



THE DISPATCHER

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VOL 72, NO 3 • MARCH 2014

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On March 7th, over 100 longshore workers, pensioners and supporters marched down Market Street in San Francisco to the Honduran Consulate where they protested the violent repression of dock workers at ICTSI's newly privatized terminal operation at Puerto Cortés in Honduras.

Caucus delegates converge on Honduran consulate in San Francisco



Honduran docker abuse sparks protest in London [page 5](#)

Delegates who attended the Coast Longshore Division Caucus in San Francisco last month, provided a warm embrace to Honduran dock union leader Victor Crespo and two co-workers who addressed the Caucus on March 4.

Delegates pledged their solidarity and unanimously voted to convene the two-week Caucus in honor of Crespo's father, who was killed by anti-union death squads in Honduras on January 27.

Before delegates left town, there was one last piece of unfinished business – a group visit to the Honduran Consulate in San Francisco on Friday, March 7th.

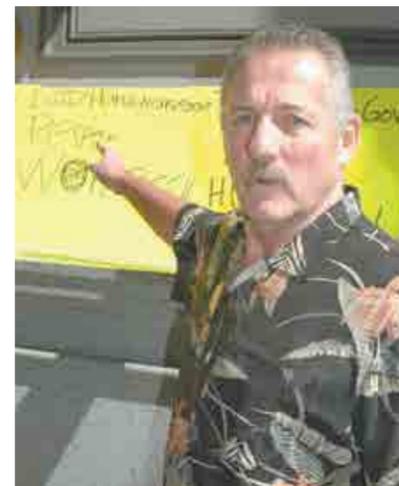
Around noon, a large group of delegates, pensioners and supporters gathered for a short but spirited march along San Francisco's historic Market Street, where dockworkers and supporters had marched silently eighty years ago to honor the martyrs who were killed during the West Coast Maritime Strike on March 5, 1934 – Bloody Thursday.

When the crowd arrived at the office building housing the Honduran Consulate, marchers quickly filled the hallways, staircases and elevators that led to the Honduran Consulate on the 5th floor.

ILWU International President Bob McEllrath, Vice President Ray Familathe and Southern California Pensioners Group President Greg Mitre entered the Consulate offices and requested a meeting with the Honduran official in charge.

While members chanted outside in the hallways, McEllrath, Familathe and Mitre met with the Honduran official to explain the problems that followed ICTSI's newly privatized terminal operation at Puerto Cortés in Honduras where union members have faced violent attacks from police, military troops and anti-union death squads. Details about Victor Crespo's case were provided, including the recent attacks by death squads who murdered Crespo's father and injured his mother.

"We made it clear to the consulate that these kind of attacks on workers and unions were outrageous and unacceptable, no matter where



ILWU International President Bob McEllrath speaks out against the violent crackdown on Honduran dockworkers.

in the world they happen," said McEllrath. After receiving assurance that the ILWU's concerns would be immediately conveyed to top Honduran government officials, the group left the Consulate, vowing to return if necessary.

"I think we made our point," McEllrath told the crowd of supporters who assembled outside the consulate building after the event. "And we'll keep pushing until there's justice for our brothers and sisters in Honduras."

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LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

I didn't want another month to go by without acknowledging the passage of an important woman in the ILWU. Ethel Chester departed this earth at the age of 97 on November 23, 2013. Many of us knew Ethel because of her marriage to our union's first African-American International officer; Bill Chester who was elected International Vice-President after serving for 18 years as Northern California Regional Director.

Ethel and Bill met each other on a blind date in 1940, when they went to see a movie called, "I Want A Divorce." Despite that title, they remained married for the next 45 years until Bill passed. Ethel had her own career as a cosmetologist and worked for 25 years before leaving to help care for two children and assist Bill's work for the union.

I appreciate this chance to inform ILWU members and pensioners about this important woman who is deeply missed by many of us.

George Cobbs, President Bay Area Pensioners
Hayward, CA

Send your letters to the editor to: *The Dispatcher*, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800 or email to editor@ilwu.org

Voice for working families

In February, the Puget Sound District Council (PSDC) donated \$1000 to public radio station KSVR-FM in Washington State's Skagit Valley where the radio program, "We Do The Work," is produced. The weekly half-hour show is co-hosted by Pacific Coast Pensioner President Rich Austin.

"Our ILWU District Council understands the importance of supporting community organizations that speak to the needs of America's working class," said PSDC President Dan McKisson. "The folks who broadcast "We Do The Work" believe that workers are the heart and soul of our economy and culture – and that all workers deserve dignity, economic security, respect, and a decent family wage. Because our District Council shares that view, we decided to support this valuable community resource," said McKisson.

During the next several months, KSVR will air hundreds of public

announcements provided by the District Council. McKisson says the donation serves two purposes; allowing the ILWU to underwrite progressive radio programming – and getting the ILWU's message out to the local community about efforts to help fellow workers.

"We hope other District Councils will urge their local public radio stations to carry "We Do The Work" shows each week. These programs are relevant, and speak to issues that are important to the working class. We rarely hear these kind of 'pork chop issues' discussed from a working-class view on commercial stations." For more information about the show and how to contact your local station, please email ksvrwedothework@gmail.com

"We Do The Work" is also carried on: WXOJ (Florence, MA) WPRR (Grand Rapids, MI) KOWA (Olympia, WA) KUGS (Bellingham, WA) KKRN (Redding, CA) W237CZ (Hudsonville, MI) WPJC (Pontiac, MI) WXPZ (Clyde Township, MI) KSVU (Upper Skagit River, WA)



Donation that makes a difference: L-R: Rich Austin, ILWU Pensioner President and co-host of "We Do The Work" radio program; Dan McKisson, President of the ILWU Puget Sound District Council; Rip Robbins, General Manager of KSVR-FM radio.

San Francisco's new James R. Herman Cruise Ship Terminal seeks support to promote ILWU legacy



Site of new Cruise Terminal honoring former ILWU President:

In 2012, ILWU members joined SF Mayor Ed Lee to mark the demolition of old buildings where the new James R. Herman Cruise Terminal now stands. The new terminal features an educational area honoring the legacy of former ILWU International President and Port Commissioner "Jimmy" Herman. Donations are needed to finish the project. Pictured L-R: Captain Josh, Marina Secchitano, Farless Dailey, Richard Mead, Ed Ferris.

