Warehousemen Ready Bargaining Issues

ILWU-IBT
Unity Is Key Again

SAN FRANCISCO—Northern California warehousemen will demand 45 cents-an-hour increase spread 15, 15 and 15 across-the-board over a three year contract.

And for the third time since 1960 the members of ILWU and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters warehousemen will face the employer to try for a pay raise. But this time it will be in a contract with the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.

The present contracts, signed in 1962, expire at the close of May 31.

Included in the new demands is a tax on overtime, which would require the employer to pay into a fund for each overtime hour worked an amount equal to one and one-half times the total cost per hour of fringe benefits.

386 DELEGATES
Employers presently escape fringe benefit payments on overtime hours, and are thus encouraged to work overtime rather than call in new hires.

In summary, other demands would improve hiring and seniority, provide for eleven paid holidays and improved vacations, sick leave and welfare. The delegates also want discussion on improving the pension contract as part of a 3-year deal. 1961, the last year ended, was a poor one for both Teamsters and ILWU delegates from ILWU locals 6 and 17 attended the March 7 annual convention to modify and accept the contract demands recommended by the locals' officers. Another 200 visitors were also on hand in the ILWU auditorium to hear the discussion.

The contract proposals were adopted subject to modifications to bring Teamster and ILWU proposals into conformity. They will also go before membership meetings in all divisions.

MAYOR'S WELCOME
The delegates and visitors to the convention were welcomed by Mayor

ELECTION NOTICE
Local 8, Portland
Local 8, ILWU, Portland, Oregon, will hold its primary election May 22, 23 and 24 and final election June 19, 20 and 21, 1964 to fill the offices of mid-term business agent, dispatcher and relief dispatcher and one labor relations representative. Nominations will be made at stop-work meeting April 8, and will close at May 13 meeting. Also to be considered at April 8 meeting will be a dues increase.

---Continued on Page 3---

Bridges Keynote Speaker
Canada ILWU Conclave
Hails Labor Unity Gain

VANCOUVER, B.C.—The sixth annual convention of the ILWU Canadian Area opened here Monday, March 16, keyed by ILWU President Harry Bridges statement that "the basic concept, the social concept, underlying our approach to our contract is that the worker owns his job for life . . . if the worker is made surplus by the advent of the machine, something must happen to take care of him."

This statement of the philosophy behind the mechanization and modernization agreement was heard by 60 delegates from 12 Canadian locals representing 2,450 members, and 10 delegates from three ladies auxiliaries, as well as representatives from the pensioners club and visitors.

On organization, a high point of the convention was the decision that amalgamation of all locals in the Vancouver area be the immediate goal set for 1964.

The theme of the convention was the developing of unity around common aims and policies within all locals in the Canadian area.

Gains made in the new contracts,---Continued on Page 8---

Home for Those Who Work a Day
This was not taken during the great depression in the threadbare thirties. This was photographed in the sixties—during a time of "prosperity." This is where a family of migrant farm workers were living in a rich California valley area during the harvest season. This was "home" for the people who gather our food—at miserable wages, with no security, no knowledge whether there will be another day's work tomorrow, and no place to put out community roots for their children to grow. (See report below on union proposals to bring a new look to farm labor.)

Gov. Brown, Others Are Told that Farm Workers Need Union Security

SACRAMENTO — The farm labor “crisis” in California’s “factories in the fields” can best be resolved by development of “a strong union, and organization of the labor market so that there is neither an oversupply nor a shortage of workers.”

This testimony, heard last week by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Undersecretary of Labor John F. Henning and a number of state farm and employment officials, was presented at a day-long hearing by ILWU Research Director Lincoln Fairley, in a statement presenting trade union solutions to farm labor problems.

In addition to labor representatives, spokesmen for California employer interests, and various civic groups were asked by the Governor to give him guidance in meeting the new situation expected to develop when some 60,000 Mexican braceros cease to be available for California’s huge farm industry after December 31, 1964.

Thomas L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation (AFL-CIO) charged that “agribusiness”— the huge growers, the less than 5 percent of farmers who hire more than 61 percent of farm labor—are developing a Madison Avenue propaganda campaign to try to force a return of the braceros to the fields.

