Longshore and Clerks Locals Prepare For Real Beef as Shipowners Open Pact

SAN FRANCISCO — The shipowners have opened the Coast Longshore agreement and all other maritime union contracts which terminate June 15.

A caucus of longshore and shipclerks locals has been called for May 14 and 15 in Portland at the Benson Hotel.

In a preliminary meeting April 28, they demanded a new termination date of September 30 for the agreement. This was rejected by the union.

The shipowners presented one demand in a preliminary agreement. They asked that the union agree to a wage rate of $46.50 a week on May 15, 1947.

This was rejected by the union. The longshore caucus following the Senate vote on April 21 in a review of savings in all forms said:

WASHINGTON, Vote is Test Case

RAYMOND, Wash. (FP) — The death in the nation's capital of Representative Fred Norman (R) and the pending by-election to replace him have labor circles in a ferment here.

Norman, a member of the Shingle Weavers Union (AFL), was induced by large sections of the AFL, in his district, but in his final vote did not vote for passage of the sweeping anti-union bill he had voted for passage of the sweeping anti-union bill.

The third district, from which Norman was elected in 1942 and again last year, has seen the closest contest in the state. The coming special election will attract the attention of the nation, and it is felt, will make the first important gauge of public feeling toward the Republican Congress.

American Savings Down 42 Per Cent Last Year

WASHINGTON (FP) — The American people in 1945 saved their savings drop 42 per cent below what they were in 1944, the Commerce Department said.

The report April 21 in a review of savings trends published in its official bulletin, Survey of Current Business.

Whereas savings in all forms totaled $33 billion in 1945, they dropped to $18 billion in 1946, the review said.

The decline was blamed on "price rises and the great quantities of consumer goods, expanded consumer credit and the disappearance of wartime savings pressures."

A total of 82 out of every 1,000 workers in manufacturing industries quit their jobs last August, compared with 66 mass-union workers, to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

French Dockers Greet the ILWU, Say They Will Fight for Freedom Always

SAN FRANCISCO—Doree Brest, secretary of the French Dockers and Longshoremen's Union, said the following May Day message to the ILWU through the Paris correspondent of Associated Labor Press:

"French dockers, longshoremen and maritime workers are following with the closest attention the fight now being waged by the different industrial unions in the AFL for the maintenance of their dearly-bought labor's rights and for the general improvements of their standard of living."

"Our own French maritime unions have to be as just as the alert concerning the way the burden of sacrificers is shared among the different elements of our society, the recon-struction and rehabilitation of our war-worn and looted land. Faith-ful, our supporters of labor standards will always be our American fellow workers—stand for freedom against tyranny."

"May Day, anniversary of the date on which Chicago workers shed their blood for the common cause, and which has become Workers' Day throughout the world, all dockers, longshoremen and maritime workers will remember, like their comrades in other trades, all over France, to commemorate the heroic sacri-fices of the past, and also to affirm their determination to go on fighting until workers in all lands, without discrimination because of sex, race or color are free from fear, slavery and despotism."

Senate Harries Drastic Measures As House Guarantees Industrial Slavery

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The House of Representatives on April 17 voted a bill which, in the opinion of the most drastic "slave labor" bill in the history of this coun-try. Plans of Senators Taft and Ball and the other tories center around getting the somewhat milder Taft bill (S. 1126) amended on the Senate floor to equal the Hartley measure.

As passed by the House, the Hartley omnibus measure accord-ing to 29 House liberals, will be a new "guarantee of industrial slavery." The terms permit em-ployers to substitute individual for collective bargaining, grant injunctions against strikes, allow employers to bargain through their associations but deny unions the right to bargain nationally. Employers can say: "The statement issued April 17 by the liberals said the bill will also permit employers to sit on both sides of the table and set up company unions, allow them to send in their spies and make unions powerless to expel them."

Finally, they said the bill would give an employer the right to outlaw and crush a strike by hiring strikebreakers even if the dispute were provoked by the company and permit the bosses to cooperate with anti-labor em-ployers in order to destroy unions of their choice."

CIO President Philip Murray called the bill the first real step in "the development of fascism in the country."

"AFL WILL FIGHT"

"The AFL General Counsel Joseph Padway promised that the AFL will fight "every provision" of the Hartley bill. He also called it a constructive bill."

"The shipowners have notified the union they desire to termi-nate the coast longshore agree-ment June 15. But they did not serve notice of cancellation, the union they desire to termi-nate it a complete statement of the agreement.

"The action of the shipowners is the first step in an attempt to force the union to agree to changes or face a lockout next June 15. The intent of the shipowners is to take out of the agreement provisions which have been secured by negotiation, arbitration and decisions of government agencies.

"The union is going to resist with all of its resources any at-tempts of the shipowner to take away conditions the union has gained over a long period of time. The fact that the shipown-ers are obviously attempting to take advantage of the general re-actionary drive against all labor will solidify the union's ranks for any struggle that may be forced upon the union."

IN THIS ISSUE

A 10-page special supplement will be found starting on page 11 of this issue of THE DISPATCHER. Be sure and keep this issue around until you have read it through. The section contains the report of the ILWU officers to the Seventh Biennial Conven- tion. The convention desig-nated it a complete statement of ILWU policy and ordered it printed for the entire mem-bership.
Fustest with the mostest

BY HARRY BRIDGES

Their's not to reason why, Their's but to do and die.

I N THAT couplet from "The Charge of the Light Brigade", the great British poet, Tennyson, put his finger on the military mind—on the shine-up brass—the brass that is neither trained to understand nor can afford to operate in ways democratic. The military man can have no clear idea of regimenting them, drilling the hell out of them, demanding instant obedience to any order, no matter how deep or dangerous they may be, and no back talk to superiors.

The more brass the military man acquires, the more power and intolerance. And this way of thinking becomes his way of living, governing and doing. It may be that an army in wartime cannot be democratic, and that in a critical battle with the enemy orders must be obeyed, right or wrong, even though people die and have died by the millions as a result of the mistakes of the brass. The brass calls the shots, and none have to be sacrificed in the achievement of a military objective during a war.”expendible.”

WAR TO most people is a horror. To most military men, particularly the high brass, it is wealth, power, medals, publicity and prestige. The brass that are already in the high councils of American monopoly and corporations—the biggest of them, the most vicious pro-fascist and anti-labor corporations.

Spare and to some extent, the printing of the long list of generals and admirals new directing or helping direct the policies of America's biggest monopolies. Others of the high brass have moved into or been appointed into our government—thanks to a weak, vacil-ling, a political party with a tendency to do things along the long line of regimentation himself. After all, why shouldn't he? He spent enough years as part of an unscrupulous political machine, taking orders and not daring to give any back answers.

It was the experience of this union in the last war, that we had to fight the brass almost every inch of the way in order to speed up the shipment and delivery of the weapons and goods of war to the GI Joe in the ranks on the battlefields. Just ask any of our longshoremen, dock workers, warehouse workers, and leaders for that matter. “Snafu” was an army term. Labor didn't invent it. It grew out of the old saying that we all know: “There are only two ways to things—the right way and the army way”.

It is the military mind and methods of the brass now in private corporations that have a lot to do with the drive to regiment and control labor—to make it take orders, with no back talk. The same type of thinking is being applied to our foreign policy, and countries and people. It is the military mind.

In this connection, let us not forget that MacArthur commanded the troops which shot down the bonus marchers under Hoover. And let us also remember that the present Secretary of State, George Marshall, notwithstanding his ability as a soldier and military leader, didn't know enough about the beginning of the war, but that he had to call in the press of the State Department, and deliver a ponderous and considered opinion that the war would only take six weeks to lick Russia and the entire world.

The least effective atmosphere for the brass to work in in peace time, as it is in war time, is one in which they constantly work to create a popular feeling that war is imminent, and further that the war is not of their making, but is inevitably due to come about because of the Greeks, or the Chinese, or the Koreans or because of alleged expansion of Communist Russia. It would be refreshing to hear some of the brass, including the Secretary of State, let go a blast over the radio against Franco Spain, or Argentina, or the dictatorship of Turkey, where unions are illegal.

