What’s Doing in Legislatures

(See Page 4)

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Page 52

ON THE BEAM

Report From Europe

V

By Harry Bridges

ROMAN

The labor movement in every European country is deeply involved in political struggles. Inevitably, we discovered that the trade union leaders we met were also political leaders and members of parliament, representing either the socialist or communist party.

Italy was certainly no exception to this rule. Fernando Santi, one of the general secretaries of the Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro (CGIL), who met us on our arrival at Rome, apologized for not driving us directly to our hotel because he had first to check in at one Parliament. Santi, we learned, is not only one of the top communist leaders in Italy but also a member of the executive of the Italian Socialist Party and a member of the Italian Parliament.

In all our discussions in Italy, whether with the top CGIL leaders, with the dockers and longshoremen in Genoa or with the American Ambassador and members of his staff, the political involvement and the political significance of union policies and actions were always uppermost.

This is not to say that the economic—or what we would call “union”—parts of the CGIL program were ignored or set aside. But in Italy today the struggle of the working people for economic stability was not quite as paradigmatic different from what we understand by these words in the United States. For example, one of our first sessions with the union leaders was explained to us that Santi had to leave early in order to make a strike meeting in Florence. But this was a strike Italian-style: a strike of long duration, a strike that was down on the job and put out picket lines to prevent the employers from attempting to get by which they were employed. The company, part government-owned, part privately-owned, had decided to shut down the plant and lay off the entire labor force. The men struck to keep their jobs, and at the time of our arrival the strike was already spreading into a general strike throughout Florence. None at the CGIL seemed startled at this tactic. As we read the next day in the press, special police moved in, tore down the barricades erected by the men, and put out the strikers from the plant.

THERE are 4½ million people employed in Italian industry and another 4 million in agriculture. Out of the 4½ million employed in industry approximately 2½ million are permanently and possibly out of work; and of the 4 million in agriculture, one out of four workers are permanently and completely out of work; and of the 8½ million who are employed, one is working less than a full week.

Unemployment is no joke, and that’s why workers strike to keep factories running (Continued on Page 3).

Who Said It?
The solution to the race question is to forget race.

Nothing washes out color faster than friendship.

(Turn to back page for name of author)

WHISKEY RIVER

Business Was Brisk At the employment offices throughout the country last month, jobless workers were long

Unemployment mounted in January, despite increases in production and generally optimistic government reports about economic recovery.

Growth Of Unemployment Tops Labor’s Problems

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The persistence and critical level of unemployment that has dogged the Nation’s slow recovery from last year’s recession is shaping up as labor’s number one challenge on the economic front.

Undercutting the need for union action is the Government’s latest report showing a 900,000 addition to the jobless list in January, a staff study by the Federal Reserve Board confirming the lagging rate of recovery in employment, and an attitude of do-nothing-ness on the part of the Administration.

Typical of the President’s approach was a statement at his most recent press conference in which he ruled out any emergency governmental aid for the unemployed with the argument that such action was “unwise” when we are “on a curve of rising prosperity.”

The President’s remark was aimed specifically at a proposal advanced by several Congressmen for extension of emergency unemployment insurance benefits. This measure expired April 1, with a resulting shutoff in compensation for close to 400,000 workers...

The upward spurt of unemployment in January, as noted in the official monthly statistics issued by the Department of Labor, brought the total to 4.7 million, or 200,000 more than a year ago. It was the highest jobless total for the month of January since 1941.

The official figures seriously understate the magnitude of the problem. They do not include more than a million workers who have become so discouraged that they stopped looking for jobs and therefore are excluded from the labor force. Additional millions are working part time.

Another measure of the critical nature of unemployment comes from the Agriculture, Department, which recently reported that 5,200,000 nonfarm persons were receiving donations of Government surplus food in February as well as in January.

31. This was the largest such number since 1942.

The FRH staff study revealed that nonfarm employment has regained less than one-third of the recession loss of 2.4 million jobs, despite a substantial recovery in over-all production.

Greater efficiency in manufacturing was cited as a reason for the apparent pickup in jobs. Productivity increases, the study said, have been higher than in the earlier recovery period, reflecting a high level of investment in modernization and expanded research and development programs.

