unions and attack workers.

The scheme would require unions to get permission from each and every member before spending any dues money on political campaigns. This approach turns democracy on its head. To begin with, the corporations behind this anti-union measure are not proposing that they should follow the same rules by asking employees or shareholders before spending corporate funds for political causes. And corporations already spend far more than union members do on political causes. In 2010, union funding in politics amounted to only 17.5% of the total spending in California.

The second point in the editorial claimed that unions are out to destroy business. Unions, public or private, have always been willing to bargain or re-negotiate the terms of a contract. Since the 80s there have been huge givebacks by unions in an attempt to save jobs and keep people employed, but this turned out to be a poor tactic because corporations did not respond in kind. With their new profits and increased stock valuations, corporations shifted their winnings overseas. In the public sector, police and fire departments were asked to do more with fewer resources. Now when governments or corporations cry wolf, unions want to see the books before they agree to any “new deals.” We’ve been burned too many times to trust the 1%.

The public got a rare view inside the corporate world last year during the sensational McCourt divorce trial in Los Angeles. We saw what Frank and Jaime did with the corporate funds from their Dodgers baseball franchise. It turns out that Dodger fans were paying for Frank’s extravagant life style and Jaime McCourt’s expensive affair with a chauffeur twenty years her junior. I don’t recall hearing if and when the Dodger Board of Directors voted to approve the lavish expenses involved. But the point should be obvious: if corporations don’t have to ask for permission from shareholders before spending money, then why should unions be held to a different standard? Some say this behavior is OK because in the law, “corporations are people.” I’ll accept that argument when I see a corporation punished for their crimes in the electric chair. Until then, most of us realize that corporations are too powerful and greedy, and any new laws that make the problem worse deserve to be soundly defeated.

Unions and union workers have always carried a heavier load. But that’s because we help raise the standard of living for the entire working class. We also have an interest in seeing that companies and municipalities succeed where we work. So there’s really no excuse for corporations – and newspaper editorial writers – to put more obstacles and unfair laws in our way. If they do, you can be sure we won’t shrink from fighting another David and Goliath battle, because that’s what we are and that’s what we must do to make the world a better place for everyone.

Tony Scirocco, Local 94
Pedro, CA

Dear Editor,

I am a member of Local 10 in San Francisco who enjoys taking photographs, especially of my ILWU sisters and brothers at work on the job. Our dispatch hall has many historical photographs showing how work was done in the past. Now I want to take photos that show how we’re working today. I will soon travel to the Port of Eureka where I hope to take some photos of how work was done in the past.

Tony Scirocco, Local 94
Pedro, CA

Dear Editor,

My husband, Dan Kinghorn, badge #8941, died unexpectedly in May of 2011. He was a member of Local 34, Ships Clerks Union. He started his seafaring career in the Seafarers International Union. When the Longshoremen opened their books, he was hired to work the transtainers for APL, at the Port of Oakland. He worked his way up to Local 34 and became a clerk, which was his lifelong dream.

I work for the ACLU of Northern California. The connection between the ACLU of Northern California, which was founded after the General Strike, is unbreakable.

I just want to thank the membership and all Danny’s brothers and sisters their commitment to the port and shipping operations, and their survivors. I was treated so wonderfully during the hardest time of my life; losing my husband. I am so grateful to you all...

“An Injury to One is an Injury to All”

Thank you ILWU. You all rock.

Bonnie S. Anderson
San Francisco, CA

Dear Editor,

On February 18th, the ILWU family lost two totally committed activists who gave a lifetime of dedication to help workers in the longshore and fishing industries on the West Coasts of Canada and the United States.

John Royal, 83, of Local 50 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, held many elected posts in his working life and was past president of their union’s pensioners. Frank symbolized the plight of the workers on the docks and ships, and he fought for the improvement of their working conditions. In his earlier years, the employers did everything in their power to smear and castigate him.