It looks like we won't hear anything like that. The real reason is that these countries, like any other, are ruled and controlled by members of the officer class, or brass. It has certainly been proven that in countries under AMG control, where when it narrows down to a choice of a union man or a real fascist holding a position in government in such countries, nine times out of ten the brass will choose a pro-nazi, a pro-fascist or a died-in-the-wool fascist. They are planning to militarize the country. They are determined to make the country the target of the last war to put on the other side. While Roosevelt was living, they couldn't get away with it, but with the present weakling in the White House, who is poor at military thinking, they will be able to get away with it. And every worker can do his bottom dollar no big brass of the war will be found speaking out against the Hartley-Taft slave labor law.

The brass is for war. It's their life, their meat, and career. When wars can't be found on some excuse against other countries, they'll make shift with wars upon labor and labor unions. And that's just what they're going right now.
Wallace Receives Big Welcome on European Tour, Sets the People Thinking, Despite American Press

By TRAVIS K. HEDRICK
WASHINGTON (FP) — Henry A. Wallace's European tour is a thrilling success despite the helping of the American daily press which calls him a crackpot and refuses to let the U. S. public read the text of what he has to say against the Truman doctrine for a new American imperialism.

A bomb was thrown, killing one; a government official, 11; and 56 others. The workers of the various countries must organize a great International demonstration, so that in all countries and in all cities on one appointed day the telling masses shall demand of the state authorities the legal reduction of the working day to eight hours, as well as the carrying out of other decisions of the Paris congress. Since a similar demonstration had already been accepted for the international which the various countries must organize to conditions prevailing in each country.

Stills Formed Vice President
Henry A. Wallace has stirred thinking among the world's peoples in his current European tour to warn against the new Truman doctrine in world affairs. The Daily Press and its strikers and congressional reacions.

Formal Identities Used
To Bust Unions, Create Slave Labor

By MIRIAM KOLKIN
NEW YORK (FP)—As the life of the American daily press is threatened, the U. S. government is strengthened.

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Business Led to International May Day

Wallace Spoke at May Day Rally in Paris

The French labor government can drift, if its ascendancy to the USSR. It was the same in England, the most militant left-wing land—and the earth, too: "Eight hours."

The curtain rose on the May Day demonstration in Paris. The French labor government can drift, if its ascendancy to the USSR. It was the same in England, the most militant left-wing land—and the earth, too: "Eight hours."

Mr. Wallace has argued with unanswerable force that to bolster the USSR. "Listening to Mr. Wallace's broadcast on Sunday, they must have asked themselves why this—the most desperate expression of progressive foreign policy ever broadcast by the leaders of the Russian revolution was spoken by an American. They are not out of sympathy with the speeches from the backbenches, but they are unwilling themselves to bring their countries in line.

"They are just strong enough to prevent Mr. Bevin from coming out in public support of Mr. Truman and Mr. Churchill. They can exert a certain negative control on the day's working day conduct of foreign affairs. But more than that seems to be beyond their strength."

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Convention Records ILWU Faith in Political Action

SAN FRANCISCO—One of the important items placed before the Seventh Convention of the ILWU by the Legislative Committee was a resolution on political action, reaffirming the union’s faith in political action and calling for the membership to put such a program into action.

This resolution was sharply debated by the delegates but after all arguments were heard it passed with one dissenting voice. William Lawrence, of Local 13, said that it would not be enough just to pass a motion permitting the International to levy a dollar assessment for PAC. "This would not mean a thing unless the delegates went back to their locals and explained to their membership this very resolution we have made."

L. B. Thomas, of Local 13, explained that the Legislative Committee had taken into consideration mistakes made by PAC. "These mistakes do not mean that PAC is ready to fold up." He then explained the success of such political action by outlining the policies and programs now before the California State Legislature. On the contrary, Thomas said, "It was the unanimous opinion of the Committee that we need an active and working PAC."

OPPOSE POLL TAXES

A resolution on political democracy was passed as recommended by the Legislative Committee. It stated: "We reaffirm our support of political action, oppose restrictions on the right to vote in the form of poll taxes, white primaries ... believe the right to vote should be extended to all citizens 18 years of age or over ... to members of the armed services ... and to American Indians."

FAITH IN POLITICAL ACTION

The resolution presented a foregone conclusion that "the ILWU is a union solidly for and of the rank and file members."

Ford Co. Terminates Contract with Foremen

BELOIT, Wis. (PP) — The day after Henry Ford’s death the Foreman’s Association of America” (FAA) was terminated by the Ford Motor Co. that the union contract was at an end. The FAA retaliated by authorizing a strike, if necessary, by the 2500 Ford workers.

"There will be a strike," said W. W. Wessells, director of the FAA. "However, the company negotiates a fair agreement in the meantime."

The company said the old contract had not worked out as expected.
ILWU Balloting Committee Approves Official Ballot Urges All

SAN FRANCISCO — The ILWU Balloting Committee appointed by the Seventh Biennial Convention met here over the weekend and approved an official ballot and urge every member of the order to vote on the coming referendum election of officers, Executive Board members and CHB. 

The International office will send out instructions on voting procedure.

The Committee will meet again on election returns early in June.

Candidates will appear on the ballot in alphabetical order, one per position. Running unopposed for International President is Harry Schmidt, San Francisco; for vice president, J. E. Robertson, Local 6, San Francisco; for secretary-treasurer, Louis Goldblatt, Local 6, San Francisco.

BULKE VS. JACKMAN

On the ballot for second vice president are: B. H. Niles, Local 10, San Francisco, and Coleman White, Local 10, San Francisco.

Four of the following will be elected as delegates to the National CIO Convention: Frank Andrews, Local 47, Olympia; C. M. Burch, Local 10, Seattle;жах Кавано, Local 137, Portland; James Moore, Local 229, Washington; Eldon W. Jordan, Local 137, Portland; J. R. Robertson, Local 6, San Francisco.

Oscar Hagen, Local 13, San Pedro, and Jack Steinhardt, Local 26, Los Angeles, are unopposed for the Southern California members of the Executive Board.

In Northern California Charles DeWarte, Local 6, San Francisco, and Frank Hendrickly, Local 10, San Francisco, are unopposed, as are the following, whose names are listed, for the Oregon area: John Berry, Local 202, Northern California; George McDonald, Nixon and Phillips, Voting against were: Douglas, Hannover, Hollis, Kimball, Kriden, and Esquivel.

The Democratic (Rep.), and Tollefson (Rep.), were: Ellsworth, Norblad and Stockman, all Republicans, with Angell (Rep.) against.

Oregon Congressmen in favor were: Ellsworth, Norblad and Stockman, all Republicans, with Angell (Rep.) against.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The House of Representatives, voting against were: Douglas, Hannover, Hollis, Kimball, Kriden, and Esquivel.

The Democratic (Rep.), and Tollefson (Rep.), were: Ellsworth, Norblad and Stockman, all Republicans, with Angell (Rep.) against.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — No OPA. - Come back, Mr. Gimpel, if only a recession!"

U. S. Agency Terrorizes Yugoslavs

NEW YORK (FP) — Yugoslav-Americans in Farrell, Pennsylvania, are being threatened with denial of American citizenship unless they publicly denounce the Yugoslav government, Executive Secretary Abner Green of the American Committee for Immigration and Naturalization Service and delegate to Maine.

They will be denied their citizenship.

Two naturalized citizens in the community were called to Youngstown, where they were infuriated, harangued and threatened with loss of citizenship unless they publicly denounce the present Yugoslav government, the Yugoslav Council of the United States said.

They are told that, unless they publicly oppose the present Yugoslav government, they will be denied their citizenship.

They have no options if they do not support the government of Yugoslavia and then they will be denied their citizenship.

There's no shortage of profits for newspaper manufacturers. Net income of International Paper Company in 1946 was $511,197,948, more than triple its 1945 profit.
FANS FOR JACKIE

Hero of these young autograph seekers is Jackie Robinson, first Negro to crack the big leagues in baseball. As first baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers, Jackie is showing the sensational form which last year made him the most valuable player in the National League.

CLRC Reports on Gains of Longshoremen Since ’45

SAN FRANCISCO—Since the last convention, in 1945, the Coast Labor Relations Committee reported to the Seventh ILWU Convention, longshoremen and closely related groups have won 42 cents an hour increases and other major gains.