The large agricultural interests were accused of maneuvering to discredit any program that would increase farm labor income, or encourage organizational activities.

Pitts testified: “We submit that the human and economic costs threatened by agribusiness are so prohibitively high and profound for our entire society as to amount to nothing short of a brazen effort to coerce the public into accepting a captive foreign labor supply in perpetuity.”

Other major labor representation at the hearing came from the Teamsters, the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, and the California Agricultural Workers Union.

Grower interests placed primary emphasis on finding more cheap labor, including importations from outside the state if possible, to maintain the sub-standard levels which Governor Brown, after a recent, ---Continued on Page 6---

---Continued on Page 2---
Which Right Comes First?

EVERYBODY has the right to own and occupy a home, and the most effective way to secure this right is to stop the practice of racial discrimination in real estate. The Rumford Fair Housing Act, signed into law in 1963, made it illegal to refuse to sell, lease, or rent residential real property to any person on the basis of his race or color. The act was named after its author, Senator William Rumford of Massachusetts.

The act was originally introduced in 1950, but it was not until the civil rights movement of the 1960s that it gained broad support. The act was passed over the objections of the real estate industry, which argued that it would lead to a decrease in property values.

The act was a significant victory for civil rights activists and a major step forward in the fight against racial discrimination. It was a landmark achievement that helped to lay the groundwork for the struggle for civil rights and social justice.
Local 6, 17 Prepare for Next Contract Round

Scene at the ILWU auditorium in San Francisco March 7 as Locals 6 and 17, warehousemen, hammered out their proposed contract demands for a three-year agreement to succeed the contract which expires May 31. For the third time they will join with Teamster warehousemen in joint demands, joint negotiations, and if necessary, joint strike action. At top right is Local 6 President Charles (Chile) Duarte who chaired the meeting; below, Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer George Valter. There were 586 elected delegates and 300 visitors at the convention.

Continued from Page 1—

John F. Shelley of San Francisco after an invocation by the Rev. John Plasko, pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, and former member of Local 6.

Local 6 president Charles (Chile) Duarte chaired the meeting and delivered the officers' report.

Special Teamster guests were International Vice President George E. Mock, and Joe Dillon, secretary of IBT Local 655, Frank Farro, secretary-treasurer of Local 853, Bill Williams, international organizer at Seattle, and Arthur Jenson, president of Local 853.

Vice President Mock told the delegates: “The third time around will be the biggest yet.”

In presenting the contract proposals President Duarte told the delegates: “This year our contract is wide open. We have discussed all of the items with our membership, stewards, etc., including strengthening the contract with language changes, the various fringes, and the shorter work week. We have also discussed all of these items with the Teamsters, and the conclusions that we have reached are that the workers in this industry, whether they are ILWU or Teamsters, are intent in this opening on improving the fringes, improving the wages, eliminating to whatever degree we can overtime, giving greater security on the job and providing a greater degree of security to the unemployed by tightening up the hiring hall. Further, that changes must be made in the language of the contract so that the language is clear and cannot be misinterpreted by the employer.”

ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Louis Goldblatt told the convention: “Our purpose is to negotiate jointly, to strike jointly if necessary.” He added that success would require “maximum unity and maximum fighting power.”

RANKS WILL SOLIDIFY

ILWU President Harry Bridges, in a speech which closed the day-long meeting, said he had faith “that the ranks will solidify and not be misled.”

“We would be better off if (IBT President) Hoffa had not been framed,” he said, “the verdict makes our job harder.” Then, pointing out that Attorney General Robert Kennedy was on record to keep IBT and ILWU from working together, he said: “The war is against us.”

Bridges praised President L. B. Johnson and his war on poverty. “I think he means it,” he said. “We wish him luck.”

A fraternal delegation of four from ILWU Local 26, Los Angeles, was headed by that local's secretary-treasurer, Louis Sherman, who discussed with the convention the problems of his local in wholesale drug houses, which, operating both in Southern and Northern California, pay less wages in their Southern establishments. The convention voted to give Local 26 wholehearted support in the fight.