When an expected 82 cruise ships arrive in San Francisco next year, most will be tied-up, secured and provisioned by ILWU members at the brand-new James R. Herman Cruise Terminal on Pier 27, a \$100 million-dollar, 88,000 square foot facility that will soon open for business on the city's historic Embarcadero waterfront where the 1934 maritime strike helped establish the ILWU.

While passengers use the new terminal to check their luggage, pass through security and confirm ticketing, they'll also have a unique chance to learn more about the waterfront and ILWU history – thanks to an effort led by ILWU Local leaders, including Local 34 President Sean Farley.

"We're supporting a special area inside the cruise terminal that will educate the public about Jimmy Herman, the ILWU, labor unions and the working class," says Farley who is working on the project with Former San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos, ILWU Historian Harvey Schwartz and ILWU Librarian/Archivist Robin Walker.

"We have a rare chance to reach more than 200,000 visitors each year with a positive message about the ILWU – but the project needs donations for the dream to be realized," explained Farley.

The response so far has been positive. Contributions have been received

from ILWU Locals 500, 92, 63-A, 40, 14, 12 and 5, plus the Inlandboatmen's Union National Office and IBU Puget Sound Region. Teamsters Local 350 also sent a generous donation. Support has also come from Auxiliaries 5 and 17, and from the Columbia River Pensioner's, Longview Pension Group, Vancouver (BC) Pensioners Club, and Vancouver Island Pensioner's Club. Donations from individuals include: Laurence G. Bailey, Richard and Dagmar Barsch, Frank W. Best, Jon and Jeanette Borst, P. L. Boryer, Thomas and Vickie Christy, Paul and Barbara Donohue, and Delbert and Susan Green.

Donations will be used to finish the memorial inside the new terminal that will honor Jimmy Herman, who succeeded Harry Bridges as ILWU International President and served from 1977 to 1991. Herman also spent 16 years on the San Francisco Port Commission, the public agency that built the new cruise ship terminal and dedicated it in Herman's honor. ILWU International

ILWU Local 10 President Melvin Mackay noted, "This is the only cruise terminal in the world dedicated to a labor leader, and Jimmy Herman is one of our own," Mackay urged members and locals to consider donating to the project. "This is a special opportunity to ensure the ILWU's legacy and honor an important labor leader" he said. Tax-deductible checks can be made to: "James R. Herman Memorial Committee" c/o Local 34, 4 Berry Street, San Francisco, CA 94107.

DISPATCHER

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The *Dispatcher* (ISSN 0012-3765) is published monthly except for a combined September issue, for \$5.00 a year and \$10.00 a year for non-members by the ILWU, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Periodical postage paid at San Francisco, CA. The *Dispatcher* welcomes letters, photos and other submissions to the above address © ILWU, 2012. Postmaster: Send address changes to The *Dispatcher*, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800.

Coast Caucus concludes with priorities and a plan for Longshore contract negotiations

The 90 delegates and dozens of pensioners who gathered in San Francisco for the Coast Longshore Division Caucus concluded their two-week meeting on March 7 after adopting an approach to negotiations for a new Longshore & Clerks Contract that expires on June 30.

Resolutions set the agenda

With delegates elected from each West Coast port, there were plenty of resolutions, containing ideas, suggestions and priorities for the new contract. One by one, each resolution was passed, defeated, tabled, amended,

combined or withdrawn. An active “pro” and “con” debate insured that the ideas in each resolution were carefully examined before a vote.

Safety, wages, benefits, jurisdiction & technology

In the end, the resolutions for the upcoming contract generally revolved around four issues: safety, wages, benefits, jurisdiction and technology. Reports from Committees covering benefits, technology, education, safety and jurisdiction provided delegates with further details and analysis.

Rank & file delegates call shots

The Caucus process remains exceptionally democratic, led by rank-and-file delegates who have the

power to raise any concern for consideration by fellow delegates. International President Bob McEllrath, along with fellow Coast Committee members Ray Familathe, Ray Ortiz, Jr., and Leal Sundet, offered occasional commentary and advice, but they deferred to the Caucus tradition that expects delegates – not officials – to call the shots.

Negotiating Committee selected

The Caucus also chose 12 delegates to sit on the main Contract Negotiating Committee with an additional 8 delegates to serve on the Safety Sub-Committee, who will join with the Coast Committee Officers to lead the contract talks.

Negotiating priorities

“Longshore members and Clerks have made it clear that they want a contract with stronger safety provisions, more secure benefits, greater respect for ILWU jurisdiction and a reasonable approach to new technology,” said ILWU International President Bob McEllrath. “The Caucus did a good job of providing us with guidelines for a good agreement, and we intend to follow that approach.” McEllrath said he would recommend that talks begin sometime before the contract expiration date of June 30, “possibly sometime in May. We intend to work hard and negotiate the best possible agreement, and now we’ve got a good road map to get there.”

2014 NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE



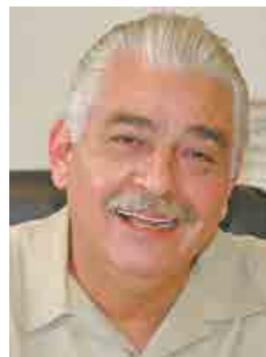
Robert McEllrath,
International President



Ray Familathe,
Vice President (Mainland)



Leal Sundet,
Coast Committeeman



Ray Ortiz, Jr.,
Coast Committeeman



Luke Hollingsworth,
Local 13, So. CA region



Ed Ferris, Local 10,
Nor. CA region



James Daw, Local 8,
Major Ports



Melvin Mackay, Local 10,
Major Ports



Frank Ponce De Leon,
Local 13, Major Ports



Cameron Williams, Local 19,
Major Ports



Ryan Whitman, Local 23,
WA/Puget Sound region



Adam Wetzell, Local 8,
OR/Columbia River region



Tony DePaul, Local 23,
Major Ports



Anthony Soniga, Local 29
Small Ports Rep., CA region



Brad Clark, Local 4,
Small Ports Rep.,
OR/Columbia River region



Duane Johnson, Local 51,
Small Ports Rep., WA/Puget
Sound region



Mike Podue, Local 63,
Marine Clerks



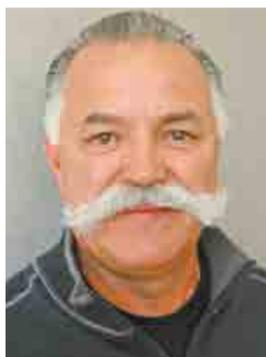
Tracy Burchett, Local 53,
Small Ports



Dane Jones, Local 40,
Marine Clerks Rep.,
Locals 34,40, 52



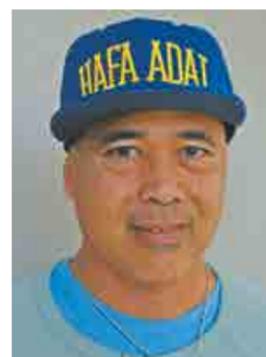
Joe Gasperov, Local 63,
Marine Clerks Rep.,
Local 63



Daniel Miranda, Local 94,
Walking Bosses/Foremen



Rich Austin, Sr. Pensioners



Ray Benavente, Local 13,
M&R rep.