For example, longshoremen in the Ports of Seattle and Portland have voted for a 4-hour minimum wage with a 4-hour cut in workday, and a 4-cent minimum wage increase for all new hires. The ILWU has also Negotiated for an 80 percent increase in the qualifying hours for insured workers, and a 40 percent increase in the qualifying hours for non-insured workers. These increases were effective January 1, 1947, and are longshoremen obtained 10 work hours, and a 4-hour minimum wage increase for all new hires.

In addition, the ILWU has negotiated for a 25 percent increase in the qualifying hours for all new hires, and a 20 percent increase in the qualifying hours for all new hires. The ILWU has also Negotiated for a 25 percent increase in the qualifying hours for all new hires, and a 20 percent increase in the qualifying hours for all new hires.

Employers Spurn Dock Pay Demands

HONOLULU, T. H.—The fight of Hawaiian longshoremen for wage parity with workers on the mainland, the company replied that since the contract went into effect January 15, new features have developed ... which would provide a marked upward adjustment of wages.

The union asked an immediate beginning of negotiations April 18.

New General Manager Clark Selected by WEA

SAN FRANCISCO—New general manager of the Waterfront Employers’ Association of the Pacific Coast is Henry W. Clark, who was announced recently.

He began his work by serving as administrative assistant to Foisie, who is the general manager of the Alaska Development Board before coming to the WEA, and was an army colonel during the war.

Illegals Illegals

NEW MEXICO BILL ASKS 50c Hourly Minimum

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (FP) — Revelation that 35,000 Missouri workers are receiving wages of less than 50 cents an hour has led to the introduction in the legis-

lation here of a measure to set a minimum wage of 50 cents an hour for all workers in the state except agricultural workers. The measure, which has the strong support of the St. Louis Central Trades & Labor Council, was submitted after a study by the minimum wage committee of the Missouri Association for So-

cial Reform that the widespread payment of sub-minimum wages is a serious industrial strain.

Award CIO Editor With Bronze Star For OSS Job

WASHINGTON (AP) — Associated Press war correspondent John F. Finley, who received the bronze star for meritorious service with the OSS in getting out information from Austria, the belated ceremony was held in the U. S. Army Pentagon.
SAN FRANCISCO— Wage cuts, virtual elimination of the hiring hall, denial of the right of foremen to belong to the union, fines and penalties aimed at destroying the grievance machinery of the union were the first demands of Northern California warehouse employers in a new contract drive that began here last week for a one-year master contract with Local 6.

The employers, representing 12,000 of the local's 18,000 workers, said on May 31.

Oakland employers in the East Bay Manufacturers' and Distributors' Association have joined with the Distributors' Associations for the first time in these negotiations which will set a pattern for all Northern California warehouses. Jurisdiction of the union is extended to fields from bags to waste products.

STRIKE NO. 11hIPE.

Local 6 has filed strike notice with the government to back up its demands for an employer-paid health and welfare fund, ten cents per hour general increase, improvement in sick and vacation clauses, and the elimination of over-time payments in order fillers', beginners' and women's classifications.

Employer proposals are:

Ten cents per hour wage cut and a five per cent increase for the employer for an employer less than one year; five per cent for less than two years.

"An 'impartial hall' in place of a union-staffed hiring hall with the right of employers established to hire help from outside union ranks in all classifications except freight handlers and to accept or reject anyone sent from the hall. Elimination of foremen and 'other supervisory employees' from the jurisdiction of the grievance procedure."

Demand $25.00 bond

Posting by the union of a permanent $25.00 fund to be used in the payment of penalties for meal. The union forgiveness of any alleged set by the union and/or any of its members.

Control of retiree and benefit plans the sole prerogative of management.

Right of management unilaterally to make any changes in work practices relative to the introduction of labor-saving machinery.

One union steward only to a plant, regardless of size.

Use of bulletin boards limited to meetings and social aff airs with immediate discharge the employee for failure to report.

End of seniority except by job classification.

End of leaves of absence of formal union members.

FIRE FOR SLOWDOWN

Company and two by Oahu Railroad and Land Company earlier.

Kaahului, Maui, T. H.— New bus schedules announced by the Kahului Railroad Company here which meant three shifts a day for the drivers over a period of 15 hours, combined with 10 hours in works reduced to take home pay, sent ILWU Local 144-11 members off the job in protest. A five-day walkout brought reinstatement of a rational bargain.

The company took its action on a meal period on a new contract signed March 6. It claimed the section forced a shift split a day for the drivers over a spread of 15 hours, combined with 10 hours in works reduced to take home pay, sent ILWU Local 144-11 members off the job in protest. A five-day walkout brought reinstatement of a rational bargain.

The railroad asked for a new meeting to talk over the meal time and a half paid time after five hours of work without a meal. The union position was the section specifically exempted the railroad from the bargaining agreement.

WALLOUT CALLED ILEGAL

A union statement said that the ILWU position is that the railroads are excluded from the collective bargaining process.

HONOLULU, T. H.—Workers in the cold storage, pineapple freight and general warehouse divisions of the Hawaiian Tuna Packers here returned to their jobs April 9 after a three-week strike caused by the company's refusal to renew the ILWU to reach an agreement on a first contract for 13 workers.

"You must understand—an injunction is an injunction!"
Ford Swindles Gov't Out of Millions in Taxes

DETROIT (FP)—Henry Ford, domineering American industrialist and director of the Ford Motor Co., has made it clear that the company will no longer be held responsible for any of the millions of dollars of losses that it has incurred in the past. Ford has declared that he is determined to take over the company and make it a success, regardless of the losses that have been incurred in the past.

The company, which has been in business for over 100 years, has suffered a number of setbacks in recent years, including a major strike last year that cost the company millions of dollars. Ford has been criticized for his management style and his lack of interest in the day-to-day operations of the company. However, he has steadfastly refused to change his ways, and has continued to run the company in the same manner as he always has.

Ford, who is known for his eccentric behavior and his penchant for grandiose schemes, has been involved in a number of controversial projects in recent years. He has been accused of using company money for personal purposes, and of spending millions of dollars on projects that have been widely criticized.

Despite these challenges, Ford remains determined to make the company a success, and he has vowed to do whatever it takes to ensure its survival. He has made it clear that he is willing to take risks and make bold decisions in order to achieve this goal.

Iowa Farmers Praise CIO Packhousing

OTTUMWA, la. (FP)—Citizens of this midwest town opened the packhouses recently and read about settlement of a farmers cooperative that will eliminate all milk deliveries for five days. They also read an ad by 190 local farmers requesting them to help them get the cooperative going. They were pleased with it.

"We're glad we found out that this is the way to get a blow at our enemies' pockets," said the Ottumwa Milk Producers Cooperative in the paper. "We're glad to see that this will help us win. We've been told by the farmers that many of them have come to us and said that they now find the strange thing. We're glad we had a chance to meet representatives of the trade unions."
CIO Condemns Greek and Turkish Suppression of Union Organization

WASHINGTON, D.C.—According to information from the CIO Director of Research, the CIO has received a letter from Michael Ross, a member of the International. Ross expressed his belief that “the World Federation of Trade Unions, Turkey, is one of the few nations in the world that do not have a trade union movement affiliated with the WFTU.”

Ross stated: “When the general election in Greece resulted in the Communist Party gaining power, the right wing of the trade union movement broke away from the Greek Confederation of Labor, and the reactionary government has been established. This government became an affiliate of the WFTU but it left the organization of American labor.”

Ross pointed out that CIO officials have supported the Truman Administration in its policies to establish American labor on the economic mission to Greece which went under the leadership of Paul Porter, former OPA chief.

AID BASED ON FEAR

Recently a CIO official wrote in the New York Times: “What the workers of the United States would like to know is what is going to happen to the case of Greece and Turkey to show that these actions were not designed to make workers like to know whether we are expected to proceed solely on a philosophy of national security, of food, of clothing, of shelter, of medical care, of freedom from fear, with which ordinary citizens are concerned.”