Morse Asks End to Dollars Down Rothole

PORTLAND—The wastefulness of America's foreign aid practices is "again being demonstrated in the Mediterranean," Oregon's senior Senator Wayne Morse, wrote constituents here in a recent report.

Since 1947, Morse reported, the United States has sent $3 1/2 billion to Greece, and over $4 billion to Turkey, supposedly to keep those country's armies available to NATO in case of a conflict with Russia. Morse reported that he had met with President Johnson and his war on poverty. "I think he means it," Morse said. "We wish him luck."

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Northern Cal District Council Drives to Uphold Rumford Act

BRODERICK—The Northern California District Council ILWU, Local 12, has pledged its energies to acquainting all organized labor and the community on the danger facing the Rumford Act that guarantees fair housing, if the initiative is forced on the ballot in stead of the regular election in November.

In a special message to all legislative committees in all California ILWU locals, Northern California Council secretary Michael Johnson, Local 34, warned that the initiative to repeal the Rumford Act, if placed on the early ballot, would confront the labor movement and those fighting for civil rights with an almost unsurmountable task.

All locals, local legislative committees and rank and file members were asked to contact assemblymen.

Local 13 Runoff for Top Officers

WILMINGTON — William Lawler and Curt Williams, ILWU, Local 13, respectively, will contest for vice president in the same election.

Dick Rowlin has been elected welfare officer, and Mark Belley, chairman of the stewards council. Ed Mondor and Art Almeida will run off for day business agents and John Mickey Mahon and Carl Green will vie for sergeant-at-arms.

The primary election was held March 10, 11 and 12.

Others in runoff contests include: For three day dispatchers: Rasoul Monroy, Donald Crew, Frank Salcido and Richard Casanova, for two trustees; Charles Slater, Arthur Peter- ter and Ralph Sours. 

Caucus delegates elected include: Joseph Klincek, Ben Donald, Frank Salcido, R. C. Winter, Art Almeida, Harold Hillemuth, Nade Di Blasi, Jimmy Valbuena, Bill Lawrence and Chick Leveridge.

New Whirley Cranes in Portland

PORTLAND—To provide for the rapidly increasing export of logs to Japan, the commission of public docks purchased two new $200,000 cranes for loading logs from rafts into ships.

and senators urging them to uphold the governor's plan that the issue be placed on the November ballot.

In his message to all locals, John- son wrote:

"We believe that fair housing in California is the key issue in 1964. It can be sacrificed to any other concern. This must be made clear to our legislators and the Governor. We urgently request all publicity committeemen in the locals to publicize this issue in every bulletin from now until the matter is voted on."

In other actions, the NCDC:

• Agreed to concur with a resolution by the Columbia River District Council requesting increase of the ILWU-PMA pension to $150 a month.
• Moved to send delegates copies of a powerful speech on race relations and the Rumford Act, by Speaker of the Assembly Unruh. Unruh had warned that the Rumford Act initiative repeal fight is as much a labor fight as the "right-to-work" Proposition 18 was in an earlier election.

• Agreed to support recent moves in Berkeley to change the school attendance boundaries in order to facilitate rapid desegregation.

• Agreed to send a telegram to the White House asking President Johnson to order an investigation of the Wright AFB strike.

The appeal to the public, at stores, plant gates, union meetings, and campuses is the most extensive drive ever undertaken by this union on a national scale, and follows the pattern successfully used in the past to bring other clothing plants into the union's fold.

The nonunion H.S. plants are the major organizing targets of the union in the south. The largest plant is located in a southern community where the plant manager is town mayor.

Community pressure, threats of discharge and plant closure, and racial appeals were utilized to defeat the union. The NLRB found the firm had not observed fair labor practices and has ordered a new election.

The clothing union urges all shoppers to double check their Easter finery carries the union label.

Auxiliary Plans Whist Parties For Local 502 Pensioner's

N E W WESTMINSTER, B. C. — Ladies Auxiliary of Local 502, ILWU, will hold a whist and cribbage party and Auxiliary Plans Whist Parties for Local 502 Pensioner's.

HIS Isn't Yours; Check Union Label

With Easter shopping just ahead, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (AFL-CIO) is stepping up its consumers' boycott against men's and boys' wear made by Henry J. Siegel of Tennessee (H.I.S. brand).