PRODUCTIVITY RISES

The report noted these examples of the productivity growth:

In automobiles, output in December was only 4 per cent lower than in December 1956, with 20, per cent fewer production workers.

In railroads, the amount of freight hauled in December 1956 was about as much as in late 1957 with 10 per cent less railroad employment.

In mining, output has been equaling production levels of a year ago with about 15 per cent fewer employees.

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Join or Not, Workers Must Pay Their Way

HONOLULU—A new era of labor relations was firmly established here late this month when Hawaii’s huge pineapple industry signed a “dues shop” agreement with ILWU Local 142.

The new pact, covering approximately 7,000 canary and field workers, runs for two years and provides for hourly wage increases ranging from $3 to $4.10 per cent. The contract, agreed to on February 15, came one day prior to the union’s strike deadline. It is retroactive to February 1, the date the previous agreement expired.

NO FREE RIDERS

Under the “dues shop” provision all employees covered by the agreement must:

1. If they are members of the union, remain in good standing.

2. Employees not members of the union must either join the union and pay dues, or not join but pay for the union or pay an amount equivalent to union dues in order to have any benefits distributed to various charities set forth in the agreement.

This novel form of union-security, which eliminates “free riders,” is hailed here as “the biggest single advance in local labor relations since the check-off of union dues was established during World War II.”

OTHERS TO FOLLOW

It is expected that the vast majority of all of Hawaii’s industries will agree to similar security provisions in their union contracts.

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Jobs or a Balanced Budget?

By Harry Bridges

(Continued from Page 1)

and plants from closing. Under Italian law unemployment compensation for the southern agriculture workers, have been without jobs for years.

In the United States unemployment of about 16 million would be comparable to the present situation in Italy.

Everywhere we learned that it was getting worse. It was US Ambassador Harry Zellerbach, who told me that the Zellerbach corporation on the West Coast has contracts with the ILWU, who pointed out the poverty of the country and the desperate situation of her people. The Ambassador, of course, didn’t point it out in these terms, but his own experience in Italy cannot be described otherwise. He has never had much, an opinion with which he is completely familiar. According to Zellerbach the workers in the Italian plant make about $2 per day. Similar workers in a US plant would average around $2 per hour. Yet the American plant not only turns out ten times as much production but it is vastly more profitable for its owners.

In the few weeks we have been here we have witnessed just such a split off. When we were in Hamburg early in January, we were told that no change there that they were to be transferred to the FDGB under socialist leadership. Yet a month later a Christian union breakaway was announced. This will certainly weaken the FDGB and throw the country to the side of the employers who oppose the policies of the present Adenauer government.

ON THE BEAM

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 Athena

N O COUNTRY we have visited was more depressed and no labor movement more on its back than Greece. After years of American aid—millions have been poured into Greece—and American military bases, that country is still in the doldrums. The labor movement in these several countries is split internally and inter-country unity among the various national centers is not far advanced. Yet the only answer to this developing employer coordination must be trade union coordination. Otherwise, the workers in one country will be played off against the workers in another, to the advantage of the employers generally. This, it seemed to us, explains why the splitting has been stepped up by the enemies of labor—why efforts toward unity are discouraged and blocked by politicians and employer spokesmen.

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SINCE the war, the American government has spent billions of dollars in various countries to help them rebuild, but at the same time has been trying to break up the unity of labor movement. The Greek labor movement was stepped up by the enemies of labor—why efforts toward unity are discouraged, and blocked by politicians and employer spokesmen.

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By Harry Bridges

(Continued from Page 2)

and he distributes it among the unions of Greece! Because the Greek Federation of Labor was not recognized by the government, the Minister doled out $340 to the National Federation during the course of the year, and we were called on Makris he told us that he had made such a job of it that he had no income, no home, no clothes, no funds for salaries.

About half of the 850,000 industrial workers in Greece are unorganized. About thirty-five labor federations. And all that is not the whole story, because no country in the world has such wide extremes of wealth and poverty. Over one-third of the population is unemployed. And the government's own statistics is about $1.75 a day. Average wages, for those working, according to the government's own statistics— is about $1.75 a day.