WFTU STATEMENT

A policy statement of the WFTU in September, 1946, hold that “trade union liberties have been seriously infringed and that a new Trade Union Congress be held and the government of Greece in suppressing the freedom of workers to exercise their trade union rights.”

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Police Brutality

Striking phone operator—Caroline McDonald was kicked unconscious by policeman Daniel Reidy in a holdover from phone company, many of them women, against ruling of Judge George Schoenfeld limiting pickets to six. Two men carried the unconscious girl to safety. Joseph Sally, president of the American Communications Association, looks on. In background: San Francisco Police Chief Charles Dulles.

S. F. Cops Return to Form

Club Phone Workers

SAN FRANCISCO—San Francisco police have again mounted on the understanding that the CIO official has written: “While the NFTW is not affiliated to the CIO we consider the telephone workers are fighting the battle in which all American workers should be interested. That is the real victory, a victory for all labor.”

In Northern California and Nevada, the phone company employees recently voted overwhelmingly to have the American Communications Association represent them as collective bargaining agents.

Set Plans for Cotton Council

NEW ORLEANS, La.—Plans to unite all cotton growers into a Cotton Council were laid recently at a joint conference of ILGWU Local 307 and Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Southern locals. The conference adopted a constitution and set up a working committee. Local 307 holds contracts with three cotton compresses here covering more than 350 workers.
All But the Voice of Big Business has been Stilled on the Airwaves. Here is the first part of a two-part review of the radio commentator situation as it exists today.

BY VICTOR WEINGARTEN

Part I

Sing a little song
That your sponsor likes.
You'll make dough
And open up the mikes.
And don't give a damn
And you'll get a pain called
NAM NAM NAM
Leaves you in a stupor
"Keep to the RIGHT!"
"Keep to the RIGHT!
Don't know where you're at.
Knocks you flat
Cuts off your Hooper
Airlanes are closing
Sponsors are hollering
Good news tonight!
Let's get tight.
Tier of free speech for
Public Enterprise.
Today ranks with the
Only the voice of big
press in presenting
the facts.
"Whodunit" in radio to-
A man who plug free en-
The boast John Ran-
The same interests which
also are strangling radio. The Com-
are carried by more
stations than ever before.
Big are the voices of William
Shirer, Johannes Steel, Robert
St. John, John Vandercook,
Franklin Lewis, Jr., Henry
J. Taylor, Gabriel
Heatter, carried the native
fascist, Upton Close, until
he got into a personality fight with
his sponsor, the native fascist
National Economic
Council headed by
Merwin K. Hart; and
cut liberal Cecil Brown
down to 6 minutes a week.
TAYLOR
One of the most vi-
cious of the reaction-
ary voices on radioelongs to Henry J.
Taylor, who is spon-
sored by General
Motors (which is controlled by Du-
Silent are the voices of William
Sidney Walton, Hans Jacob,
Shirer, Johannes Steel, Robert
Sidney, Roger, Northern Cali-
Parker Lewis, Quentin Reynolds
White are the voices of William
Shirer, Johannes Steel, Robert
St. John, John Vandercook,
Franklin Lewis, Jr., Henry
J. Taylor, Gabriel
Heatter, carried the native
fascist, Upton Close, until
he got into a personality fight with
his sponsor, the native fascist

PUBLISHERS IN WOODPILE
Not generally known is the
fact that newspapers them-
selves have made substantial
invasions into the radio field. A
Congressional report, "U. S. vs.
Economic Concentration and
Monopoly," reveals that news-
papers either own or control
50% of the 200 stations in the
entire country. The report
states:
"The newspapers control even
a greater proportion of the
more powerful broadcasting
stations in the country." Stat-
tistics show that 44 of the 53
largest are newspapers owned,
with the same proportion of
ownership down the line.
Thus, the anti-labor bias of
newspapers is transferred to
the other publisher-owned
media of communication.

Today, with a 300-station net-
work and its result, is the case
of the Mutual Broadcasting
System, which is dominated by
Colonel Robert McCormick of
the Chicago Tribune. This
newspaper control of a net-
work is transferred to
other publisher-owned
media of communication.

"The Federal Communications
Commission is eyeing carefully
Henry J. Taylor's broadcasts,
which some claim are fascist
propaganda.

Today, with a 300-station net-
work, Taylor has one of the
largest listening audiences in
radio. He is one of the darlings
of the nation's "poison press."

Read more about Taylor
and other commentators
in the next issue.


1. PEACE AND SECURITY

The sixth biennial convention of the International Longshoremen’s and Warehousemen’s Union adjourned sine die at 6:30 p.m., April 2, 1945.

In the months immediately following the convention, these world-shaking events took place:

Franklin D. Roosevelt died, April 12, 1945.

V-J Day, the final victory over Hitler, came on May 8, 1945.

Within four months after the convention, the goal of the united peoples to defeat and destroy the fascist armies was achieved. All the energies of this union had been made part of that great fight.

The union had decided in convention, and followed out in its program of daily action, that the war came first. All its strength and resources were funneled in that direction. That was done in spite of the fact that the officers and members of the union realized that money powers within this country and abroad saw in the fight against fascism just another opportunity to augment their wealth, to entrench their monopolies, and to prepare for further exploitation of the working people.

Labor Had One Choice

The 1945 convention spoke out against the special interests, self-seeking industrialists, and corporations. Yet, no choice remained to labor but to lend its every effort to defeat the main enemy—world fascism.

We know that all we might get as a reward for the efforts of the people in this great conflict might merely be another chance to fight for a better life. Many of us were in hopes that perhaps the fighting unity and driving power of the people, who responded so magnificently in the war against fascism, might be maintained at full strength in the equally important fight to win the peace. As an organization, we were more than ready to do our part towards laying the foundation for a constructive coalition of all elements in society to further that end.

Yet it was clear to our delegates at the last convention, and to our membership and officials, that in spite of anything labor might do to further the war effort, in spite of the urgent, pressing importance of national unity to defeat the enemy, there were those forces among the employers and entrenched interests of this country who were determined to rob the people of their victory. Through-wealth for a drive towards world-wide control for American capital and the smashing of American labor as a part of such a plan.

Reaction is Not Dead

The weakening or outright smashing of American labor unions is a necessary part of such a plan. As far back as 1943 Congress enacted the Smith-Connally Act over President Roosevelt’s veto. And this was only one of 61 anti-labor bills introduced in Congress in 1943. Most of them were sponsored by such well-known anti-labor characters as Clare Hoffman of Michigan, Byrd and Smith of Virginia, O’Daniel of Texas, Hobbs of Alabama, Rankin of Mississippi, and others of their ilk. These are the very same men whose bills are again before Congress and who see in the postwar situation the opportunity to do what the Roosevelt coalition prevented their doing during the war.

There were other evidences that Congress had its business stooges, then as now, and that reaction was not dead. The Kilgore bill for full mobilization of manpower, which was supported by all of organized labor, was defeated because it threatened the continuance of business as usual. In our own industry the union was unable to force the employer-dominated Pacific Coast Maritime Industry Board to take some steps to expedite war shipments.

Wage control was developed and enforced far more effectively than price control. Excess profit taxes permitted profits after taxes to rise far beyond the levels promised by the President. The big corporations received the lion’s share of war contracts and billions of dollars worth of new plant and equipment financed by especially high taxes against the common people.

Rapacity Knew No Bounds

The war was a bonanza for the big corporations. V-J day found them stronger than ever before. Out of $175 billion awarded in war contracts to 18,539 corporations, two-thirds went to the top 100 companies and nearly one-third went to the first 16. Economic concentration is now greater than ever before.

Labor realized the danger in this concentration of wealth, but it also knew that the interests of the world’s people in their fight against fascism came first. While the ILWU hoped and expressed its willingness to maintain and build the peace of the future on the unity cemented by the war, our position was clear, even in 1945, that there were many “indications that the rapacity and monopolistic drive of American capital knew no bounds, would break no interference and would never participate in any coalition designed to benefit the people.