The union is banding out information to shoppers at major stores carrying this non-union clothing.

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Following is an excerpt from a speech by Senator Frank E. Moss, before a student assembly at Utah State University, reprinted in the Congressional Record, April 10, 1963, p. 5988:

Members of Congress have a favorite story, which, while it exaggerates, beautifully describes some people who discuss Federal spending in cliches and avoid specifics.

A young man lived with his parents in a low-cost public housing development. He attended public school, rode the public school bus, enjoyed the free lunch program. Following graduation from high school, he entered the Army and upon discharge kept his national service life insurance. He then enrolled in a university, receiving regularly his GI check.

Upon graduation, he married a public health nurse, bought a farm with an FHA loan. Later going into the feed and hardware business in addition to farming, he secured help from the Small Business Administration when his business faltered. His first baby was born in the county hospital. This was built in part with Hill-Burton funds. Then, he bought considerable additional acreage adjoining his farm, and obtained emergency feed from the Government. He then put part of his land under the Eisenhower soil bank program and used the payments for not growing crops to help pay his debts.

His parents, elderly by now, were living comfortably in the smaller of his two farm homes, using their social security and old-age assistance checks. Lacking...
electricity at first, the Rural Electricification Administration supplied the lines, and a loan from the Farmers Home Administration helped clear the land and secure the best from it. That agent suggested building a pond, and the Government stock it with fish. The Government guaranteed him a sale for his farm products. The county public library delivered books to his farm dwelling.

He, of course, banked his money in an institution which a Government agency had insured up to $10,000 for every depositor. As the community grew, he signed a loan. The county seat aided by an FHA project to help the economy of his community grew, he signed a loan. FH Anderson had insured up to $10,000 for every depositor. As the community grew, he signed a loan. The county seat aided by an FHA project to help the economy of his community.

The importance of this rally and march, council delegates said, is underscored by the broad sponsorship and the leadership of the two-line Nobil Prize winner, Linus Pauling, who also an honorary member of the longshore division of ILWU. Participation of the huge Region 6 of the United Auto Workers Union (AFL-CIO) and its regional director Phil Shrede, brings significant labor participation into this rally. The Southern California ILWU Council urged all ILWU members and friends to join in the event which is slated to begin at 12:30 p.m., Saturday, March 28, at the Sports Arena in Exposition Park, at Figueroa and Santa Barbara.

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED

District Council officers for the 1964 term, announced at an earlier meeting, are Local 8's Louis Stans, vice-president; and warehouse Local 26 business agent, Tom Chapman, secretary-treasurer—all re-elected unanimously.

At the March 13 meeting, the delegates cheered the announcement that 19 delegates from the shipclerks' Local had been elected—marking the high-point in council participation by any Local.

Council delegates discussed launching an aggressive program that will draw all locals into more active participation in district council activities.

In order to publicize the new activity, program council head Bill Lawrence appointed a publicity committee, including: Richard Ho, Local 8, chairman; Stango, Local 8; Paul Perlin, Local 26, secretary; and Helen Rabellio, Auxiliary 8.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

A resolution adopted on the March 28 march and rally enunciated the statement of purpose of the "Ad Hoc Committee for Easter-Passover Walk and Rally: Peace, Freedom and Jobs—The Unfinished Business of Society." The statement said in part:

"During this Easter-Passover Season, we call on all Americans to affirm with us a number of fundamental moral positions. We are part of a common thread of humanity that is, as God's people, a better standard of living, emancipation from oppression, and an opportunity delegation for structure.

"We demand of governments that all nuclear weapons tests be banned forever, and that the stockpiling of destruction be ended immediately.

"We demand the immediate guarantee of voting rights and the protection of the liberties of our minority citizens by Federal intervention wherever necessary.

"We affirm that it is morally necessary to find meaningful jobs for our unemployed...

"We demand that the vast allocated military expenditures be diverted to use in whatever constructive ways necessary to put our millions to meaningful work to provide decent housing, medical care, and recreation facilities for our whole population.