"Certainly," said Makris, "we appreciate the generous gift of the American people. But tell your people that most of their dollars have gone into the pockets of the few, not to help the poor people of my country, many of whom are working for less than $1.75 a day.

Government figures show that the income of the average Greek family is 50 times higher than the average income of the average Egyptian family. But the story is not all the new investment and the economic recovery going? Greece today is in a situation similar to Egypt's in the twenties, but not as far advanced. As we pursued the war, and the war was won, the way to establish Arab socialism, the best guarantees that the revolution is going to last and not just a repetition of the confusion about it. Here we see a positive, unqualified neutralism, and it is hard to make much sense of it.

We'll have much more to say on this trip. An American visiting the Middle East for the first time is overwhelmed by the signs of poverty and backwardness. Each ship coming into the port of Alexandria brings new equipment and new machines to speed this development. Each ship coming into the port of Alexandria brings new equipment and new machines to speed this development. The union people are eager to learn about the new techniques. Each ship coming into the port of Alexandria brings new equipment and new machines to speed this development. Each ship coming into the port of Alexandria brings new equipment and new machines to speed this development.

One leading union leader put it this way: "We can get our rights or win more gains these days than ever before, but we have to ask ourselves from whom we are in the revolutionary movement together. Never forget that our government is moving in a social- ist direction. As we advance, as we consider the developing situation, we will receive more rights and also gain more benefits. But revolutionary in- dustrial unionism is the way to the future.

In the meantime we have defended the right of all political parties in Egypt to have and to express their opinions. We have not let the internal disturbances take away from their right. We have not let the internal disturbances take away from their right. We have not let the internal disturbances take away from their right. We have not let the internal disturbances take away from their right. We have not let the internal disturbances take away from their right. We have not let the internal disturbances take away from their right. We have not let the internal disturbances take away from their right. We have not let the internal disturbances take away from their right. We have not let the internal disturbances take away from their right. We have not let the internal disturbances take away from their right. We have not let the internal disturbances take away from their right.

In the main address at the second anniversary rally of the Egyptian Fed- eration of Labor, the earliest legislative acts of the Nas- ser government were trade union guar- antees. Later on, in 1956, an anti-union campaign was launched. At the outset we were told that strikes were legal but it was not very legal, and the government had given the workers no rights to strike. In many ways their arguments paralleled those of Ameri- can foreign policy makers. In the Middle East World War III strikes are a luxury they can't afford.

The Nasser regime is developing a social security system. It is a vast international investment in Egypt. The unionists feel that their observation is the example of what such programs can do. It is a comprehensive national health insurance program. Its present sponsors are Senator James Murray of Montana and Representative John Dingell, son of another member of the trio. Senator Murray, throwing down the gauntlet to the AWA, recalled that upon the introduction of the original bill some 14 years ago it was invariably de- nounced and defeated. The president of the AMA, advocating the abolition of the "old, worn-out echelon of socialized medicine," said that if his bill is enacted, the practice of medicine as we know it would not change at all. The only thing that would change would be the ability of those of our people who need medical aid, the French would have to wait until the day after tomorrow. Do you want war, our fellow Arab trade unionists in Al- geria are in a position to raise economic demands against their employers and go out on strike? Not at all. They are trying to drive to the world market the workers of the industrialists out of Algeria; after this battle has been won, and not before, they'll turn to trade union matters.

On the Beam

Bill for National Health Program Spark New Congressional Struggle

(Bills for National Health Program Spark New Congressional Struggle)

The 1959 version of the Wagner- Murray-Dingell bill, now titled S 1056 and H.R. 4498; would provide — like its predecessors — for a comprehensive national health insurance program. Its present sponsors are Senator James Murray of the original team and Representative John Dingell, son of another member of the trio.

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ILWU Offers Plan to Solve California’s Tax Problems

SACRAMENTO—The ILWU has laid on the desk of every legislator in Sacramento a detailed proposal for solving California’s tax headache.

At the request of ILWU president Frank M. Andrews, the union’s Northern and Southern California legislative representatives have, in a detailed analysis of the state’s tax problems, given the state’s version. "... what should concern the Governor and the Legislature is whether the plan will not rally the support needed to carry the program through. The answer, says the ILWU, 'is to eliminate the proposed tax altogether.'" (See also "ILWU Warns Of Oregon Tax Gouge," p. 3.)