The ILWU in its 1945 convention was compelled to state that “we do not offer any guarantees to those unreconstructed elements among the employers who seek to use the postwar period for an anti-union blitz. They will be met and fought effectively with all the weapons at our command and, if need be, with economic action, too.” And, in speaking of employers’ organizations such as the Pacific Coast Waterfront Employers’ Association, the officers reported to the 1945 convention: “We have yet to experience, in a single major instance, where the shipping operators, the members of WEA, have been willing to even consider submergence of their interests, even though such submerging would substantially advance the war effort and strengthen progress towards a democratic peace.

Even before Roosevelt’s death big business, anticipating the end of the war and seeking to take
The spot authorization plan, for example, adopted in late 1944, was characterized by James Byrne, then director of the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, as “a too-early start toward victory to begin. Congress passed the Surplus Property Act in October 1944, thereby laying the groundwork for the transfer of war-produced government industries and the hands of private interests at bargain prices.

Before Roosevelt’s death the changing complexion of official Washington had begun to foreshadow the postwar swing to reaction. By April 1945 only three outstanding liberals were left in Roosevelt’s cabinet—Wallace, Ikeks and Perkin. Cordell Hull had been replaced by Stettinus from U. S. Steel; Henry L. Stimson had given way to Robert Patterson, representing Wall Street; and an investment banker, James Forrestal, had taken over the Navy Department. Jimmy Byrnes, as director of War Mobilization and Reconversion, was in effect vice-president in charge of economic affairs.

Toward the end of the war government agencies, ostensibly designed to protect the interests of labor, failed miserably and were turned instead into restrictive and obnoxious agencies, working against the basic rights of labor. This was true of the War Labor Board, towards its later stages. OPA showed growing weaknesses. The War Production Board began to yield to some of the demands of powerful employers. Yet, by and large, while President Roosevelt was alive, the working coalition which furnished the mainspring for the American war effort, continued in full strength and these forces were kept in check.

No one can say with any degree of surety that this would have been true indefinitely. We do not know that the people rallied around the program and principles enunciated by Roosevelt and swept him back into office in the 1944 elections. We also know that President Roosevelt, up to the time of his death, did not waiver in his unremitting fight to put into effect his economic bill of rights for the American people and the principles of the Atlantic Charter and the agreements reached at Cairo and Yalta for people of other countries.

COURAGE AND WISDOM LACKING

Roosevelt’s death became a signal for the powerful interests to begin a merciless attack against the principles for which Roosevelt stood. This attack was initially framed as a step-by-step penetration of the administration and a gradual wrecking of the principles of the New Deal. It could very well have been halted—the reactionary tide turned back and the progress of the people maintained at full force. This was not done because the leadership which picked up the reins dropped by Roosevelt had neither the courage nor the wisdom nor the intent to bring about the fulfillment of the aspirations of the American people.

The people were betrayed from within. The coalition of Southern Democrats had planted a Trojan horse in the administration when they forced the nomination of Harry Truman as the Vice-Presidential candidate in the 1944 Democratic convention. A political accident, a backroom politician, a man without vision or courage, took over a job that required a fighting heart, unalterable principles and faith in the people. We know better than to speak of events as hinged around one man. We realize that the value and importance of men can only be understood in the context of history, and within the framework of economic forces.

During the war industry had a guaranteed market; the government was buying almost half of total production. The dilemma that faces industry in peacetime was suspended for the duration. With the end of the war the old spectre of overproduction again became menacing. Once the accumulated demand for consumer goods and for plant and equipment has been lifted, depression and unemployment cannot for long be prevented. Industry was again faced with the necessity to hold wages down and to reap quick profits by forcing up prices. At the same time the objective of labor had to be to force wages up and hold the price line in order to delay the crash.

Truman Backs Away

Even in these circumstances the farsighted leadership of a Roosevelt might have preserved for a time the coalition which during the war checked the forces of reaction.

With the end of the war, the plots of the employers came out into the open along with the weaknesses and retreats of the Truman administration. The employers lost no time turning their war wealth against the people. The drive to smash price control, curtail hours of work, speed up production and wreck all phases of a planned economy, moved full blast. Truman backed away with each employer attack.

After V-J Day the administration, under pressure from industry, moved swiftly to eliminate the controls over production which had been administered by the War Production Board and other war agencies. Under the banner of a speedy return to free, private enterprise the monopolies rushed in to grab the postwar market. Congress saw to it that postwar profits would stay in inclusive, not for long be prevented. Industry was again returned to the private market, and the war agencies were eliminated. The employer attack on the economy was again turned against the workers. Congress saw fit to reap quick profits by forcing up prices. At the same time the objective of labor had to be to force wages up and hold the price line in order to delay the crash.

CIO STOPPED THE PLOT

If these plans have been even partially frustrated, the credit belongs entirely with the labor movement and nowhere else. The fight of CIO to

AFTER STUDYING the report of the officers of the ILWU to this convention, and at the same time comparing their accomplish-ments with the instructions given by us at the last convention, we are convinced that our officers have done well the job for which each of them was elected. The attacks upon labor today and the attacks upon our union make the leadership of our union more important than ever before. We are therefore, particularly conscious of the acts of our officers and watchful of their judgment.

As we read the report given, we are impressed with its appreciative of their leadership in their appraisal of the events of the world which have such profound effect upon our wages, conditions and general welfare.

We recommend that this convention approve and adopt the Officers' Report as a complete statement of policy of our union. We further recommend that the Officers' Report be printed with appropriate illustrations for distribution to the entire membership of the ILWU.
maintain take-home pay stopped some of the employers' plans. It succeeded in preserving at least some of the purchasing power and thereby prevented a double-dip recession. But these efforts were only partially successful.

By the early part of 1946, it was clear that the Truman administration presented no obstacle to the preliminary plans of big business. To the contrary, the Truman administration devoted itself full-time to the three-fold objective of making conditions unbearable for any adherents of the New Deal who remained in the administration, permitting generous and wholesale price increases to employers, and devising ways and means of eliminating or weakening effective labor organizations.

By mid-1946 the record was unmistakable clear; price control was smashed. The country, especially the labor force, was the spectacle of the President appearing before, a special joint session of both houses of Congress, demanding the passage of legislation empowering the President to break the railroad strike by force of arms for the first time in the nation's history. It was a deliberate attempt to break the back of the labor movement. Truman was ready to assert his new authority to break the back of the labor movement.

The People Betrayed

This was the atmosphere in which people were asked to go to the polls in the November 5, 1946, elections. They were fed up with Truman, disillusioned with the prospects of doing anything for the poor by making alliances with the employers, was an all-out drive for anti-labor legislation. Two hundred and twelve anti-labor bills were introduced in the 80th Congress. They run the gamut from outlawing the closed shop and industry-wide collective bargaining to giving the employers the right to discharge any individual they consider subversive.

Secondly, it was necessary to destroy or nullify the effective operation of the United Nations, around which the people of the world had built their hopes for peace. These are the objectives of the 80th Congress. Truman is doing his best to at least be credited with an "assist" when the ball game is tallied. There are other aspects of these programs, but they are subsidiary to the two principal objectives—destruction of labor and the wrecking of the United Nations.

The wild red-baiting campaign, interference in

The flagrant contempt for the machinery of peace manifested by interference in the affairs of the Greek people is but one example of our foreign policy. In spite of the fact that three commissions have been designated to conduct investigations in

Greece, and although the machinery of the United Nations was ready and available to deal with any problems that might arise, this country is deliberately by-passing it to drive ahead with its imperialist adventures.

In this regard, it is important to remember that the United States delegates to the United Nations, together with the British, have all agreed that there must be representation of world labor on the councils of the United Nations. The American Federation of Trade Unions, one of the greatest of the union movements securing world peace, has been forced to work on its own, even though it is equipped to make a great contribution to the functioning of world peace machinery.

Under the guise of helping Turkey, American and British capital are seeking to assure for themselves continued control of the oil resources of the Near East. It becomes quite clear that the employers of this country are eagerly searching for allies in every continent, including Franco, Peron, Chiang Kai-Shek and any other fascist who escaped the war criminal trials.

2. The Union Record

In the period directly following the last convention and the ending of the war, the labor organizations, found itself struggling to maintain the living standards of its members in the face of the organized onslaughts of the big employers.