Paul Weiser, Local 98,
Waking Bosses/Foremen

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Update on ICTSI struggle at Port of Portland

On Tuesday, March 4, workers from Puerto Cortés in Honduras who are union members belonging to the “Sindicato Gremial de Trabajadores del Muelle” (SGTM), established a picket line in front of ICTSI’s Oregon’s operation at Terminal 6 in Portland.

SGTM workers held picket signs that read, “S.G.T.M. LOCKED OUT ICTSI” and stated that they are facing murder, military repression, death threats, and anti-union attacks. ILWU workers honored the picket line in accordance with their collective bargaining agreement.

Philippines-based ICTSI is a global terminal operator that began its first U.S. venture in 2010 by leasing Terminal 6 from the Port of Portland. ICTSI is the parent company for ICTSI Oregon and Operadora Portuaria Centroameri-

cana (OPC) in Honduras. On February 1, 2013, ICTSI was awarded a concession agreement in Puerto Cortés for 29 years. ICTSI then established OPC, which imposed a sham labor agreement that was approved by the Honduran Government and ICTSI – but never voted on or approved by a majority of port workers. ICTSI/OPC began hiring workers under the sham labor agreement in December 2013 and, over the course of the next couple months, the company fired large numbers of union supporters. This mass firing of union supporters sparked a protest on February 26, 2014. The Honduran military responded to the protest by invading the port and arresting approximately 129 workers, charging many with “terrorism” and “damaging the national economy.” Dockerworker union leader Victor Crespo had to flee the country after his family members were attacked, killing his father and injuring his mother.



Photo by Jennifer Sargent

Honduran dockworkers have suffered massive job losses, violence and militarization of their cargo terminal since ICTSI took over operations at Puerto Cortés in 2013. SGTM union members participated in a peaceful protest at ICTSI’s terminal in the Port of Portland on March 4.

Court dismisses some ICTSI & Port claims against ILWU & PMA

In June 2012, in response to the PMA and ILWU’s effort to seek court enforcement of the parties’ collective bargaining agreement against PMA member company ICTSI at its Terminal 6 facility in Portland, Oregon, ICTSI took the extreme and unprecedented step of suing the PMA and ILWU for alleged federal antitrust violations.

On March 24, 2014, a Federal District Court Judge dismissed ICTSI’s scurrilous antitrust claims. In his Opinion and Order, Federal Judge Michael Simon

upheld the well-established statutory exemption from antitrust scrutiny of traditional union activities and acknowledged the ILWU’s legitimate interest in engaging in activities normally associated with labor disputes. The Judge also rejected ICTSI’s absurd monopoly claim and recognized the valid work preservation intent of applicable sections of the ILWU-PMA contract.

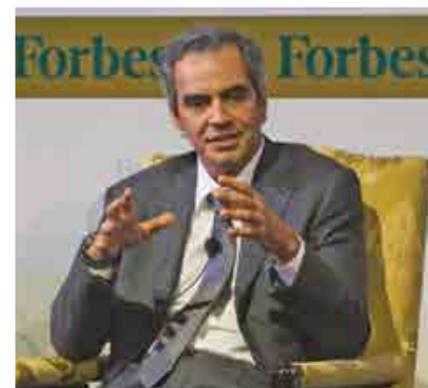
In addition to dismissing ICTSI’s antitrust claim, the Federal District Court Judge dismissed the Port of Portland’s claim that PMA and the ILWU had intentionally interfered with the Port’s contractual relationship with ICTSI and IBEW Local 48.

ICTSI profits soar

International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI) – the rogue Pacific Maritime Association employer operating primarily in Third World ports with one U.S. operation at Terminal 6 in the Port of Portland, OR – reported that company profits shot up 20% in 2013 over the previous year.

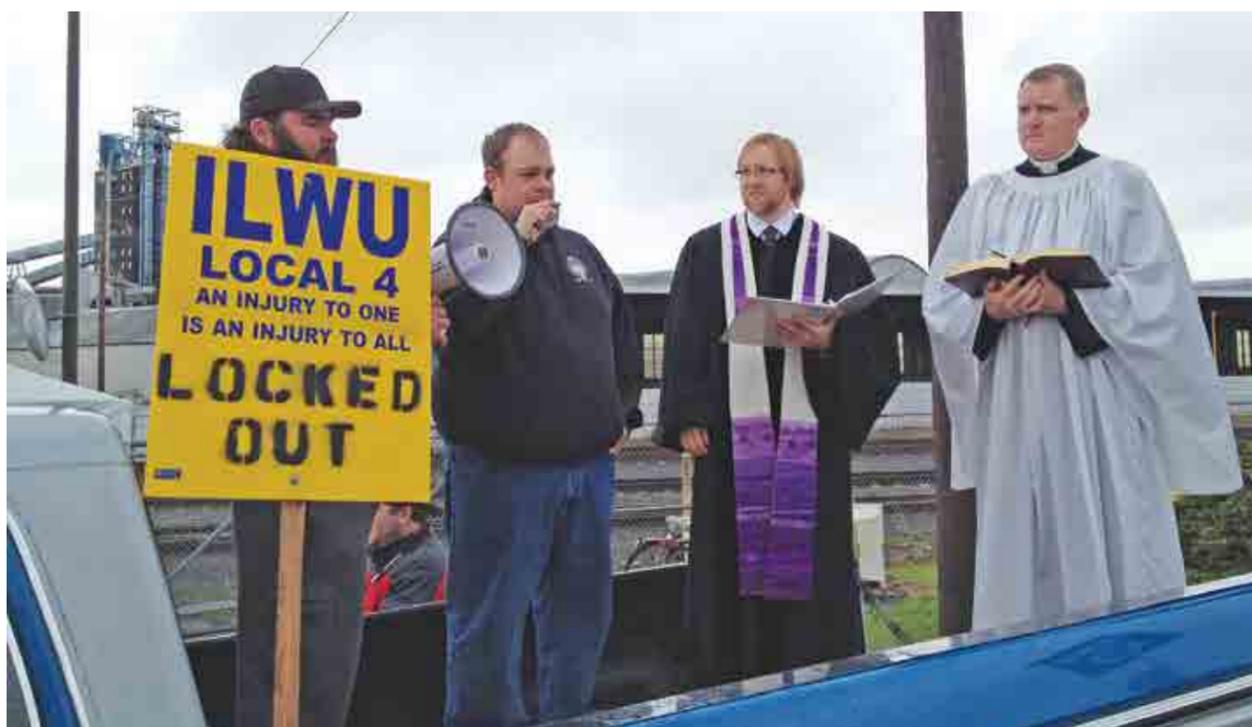
The company said net revenue (profit) rose from \$143.2 to \$172.4 million in 2013. The company attributed their higher profits to strong revenue growth and better profit margins at key terminals, including a new operation in Pakistan.