Some of the attacks on Frank were similar to the attacks on Harry Bridges in the 1930’s, 40’s, and 50’s. Frank successfully withstood those attacks and eventually gained the respect of those who had persecuted him. If you were unsure about any given issue, your best move was to run it by Frank; he was “on the beam” as Harry would say. Frank is sorely missed on both sides of the border.

John Royal, 89, of Local 13 was a licensed Merchant Marine officer during WWII. He was sent by Harry to sort out the affairs of ILWU Local 33 the Fishermen’s Union in San Pedro. He held the office of Secretary Treasurer at Local 33 until his retirement in 1995. John testified with Harry before Congress about the harassment of American fishing vessels by Central American governments in International Waters. The harassment ceased after John led the boycott of Colombian bananas when they arrived at the Port of Long Beach. In his earlier years as a longshoreman in local 13, Frank was a co-founder of the ILWU Credit Union. He served various elected positions in Local 13. In later years, he was appointed to the Los Angeles Harbor Commission. John served on the Southern California Pensioners executive board and was a key speaker for many ILWU events. We miss him dearly.

In Solidarity,

Al Perisho Local 63, retired
Los Alamitos, CA

The photograph appearing on page 6 in the January issue was taken by Jenn Davenport Photography. This approach turns democracy on its head. To begin with, the corpora- tion-facing editors of the Daily Breeze, who live in Kalama, Wash., with her husband who belongs to Local 21. The photo was inspired by a similar one taken in Portland during the 1948 maritime strike. The version appearing in the January issue was a low-resolution proof that wasn’t intended for publication.

ILWU locals and individuals wishing to use her photo should go to her website and contact her at www.jenndavenport.com.

California

Dr. Frank Cresci, two Local 10 brothers who were recently elected to union membership at work on a log ship. Recently I took this portrait of Duke and Frank Cresci, who live in Kalama, Wash., with her husband who belongs to Local 21. The photo was inspired by a similar one taken in Portland during the 1948 maritime strike. The version appearing in the January issue was a low-resolution proof that wasn’t intended for publication. ILWU locals and individuals wishing to use her photo should go to her website and contact her at www.jenndavenport.com.

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Local 10 brothers Duke and Frank Cresci.

Photos by Jenn Davenport Photography
On March 1, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union asked the federal court for leave to add Cowlitz County officials but authorities declined to accept the offer. Hours later, Whiteside was arrested in the parking lot of his church in full view of his family and other church parishioners.

Defending Civil Rights: The ILWU has amended its Civil Rights lawsuit to include Cowlitz County Prosecuting Attorney Susan Baur and Chief Criminal Deputy Charlie Rosenzweig. Above is a copy of the amended complaint. Also pictured above is ILWU Local 21 Vice President Jake Whiteside being led away in handcuffs. Whiteside, along with other Local 21 members attempted to peacefully surrender themselves to Cowlitz County officials but authorities declined to accept the offer. Hours later, Whiteside was arrested in the parking lot of his church in full view of his family and other church parishioners.

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Pushing politicians to be more accountable in California

Members of the ILWU’s political action arm visited the California State Democratic Party Convention in San Diego on February 10-12. “We didn’t go because we love politicians or the Democratic Party,” said Local 63 member Cathy Familache, who serves as President of the Southern California District Council. “We went because it was a good place to educate people about our union and make politicians more accountable to working families.”

In addition to Cathy Familache, the ILWU group included IBU Regional Director Marina Scuccitano who is also the Vice-President of the Northern California District Council and Legislative Representative based out of the ILWU’s Northern California District Council. Delegates from the Southern California District Council included SCDC Vice President Floyd Bryan of Local 13 plus Local 13 members Karl Rashad and Sal Pardo. ILWU Auxiliary #8 President Ida Taylor rounded out the ILWU team. These “HonoRED Guides” were able to participate in all of the general sessions, workshops and various caucuses.