Our organization had initial advantages. The very existence of local and national labor-employer machinery, the long hours of work, turnover in experienced members into the armed forces, and the difficulty of stripping away the leading members, stewards and committeemen had left the employers struggling to put labor into a defensive position, struggling to maintain living standards in the face of the growing economic and political power of big business. The employers are fat and arrogant. Labor has been put in a defensive position, struggling to maintain living standards in the face of this growing economic and political power of big business. The employers are fat and arrogant. Powerful unions such as Auto and Steel and Electrical Workers are getting nowhere in their wage negotiations. The employers are fat and arrogant. Powerful unions such as Auto and Steel and Electrical Workers are getting nowhere in their wage negotiations. In spite of the crying need of their membership for wage increases to meet the price rises and the clear ability of industry to meet these wages in the light of their tremendous profits. The employers are aware of the dangers of "re-creating" a closed shop by lowering wages. They have not been able to drive the labor unions from their meetings and the explanation of policy to the rank and file. The local conventions of every major local and state conventions were held where leading members, stewards and committeemen were called in to answer union problems. Frequent caucuses were called of the longshore and ship clerks' divisions. The Executive Board, including a majority of Board members on the Longshore Negotiating Committee, was thrown out. In addition, they are destroying the fighting organizations of the people before the crash overtakes them.

The flagrant contempt for the machinery of peace manifested by interference in the affairs of the Greek people is but one example of our foreign policy. In spite of the fact that three commissions have been designated to conduct investigations in

U. S. Seeks Labor

The meeting of the 80th Congress in January of this year represented the formal gathering of the Wall Street team and the water-boys in the Truman administration. Arrogant, well-heeled, knowing quite well that in some respects they might not get the same chance again, they undertook to put the government machinery, the longshore and ship clerks' divisions. The Execu-
ILWU in Forefront

Initial battles towards the fall of 1945 and early part of 1946 were carried on two fronts—first, the political and the administrative and economic struggle for the protection of the national people and to the working people and their families but to the national people whose earnings depend upon the national income. Its benefits would accrue not only would have been much more difficult but the income of the wage-earners. They were in no small part by a most willing Congress which had modified the tax laws so as to actually make it profitable for many business concerns to shut their doors for several months in the fall of 1945.

The carry back provisions of the tax laws assured big bear that in the post war years they would be guaranteed relates out of their excess profits so as to maintain their profit levels of the 1936-1939 period. Consequently, for example, big steel companies negotiated for a total of forty minutes with the United Steel Workers. They deliberately forced the union to strike. General Motors Company defied a report of the Fact Finding Commission appointed by the President and compelled these workers to strike for several months in order to secure partial compliance with its recommendation.

LONGSHORE

In the longshore caucuses of July and September of 1945 and the Executive Board Meeting of October, 1945, the delegates and Board members gauged accurately the overall economic situation and realized that new methods would be needed to meet this powerful employer coalition. They realized that the earlier types of economic action would not fit the bill. They recognized that the entrenched and well-heel position of the employers and could see the unmistakable signs of an employer's battle to wreck the unions.

During this period the union secured a five-cent increase as a result of its case before the War Labor Board which had been set up to examine the issues and make recommendations, and the April strike date was postponed. This postponement allowed time unions met in Washington, D. C. In a review of the status of contract negotiations, it was found that all unions with...
employer armor was the work week at sea. Accepting the recommendation, the unions agreed that the main drive would be to shorten the work week at sea and in port. The first pairing around the 40-hour week. It was on this note that negotiations began and ended. But these negotiations ran the full gamut of unrealistic demands made of the workers by the employers with overtones of threats from Truman to break the strike by armed violence and undertones in the demand by Lundeberg that members of the organizations be called off and the West Coast employers return to the West Coast for a little private huddle.

Main Theme Catches On

But the main theme had been struck and it caught on. The 40-hour work week became the key issue in negotiations. Day after day the employers tried to break the workers from this line of thought. Joint port committees of CMU were springing up on all coasts. Arrangements were made for soup kitchens and housing. Publicity was going out at top speed. Although the railroad strike had been smashed only a few weeks earlier, from all sources came pledges of full support to the unions heading for strike action June 15. The strike spirit and demands were building into the ranks of the Seafarers Union. The maritime unions in other lands were springing up on all coasts. Other changes had been made in the June 15 negotiations was the setting over for negotiations or arbitration of a number of collateral issues which showed themselves in the negotiations, there is no doubt but that a last minute drive around ILWU demands, after the seamen’s demands had been won, would have brought greater gains.

Unity Produced Power and Strength

In spite of all this, the victory won in June is the greatest in the history of the maritime industry. The fifty-six and sixty-three hour work week at sea was abolished. Seamen won the 48-hour work week at sea for all departments with Sunday an additional day. In many cases this meant a reduction of fifteen hours a week. The work week in port was limited to forty hours with Saturday and Sunday overtime days. In place of the other than on their very immediate demands, the ILWU could get little more than what had been contained in the recommendations of the fact finding maritime workers. Imagine, therefore, the fear that was struck into the hearts of the American shipowners when they witnessed the growing unity among the workers. Small wonder that almost immediately after the conclusion of the June 15 negotiations the West Coast employers met with the SUP and granted them a five dollar additional increase for AB’s over and above what had been settled in the negotiations by the ILWU.

WFTU Ready to Aid

When Truman threatened to use the armed forces to break the maritime strike the CMU immediately wired the World Federation of Trade Unions and the maritime unions in other lands urging the WFTU to take action. Their reply was immediate. From all corners of the world came messages of labor solidarity and pledges of support. Their support might crack and longshoremen and seamen go back to work on the East Coast. Consequentially the East Coast strike was settled on October 27. With the settlement of the East Coast strike the maritime employers—their lack of organic unity. The MEBA was split between East Coast and West Coast. On the East Coast owners won their main demands. This created the problem as to whether they would stay on strike until the West Coast employers had gained a similar settlement. National MEBA officials and Joseph Curran insisted that the maintenance of the strike would not be held and that there was real danger that the strike might crack and longshoremen and seamen go back to work on the East Coast. Consequently the East Coast was settled on October 27. With the settlement of the East Coast strike the maritime employers the West Coast faced the immediate danger of a lockout and a concentrated campaign by the combined power of the shipping and shore workers to smash the core of militant unionism on the West Coast.

Only because of the splendid fighting unity of the rank and file of the ILWU and engineers, the intensive campaigns of the longshoremen and engineers throughout the towns on the Pacific Coast and the support by the rank and file of other unions, were the lockout plans of the Waterfront Employers Association defeated. So sure were these employers that their chance had come that they drafted and presented to the union impossible demands that would have meant the loss of gains of many years of struggle. They hadn’t bargained with the fighting spirit of the workers. When these demands were defeated, the strike was settled and substantial gains were made. These were gains far short of what the workers could have built upon the national unity developed by CMU, preserved inviolate through the strikes by which they had pledged their word and lived by the slogan of the maritime workers—“An injury to one is an injury to all.”

Longshoremen came out of the strike with the main demands won. Safety code and safety provisions were embodied in the agreement. A major reduction in vacation hours was secured and the base rate of pay increased. Though no break through wage scales for seamen. NMU, MPW and MCR struck jointly on September 12 and finally secured adjustments which provided parity of wages on all coasts.

Page Fifteen

In August, 1946, following a meeting of the CMU in Chicago in July, the National Maritime Union conducted a strike against shipping companies in the food, meat and produce trades if new forms of economic action, broad scale movements of terrible weakness in the strike stemmed from the fact that their chance had come that they drafted and presented to the union impossible demands that would have meant the loss of gains of many years of struggle. They hadn’t bargained with the fighting spirit of the workers. When these demands were defeated, the strike was settled and substantial gains were made. These were gains far short of what the workers could have built upon the national unity developed by CMU, preserved inviolate through the strikes by which they had pledged their word and lived by the slogan of the maritime workers—“An injury to one is an injury to all.”

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in many ports. The interdependence of these two groups was in itself a source of strength to the longshoremen of Hawaii. The warehouse locals are the key to the success of the longshoremen in the Hawaiian Islands. When the last convention met, elections were in process in many fields and it was still too early to give a complete picture of the results and of contracts. But it is clear that the ILWU was not only successful in bringing about practically 100 percent organization in the principal industries in the Islands but it was also able to organize workers in the first successful strikes in the history of the Hawaiian Islands.