ICTSI is run by Enrique K. Razon, Jr., said to be ranked as the third-richest tycoon in the Philippines with personal wealth estimated by Forbes Magazine at \$4.2 billion dollars. Razon acquired his fortune the old-fashioned

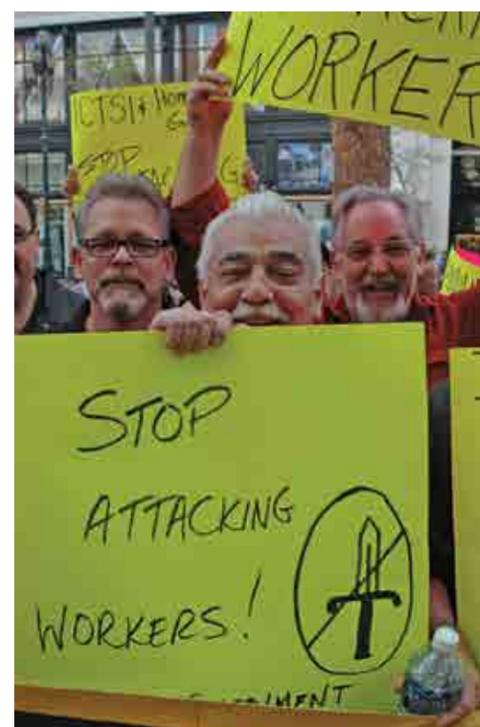


Wealthy Tycoon behind ICTSI: Enrique K. Razon is the President and CEO of International Container Terminal Services, Inc., (ICTSI). Razon is said to be one of richest men in the Philippines with personal assets worth \$4.2 billion.

way – by inheriting the family business. He serves as Chairman or Director of a dozen companies, and has invested in mining, oil & gas, utilities, real estate, golf courses, resorts and gambling – in addition to container terminals.



Seeking justice on the picket line: Local 4 members celebrated Ash Wednesday, March 5, on the picket line in front of United Grain at the Port of Vancouver, WA, where Longshore workers have been locked-out by the Japanese-owned company since February, 27, 2013. The ceremony included prayers led by Father Jeremy Lucas (right) of Christ Church Episcopal Church in Lake Oswego, OR, and Rev. Brooks Berndt of the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Vancouver, WA. The event drew 75 members and supporters who braved the rain, including Local 4 member Derrick Colby (left) and Local 4 President Cager Clabaugh who called on the company to end their illegal and immoral lockout. The event was monitored by police in two patrol cars plus two motorcycle officers. The National Labor Relations Board Regional Director announced last month that his office has issued a complaint against United Grain for unlawfully locking-out workers.



Protesting repression: (From left to right): On March 7th, Local 63 Caucus Delegate Mike Podue, Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz, Jr., and Local 23 Caucus Delegate, Tony DePaul, marched on the Honduran consulate in San Francisco to protest the repression of dockworkers in Honduras

Honduran Ambassador promises an investigation

Honduran docker abuse sparks protest and negotiation at London embassy

The ILWU joined other members of International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) on March 20th who organized a protest and negotiating session at the Honduran Embassy in London.

"We gathered in London for the ITF Dockers Section meeting to discuss important issues facing dockworkers around the world – including the abuse of workers at Puerto Cortés in Honduras," said ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe who also serves as Second Vice-Chair for the ITF Dockers Section.

A protest was organized to seek justice for Honduran dockworkers who have suffered a host of human and labor rights abuses at Puerto Cortés where global terminal operator ICTSI won a concession in September of 2012 to privately run the former public port. Union leaders have been trying – without success – to negotiate with ICTSI's Honduran subsidiary to reach a collective bargaining agreement for port workers.

Death threats and murder

Honduran dockworker Victor Crespo, who heads the Sindicato Gremial de Trabajadores del Muelle (SGTM),

faced repeated death threats and an attempt on his life, forcing Crespo to flee the country for his own protection. After Crespo fled Honduras, his father was murdered on January 27, 2014.

Repression continues

SGTM union members who participated in legitimate and peaceful protests in Honduras and at ICTSI's terminal at the Port of Portland on March 4, were subsequently hunted down by Honduran police when they returned home. Some union leaders were detained and charged with crimes against the state.

Solidarity response

In London, the ITF assembled a high-level official delegation to meet with Honduran Ambassador Romero-Martinez at his London embassy, while ILWU Vice President Familathe and other members of the ITF Dockers' Section – representing port workers worldwide – demonstrated in front of the building.

"We called on Honduran officials to practice 'negotiation, not intimidation,'" said Familathe.

Inside the Honduran Embassy, ITF President Paddy Crumlin; ITF Acting General Secretary Steve Cotton; ITF-affiliate SGTM President Victor

Seeking justice together:

Honduran port worker and union president Victor Crespo received support from the ILWU and other unions around the globe during a March 20 meeting in London of the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF). ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe also serves as Second Vice Chair for the ITF Dockers Section.



Protest at Honduran Embassy in London: International Transport Workers Federation members held a protest outside the Honduran Embassy in London on March 20th to demand justice for port workers who became targets of violence and repression after trying to negotiate with ICTSI's subsidiary at the Puerto Cortés container facility.

Crespo; and ITF Maritime Coordinator Tomas Abrahamsson reviewed the recent history of worker abuse at Puerto Cortés.

Agreement to investigate

At the conclusion of the meeting, Ambassador Romero-Martinez promised to seek an investigation into the death threats and other abuse of trade unionists at Puerto Cortés.