"We invite all men and women of good will to walk with us and urge upon our government that the above demands be converted to meaningful action. Without peace, there can be no freedom. With jobs, freedom is not a mockery. Without peace, without jobs, freedom is not a mockery. With jobs, freedom is a mockery. Without peace, freedom is a mockery.

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Farm Labor Needs Unions

Continued from Page 1.

Farm laborers are among the lowest-paid and the most poorly protected of workers. They receive few of the benefits enjoyed by labor in other industries. Their wages are set by labor and management agreements, but the agreements are not always enforced. Farm workers are often paid a piece rate, which means they are paid according to the amount of work they do, not how well they do it. This makes it difficult for workers to earn a living wage, especially if they are working in unfavorable weather conditions.

The farm labor market has a history of instability, with workers being hired for short periods of time and then laid off when the work is done. This results in a large number of workers moving from one job to another, making it difficult for them to build a stable income. Farm laborers often lack access to health care and other benefits, and they are at risk of injury due to the nature of the work.

Despite these challenges, farm laborers have been successful in organizing and forming unions to improve their working conditions. The ILWU (International Longshore and Warehouse Union) has been a leader in this effort, representing workers in the ports and helping to negotiate better wages and working conditions.

Farm laborers are also affected by larger economic forces, such as the seasonal nature of the work and the competition from cheap labor. This makes it difficult for them to earn a living wage, especially if they are working in unfavorable weather conditions.

The farm labor market is also characterized by a lack of union representation, with many workers being union members but not having the power to negotiate better working conditions. This makes it difficult for workers to improve their wages and working conditions, and it also makes it difficult for them to form a stronger labor movement.

Despite these challenges, the farm labor movement has made significant progress in recent years, with unions such as the ILWU becoming more powerful and able to negotiate better working conditions for their members. However, there is still a long way to go, and more needs to be done to ensure that farm laborers have a fair and just place in society.
Pro-Labor Candidates Support Medicare

ASTORIA, Ore.—Blaine Whipple, labor-supported Democratic candidate for Congress from Oregon's District 1, speaking before a joint session of the Columbia River District Council and Auxiliary delegates, said his recent European tour convinced him more than ever that the American system of labor—supported Democratic candidates is still time to comply with the Medicare of the Columbia River District Council some time ago urged efforts be made to find people within the ranks of labor who would run for public office.

First to respond was Willis A. Sutton, past president of Local 12, running for the Oregon state legislature from Coos county. He was endorsed at the council's February meeting.

Last week CDC, voted to support three other—all members of auxiliary or wives of ILWU men—seeking election in Portland, St. Helens, Oregon.

Local and state candidates, who is making his second bid for the seat labor-hating Walter Norblad has held for 18 years, called the King-Anderson bill, "a sound federal investment." Incumbent Rep. Norblad has opposed Medicare under social security, "although his own questionnaire shows a majority of his constituents are in favor of it," Whipple charged.

His talk was the high light of a session lasting four hours, with endorsements and a report on the workmen's compensation initiative in which the CRDC is deeply interested.

The initiative's ballot title has been challenged by the Associated Oregon Industries, an employer group.

Council president Ernest Baker branded the challenge, filed only 1 1/2 hours before the deadline, a "delaying tactic," and stressed that there is still time to comply with the mechanics necessary to get the initiative on the November ballot.

Local 8 and the Columbia River Pensioners Memorial Association, as part of their overall effort to pass the workmen's compensation initiative, are in regular contact with the Oregon legislature in which the CRDC is deeply interested.

One anglegetter who'll go along with us on that score is Emily Jack of Seattle, Wash., daughter of retired longshoreman William Dillman Sr., member of Local 17. Here's a story of Emily with a 21 pounder she took thereabouts last season.

TWO furry advocates of chemical warfare in the wildlife fraternity are given a wide berth by most animals. I'm referring to "Rhopus mephitis" and "Spilogale putorius." Proper translation for the Moths is "noxious" or "foul stench"—apparently applied to the stink of skunk. Translated into English, Spilogale putorius, the spotted skunk, means "the little stinker." Equipped with two scent glands near the base of the tail, the skunk is capable of spewing several repeat shots of oily, yellowish spray at a target as far as 12 feet. It defies man in the marks.