The group staffed an exhibit booth which explained the ILWU’s history. It was staffed by prominent political activists and politicians who passed by. Many questions were answered by ILWU volunteers who took turns staffing the booth. Educational materials were prepared ahead of time and distributed at the convention. One handout explained the jurisdiction, principles, and concerns of the ILWU. An ILWU-produced flyer warned about the anti-union initiative heading for California’s ballot this November, called “Paycheck Deception/Corporate Deception,” because it is financed by anti-union corporations that want to weaken unions.

With the election season approaching, the ILWU booth was to come to the ILWU booth to ask how they could win the union’s endorsement for Congress, State Senate, Assembly and local races. Candidates were told that endorsements are only given to those willing to stand up for workers and unions; a decision that the ILWU takes very seriously. For example the Southern California District Council has a “Labor Pledge” that all candidates are required to sign before they receive an endorsement from the Council. This pledge requires them to “unflinchingly support organized labor, collective bargaining, workers’ rights” and much more.

The ILWU team was able to speak directly with key elected officials, including State Assembly Speaker John Perez and Senate President Darrell Steinberg. Member Boncie Lowenthal and Congress member Janice Hahn were at the Convention and both should be commended for their willingness to help union members and working families in Southern California. Other prominent politicians who spoke included Governor Jerry Brown, Congress member Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein, California Attorney General Kamala Harris, State Controller John Chiang, and California Secretary of State Debra Bowen. U.S. Senator Al Franken from Minnesota gave a speech encouraging citizens to hold politicians accountable and take action when they fail to protect the public interest. He noted that Congress recently passed the National Defense Authorization Act which allows the military to indefinitely detain American Citizens in the United States who are accused of terrorism without an attorney or court hearing. U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein also expressed great concern regarding this legislation.

In addition to ILWU members, many other union members attended the convention, which provided a good opportunity to network and exchange ideas. Workshops on important issues were organized by caucus groups that covered important topics such as children, the environment, labor, seniors, veterans, disabilities, women, and racial justice. ILWU team members attended different caucus meetings but most agreed that the best session was on the “Paycheck Deception/Corporate Deception” ballot measure intended to weaken unions and increase the power of corporations. Those who attended came away with facts and information that they promised to share with other ILWU members in Northern and Southern California.

“All of us were glad that we spent the weekend telling people about the ILWU and learning more about the issues that affect us and our communities,” said Familache. “This is exactly what we need to be doing—networking, staying on top of the issues and reminding our elected officials that we will hold them accountable.”

Washington state voters will be deciding three important races in November that could have a big impact on ILWU members and working families in the Northwest.

We need a friendly Governor

We’ll be electing a new Governor in November. ILWU members saw how Governor Gregoire played a constructive role in helping us reach a settlement with PMA over a new contract. Instead of searching for politicians who are willing to stand up for working families, we can encourage our own members to run for office. Jeff Davis of Local 21 is doing exactly that. He’s already a Commissioner at the Port of Olympia, and is now running for an open seat in the State House. He could use our vote and would welcome support from ILWU families and other union members.

— Max Vebich

Northwest Political Report

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Watch for the “Paycheck Deception” initiative on the November ballot: It’s corporate America’s latest attack on working families and unions

Watch out for the “Paycheck Deception” initiative on the November ballot: It’s corporate America’s latest attack on working families and unions.

Paycheck Deception: Bad for unions & working families

Paycheck Deception: Bad for unions & working families.

Paycheck Deception: Bad for unions & working families.
Tea Party tanks bill to help ports

In 2011, President Obama and a bi-partisan group of Congressional leaders agreed that a multi-year surface transportation bill was needed to create jobs and spur economic recovery. ILWU members could benefit from a bill that includes funding for port improvements. It seemed like a done deal.

Past bi-partisan support

Previous transportation bills, including the last big one in 2005, received support from both conserva-
tive and liberal representatives. President George W. Bush signed a bill that passed the Senate by 91 – 4 and the House by 412 – 8. The legislation seven years ago was backed by both the AFL-CIO and U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Additional support came from mayors, county commissioners and governors from both parties.