Speaking on the embassy steps following the meeting, ITF President Paddy Crumlin announced: "We had a productive, open and frank conversation with the ambassador who agreed there should be an investigation into the abuse of trade union and human rights being reported in Puerto Cortés. All of us agreed that engagement from all sides is essential if we're to bring about an end to this situation."



Agreement to investigate: A high-level ITF delegation met with the Honduran Ambassador at his London embassy. The Ambassador agreed that an investigation was necessary to probe human rights and labor rights abuses surrounding Puerto Cortés where ICTSI's Honduran subsidiary is now operating. Pictured L-R: ITF Maritime Coordinator Tomas Abrahamsson, ITF President Paddy Crumlin, ITF Acting General Secretary Steve Cotton, ITF-affiliate SGTM President Victor Crespo (L), with Honduran Ambassador Romero-Martinez.

Miembros de la cónclave de trabajadores portuarios abarrotaron el Consulado de Honduras en San Francisco

Los delegados que asistieron el mes pasado en San Francisco a la Cónclave de la Sección de Trabajadores Portuarios del Litoral recibieron con un abrazo afectuoso al líder de estibadores hondureños, Victor Crespo, y dos de sus compañeros de trabajo que se dirigieron a la Cónclave el 4 de marzo.

Los delegados prometieron solidarizarse y acordaron por voto unánime convocar la reunión de la Cónclave en honor al padre de Crespo que fue asesinado el 27 de enero en Honduras por un escuadrón de la muerte antisindical.

Antes de que los delegados se fueron, decidieron atender cuando menos un asunto que estaba pendiente –

una visita colectiva al Consulado de Honduras en San Francisco el viernes, 7 de marzo.

Alrededor de mediodía, un gran grupo de delegados, jubilados y simpatizantes se reunieron para una marcha corta pero animada a lo largo de la histórica Market Street de San Francisco, en la que trabajadores portuarios y simpatizantes marcharon en silencio hace ochenta años en honor a los mártires asesinados durante la Huelga Marítima de la Costa Occidental el 5 de marzo de 1934 – el Jueves Sangriento.

En cuanto llegó la multitud al edificio de oficinas en el que se aloja el Consulado de Honduras, los manifestantes llenaron los pasillos, escaleras y elevadores que llevan al quinto piso en el que se encuentra dicho Consulado.

Bob McEllrath, Presidente Internacional de ILWU, Ray Familathe, Vice Presidente y Greg Mitre, Presidente del Grupo de Jubilados del Sur de California, entraron a las oficinas del Consulado y solicitaron reunirse con el funcionario hondureño encargado.

Mientras que los miembros coreaban afuera en los pasillos, McEllrath, Familathe y Mitre se reunieron con el funcionario hondureño para explicar los problemas que surgieron después de la reciente privatización de la terminal portuaria de ICTSI en Puerto Cortés en Honduras, cuando los afiliados sindicales sufrieron ataques violentos de la policía, tropas militares y escuadrones de la muerte antisindicales. Se le dieron los detalles del caso de Victor Crespo, incluso los recientes ataques por un escuadrón de la

muerte que asesinó el padre de Crespo y lesionó a su madre.

"Informamos claramente al Consulado que estos tipos de ataques contra los trabajadores y sindicatos son atroces e inaceptables, sea cual sea el país en que ocurran," dijo McEllrath. Después de recibir garantías de que las inquietudes de ILWU serian inmediatamente comunicadas a los funcionarios del gobierno de Honduras, el grupo se fue del Consulado, prometiendo que volvería si fuera necesario.

"Creo que planteamos muy bien nuestro punto," le dijo McEllrath a la multitud de simpatizantes reunidos afuera del edificio del Consulado después del evento. "Y seguiremos insistiendo hasta que se haga justicia para nuestros compañeros y compañeras en Honduras."

ITF Women's Conference in New Delhi tackles issues facing women workers around the world

Over 220 women from 80 countries gathered in New Delhi, India January 27-28 for a conference organized by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF). Representing the Inlandboatmen's Union (IBU) at the conference were IBU Secretary Treasurer Terri Mast, San Francisco Regional Director Marina Secchitano and IBU member Alison Seamans. Mast is also member of the ITF Woman's Committee and represents the ILWU on the ITF Executive Board. The conference focused on the issues facing women workers around the world. Alison Seamans and Marina Secchitano filed the report below.

The ITF held a two-day Women Transport Workers' Conference on January 27 and 28 in New Delhi, India. The conference focused on four themes: 1) Organizing women's transport workers to build strong unions; 2) Building alliances with organizations at the forefront of combating violence against women to strengthen ITF affiliates' campaigns at the global and regional level; 3) Campaigning for our public services; 4) Women in Leadership, "Leading change" to grow unions. Speakers from around the globe addressed the conference on these themes. Resolutions and conclusions from the conference will be submitted to the upcoming general assembly in August 2014, in Sophia, Bulgaria.

Our Indian brothers and sisters were wonderful hosts, welcoming us all in traditional ways. At dinner the first night we were treated to beautiful and moving performances of traditional Indian dance and music. The opportunity to make personal contact with union sisters from all over the world is invaluable. Solidarity amongst only the people in our immediate area isn't enough.

Economic concerns are global. Labor must stand together globally if we are to have any strength at all. The threats of outsourcing, privatization, insecure temporary and contracted jobs, employer retaliation for organizing, and the short sighted attempt to "fix" failing economies by decimating the living standards of workers through austerity exist worldwide. I was both proud and disappointed that the three of us from the IBU were the only US delegates present; it's important that those of us from more privileged (at least so far) countries come together and stand beside those who are still struggling for any sort of place in the work force.

A strong labor force depends on women's participation at all levels. Voiceless and disempowered women cannot contribute fully to the strength of a union. We need strong, involved women to maximize our strength. This was highlighted poignantly by a sister from India Airlines who apologized that her union had not been able to focus more on the conference. Her union is in the fight of its life against the employer and government. The women members are "standing shoulder to shoulder with the men fighting for everyone's survival". This is how it needs to be and women need voice, power, and a place in leadership to make that happen.

Even in the developed countries, women are underrepresented in union leadership and they speak out less than the men. In other parts of the world, the situation is much worse. An injury to one is an injury to all, and in a global marketplace, powerlessness for some is powerlessness for all.

The opportunity to hear firsthand the stories of women fighting for their rights, for a voice and for an equal place in the workforce and the union was unforgettable, inspiring, shocking, heart-rending and brilliant. We heard many stories from courageous women around the world.