The skunk hunts mostly at night and sleeps all day. It does not truly hibernate during winter, although low temperatures and a cloudiness of the air induce it to sleep. During the winter sleep a dog and perhaps more animals may occupy the same den.

Mating usually takes place in February, and from three to eight naked and helpless youngsters are born about eight weeks later. At two months the young are weaned and by fall they are on their own.

In fact, fruit and small mammals are most important on the skunk's food list, and in spring, meadow mice make up a major portion of its diet. The skunk will devour ground nuts, mice, poultry, eggs, and snakes. The striped skunk is a stonballed animal about the size of a house cat. Color is a shiny black, with a streak of white running from the base of the tail.

The spotted skunk is about half the size of its striped cousin. Its fur is black with white stripes that tend to break, resulting in spots. The tail is black with a white tip. Pups of both animals have some fur value and are rich, glosy, and durable.

Green Lumber Probe

Lumber is the type most easily carried by water shippers, with Secretary of Commerce Luther H. Hodges to discuss proposed changes in standards governing the size of 4 by 4s. CRDC and auxiliary members are deeply concerned because changes in standards could lead to the elimination of coastal and intercoastal shipments of green lumber. Extensive hearings are expected before a revised plan is reached.

The two hearings scheduled with Hodges was arranged by the Western Forest Industries Association, which is spearheading the campaign against proposed changes. See here, left to right, are a group of the maritime people: Capt. Steve Moodie, of Marvin Steamship; Jeff Kibe, ILWU's Washington representative; Secretary Hodges; Alvin Shaprio, vice-president, American Merchant Marine Institute; Phil Ficklinstein, Calmar; Richard N. Harlock, States Marine.

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Secretary J. K. Stranahan was instructed to send a guest editorial to the paper urging its readers to contribute a buck apiece to the paper's sustaining fund. CRDC also recommend that delegates register for the Washington, D.C. convention and consider any measure that would benefit working men. The Washington, D.C. office will work to publicize a wide variety of labor issues.

One anglegetter who'll go along with us on that score is Emily Jack of Seattle, Wash., daughter of retired longshoreman William Dillman Sr., member of Local 17. Here's a story of Emily with a 21 pounder she took thereabouts last season.

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Mating usually takes place in February, and from three to eight naked and helpless youngsters are born about eight weeks later. At two months the young are weaned and by fall they are on their own.

In fact, fruit and small mammals are most important on the skunk's food list, and in spring, meadow mice make up a major portion of its diet. The skunk will devour ground nuts, mice, poultry, eggs, and snakes. The striped skunk is a stonballed animal about the size of a house cat. Color is a shiny black, with a streak of white running from the base of the tail.

The spotted skunk is about half the size of its striped cousin. Its fur is black with white stripes that tend to break, resulting in spots. The tail is black with a white tip. Pups of both animals have some fur value and are rich, glosy, and durable.
Unity Across Borders

These are the chief representatives of the five international unions, with units in U.S.A and Canada, who met earlier this month in Portland to discuss joint action in disputes in the lumber industry and other union moves. (See J. R. Robertson’s “On the March” column, this issue, for further discussion.) Seen above, left to right, are: Jon H. McDonald, research, Pulp and Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers (AFL-CIO-CLC); A. J. Hartung, president, International Lumber and Sawmill Workers of America (AFL-CIO-CLC); Lincoln Fairley, ILWU research director; Bruce Poyer, research director, Western Conference of Teamsters, (Standing) Bev Dunphy, Canadian Area ILWU; Ted Prusse, Lumber and Sawmill Workers (AFL-CIO-CLC); J. R. Roberts, ILWU vice-president; Harvey N. Nelson and J. A. Moore, regional presidents, IWA; James S. Fassey, ILWU international rep.; William D. O’Connell, Joint Council of Teamsters, Portland; William H. St. John, language worker, Executive Board member; Oran Parker, vice-president, Pulp Workers; Bill Gettings, ILWU northwest regional representative; J. T. Isaacson, vice-president, Pulp, Sulphite; W. L. Williams, Teamster organizer, Seattle; Elwood Toub, IWA; H. L. Hanson, vice president Pulp Union.