Tea Party opposition

So why has this effort stalled for the past 2 years? The Tea Party Republicans, who stormed into office in 2010, have created the impasse. Instead of compromising, the Republican bill in the House includes provisions that are extreme and designed to hurt workers. The Senate developed a bi-partisan compromise led by Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK). They designed a bill that is limited to spending at current rates plus inflation over the next two years. While it won’t provide all the infrastructure that our nation so badly needs, it may be the best we can do given the politicians who are now in power.

Comparing both bills

The differences are obvious when you compare the key provisions in both transportation bills:

- House of Representatives bill, H.R. 7 (Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act of 2012)
  - Cuts infrastructure investment over the next 5 years by $15.8 billion.
  - The spending cuts will eliminate $550,000 jobs over the coming years.
  - Environmental reviews will be cut and eliminated for projects under $10 million.
  - Eliminates funding for the Alameda Corridor in Southern California and similar projects.
  - Cuts public transportation funding and encourages privatization of transit systems.
  - Eliminates OSHA protection for workers handling hazardous materials.
  - Cuts AMTRAK funding by $308 million over 2 years and requires outsourcing of food and beverage service.
  - Requires all Labor taxes to be spent on projects whether they’re needed or not.
  - Cuts pension benefits for federal workers to pay for infrastructure.
  - Requires new oil drilling on Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge, and clears the way for the controversial Keystone Pipeline project.

- Senate Bill S. 1813 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century – MAP 21)
  - Authorizes transportation spending at current levels for 10 years.
  - Consolidates federal transit programs from 90 to 30 to reduce duplication.
  - Funding for new intermodal freight projects.
  - Funding to relieve traffic congestion and improve air quality by reducing small particles.
  - Funding to improve the Alameda Corridor in Southern California and similar projects.
  - Funds $1 billion in loans to states and local government for transportation projects.
  - No cuts in environmental reviews.
  - No requirement for oil drilling on the coast or Arctic Wildlife Refuge.
  - No reductions to worker safety.
  - No benefit cuts for federal workers.

As this article was being written, the Senate compromise bill was held hostage by Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) who was demanding a vote on Egyptian foreign aid before he would allow the transportation bill to move forward. The House transportation bill lacked enough votes within the Republican Caucus, and no Democrats were willing to support the measure, so Republican leadership decided to withdraw the proposed legislation.

Only one labor union, the Operat-
ing Engineers, supported the Republican House bill, saying they did it “to move the process along.” Congress- men think the House bill is doomed and will require changes, including the elimination of anti-worker provi-
sions in order to win Senate support and backing from the ILWU and other unions.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, who previously served in Congress as a Republican, predicted that the House and Senate are too far apart to reach a deal this year. “This is the most partisan transportation bill that I have ever seen and the most anti-
safety bill I have ever seen.” It falls short our No. 1 priority, which is safety, and frankly, it hollows out the guts of the transportation efforts that we have been able for the last three years. It’s the worst transportation bill I’ve ever seen during 35 years of public service.”

Since Republican President Dwight Eisenhower created the interstate highway system, legislation to improve our nation’s transportation improvements has always won bi-
partisan support. This year, the Tea Party Republicans scuttled any hope for a compromise by loading up the bill with anti-worker provisions. We may have to wait until the November elections in order to see if voters agree with the Tea Party approach – or one that is more sympathetic to working families and a bi-partisan transporta-
tion bill.

Talking union on-the-air

A newly formed pro-
worker organization, the Labor/Democrat Work Group, is tapping activist talent in Northwest Washington. The group is composed of union people who happen to be Demo-
crats. The group has already tackled many issues, including a new labor radio program called “We Do The Work.” The program started on January 2 and airs weekly at 5:00 PM each Mon-
day. The program is hosted by Richard Austin, President of the ILWU’s Pacific Coast Pensioner Association (PCPA). The show is carried on KSVR, 91.7 FM.