The moderator, Diane Holland, Chair of the ITF Women Transport Workers' Committee, began by explaining that 20 years ago the women of the ITF first won 5 seats on the executive committee in a hard fought battle. Since women are involved in the workplace they must have a voice and thus began the long journey of setting up a network for millions of women around the world.

One of the first speakers was Indira Jaising, the first woman appointed to the position of Additional Solicitor General of India and a lifetime activist for labor, women's rights and the homeless and marginalized. She made the following points:

- In 1975, Indian women achieved equal pay for equal work for women, and the constitution was amended to include a guarantee of the fundamental right to form a union.
- In 1992, a woman was raped by 5 men for speaking out against child marriage, and in 1997, the Supreme Court issued the "Vishaka Judgment" identifying that sexual harassment violated a fundamental right to work.
- In December 2012, a brutal gang rape of a 23 year old woman on a bus resulted in her death 15 days later. The entire country rose up in protest demanding action from the government. Four months later, in April 2013, a new law was passed guaranteeing rights for women, and prohibiting sexual harassment, with strong enforcement.
- The violence against women must end. We must build women's economic power, remove barriers and create safety for women. Consequently unions are adding language to their labor agreements prohibiting sexual harassment on the job. It is of great importance to provide equal education and economic opportunities.

Satich Kumar Singh, Deputy Director, Center for Health and Social Justice, New Delhi stated that studies show that nearly one in every three women will be beaten, harassed or raped in her lifetime. "Although not all men are perpetrators, most do not speak out against this violence. All men have to speak out and oppose Violence Against Women. It is one of the biggest crimes and human rights violation on earth and the responsibility of ending violence against women cannot be put on women's shoulders alone". His motto was that "men of quality do not fear equality".

We heard about the abuses at Qatar Airways and the complete powerlessness of their workers. Bette Matuga told us the inspiring story of her innovative and successful campaign to fight privatization

ITF Women Transport Workers' Resolution for ITF 43rd Congress, Sofia 2014

This Congress congratulates the ITF Women Transport Workers' Committee and ITF Worldwide Women Transport Workers' Conference 2014 for ensuring implementation of the work programme for women transport workers 2010-2014, making a real difference in workplaces, communities, unions, world regions and globally.

Congress further recommit to mobilising and organising women transport workers to tackle the disastrous effects of globalisation including economic and climate change crises facing women transport workers and to strengthen unions to meet these challenges.

To this end, Congress instructs the ITF Women Transport Workers' Committee and women's department to work with ITF affiliates, sections, regions and the ITF secretariat to implement the Action Plan 2014-2018 in the conclusions and recommendations of the ITF Women Transport Workers' Conference included in 'Global crisis to global justice: women transport workers fighting back, prioritising organising women transport workers; the elimination of violence against women transport workers; tackling under-representation and developing women transport workers' leadership at all levels; and combatting the effects of the global crises on women transport workers worldwide:

1. **Recognition of the powerful achievements of Women Transport Workers worldwide**, including mobilisation on 8th March and 25th November and ensuring support, and resources, for on-going struggles, including:
 - Action to organise 'informal' and young women transport workers, or women in 'non-traditional' transport roles
 - Action to tackle, and end, under-representation of women transport workers in transport unions and ensuring full recognition of women transport workers in the ITF and its affiliates
2. **Organising women transport workers to build strong unions** by sharing and developing best practice with ITF affiliates in industrial sections and world regions. Focusing on organising strategic women workers in the transport supply chain, particularly in logistics' technological and administrative hubs and corridors where women workers are concentrated. Working with affiliates organising campaigns which target precarious women workers in jobs such as cleaning, catering and call centres.
3. **Pro-actively fighting the effects of the crises on women transport workers across the globe** through mobilising and campaigning for 'Our Public Transport'. Building alliances with communities to promote sustainable transport which enables women to access employment, childcare and health services.
4. **Strengthening ITF affiliates' campaigns that combat violence against women** at the global and regional levels, including building alliances with global organisations that are at the forefront of this work, involving both women and men transport workers, and supporting an ILO Convention on gender-based violence and sexual harassment at the workplace. The ITF Women Transport Workers Committee to take forward plans to hold a major ITF Conference on Violence against Women Transport Workers during 2014-2018.
5. **Supporting transport unions, ITF sections and regions to implement action on equality and women's representation**, including leadership development programmes, quotas, strengthening Women's Committees, Conferences and coordinators, and continuing to monitor outcomes and women's participation.
6. **Linking with the ITUC "Count us in" Campaign and expanding the ITF Women's Leadership programme "Leading Change"** to support ITF affiliates to build new, diverse and representative, generations of leaders at all levels who strategize, motivate, mobilise and mentor sisters to build strong unions for the next generations.

ITF Women are part of a global movement of women on the march. There can be no compromise on women's rights. We are building stronger unions with women in leadership at all levels. ITF unions must stand firm for women's equality and gender justice, and take action to advance the demands and aspirations of women at work, in the community and in the Union.

of the Port of Mombasa, preserving the good jobs that fuel the local economy.

Rebecca Crocker shared the triumphs and continuing challenges of fighting for decent treatment of London Underground cleaners. We heard stories of the India Railways and the fight for safety and decency for the women employees there who face physical attack, lack of

basic sanitary facilities, and a high rate of miscarriage due to the physical impacts of the trains, amongst other problems.

We heard from women whose safety is at risk merely for belonging to a labor organization, which must be carefully hidden. We listened to the ongoing struggle for basic worker rights at DHL

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IN MEMORIUM

Reg Theriault, Local 10 pensioner and author passes away at age 89

On March 1st, hundreds of well-wishers gathered at the Bayview Boat Club on the San Francisco waterfront to offer a final toast to Local 10 pensioner, Reg Theriault, who passed away on February 15 at the age of 89.

In addition to being a longshoreman, Theriault was an accomplished author of several books on work and the working class. His most successful book was, *How to Tell When You are Tired: A Brief Examination of Work*. It was widely praised and won acclaim from labor writer Studs Terkel who called it “a classic.”

Theriault saw work as a basic human condition. His writing gave voice to men and women who perform manual labor. “Most of the people across the face of the earth are doing work, much of it hard work,

most of the days of their lives,” wrote Theriault in *How to Tell When You are Tired*. “By the time most kids are big enough or old enough or educated enough to get their first job, they are already conditioned...to pass beyond liking or disliking work to accepting it as inevitable.”

