Local 11 Convenes
Dried Fruit Pact Open On Wages

SAN JOSE — Lively discussions, with many delegates taking part, developed at the all-day annual convention of ILWU Local 11. Workers at 14 plants were represented. It here in San Jose, one each in Gilroy, Hollister, Campbell and Healdsburg.

Many delegates hit the floor to talk about the dried fruit contract, which will be open on wages and classifications April 15. It is a three-year agreement, concluded last August.

President George Lucero announced that meetings were being held for members at all plants and that a negotiating committee would be elected in February.

Preliminary discussion took place concerning the Pillar Case contract, which will expire in August.

Resolutions were adopted demanding re-instatement of Rep. Adam Clayton Powell to chairmanship of the House Committee on Labor and Education, encouraging the Mexican community of San Jose to seek representation on the city council, asking extension of all labor and social legislation to farm workers, urging that no union should interfere with another union engaged in organizing farm workers, and asking the International convention to prepare a film dealing with the history of the ILWU.

Directors, officers and other officials, and representatives of the ILWU and PMA committee.

Unions Seek Full Health Coverage

"Health plans almost never cover the full costs of the worker's or his family's health care; almost invariably, he is forced to dig into his own pocket for the balance." This is quoted from the first issue of Health and Welfare Week, published by the California Council for Health Plan Alternatives.

The council proposes to do something about that situation. It is composed of officials from thirteen unions, including ILWU, Teamsters and AFL-CIO organizations, along with a doctor, an economist and a health plan official.

The report states that "For years, unions have been negotiating increased employer payments for

Two-to-One Vote
ILWU Wins Again at US Borax

WILMINGTON — US Borax Company refinery workers voted ILWU by more than two to one in a National Labor Relations Board election here January 25.

The entire US Borax operation now is performed by ILWU members — mining, crushing, processing, refining and loading the finished product onto ships. Products include borax powder, soap and glass.

Of 375 eligible voters, 297 marked their ballots for ILWU, 111 for the Chemical workers union, and 1 for no union.

In April, 1964, the Borax mine and surface workers at Boron, Calif., voted 336 to 175 for ILWU. That mine, in the area near Mojave, is the largest borax producer in the world.

Regional director Bill Piercy who headed the organizing drive gave much credit to his efforts and expressed thanks for special cooperation from the executive board member, Carl V.Looper, Local 13 president Carl Walter and secretary-treasurer Dave Courtemarch.

There was a large rank-and-file organizing committee. Among the most active members were Dave Womack, Herb Escarraga, Art Orellas, Fernando Hernandez and Jim Crossman.

Survey Mail Deadline Is February 19

Very soon you will receive your copy of the ILWU Survey of Membership, Attitudes, or perhaps you already have it.

The sooner you can mail it back, the better. It will have to be postmarked and processed the day of return, so please be prompt. It will be undisturbed and filled out.

This survey is an extension of the democratic process in your union.

You have less than two weeks before the February 19 mailing deadline.
The ILWU survey, on the other hand, cov-
ers practically the entire membership on the mainland, giving every man and woman a chance to vote. It is therefore more like a Gallup pollster. And most polls have loaded lists. Never before, to the best of our knowledge, has so complete a survey of any union's membership been attempted. We cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of spending a half-hour or so putting your mind to this project.

Your opinions and attitudes will aid the officers in charting the union's course at the upcoming April International Convention. Thus, it is a two-way street, giving members an opportunity to speak their minds and leaders a chance to reflect the broadest possible section of the union pop-

ulation.

This nation has been polled, computed and tabulated scores of the great questions that beset us today. What do you think about your union's progress, program, policies? Political action? What about peace or war, civil rights, schools, taxes, consumer problems, and a host of other questions? How about membership meetings? Why do so few attend and what can be done to change or improve them?

Naturally, your union's newspaper is deeply interested in what you feel about it. What you read or don't read, what you would suggest to improve it, make it more readable for members and their families.

This is your opportunity to cast a secret ballot that concerns you and your livelihood, your family and community. Take a half-hour or so to make sure your vote counts.

So talk it over with the wife and your teen-

agers.

The ILWU leadership is acutely aware that we have a new union population now. The officers who built the union are leav-

ing, young people are taking their places in increasing numbers. Most of them are dimly aware of the union's past history, and most could hardly care less. They under-

standably live for today—and tomorrow! If we want to take the path of today and to-

morrow, we must find out what the young folks think.