The first efforts to organize in the Islands were made by the old Pacific Coast district of the ILA and were made by longshore groups in the principal Hawaiian ports. Charters were issued to longshoremen in Honolulu and Hilo as far back as 1935. The workers quickly rallied to the union but in spite of their efforts did not succeed in establishing permanent organizations with satisfactory agreements.

Big Five Controls Hawaii

There were a number of reasons for these early failures. We first of all had to counter the Big Five sugar economy which is so completely dominated by the all-embracing control by the Big Five that the organization of any group of workers in the Islands' economy was doomed to defeat by the combined opposition of the employers. A second reason was that the key to the Hawaiian industry and to the control of the sugar industry was the key to the control of the longshoremen. The failure of the employers was the sugar industry. Its relationship to longshore is so close that the failure to organize sugar resulted in the continued instability of the longshoremen to make material progress.

The interests which control the destiny of Hawaiian industry and to a large extent the careers of the workers in the Hawaiian Islands are the same powerful employer interests. When the last convention met, elections were in process in many fields and the results and of contract developments. Since then the ILWU has gained both for themselves and for the industry organization and principles into these areas.

We have suffered setbacks in Fort Worth and Dallas, but the core of membership still remains, determined to bring ILWU organization and principles into these areas.

The organizational and contract problems of the warehouse division received special attention at the Warehouse Caucus held April 3-5. Their report will be made available to all delegates in the course of the convention proceedings. Many of the organizational problems are dealt with in greater detail in Part II of the Officers' Report.
members. The organizational drive reached its peak in the spring of 1945 with most of the elections completed.

In the negotiations during the summer of 1945 substantial gains were made for longshore, together with the embodiment of preference of employment provisions in the contract. The first contract covering the entire sugar industry in the Hawaiian Islands was secured in July of that year. While the contract from meeting the demands of the workers, it was entered into during the war period and marked the first basic gains of these workers and the first contractual protection in their history.

The period between 1945 and 1946 was marked by continued organization in other fields and an intensive consolidation of the ranks in longshore and sugar.

The sugar agreement expired August 31, 1946. In negotiations prior to the expiration of the contract, it was apparent that the employers had no intention of even approximating the fair demands of the workers.

Wage offers fell far below even the minimum 18½c national pattern. On major issues such as no discrimination clauses, seniority in promotions, union security, plant working conditions, etc. the employers were for the most part not far from their original offer. The wage in the contract was 27½c an hour, with a Sunday differential of 5 cents. The union was left with no alternative but to strike, even knowing that they would not be able to picket and go back to work. They believed that the first contractual protection in their history.

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While this contract was far from meeting the demands of the workers, the first contractual protection in their history.

A number of offers were made during the strike, each offer clearly devised to split Filipinos from other workers because the employers figured that Filipinos in the Islands three or four months would be the first to crack. None of them did. An example of this attempt was the miraculous growth of the "Little Filipinos" paper. This paper generally had a circulation of 1,500 but suddenly blossomed out with 25,000 copies. Every single plantation had copies. The paper and editor had been bought out by the Big Five.

They tried injunctions, too, injunctions which limited the pickets on one plantation to three. But all the injunction said, as far as we were concerned, was that you could not picket. It did not say that you couldn't paralyze. So when they threw an injunction at us in Kauai, the next day there were some 7,000 men, women and children holding a picket line. The same in Maui. They made many arrests, not only on injunctions but on the grounds of unlawful assembly.

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The People Get Rock and Volcanoes

The law against unlawful assembly was adopted back in 1869 when the Hawaiians discovered they could use the law for organizing to get better wages and conditions. It went along for seventy-nine days. That gives you a picture of some of the strike activity that had gone on. The management did not have the power to shut down the ports because of the strike. They couldn't get the sugar out of the country. The sugar workers in other lands. Present plans call for an international sugar conference which will in all probability be held directly following this convention.

Longshoremen Win Increase

In view of the developments in the sugar strike and the longshore and maritime strikes on the mainland, it is likely that the ILWU could do little but postpone their strike plans and await the outcome of these other struggles. The case of the Hawaiian longshoremen is important because it is the principle that these men performed the same work on the same ships and handled the same cargo for the same companies in the same port on the mainland but received only a dollar an hour under an open shop contract as against West Coast longshoremen, pay, hours and working conditions.

Longshore negotiations were held by a board in January of this year. The workers in the Islands won a 30¢ increase in pay, many contract improvements and preference of employment although they still have no hiring hall. Their wages and conditions are still behind those of their West Coast brothers but they have made tremendous progress.
International play an important and essential role. The work of the local unions and of the Executive Board of the International, the caucuses and rank and file conventions, and the membership participation in committees and in the meetings of the locals all go to make up the fighting strength of the ILWU.

During this two-year period the membership of the International grew substantially. In 1945 we reported a membership of 65,000 including the Hawaiian longshoremen not only in the Bay area and the ports in the Hawaiian Islands on April 1, 1946. The employers have brought their open shop drive, right into the open, violating every section of the law, intimidating individual workers and driving them to rigorously break down membership strength there.

Answer Is Driving Campaign

The answer to this has been a driving campaign for consolidation of the pineapple workers during a difficult period inasmuch as the season does not get under way until the middle of May. This year only percentage of men have paid their dues months in advance to serve notice to the employers that the period of dropping membership strength of the ILWU is over and that the ILWU is a solid uniform union merely because the contract is dead. These workers face a tough job and there is nothing at which the employers will stop in their drive to crack organized labor in the Islands.

In reviewing progress in Hawaii it should be emphasized that the successful campaign of organization during the past year has been a direct outgrowth of the efforts of the ILWU these promises didn’t stay on paper. The ILWU, when the war ended, took the lead in pressing for speedy demobilization of troops and the return of the men to their homes and jobs. In spite of the efforts of a lot of gold braid and brass to hold on to their titles by hoarding to the enriched men under them, ILWU waged a successful campaign, in conjunction with other unions, to break the bottleneck in returning veterans to the States. This also meant fighting our own employers who, in their anxiety to get back into commerce, were bringing the pyramid of peace time profits over their wartime piling of the U. S. treasuries from taking troop ships and other vessels convertible or usable as troop ships and putting them under, in November, 1945, the ILWU demanded an immediate public investigation of the activities of the shipowners and shippers in laying up of ships which could be used for demobilization. On December 3, 1945, the ILWU and other maritime unions held a 24-hour strike in all ports as part of the campaign to speed the return of servicemen. This fight by the ILWU brought quick response and telegrams of solidarity from longshoremen throughout the world and pledges on their part to support and fight by side with the unions to bring victory to the people.

Research Load Increases

The research work of the International has been an essential part of the entire program, supplying important information in preparation of our demands, acting as a source of facts and figures and analyses for the various departments, the locals and membership as a whole, and providing invaluable aid in the demonstration. The work load of the department has increased steadily during this period.

A great deal has been done to familiarize local leadership with the work of the research department, with the services it can render and the manner in which it can best be utilized. There is still much to be done in that direction but the membership in local unions becomes familiar with the functions of the research department they can work together with it in the solution of their daily problems. The work of the research department, including some of its long-range projects receives full coverage in Part II of the Officers’ Report.

In accordance with the procedure laid down at the last convention there is a separate report on the administrative budget. There is no need, therefore, to discuss these matters in detail at this time. It should be pointed out, however, that the budgetary planning of the International has stood the union in good stead and made it possible to meet financial demands, including unusual period and unusually heavy drains on the treasury. In spite of these difficulties the union is in sound financial condition.

ILWU Fights for Veterans

Any attempt to cover every single aspect and detail of the union’s activities since the last convention would bog itself down in a maze of statistics and documentation. There are several issues, however, which have become the measure of a union’s work and program. Among these are the fight for veterans’ rights, the fight against racial discrimination and the support of workers in other lands.