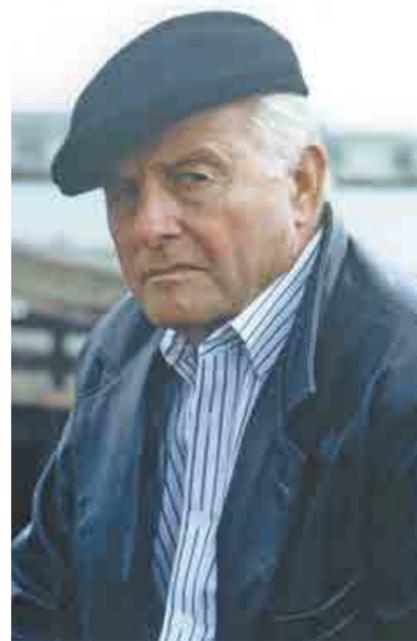
His other books included, *The Unmaking of the American Working Class* which was recently translated into Korean and *Longshoring on the San Francisco Waterfront*.

Many books on work and workers have been written by academics. Theriault was a working class intellectual whose perspective was informed by a lifetime of labor. He came from a family of “fruit tramps”—roving, migrant farm workers who sorted and packed fruit for shipment. After a finishing a job, his family might drive hundreds of miles overnight for a job at the next orchard or farm.

Theriault proudly served as a paratrooper during the Second World War and was witness to the Japanese surrender aboard the USS Missouri. After the war, he attended Cal for a few years before dropping out and eventually became a longshoreman in 1959.

Theriault served as Vice President of Local 10, caucus delegate and member of the negotiating committee.

He lived in the North Beach neighborhood of San Francisco for over 40 years. In the late 40’s to the mid-1950s he rubbed shoulders with the era’s radical writers, beatniks and free-thinkers such as Lawrence Ferlinghetti who gathered at City Lights Bookstore, Speck’s, Gino & Carlo’s and Vesuvio’s where Theriault worked as a bartender. He enjoyed diving for Abalone while camping on the Mendocino coast and learned to snow ski with his children when he was 50.

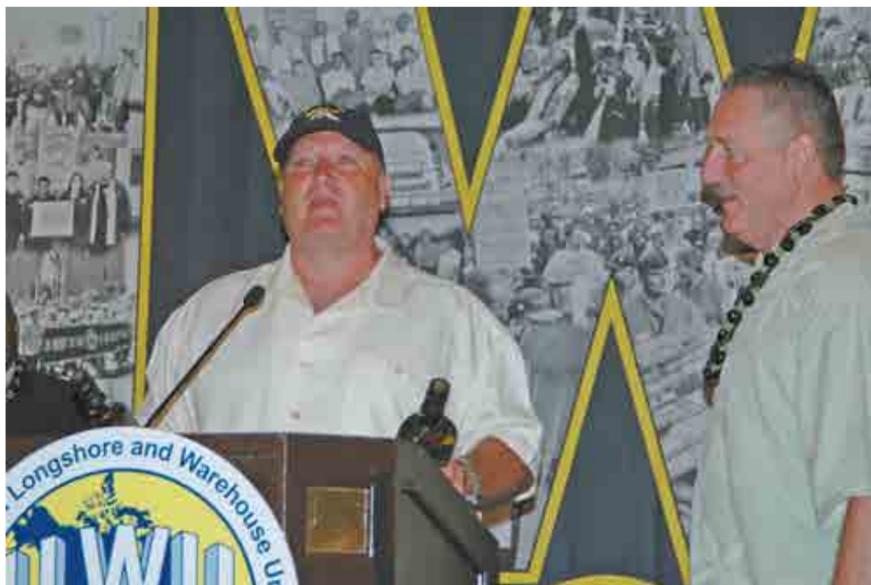


Through his books and as an officer at Local 10, Theriault spent his life fighting for safer and better working conditions, increased benefits for fellow workers and promoting the dignity and value of labor.

He is survived by his three sons, Thomas, Marcus and Raymond and three grandchildren. He was proud of all of his sons who became union members with strong work ethics.

IN MEMORIUM

Bob Crow: Militant British union leader



Crow was a popular guest at many ILWU events, including the 35th International Convention at San Diego in June, 2012, where he shared the podium with President Bob McEllrath.



Thousands honored British labor leader Bob Crow who died on March 11.

Thousands of working-class families lined the streets of London’s East End neighborhood on March 24 to honor the passing of Britain’s most militant labor leader of his generation: Bob Crow, who died suddenly at age 52 after a suspected heart attack on March 11.

For a dozen years, Crow headed the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union (RMT), where he led many strikes and made no apologies for being an avowed socialist and fighter for the working class.

Like the ILWU, the RMT and Bob Crow celebrated the power of solidarity at home and abroad. He regularly attended ILWU events, including the 2012 Convention in San Diego.

International Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe attended the funeral on behalf of the ILWU.

“Bob brought so much passion and intelligence to every fight,” said

Familathe. “There haven’t been many like him with his talent and commitment, which is why his loss is so stunning and sad.”

The hour-long procession from the East End to City of London Cemetery was observed by local union members, pensioners and supporters from around the world who clapped as the horse-drawn hearse carrying Crow’s casket passed, moving some to throw roses and shed tears while others sang socialist songs.

Alfonso Bahena, from Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, said Mr. Crow’s legacy went far beyond Britain.

“Bob Crow spoke at our Congress in Mexico City in 2010 and he was one of the most important people,” said Bahena who represented the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF). “He helped make a lot of policy for the railway workers in Brazil and South America.”

Crow’s loyalty extended to other groups in England that found him willing to support their causes,

including coal miners, pensioners, and activists at the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

As the leader of the RMT, he headed many strikes including a recent walk-out by London Underground workers. His tough stance frequently provoked controversy and drew sharp criticism from politicians who resented Crow’s loyalty among workers.

Crow was a passionate supporter of the Millwall Football Club, a working-class team founded in London’s East End near the docks, with a slogan fitting for Crow as well: “No one likes us – and we don’t care.”

“Some politicians called him the most hated man in Britain,” said one woman waiting for the procession. “But today it looks like he was the most loved.”

A memorial honoring Crow’s life and values is slated for London’s May Day celebration.



Crow’s casket was carried through the streets of his working class East End neighborhood on a traditional horse-drawn hearse.

ITF Women's Conference in New Delhi tackles issues facing women workers around the world



Women's Transport Workers Conference: IBU Secretary Treasurer Terri Mast (third from right), San Francisco Regional Director Marina Secchitano (fourth from right) and IBU member Alison Seamans (fifth from right) with members of the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen.