**Case Study**

**ILWU Warns Of Oregon Tax Gouge**

SALEM, Ore.—A big tax gouge is in the making here unless the labor lobby of the Columbia River District Council, CRDC—ILWU representative, charged.

"If a combination of some of the tax measures approved here last week is passed at this session, the resulting increase in the consumer’s tax burden will be 2 per cent to the estimated 33 per cent since the state and federal income, corporate, sales, and gasoline tax collections take out of the earnings of the family breadwinner," Baker said. He listed some of the tax gimmicks store for Oregonians if the gougers have their way:

1. A 1-cent per $100 on all incomes, including the lowest bracket.
2. A 1-per cent levy on the first $1,000 of home equity.
3. A 1-per cent levy on insurance policies.
5. A 4-cent per gallon tax on cigarettes.

"... what should concern the Governor and the Legislature is whether the plan will not rally the support needed to carry the program through. The answer, says the ILWU, 'is to eliminate the proposed tax altogether.'" (See also "ILWU Warns Of Oregon Tax Gouge," p. 3.)
Hi-Jinx in the SF Bay Area Pension Club

The ILWU pensioners of the San Francisco Bay Area held open-house February 12 to show their penthouse club rooms in the new, Local 10 administration building near Fishermen's Wharf. More than 900 invited guests attended. The pensioners swapped old remembrances and danced with their own and each other's wives. At upper left hand corner are shown William Kirby, area welfare director; Edward T. Jeffress, secretary of the pensioners' club; Henry Schmidt, ILWU pension director; Herman Shuyvelaar, president of the pensioners' club and George Wolff, vice president. The affair was a huge success.

Rep. Porter Gives Trade with China Top Priority

COOS BAY, Ore. — Re-opening of trade with China is the "prime legislative project this year—and every year until it's accomplished," Representative Charles O. Porter (D.-Ore.) said here. Speaking at the IWA Hall during a recent four-day visit to his home state, Representative Porter said he hopes to form a committee of "big and little businessmen to go to Washington" and push for an end to the embargo.

He pledged to arrange meetings for such a group with Congressional leaders, the Secretary of State and, if possible, with the President.

"I am preparing amendments to three pieces of legislation now which would permit such trade," he told his audience.

The Congressman's speech came only a few days after Coos Bay Port Commissioner James F. Johnson suggested at a port meeting that China trade should be an agenda topic at the forthcoming annual convention of the Oregon Coastal Ports Federation. The port group is slated to meet here April 4.

A third link in a recent chain of events showing the intense interest in China trade in this area was the action taken at the Columbia River District Council this month in Jacksonville, Ore. The CRDC instructed delegates from locals which have members serving on port commissions to try and raise the subject at the federation convention in April.

The council asked ILWU International Representative James F. Fantz to represent the CRDC at the meeting.

The proposal made by Commissioner Johnson envisaged an Information session on the subject of trade revival with Mainland China, with speakers pro and con. It was forwarded to federation officials.

ILWU International Executive Board Member Charles Ross received an invitation to attend the port group's initial meeting two years ago when he declared that a return to our former trade pattern with the Orient, including Mainland China, would take the West Coast out of the red.

Representative Porter said last week that any trade mission to China should include congressmen, "including this one," and senators, as well as businessmen.

Port Commissioner Johnson said that he, too, is willing to go to China to look into the subject of markets for West Coast products.

"Quite plainly our economic future here on the Oregon Coast depends on reopening trade with the Chinese—a trade which once was a valuable part of Oregon timber and wheat sales," Representative Porter said.

He declared that Great Britain's trade with China passed the half-billion dollar mark last year.

"Our refusal to trade with Communist China started out with the idea that we'd drive them under," he asserted, "but all we've done is drive them further into the Soviet camp."

He said there is a growing sentiment for trade from industrialists, as well as from Chamber officials in San Francisco; and I'm told that the Portland Chamber of Commerce is about to take the same stand. Trade has been locked by farm groups, such as the Oregon State Grange, also.