Our past conventions, longshore caucuses and conventions, have all gone on record to see that the returning veterans get a square deal. It could be almost impossible to name all the ILWU’s promises didn’t stay on paper. The ILWU, when the war ended, took the lead in pressing for speedy demobilization of troops and the return of the men to their homes and jobs. In spite of the efforts of a lot of gold braid and brass to hold on to their titles by hoarding to the enriched men under them, ILWU waged a successful campaign, in conjunction with other unions, to break the bottleneck in returning veterans to the States. This also meant fighting our own employers who, in their anxiety to get back into commerce, were bringing the pyramid of peace time profits over their wartime piling of the U. S. treasuries from taking troop ships and other vessels convertible or usable as troop ships and putting them under, in November, 1945, the ILWU demanded an immediate public investigation of the activities of the shipowners and shippers in laying up of ships which could be used for demobilization. On December 3, 1945, the ILWU and other maritime unions held a 24-hour strike in all ports as part of the campaign to speed the return of servicemen. This fight by the ILWU brought quick response and telegrams of solidarity from longshoremen throughout the world and pledges on their part to support and fight by side with the unions to bring victory to the people.

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ILWU contracts specify that seamen shall be guaranteed full seniority rights and all benefits of the union agreement. In September, some men, seeking to enter the longshore industry and to credit veterans with seniority and registration equivalent to time spent in the armed forces. The warehouse agreements, over the opposition of the locals now have a percentage of veterans in their membership. Also, the ILWU strongly supports the efforts of the American maritime unions to obtain the principles of international labor solidarity.

Employers Defeated in Bridges Case

The fighting record of the last two years has many points of great historical importance. In years to come, however, none will stand out more clearly as a milestone in labor's march than the victory won in the Bridges case. After twelve years of unceasing persecution and hounding, the schemes of the shipowners and powerful employer interests were turned and defeated. On June 18, 1945, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled on the warrant of deportation of Harry Bridges, dismissed the warrant and opened the road for citizenship. On September 17, 1945, Harry Bridges became a United States citizen.

All of us are familiar with the details of the case. The ILWU has always recognized, as has the vast majority of organized labor and progressive people throughout the country, that the trial of Harry Bridges was never the trial of one man. The 1945 convention delegates stated: "We see the case in this clear setting. If an officer of the union is to be instructed and if as a result of effectively following such instructions he is to be attacked through such procedures as are present in this case, it immediately becomes the full responsibility of the union to support him through thick and thin despite any individual or personal views anyone may hold in the matter."

The victory in the Bridges case was a victory of the membership of the ILWU and of working people throughout the country. It proved that the people stand by their own. Above all, it showed the determination of the membership to stand by its elected leaders and to support them in their actions as assigned to them by the rank and file.

Throughout the campaign the ILWU bore the brunt of financing and of publicity, yet support came from all walks of life. CIO President Philip Murray played an outstanding role in the defense of Bridges and swung the full weight of his influence behind the case. One of the lessons learned from this campaign is that cases of persecution are not won through maneuvering or legal technicalities. They are won when the powers that be know that the working people are aroused and determined to see justice done.

We know that the reactionaries and the labor-baiting press will pay little if any attention to the verdict of the U. S. Supreme Court. They didn't prevent the victory. They may even try to shout down by pushing the clamoring and shouting against Bridges and the ILWU.

The victory in the Bridges case will serve as a notice to these same forces that all the shouting and red-baiting will be in vain. When the workers know the issues and the little people of the country speak the facts of the situation, the laws of man that led to victory in the Bridges case will reward their efforts in other fields.

3. THE ROAD AHEAD

We have learned in our union that everything that happens to a worker of another land has a direct bearing on what happens to us. A denial of a fundamental right in any country—particularly if one of them be the right to organize a union, strike, picket—can mean the difference between winning and losing a strike on the American waterfront or in an American warehouse or other place of our employment.

Never did we have a better demonstration of this than last June when President Truman, flushed with pride of power in breaking the railroad strike, announced that if the maritime unions struck he would operate the ships with army and navy personnel.

That boast would have wrecked our negotiations for the most advanced contracts ever signed by the maritime unions save for one thing. Truman was stopped by the workers of the world.

In response to our appeal to the World Federation of Trade Unions, there came the clear promise: "We will not unload nor move any cargo handled by scab!"

It was this support pledged us by workers throughout the world that offset the guarantees of Harry S. Truman, given to the American shipowners, that the full force of military personnel would be used to break a maritime strike of the American maritime unions.

We Don't Forget Debts

We have never been a union to forget our debts. We have a direct obligation to the group of foreign workers which is denied elementary democratic rights. This is particularly a moment of concern to the large number of these countries that knew that direct aid to our projected strike last June would have made it impossible for them, for it was these workers who were most in need of food and materials of all kinds. In response to the ILWU, the United States will send financial and military aid to Turkey and Greece is shocking to our union, as it is to many liberal-minded and liberal-thinking people throughout the nation. It is admitted even by the most ardent Truman supporters, that such aid is for the purpose of bolstering the present reactionary regimes in Turkey and Greece.

Large-scale aid of a similar nature is already being furnished the government of China. The workers of Japan and Korea are forbidden by the American military government to strike—for their own demands, let alone in support of us. In Turkey the government is made up of the elements which supported Hitler, headed by a phoney monarch who is not even a Greek, and which was re-established by British bayonets. The Greek people, who fought Hitler are exiled and are hiding in the hills and in the sea, and the last thing coming out of hiding is to be shot on sight. Trade unions are allowed to organize and exist, providing the government appoints the officers.

We Pay the Bill

At the present moment coastwise seamen in Greece are on strike, and the Greek shipowners are refusing to reach any agreement on wages and conditions with them because they have been advised not to do so by the government.

So it is with complete shock that we learn that Greek workers who stood ready to go to prison and maybe die for our cause of last June are to be suppressed—no longer by British bayonets—but by American bayonets, and that the cost of such oppression will be paid by the American people and taxpayers.
Nicaragua with American marines in the interest of American imperialism, has been made in the name of fighting communism. The reasons for the British labor government withdrawing control of Greece are obvious: British workers are no longer willing to support the "white man's burden" theory at the expense of their own needs. They are clamoring for things to be done at home. The British empire is lawmaker, a new terminology, to create hysteria and make people know, as we know, that as a union we are greatly dependent upon the freedom and goodwill of workers abroad.

The main target of the reactionaries is Soviet Russia because that country has stood unwaveringly for the rights of workers throughout the world and the right of all people to self-determination.

American reaction is against such rights. It is directed at the people of other nations and against them for American workers. While it drives against the people abroad by loans and encouragement and military aid to reactionary governments, it drives against the American workers in the halls of Congress, using the same slander and tactics.

The drive at home has consisted of a master-minded plot to confuse the American people with a new terminology, to create hysteria and make people realize, for instance, that the American labor movement is in conspiracy with the Communist Party and Moscow to overthrow the American state. At the same time, without apology for the contradiction, bills are rushed in Congress to outlaw industry-wide bargaining, and restrict the right of the rank and file of unions to strike, bargain, or to choose their own leaders.

The laws of this country, supposedly designed to govern monopolies, have a fixed purpose—namely, to prevent financial monopolies and interlocking directorates from curtailing production and gouging the consumer by the fixing of monopoly prices. Labor never had any such objective. On the contrary, it has been labor's efforts through collective bargaining and increased purchasing power which have in many cases aided in curtailing production. Moreover, its industry-wide agreements prevented the type of wage competition with which the past enabled powerful employers to annihilate competitors.

Coalition Bent on Crucifying Labor

While the Department of Justice has done absolutely nothing to curtail the powerful monopolies in this country and has even ousted men who thought to a limited degree in that direction, such as Thurman Arnold, it has joined in warning the world that German and Italian intervention in Spain was the beginning of another world war. We will find that the economic struggle ahead cannot be separated from the political fight, from the urgent need for labor unity, and from the continued work for international labor solidarity. The record of the ILWU in these fields will be invaluable in the future years.

The ILWU has long recognized the fact that the immediate use of this red-baiting campaign was shown by the statement of the National Association of Manufacturers, which, while pointing out that predictions on the drop in prices have not materialized and therefore a national strike wave might be well in the offing, then concludes that such strikes would be part of a gigantic communist plot.

June 27, 1947