This is Austin’s first venture into the world of radio and he admits to learning on the job. “Sometimes I may sound a little mosh-mushed and scat-
tered, but we’ve got great guests who make up for my deficiencies. The important thing is to get our side of the story – the truth – out into our commu-
ity,” Austin says he hopes each pro-
gram will discuss problems and offer suggestions for defeating the attack on working families.

An independent voice

“Our Labor/Democrat Work Group will not subordinate itself to any political party or person. We will sup-
port pro-working class candidates and legislation – and oppose anti-worker lawmakers and bills,” said Austin.

An impressive guest list

The first guest was Jeff Johnson, President of the Washington State Labor Council. The line-up, not neces-
sarily in the order, includes:

- Lori Wallach of the Global Trade Watch, a project of Public Citizen.
- • Lori, Kathi, and Misty from the OUR Works in Washington.
- • Rich DeBay – Corrections Officer and AFSCME union leader.
- • Steve Garey – President of United Steelworkers Local 12-591
- • David Bacon – Photojournalist and local government for transport projects.
- • Richard DeBay – Corrections Officer and AFSCME union leader.
- • Lori Wallach of the Global Trade Watch, a project of Public Citizen.
- • Lori, Kathi, and Misty from the OUR Works in Washington.
- • Rich DeBay – Corrections Officer and AFSCME union leader.
- • Steve Garey – President of United Steelworkers Local 12-591
- • Richard DeBay – Corrections Officer and AFSCME union leader.
ILWU members will also be inter-
viewed in coordination with the union.

Seizing opportunities to talk

The Labor/Democrat group also received an invitation to make a labor presentation at the Skagit Human Rights Festival. The labor program will take place at the Lincoln Theater in Mount Vernon, WA on March 29, 2012, beginning at 7:00 PM. The program will include a showing of the video, “We Are the ILWU.” Jeff Johnson, President of the Washing-
ton State Labor Council, will be the keynote speaker. A portion of another video, “Eyes On The Fries,” will be shown to address the strug-
gle of young workers employed in the fast food industry.

A voice for young workers

A panel of younger workers will speak including members of WA YELL (Washington Young Emerging Labor Leaders) and USAS (United Students Against Sweatshops).

The groups will discuss their experiences then field questions from the audi-
ence Bagpipers – courtesy of the Washington State Council of Fire-
fighters – will close the event.

Goals of the new group

The Labor/Democrat Work Group aimed for ambitious set of goals:

- Activating union members to participate in the political process
- Using grassroots help to get our message out with yard signs, radio, and handouts.
- Recruiting pro-union candidates to run for office.
- In addition to launching their radio program and organizing the labor program at the Skagit Human Rights Festival, the new group has already jacked up the number of tasks including:
- A farm worker march and rally that included 6 local unions and the Skagit County Democrats who bought signs and banners.
- A rally supporting the Washington State Nurses Association on June 2 at the Mount Vernon Courthouse that helped the nurses win a good contract.
- A yard sign campaign that aims to put a pro-working family message on the front yard of every union member in Skagit and Whatcom Counties.
- Participation in legislative battles, especially bills concerning workers’ compensation and union rights for Washington State ferry workers.
- Austin says the bottom line for the group is to encourage more action. “It makes no sense to pass resolutions if they just die on the vine,” he said. “The ILWU has made it possible for me and other pensioners to raise our families and live comfortably, so now it’s time for all of us to give back and help the next generation of union members and the working class.”

DISPATCHER • February 2012
Employer declares war on New Zealand dockers

continued from page 1

remain employed by “applying” for the new non-union jobs.

Local business support

The attack on the Auckland dockers has been so severe that some mem-
bers of the business community have begun siding with workers. The Logis-
tics company Mainfreight and the cor-
porate consulting firm of Grant Sam-
uel have formed an alliance with New
Zealand’s Council of Trade Unions to
support the workers in Auckland.