The Oregon economy, Porter pointed out, is in great need of new markets. "This is chronic unemployment area down here. So also is almost the whole state of Oregon."

There is a huge-trade potential back of the Bamboo Curtain, the Congressman said. "Economists speak of it in terms of thousands of jobs for our people. Our major resource is lumber, and we must find a place to sell it."

New Mexico Kills Right-to-Work Bill

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Timely intervention by Representative Joseph Montoya blocked a move in the New Mexico State legislature to place a right-to-work proposal on a referendum ballot.

When the State Senate deadlocked in voting the question, the President of the Senate was barred from voting. This had the effect of killing the vote in favor. Upon being advised of this, Montoya went to work.

Checking through the State Constitution, the liberal Representative-at-Large of New Mexico found that on Constitutional amendments the President of the Senate was barred from voting. This had the effect of forcing the right-to-work proposal back on the floor where it was killed by another tie vote.

Auxiliary 29 Picks Heads

EUREKA, Calif.—Officers of ILWU Auxiliary 29 at Eureka for 1959 are Lynde Wonnacott, president; Wilma Brown, vice president; Dolores Wonnacott, secretary; and Peggy Nilsson, treasurer.

More Atomic Poisoning Of Midwest Wheat Reported

(Ere From The Dispatcher's Washington Office)

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Reports that Minnesota wheat grown in 1957 contained high amounts of radioactive strontium-90 from atomic fallout have been confirmed by the Atomic Energy Commission.

Previously, Government studies revealed an increasing contamination of the Nation's milk supply by the deadly strontium-90 poison. The present report on wheat is the first indication that other basic foods are also endangered.

In line with a consistent policy of playing down the dangers from fallout, AEC officials claimed there is no reason to believe anybody in the world is getting anywhere near the maximum permissible dose of strontium-90.

They said the average of Minnesota wheat samples for 1956-57-58 was far below the permissible level.

Just what the permissible level should be is a subject of controversy among scientists. Many claim that the stand given sanction by the Government is too high.

There is wide agreement, however, on the point that strontium-90 is the most deadly long-term hazard among the various fallout poisons. It is long-lived and, being chemically similar to calcium, tends to be absorbed by the bones. Its radiations can cause bone cancer and possibly leukemia.

Seriousness of the wheat-poisoning can be gauged, at least in part, by comparing the reported concentrations of strontium-90 with the permissible level set by the National Committee on Radiation Protection. According to this agency, the maximum safe amount of strontium-90 in foods is 80 micro-microcuries per kilogram for the general population.

The average for all Minnesota wheat samples for 1956-57-58 was said to be 51 micro-microcuries per kilogram. One sample, from the 1957 crop, tested 113 micro-curies.

While the National Committee claims that considerably more than the prescribed safe level of 80 units of strontium-90 per kilogram can be consumed without harm, it is certainly clear that the contamination of wheat poses an otherwise danger sign in regard to atomic fallout.

Auxiliary 14 Picks Officers

LONGVIEW, Wash.—Officers of ILWU Auxiliary 14 for the new year are Joel Weist, president; Alice Van Brunt, vice president; Myrtle Lorin, secretary and Bobsy Johnston, treasurer.
Liberals Seek Minimum Pay Modernization

(Fore the Dispatcher's Washington Office)

CITIZENS and Congressmen who have recently seen the upsurge of liberal forces fighting to bring about a modernization of the two key legislative acts of the Fair Labor Standards Act of the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage law.

Increase in the minimum wage to $1 an hour will be covered to 71 million additional workers, principally in manufacturing, under the 1959 act, now under consideration by the House of Representatives. This proposal also has the backing of the lawmakers who are demanding improvements in the Fair Labor Standards Act.

DAVIS-BACON AMENDMENTS

Revision of the Davis-Bacon Act, under which construction workers are assured of prevailing union wage scales for government projects, is called for in legislation introduced by Senators Humphrey and McNamara, and Rep. Roosevelt. These bills are numbered S. 1119 and H. 4186.

The Davis-Bacon amendments would broaden the prevailing wage protection provisions by requiring contractors to pay, in addition to prevailing wage rates, a 1 percent contribution for welfare and pension funds, and to comply with prevailing overtime practices.