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Turkey, and the drive to organize fisheries in Papua New Guinea. Both were successful in organizing a union with the support of the ITF and we celebrated in their victory.

These and many more stories formed the backdrop for the work of setting goals and direction to recommend to the ITF. For every story we heard there were a dozen more waiting to be told. We came away with an informed, global perspective on the state of our unions and labor in today's world.

The business of the convention was to set a direction and recommendations where women in labor are concerned for the ITF, and to identify opportunities for action over the next four years. The conference tackled two major issues facing women. The first is the global economic crisis, and anti-labor responses to it, including the necessity of organizing women transport workers in a market where all workers are increasingly kept in

insecure temporary and contracted jobs. Often, women are especially vulnerable to the effects of austerity measures. They are the lowest paid members of the workforce, disproportionately affected by cost saving measures, and the first affected by lay-offs.

The second issue is that of violence against women. Women face the dual challenge of being targeted for violence (both in and out of the workplace) because of their gender, and being more vulnerable to non-gender based violence in the transportation industry. In many countries, such as India, rape, murder, violence and harassment are used as a tactic to enforce the power of men over women, limit the opportunities available to women, and keep them out of the workplace.

The conference passed resolutions calling on the ITF to recognize, recruit, promote, and continue mapping women in transport jobs and union, participate in educating male colleagues about issues facing women in the workplace, provide opportunities for women via training and

information, encourage solidarity from male union members, campaign against gender based violence, and support effective networks of women in transportation. The ITF seeks to build ongoing alliances with organizations working to combat violence against women, encourage participation in the International Day to Say No to Violence Against Women on November 25, and explore ways to strengthen affiliates' campaigns. Austerity cuts to public services affect all women, who are the majority users of public transportation, child care and health care. Unions need to build and support strong campaigns to maintain quality public services. The conference endorsed recommendations to the ITF Congress to continue seeking input from the sectional and regional conferences and to set up a working group to produce recommendations for priority issues and targets for the next four years.

The conference finished with a rally through downtown New Delhi protesting violence against women. We marched through the busy train station and finished up with greetings and ceremonies by our sisters and brothers at the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen and the All India Railwaymen's Federation. We were privileged to an intense and moving performance of street theater in protest of a culture of violence against women. Several dozen young men and women performed passionately, sometimes interactively, with an audience drawn close to the performance.

So what does this mean for the IBU? We have opportunities to address these from within our own union. Codifying domestic violence leave into our bargaining agreements was raised, and is some-

thing we should look at for both women and men. Working in an industry where physical demands are high can make pregnancy and child birth more challenging; we can make materials available to give workers more awareness of their rights and options. Social media and our website can be used to promote awareness of the issues facing women in transportation worldwide and how to support gender equality, by posting and following up on the challenges and situations we've been informed about at this conference, and reporting on actions we take within our own union. The IBU should recognize International Women's Day on March 8 in a way that draws involvement from our women members. We should create awareness of women in our non-passenger industries especially. We need to evaluate what issues they face, or would face, and what would be needed to recruit more and insure they have an equal place and equal voice with men in the workplace. We need to identify areas in our union where women workers are not well represented in leadership or are facing issues in the workplace that we should be helping with. We should support the International Labor Organization's (ILO) campaign for a standard on gender based violence at work and campaign for US support of a convention on gender based violence at work. Visit http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/stop_violence_en.pdf for more information on this. Above all we need to foster an awareness that all workers globally are in the same struggle for a decent life. We are stronger if we fight together. This was an incredible opportunity to see the solidarity of our unions and the power of our women leaders in being a part of building an International movement.

Local 6 holds 67th Annual Convention



On February 22 ILWU Local 6 held their 67th annual convention at their hall in Oakland. The struggle by recycling workers in Alameda County for fair wages took center stage.

Convention delegates and guests heard from workers at Waste Management who have working under an expired contract for several years. The convention also heard from non-union workers employed by the company ACI in San Leandro that has been paying them substandard wages in violation of a city living wage ordinance.

The convention honored Donal Mahon, Local 6 Business Agent who is retiring. Also honored at the convention was retired ILWU Organizing Director, Peter Olney.

ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams was among the guest speakers. He spoke about the growing inequality in the US and the important role that unions play in defending the interests of the working class. He reminded the convention that a strong union depends on an active rank and file membership. "A strong rank and file is the core strength of the ILWU. We may be small in size but we pack the punch of a heavy weight," he said.

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 8: David R. Schmit;
Local 10: Frank Cresci; Carlos D. Austin; **Local 13:** Rene Lopez; Leonel L. Lopez; William E. Bronner; **Local 19:** John T. Walsh; **Local 34:** Emilio Chaname; Eugene E. Davenport; **Local 63:** Anderson C. Woodard; Frank L. Hu;
DECEASED PENSIONERS:
Local 10: Vernon E. Shilts; Tasho Madrid; Reg R. Theriault; Donald Bentley; Henry F. Rendon; Walter Smith Jr.; Antonio Trejo (Eleanor); **Local 13:** Larry K. Brown; Robert D. Goff; Raul S. Ruiz; Timothy J. Rosborough; Vinko Caric; **Local 19:** Charles L. Burrows; Chester Samples Jr.; Victor Sabbatini; **Local 21:** Ronald D. Derrick; **Local 23:** Gale B. Emery; Sylvester Ausborn; **Local 24:** Dennis D. Such; **Local 29:** Manuel G. Frias Jr.; **Local 34:** Wilbert L. Fennell; Harry

R. Gilmore; **Local 54:** Woody R. Alspaugh; **Local 63:** Charles A. Stevens; Roger F. Huddleston; Sandra H. Towne; **Local 91:** Richard L. Alvis; **Local 94:** Richard Garcia;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 8: Pauline Fitterer; Kaye L. Premo; Doris A. Beaman; **Local 10:** Mabel L. Zamacona; Claudia Mc Grew; Lillie Sheppard; **Local 12:** Mabel F. Crawford; **Local 13:** Frances Alonge; Sammie F. Cheak; Eileen Ayres; **Local 19:** Lenore Arnautoff; Caroline Morgan; Patricia M. Wright; **Local 29:** Frances Pacheco; Concepcion Flores; **Local 40:** Jessie M. Cox Jr.; **Local 63:** Laura E. Duncan; Lenora Stango; **Local 75:** Atsuko Jurenes; **Local 91:** Dorothy Sanchez; **Local 94:** Wilma M. Iacono; **Local 98:** Helen G. Shore;