A letter from Michael Lorimer of the Grant Samuel consulting firm said, “We support decent work condi-
tions and oppose casualization in the manner being proposed by the port. Not only is it unnecessary but it could cause major disruption to customers and contribute to increasing inequality in the city.” The letter was sent to both the MUNZ and the employer. Lorimer called on the Ports of Auckland to adopt a “triple-bottom-line” that would balance the interests of city-dwellers, port users, and workers.

ILWU Vice President Ray Fam-
lathe, who is already on the scene in
Auckland, declared that the compa-
y’s escalation is a “serious interna-
tional incident with potentially per-
dinous consequences for the Port and
politicians in New Zealand.” Fam-
lathe, who also serves as Second Vice-
Chair of the International Transport
Federation’s Dockers Section, says that the showdown in Auckland in
shaping up to be the biggest docker struggle in a decade.

“Workers in other New Zealand
ports already refusing to touch ships
that were loaded by scabs in Auck-
land, so things are escalating here in
a hurry and could spread around the
world if cooler heads don’t prevail
within the company and the govern-
ment,” said Familathe.

The Dispatcher will publish another edition quickly to report on new devel-
opments in the Auckland struggle. For the latest news, visit the union website at ilwu.org

On the ground in New Zealand: Ray Familathe, (2nd from right)
International Vice President, Mainland, has been working on the ground in New Zealand to help coordinate support from unions around the world, including the ILWU which is mobilizing a delegation of members to support the Auckland struggle on short notice.

Solidarity down under: ILWU International President Bob McEllrath addressed the Maritime Union of Australia’s Conference in early March where he met with officials from the Maritime Union of New Zealand and other docker leaders from around the world. Accompanying McEllrath were Int. Vice Presidents Wesley Furtado and Ray Familathe, plus Secretary Treasurer Willie Adams.

65th annual convention at Local 6

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stay united as they struggle with diffi-
cult decisions in the weeks and months ahead. “We have to remember that we’re working-class, and that means we have to take care of each other and keep
our union strong.” He added, “What
was achieved in the past is a legacy that is passed to the next generation, so each of us inherits the responsibility of keep-
ing the union strong.”

Additional historical perspective was provided by ILWU historian Har-
vey Schwartz, who staffed a book table
offering copies of “The March Inland” and “Solidarity Stories,” both based on oral histories of ILWU members com-
piled by Schwartz. A number of Local 6 members purchased copies which Schwartz signed with a message of encouragement inside.

Budget challenge

Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer Fred
Pecker said the decision to de-empha-
size politicians at this convention was intended to make more time available to discuss important issues. Some of that discussion came late in the day when the Local’s budgetary challenges were
openly discussed. While no specific
proposals were offered, Pecker made it
clear that a new course was needed.

“The budget tells us that we can’t con-
continue down the same road without
making major changes,” he said, “and the
new organizing shows us which direc-
tion we need to be heading.”

Martyred ILWU officers added to Philippine 
‘Wall of Remembrance’

Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes are the first Filipino-Americans to be added to monument honoring those who fought Marcos regime

On November 30th, Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes, two activists offi-
cers from Local 37 were added to the roster of heroes and martyrs of the Bantayog ng Mga Bayani in the Philippines, 30 years after their assassination by an agent of Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos. Domingo and Viernes are the first Filipino-Americans to have their names included on the Wall of Remembrance honoring those who died fighting the Marcos regime.

Domingo and Viernes were assas-
ninated in broad daylight while work-
ing at their union hall in Seattle on June 1, 1981. Local 37 was a long-
time ILWU local that affiliated with the Inlandboatmen’s Union in 1987. At the time they represented approxi-
mately 1,500 cannery workers at fish processing facilities in Alaska. The pair led efforts forge closer ties between the heavily repressed Philip-
pin labor movement and the ILWU.

The role of the Marcos regime was uncovered by the efforts of the Committee for Justice for Domingo and Viernes, a grassroots organiza-
tion started by the friends and fam-
ily of Domingo and Viernes including Domingo’s widow, Terri Mast. The trial uncovered evidence of the Marcos regimes role
in the assassination along with evi-
dence that US intelligence agencies were well aware of a network of Philip-
pine agents actively working within the United States to intimidate and repress anti-Marcos forces in the US.
Frank Kennedy, key ILWU Canada leader

Hundres of longshore workers, family and community members gathered at the Maritime Center in Vancouver on Sunday, March 4 to honor the life of ILWU leader Frank Kennedy who passed on February 18.