THE SECRET attitude survey involves it-

self with scores of the great questions that beset us today. What do you think about your union's progress, program, policies? Political action? What about peace or war, civil rights, schools, taxes, consumer problems, and a host of other questions? How about membership meetings? Why do so few attend and what can be done to change or improve them?

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Arbitrator L. B. Thomas Dies in Tragic Accident

SAN RAFAEL, Calif.—Laurence B. Thomas, 55, long time ILWU official, and recently ILWU-PMA area arbitrator for Northern California, was killed here early Saturday morning, January 21, when his car rammed a guardrail during a swirling rain-storm.

A short but deeply moving ceremony took place at his home for friends and relatives on Thursday, January 26. The funeral home was over-flowing with union members, current and former officers and friends from many parts of the state, including a large delegation from Southern California.

Thomas, known up and down the coast as "LB" or "Tommy" started work in the ILWU's Los Angeles Local 13, and in the 40's was elected president. He served his union in practically every possible capacity for some 35 years.

In 1949 he was elected to the ILWU Council of War Victims. From his office he held until 1963 when he was appointed area arbitrator for Northern California.

MAM FOUNDER

He was a member of the Coast Council, along with the late Howard Bodine, and ILWU president Harry Bridges, when the planning and development was undertaken that would lead to the historic ILWU-PMA Mechanization and Modernization Agreement.

During World War II he was an officer in the Navy, serving in the South Pacific as an expert in the field he knew so well, that of cargo.

At the veterans cemetery where he was buried, Harry Bridges spoke a few words:

"Laurence, I can't go to funerals. I like them even less when I have to say goodbye to a good, loyal and devoted trade union leader, L. B. Thomas.

Honorary pallbearers at the funeral were:

Hawaiian Pine and Sugar Wages Up

HONOLULU — On February 1, wages went up 13c an hour under ILWU agreements with sugar and refinery lords. With a pineapple, can manufacturing and allied companies.

Hawaiian Pine

The wage increase now is $2.02 in sugar, $1.93 in pineapple.

These are final increases under the pineapple contract which expires January 31, 1969, and the 1965 sugar contract which will expire January 31, 1969, and the 1965 sugar contract which will expire January 31, 1969.

ILWU Drill Team to Perform at SJSU

SAN FRANCISCO — Next appearance of the ILWU drill team will be at half-time during a basketball game at City College of San Francisco on February 17. The opposing team will be Contra Costa Junior College.
Jerry Bulcke
Honored by
ILWU, PMA

SAN PEDRO — A testimonial lunchen for Germain Bulcke at Port O'Call was attended by about 600 at the ILWU and PMA. The affair was sponsored by PMA and ILWU Locals 13, 29, 46, 63 and 94.

Bulcke retired late in 1966 after a lifelong devotion to the ILWU and the welfare of maritime workers. He is a former president of Longshore Local 10 in San Francisco, former vice president of ILWU for a later area and secretary-treasurer of Local 26.

SIMONSON — Packinghouse executive Gilbert Simonson, Packinghouse Workers Organized (PMA). He said that those former ILWU members who joined the packinghouse union have been a threat to the workers and the union.

Rissman Elected

ASTORIA, Ore.—Local 92 member Albert Rissman has been elected President of the Astoria Port Commission for 1967.

Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union to join for world peace "is in the finest tradition of the American labor movement," he added. He called the conflict in Vietnam "a civil war compar- able to the civil war we had in this country in the 1960's."

Rissman said that "foreign policy belongs in the hands of the people," and called for labor unity, urging organized labor to encourage national conventions as well as local meetings to discuss the issues of peace and war.

Peace Organization Established by LA Unions

LOS ANGELES—The labor move- ment here took the first forward step in making its voice heard for world peace with the establishment of a local chapter of the trade union division of the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy (SANE).

Close to 150 representatives from 15 AFL-CIO and independent un- ions representing the head- quarters of the Amalgamated Cloth- ing Workers to organize the structure and program for a labor movement for world peace, whose keynote was "to get every trade union to break through and talk of peace at International conventions as well as in our meetings."

Those were the words of Leonard Levy, International vice president of the Clothing Workers Union, and the trade union division's president of the Los Angeles County Federa- tion of Labor.

ILWU Policy

Piercy expressed the strong support of the ILWU for a program of peace, noting that the International union has never had a policy of peace, but has always expressed the need for an end to the war. He said that the ILWU has consistently opposed the war and has worked to build a free and viable society in Vietnam while all about us there is an over- whelming evidence of a social frag- mentation at home.

"It is our determined purpose to carry the discussion of these and other issues of peace and war into our trade union meetings and to all fel- low workers to say that our foreign policy in Vietnam does not work, and we want to find out why. Our purpose is to discuss and debate the issues of peace and war fall- ing within the finest traditions of the American labor movement."