This legislation has been a major legislative objective of Building Trades unions for several years. It was strongly supported in Congress, but failed to make much progress because of Congressional and preoccupation with the unemployment issue.

In calling for a boost in the minimum wage, the proponents believe that is the point that the upward movement of the minimum wage has not pulled up appreciably the earnings of unorganized, low-paid workers.

Under current conditions, he said, we are creating "a permanent depressed class of workers.

MORE STRESSES NEEDS

Senator Morse, one of the leaders in 1958 of the unsuccessful effort to increase the minimum wage law to $1, said this week that the full minimum wage level be made effective may not be achieved for several years.

"It strikes me as just as unbelievable as it might be for a million retail and service workers who make less than half of the full minimum wage to find that a hundred thousand of them make less than 75 cents an hour is astounding.

"We have 46 separate bills concerning agriculture, introduced in Congress and held up in committees, but the present agrarian lobby is not interested in raising the minimum wage."

Washington, D.C. — For the fifth consecutive quarter, the number of worker hours paid at 40 cents or less per hour in the construction industry in the United States reached an all-time high.

During the October-December quarter, 3,009 such cases forced into the board, an increase of 127 cases over the total for the corresponding quarter a year ago. In these cases, 9,065 workers were won by ILWU Local 26 in a first arbitration award and 1,065 were filed by individuals, a jump of 63 percent over the number received in the last three months of 1957.

The record-breaking volume of unfair labor practice charges is regarded here as a reflection of the activities of the McChelian Committee.

Civil Rights Bill Gets Backing

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Supporters of the civil rights legislation are now assured that the first Congressional hearing on this subject will favorably consider meaningful proposals instead of mild cosmetic measures.

This prospect opened up when Chair- man Emanuel Celler, one of the long-standing liberals in the field of civil rights, voted the initiative from the Senate Judiciary Committee by a vote of 12 to 4. The Subcommittee on March 4.

On the Senate side, where Lyndon Johnson's "moderation" policy holds sway, the Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights has announced the start of hearings on March 18.
Canadian Convention

Here are the delegates as they posed for the official convention picture when the Canadian ILWU Sets Unity Program of Action

Canadian ILWU Sets Unity Program of Action

By V. O. SHANNON

VANCOUVER, B.C.—Success is a wonderful thing; and most people in our modern times are very much attracted by a story of success, whether it be their own personal experience or whether it concerns an acquaintances, a relative or a community effort. The average person will eagerly climb on the bandwagon and ride along with those who have an achievement to boast about.

There would be no point in questioning the sincerity of those who so willingly go along, but there is a point at which all people should ask themselves: "How come this achievement—this success?"

In the answer so far question lies great significance. Nothing worthwhile ever just pops up and happens. Always there had been a beginning. How does it happen that the ILWU that began several years ago to help sponsor a birthday club in From 150 Little Old Ladies in Ward 3, Thanks to Port Hueneme, Longshoremen

PORT HUENEME, Calif.—A warm letter of "thanks and gratitude" by half of 150 little old ladies in Ward 3 at the Camarillo State Hospital to a group of members of the International Longshoremen’s Union, of Port Hueneme, was published recently in the Oxnard Press Courier.

The letter, written at the request of the Sisters of St. Joseph, in the ward by two volunteer workers in the hospital, noted the enthusiasm and interest on the part of the members because they were asked two years ago to help sponsor a birthday club in the ward. The letter stated that the 150 ladies had often received gifts in the mail for each birthday, and that the club had been the cause of much joy.

To the Canadian membership, they have provided the assurance that a good plan for the future exists, that sound policy will prevail; that all the resources of knowledge, experience and financial backing will be brought to bear on Canadian problems, and that the encouraging indication of Canadian growth and approaching maturity, has had a good effect on the whole ILWU organization.

The Canadian membership and officers have witnessed the most convincing demonstration of sound labor policy in action at the recently concluded Cana-adian ILWU Area Convention, that they have ever seen.

More than a year of planning bore fruit; a good, healthy step forward was taken, and not one responsible ILWU man in Canada doubts that it was largely possible because of good team work within the international structure, executed by the Canadian officer, in conjunction with the central organization—through the International.