5 Unions Join To Discuss One Problem—Job Security

Earlier this month the ILWU met in Portland with four other international unions in an all-day joint conference aimed at giving union members the widest job security, under the best possible conditions, protected and re-enforced by the combined strength of our unions.

It was interesting for me to note that the major newspaper in Vancouver, British Columbia gave the story top billing, referring to the four point mutual aid pact as “revolutionary.”

The paper said, “The pact is revolutionary because it is aimed at joint termination of all major contracts and ultimately joint negotiations between employers and the five unions.”

The five unions involved, in addition to ILWU, are:


Now those of you acquainted with a bit of labor history are certainly aware that these five international unions have not always had the closest relations. The defection in recent years has ILWU worked out exceptions, and to make a start on solving the problems—cooperation and action. We

We met to talk, and to plan the future together, with the most noble, and collectively. Also to come up with ways to correct a most serious defect in the lumber industry—which is lack of organization. Only if we break this logjam of unity—which is the very opposite of past-interunion squabbles—will we be able to organize effectively. Only thus can we mobilize the interest of the present members, and encourage them to support and back up the necessary strikes that goes into a long range campaign of organizing.

One should be aware that lumber is one of the most exploited industries in the area. It is a complex maze of “guppy” operations, make-shift subcontracted deals, so-called “independent” operators who insist they can pay the going rate, and need no union protection.

We are also aware that almost the entire industry, including all the so-called “independents” are really controlled by the few giant operators, who control the price and the supply, who control the strike, and sell their wares through a life and death struggle with the labor force, which has been one of the achievements of the working class of the USA, Canada, and the world.

Our union opposes US interference with the independent Canadian unions that can only bring a single voice for their national interests to the Canadian labor movement.

Our union opposes the national unions that bring only the voices of the local members into the national movement. The ILWU brings everyone together, to work out one contract in all of Canada, to the benefit of all the workers in the industry.

The meeting of top representatives of the five unions—which I had the honor of coordinating—was marked by remarkable candor and honesty of approach. We all, each in his own way, faced up to the fact that we had spent too many years of working separately, often against each other. Now we laid our cards on the table and agreed we had only on possible solution to our mutual problems—cooperation and action.

We are faced with the common challenge of modernization in an expanding economy which demands fewer and fewer people to put out more and more production.

We also agreed that in recent years the only method by which we could win a strike has been when we worked together. The need to put an end to all inter-union raiding and split into impotent pieces.

Our four point program, brought the meeting to a close, with the simple language with which we began.

• To try to attain joint termination dates for all major contracts.

This was what the B.C. papers considered most “revolutionary.” They know the vast lumber employers in both the US and Canada realize a common expiration date means the end of whipsawing and other forms of playing off one group against the other.

• We agreed to work toward concerted and ultimately to joint negotiations.

• We recognized that the basic issue is job and income security, and the development of mutual support to obtain these objectives.

• And, as mentioned above, the need to avoid inter-union raiding and to bolster mutual respect. (This four point program was also spelled out in the last issue of The Dispatcher.)

All the officials of the five unions were very impressed by the newspaper response to this program, especially in British Columbia where the Vancouver Sun, in its report noted that more than 50,000 British Columbia trade unionists out of a total of 215,000 union members in the province would be involved in the decision reached by this joint mutual aid pact. Of course tens of thousands of American workers on the West Coast are equally involved.

The ILWU sees the Canadian Area as having a policy of refraining from complete support of any political party and the all labor movement including action any program or policy of any political party which is of benefit to labor.

An adequate national old age pension to sustain workers in dignity.

Government action to keep immigration at all time levels, the high level of unemployment in Canada.

Establishment of a widow’s pension by the government of British Columbia.

Assistance to native Indians to help them secure equality and citizenship.

Support for a 24-hour boycott against Japanese ships in the month of April to express solidarity with Japanese dock workers in their fight against Japanese ships in the month of April to express solidarity with Japanese dock workers in their fight for recognition and the Canadian worker’s jobs opportunity.

The establishment of a united Canadian labor movement to refilberting expelled unions and inviting new members to the Canadian Area because of “strengthening Canada’s economy and the Canadian worker’s job opportunity.”