PLANS

The Los Angeles meeting was de- voted to organization, it was pointed out, and the development of a struc- ture to carry on the program. The next step, the meeting con- cluded, will be the calling of a far more extensive representative meeting at which the organiza- tional structure and program will be considered.

It was decided that the trade union- ists for peace would begin work- ing now on an enlarged conference to be held sometime in the spring.
CRDC Fights Against Sales Tax for Oregon

PORTLAND — Any attempt to "foist the sales tax on the people of Oregon should be resisted as unfair," not only to pensioners and others on fixed incomes, but to wage-earning homeowners as well, CRDC Secretary R. J. Korman warned in a letter to affiliates.

A legislative interim committee at Salem has come out with a 2 per cent sales tax proposal. Property tax relief is not in the proposal and, per person dependent to "make up" for taxes on food and drugs, is the sugar coating on the pill. The letter points out some bitter facts:

- Experience in other states has shown sales taxes start out with exemptions on food and drugs, but eventually encompass all.
- Sales taxes also go up, "Washington started out with a 2 per cent tax; now they are at 6 per cent. The increase from 4.2 per cent to 4.5 per cent.
- Another fact Oregon sales taxes fail to mention is that young families living in $15,000-and-up homes, and paying on clothes and appliances, would be among those hardest hit by so-called "sales tax" property tax relief.
- The proposal's 20 percent property tax saving (it would be half that in the tri-county metropolitan area) plus the food and drug rebates would not make up for the $75

Andrew Schmitz Retires; Honored by Two Awards

SAN FRANCISCO — Andrew F. Schmitz, regional director of the Labor Standards Bureau Office of Occupational Safety, retired December 31, 1966. He recently was honored with two awards for his efforts to enforce maritime safety laws. One was a citation for notable career service, presented by Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz, the other an award of merit from the Federal Safety Council.

W. J. 'War' Floyd, who had been working with Schmitz as deputy regional director since inauguration of the program, succeeded Schmitz as regional director.

Complete Health Plan, Union Goal

The Council conducted a survey among Los Angeles bakery wagon drivers and found that during a six-month period only 1 percent of those who had medical expenses during that period were paid for all of them by their union health care plan.

On the average, the plan paid $164 per day — without taking into account the increased profit that comes from higher usage.

TEAMSTER STATEMENT

Chairman of the Council is Einar Mohn, director of the Western Conference of Teamsters. He was invited recently to address a Los Angeles meeting of about 200 doctors and health-care administrators.

Representing Mohn at the meeting, Teamster research director Bruce Poyer said that unions are determined to cease being "collection and disbursement" agencies and intend to get their members better medical service.

Unnecessary surgery is performed, Poyer said, and incidents of over medication in such areas as dental, mental and eye care, nursing, nursing homes and home health care.

"Unions are convinced they no longer can turn the member loose in the health-care market place and let him shift for himself," Poyer concluded.

the young family would lose in sales taxes every time it spends $3,750 for retail goods. "In fact, they probably would be $30 or $35 behind."

- Only the big property owner — who would pay little or nothing in sales taxes — would benefit.

Keean's letter cited some examples given by KGW-TV news anchor Forest Amiden in a recent broadcast. The Southern Pacific Railroad in 1966 paid $1,911,841 on its Oregon property. Under the property relief, 2 percent sales tax plan, the railroad would recover $382,000.

Dried Fruit Pact Opens

WHEREAS: It is well-known and documented that many congressmen have long engaged in excesses—financial, moral or otherwise; and

WHEREAS: The real shame in our country is the presence in Congress of so many members from the South who are "elected" from states where no democracy at all exists and who are elected only a small fraction of the population; and

WHEREAS: It is indecent that the first and only congressman who is punished should be the only Negro member of Congress who has attained a position of real power; and

WHEREAS: We do not condone the conduct of Rep. Powell; nevertheless, it must be noted that as Chairman of the House Labor and Education Committee, Powell has been one of the most effective supporters of the causes which are vital to us as workers and trade unionists; and

WHEREAS: This assault is part of the growing trend by the rich and greedy and powerful who want to weaken and destroy unions and keep the Negro "in his place"; therefore be it RESOLVED: That we thank Rep. Ron Edwards for having the good sense and the courage—one of only 69—to vote against this legal "lynching".
People Lose Something with Each Reagan Appointment

OAKLAND—Governor Reagan has appointed a PG&E consultant to the Public Utilities Commission and a cattleman to the Department of Social Welfare. Michael Johnson, ILWU legislative representative, told the Northern California Council meeting last week that every Reagan appointment has taken away something from the welfare and security of working people.