To summarize briefly; We in Canada feel that we are more aware of our relationship to the whole of the ILWU organization—that a trend toward greater sense of responsibility and that our revaluation must be reflected in our actions as well as our words so that the creation- tionally proceed to work on the problems with which we are now faced. Success can be earned, but it can’t be bought, and it comes only in the measure to which it is deserved.

Amalgamation will become a living reality through team work in its fullest sense.

Oregon Port Bills Would Hit ILWU

SALEM, Ore.— Two bills which, if passed, could spell danger to the waterfront in front are S 107, which would make the positions of port commissioners ap-pointive instead of elective, and S 116, which would bar anyone engaged in the port business from serving on port commissions.

Should these bills pass, ILWU members in Astoria and Newport would have to resign, and "persons without any knowledge whatever of the prob-lems of waterborne commerce could be named to these important port commis-sion posts in this maritime state," Ernest Baker, ILWU-CRDC representa-tive, warned in his report to affiliate locals.

Magazine Features Discussion of Peace

NEW YORK—A discussion of the problems confronting the American people in fighting through for a new peace policy features the entire February 21 issue of The Nation magazine.

The issue discusses such obstacles to peace as vested interests in arms produc-tion, bi-partisan support for cold war policies, and America’s vast military might. The editors said: "The March issue will direct its attention more sharply to the question of disarmament, and the people of America are invited to participate.

Deportees Upheld

In Pension Rights

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A federal court ruling here has held unconstitutional the provision of the Social Security Act denying social security benefits to non-citizens deported from the US, the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born said.

"The court ruled that non-citizens deprived of their pensions are first persons to appeal to the federal courts for relief. The decision is precedent-setting and is of far-reaching consequences."
Need of Government Action Seen for Health After 65

With perfect timing, right at the start of state and national legislative sessions, that big push began to sell hospital-surgical insurance to people over age 65.

The legislatures will be taking up many proposals to provide health coverage for older people, one of the groups in our country that needs health services most and has the least coverage. Signs are that some of these proposals will get serious attention this year.

No one is making any bones about private business wanting to head off government action for older people's health. One insurance company's letter to the ILWU International office said its offering of policies to men and women over 65 is the first positive answer to current legislative attempts to force government into this field.

There's no doubt that a lot of people, including Congressmen, may be lulled to sell hospital-surgical insurance to the most and has the least coverage.

insurance — now 39 percent — can be for health care.

Ten dollars wouldn't cover half the cost getting sick too often.

For example, the daily hospital benefits, like x-rays, laboratory tests, anesthesia, drugs. It's not hard to run up a bill of $100 or more a day in the hospital.

If you have to go to the hospital twice for the same illness, there must be six months between stays before you're covered for the 31 days at $10 again. Chances of an older person staying out of the hospital six straight months can be remote when there's chronic or long-term illness, like many heart conditions.

While the insurance has a surgery benefit, ranging from $5 to $200 depending on the operation, it won't help you on the costs of any other medical care, in the doctor's office, at home, in a hospital, in a nursing or convalescent home. It pays nothing on diagnostic tests outside hospitals, nothing for care designed to keep you well.

The insurance companies can't cancel your individual policy, but they've reserved the right to pull out entirely, or to charge everybody more.

The insurance costs $6.50 a month per person, or $78 a year. More than half our people over 65 have incomes of less than $2,000 a year, meaning less than $3.00 a week "spending unit," whether it's a family of two or more or a single person. A quarter of our over-65 people have incomes of less than $1,000 a year.

Many will be unable to squeeze out $78. It's that kind of money that's bringing most of all, the insurance costs $6.50 a month.

Nearly two-thirds of the population 65 and over stated that they would like to have insurance covering diagnostic expenses, such as doctor bills, hospital bills, lab tests.

The median amount they were willing to pay was $5 a month...

About half of the uninsured group stated they would like to be covered by the insurance in the doctor's office and in hospitals, in a nursing or convalescent home, in a hospital, in a nursing or convalescent home.

Health Information Foundation just published a new survey, in January when the insurance selling push was in full swing. HIF reported:

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