ILWU Canada President Tom Duftresne was among the 18 speakers who recalled Kennedy’s dedication to helping members and building ILWU Canada.

“Frank was a man for all seasons because he worked so well with all kinds of people, longshore workers, young activists, pensioners and politicians,” said Duftresne who added that Kennedy’s long history of working with peace and social justice groups has left a gap that’s hard to fill. “If he were still with us, I’m sure he’d be helping young people in the Occupy movement learn how to work more effectively with unions.”

Kennedy’s longshore career began in 1951, when the Vancouver union was still affiliated with the ILA. He played a key role in moving members to affiliate with the ILWU, then helped consolidate many smaller Vancouver-area locals into Local 500.

“In 1984 he helped organize a protest march against the arms race with nearly 100,000 participants, and he remained active in pensioner and retiree groups,” ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, who attended the Memorial on behalf of the ILWU Titled Officers, said “Frank was one of those rare people who made a real difference in our community,” said Adams. “He was a fighter for the working class and job actions. He put his reputation on the line to help women fight for equal pay in the 1960’s, lent support for the emerging gay rights movement a decade later, and criticized the war in Central America during the 1980’s. He courageously challenged House leader Nancy Pelosi in the 1990’s when she backed the corporate-sponsored NAFTA agreement that hurt workers in the U.S. and Mexico.

ILWU Local 34 pensioner Don Watson remembered when John- son formed a pioneering strike support committee in San Francisco that included the ILWU. “Walter was willing to work with ILWU members when many of us were shunned for being ‘reds or radicals’ by the labor establishment,” said Watson. “He welcomed everyone and used his sense of humor to put people at ease.” Johnson was friends with former ILWU International President Harry Bridges, Secretary-Treasurer Lou Goldblatt, and was a frequent lunch companion of former President Jimmy Herman.

When Johnson was elected head of the Labor Council in 1985, he encouraged joint work with the ILWU before the union re-affiliated with the AFL- CIO in 1988.

“Walter Johnson spent more time on picket lines and protests than he did sitting around the office,” said LeRoy King, who knew Johnson for 50 years and kept a regular monthly lunch date until just before Walter’s death. “He liked to encourage young people and activists to join the labor movement, and he always had a joke or poem to share,” said King. “I’m going to miss him.”

ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams sent a contribution to the San Francisco Labor Council on behalf of ILWU members to honor Johnson’s life and service. “He was a fighter for the working class who made a real difference in our community,” said Adams.

ILWU sues additional Cowlitz County officials for civil rights violations

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Local law enforcement carried out the abusive arrest procedures to punish ILWU members for their public protests and alleged trespassing before the courts had a chance to evaluate evidence and determine guilt or innocence. Arrests were made sometimes weeks or months after the alleged trespassing had occurred. Law enforcement continued the aggressive and abusive arrest campaign even after the ILWU offered in writing that all union members would voluntarily surrender to law enforcement.

Important new evidence

The ILWU’s motion to the court presents new evidence, including internal police email messages that show that Cowlitz County Prosecuting Attorney Baur and Chief Criminal Deputy Rosenzweig personally and actively participated in the development and implementation of the unlawful arrest procedures against ILWU members. From an internal document, dated September 20, 2011, expressed a concern that Baur’s “attendance could step outside our boundaries for liability.” In spite of this concern, Baur continued her involvement in the police actions against ILWU members, stepping outside her role as prosecutor.

By adding Baur and Rosenzweig as defendants in the lawsuit, the ILWU hopes to hold all responsible parties accountable for the serious civil rights violations that occurred in Longview during the EGT struggle – and deter future violations and abuse by public authorities. The court is expected to rule sometime in late March on the ILWU’s request to add Baur and Rosenzweig as defendants in the litigation.

SF labor leader Walter Johnson passes: working-class fighter helped the ILWU

An Francisco labor leader Walter Johnson, who dedicated 50 years of his life helping workers and ILWU members when it wasn’t the popular thing to do, died on January 12th at the age of 87 following a brief illness.

Johnson was best known for his nearly twenty years at the helm of San Francisco’s Labor Council. But Johnson’s reputation for courage and risk-taking was established decades earlier when he rose from the ranks as an appliance salesman at Sears to become a Department Store Union leader who was willing to lead strikes and job actions. He put his reputation on the line to help women fight for equal pay in the 1960’s, lent support for the emerging gay rights movement a decade later, and criticized the war in Central America during the 1980’s.

Johnson had a gap that’s hard to fill. “If he were still with us, I’m sure he’d be helping young people in the Occupy movement learn how to work more effectively with unions.”

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Picketing the party: Dozens of union workers from the Golden Gate Bridge District – including members of the Inlandboater’s Union (IBU) – picketed outside a fancy benefit to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the world’s most famous bridge. Picket lines went up at the February 23 event because the Bridge District wants workers to pay more for health insurance despite ten months of contract talks. IBU members joined co-workers from 19 different unions to form a coalition that has offered savings worth $2 million per year. IBU member Bob Keller who works at the Ferry Division said he had a hard time understanding why there was a fancy benefit inside when the District has an $89 million deficit and won’t pay for employee health benefits.

DISPATCHER • February 2012 7
This notice, along with financial core members and new hires working in an ILWU bargaining unit, including members and individuals who happen at any time to become financial core members by any means, including by choice, suspension from employment by an employer affiliated with the ILWU, and for one year following the date of this notice or until such time covered by a later notice of similar kind. The information that applies to ILWU International applies to local dues and per capita fees with the exception of those whose annual affiliation with the ILWU is lost. Nevertheless, financial core members are still legally required under a valid union security agreement to pay to their union that are limited to union members. In addition, a financial core member has no right to vote on dues increases or on contracts submitted to the membership for ratification. These rights and privileges of union membership are accorded only to union members in good standing.

For those individuals employed in the ILWU Longshore Division and work for WFR-membered employers, please also note that with respect to Coast Pro rata Fees (including “Fighting Fund” fees), for calendar year 2010 (which is the most recent audited year), the financial review has confirmed that no more than 11% of all ILWU International’s expenditures were for nonchargeable activities. While each ILWU local and division may have different percentages of nonchargeable expenditures, the actual experience confirms that the non-chargeable percentage for ILWU locals is significantly lower than that for the ILWU International. Nevertheless, those of you whose locals have not yet provided you with specific wording to the effect that they will not pay all regular and periodic financial core dues or fees properly charged by their bargaining representative as explained herein.

For those individuals employed in the ILWU Longshore Division and work for WFR-membered employers, the review Procedures, a financial core member must be made in writing and postmarked within 30 days from the date of this notice or the date of becoming a new hire or receiving the notice, whichever is later. Unless changed by a later notice, those financial core members and new hires who file timely objections will not be charged from the date they file a timely objection through April 1, 2013. Those objection dates will not be charged to financial core members who file timely objections.

Note that the amount or portion of financial core fees pending the period for filing any objections will not be charged from the date they file a timely objection through April 1, 2013. Individually, a financial core member may, by writing to the ILWU Secretary-Treasurer, or to their local ILWU secretary-treasurer, or to their local union president, request a refund of any amount that may be determined to be owed them, plus any interest due therein.

Under the Procedures, an objection by a financial core member must be made in writing and postmarked within 30 days from the date of this notice or the date of becoming a new hire or receiving the notice, whichever is later. Unless changed by a later notice, those financial core members and new hires who file timely objections will not be charged from the date they file a timely objection through April 1, 2013. Those objection dates will not be charged to financial core members who file timely objections.

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