Johnson said that the effects will be felt, when they pay utility bills, buy auto insurance and deal with state welfare agencies.

Consultants for 1967 were inducted by regional director William Chester. They are Leroy King (Local 6), Robert Randles (Local 10), vice-president; Michael Johnson (Local 34), secretary.

Johnson serves also as Northern California legislative representative, and has been in Sacramento several days a week since the legislature convened.

The Council met in the East Bay headquarters of Local 6.

The first 200 bills introduced in the legislature this year were right-wing reactionary measures, Johnson reported. For example, there are bills to repeal the Rumford fair housing act, cripple the University of California, limit free speech in the name of censoring obscenity and take away civil rights of arrested persons, counteracting decisions of the US Supreme Court.

LOBBYISTS

There are some 650 lobbyists in Sacramento for corporations and other special interests, Johnson said, and they are “getting very cocky” about the way things are going under the Reagan administration.

There are not more than 20 labor lobbyists, added, of whom eight are on part time, five represent the railroad brotherhoods, which are not covered by general labor legislation. The Teamsters union has three lobbyists, ILWU two (NCDC and SCDC have one each), and the State Federation of Labor, two.

A proposed tax program will be presented to the legislature jointly by NCDC and SCDC, Johnson said. Prepared by ILWU research director Lincoln Fairley, the program recommends increased state income taxes on higher incomes and reduced tax on lower incomes.

APPOINTMENTS

On the subject of Reagan’s appointments, Johnson reported the following:

• Two members of the Public Utilities Commission who had honestly represented the interests of the public have been replaced by reactionaries, corporation-minded men. One is Frederick P. Morrissey, who has served as consultant for both PG&E and the telephone company. The other is “famed duck” state senator John Symons.

• Under the previously-constituted automobile theft prosecution committee, state labor has been excluded, and required to reduce its rates by $40 million a year. Since the first of this year, it has petitioned for an increase of $177 million.

• Reagan has nominated as director of the Department of Social Welfare John C. Montgomery, former vice-president of the California Cattlemen’s Association and director of the American National Cattlemen’s Association. Local 146, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, has charged in a letter to the governor that Montgomery’s appointment “would be a violation of the law.” The letter quotes the Welfare and Institutions Code concerning the director’s qualifications and points out that Montgomery lacks them.

• Montgomery’s nomination was accompanied by announcement of reductions in state medical care service, hospital construction and policies.

• Helen Nelson, former consumer counsel, who “did a terrific job,” has been replaced by a woman with no experience or other qualification for the job, and with a background from two-thirds. There are indications that this department may be eliminated at mid-year.

• Mrs. Nelson was opposed by manufacturers and merchants because of her sponsorship of bills to end deceptive packaging and advertising and requiring that loan contracts state prominently the amount of interest charged.

• Two labor-oriented members of the Workers’ Compensation Commission have been replaced by the personnel director of a Los Angeles bakery chain and an industrial relations man from Lockheed.

OIL TAX

The Council adopted a resolution opposing the ouster of Rep. Adam Clayton Powell from chairmanship of the House Committee on Labor and Education in Washington.

In the field of state legislation, the Council recommended a decrease in the oil severance tax. Johnson pointed out that California receives only $1.3 million a year from this tax, because of its low rate, while Texas collects $202 million and Louisiana, $179 million.

Retired Local 91 Vet

Ralph Mallen Dies

MILL VALLEY—Services were held here on February 1 for Ralph N. Mallen, former secretary-treasurer-business agent for Boats Local 91, ILWU, who died of a heart attack last Saturday in his home. He was 69.

Mallen, who retired four years ago, was a charter member of Local 91, and its chief officer for 14 years.

He was a waterfront veteran, a member of the 1919-20 strike committee, and chairman of the strike publicity committee.

As a member of Local 10 he held many offices, was at one time a dispatcher.

He is survived by his wife, Pauline, and a son, Donald R. Mallen.

Japanese Officials

Read Dispatcher

PORTLAND—The Commission of Public Utilities and the Japanese port officials have been considering the various issues presented in the recent past, and agreement, or at least a general understanding, has been reached on two key points.

The main issue discussed was the cost of tamper-proof locks for the Japanese port officials.

The Japanese officials have agreed to pay for the locks, and the port has agreed to supply them.

The other major issue was the cost of maintaining the locks. The port has agreed to cover this cost, and the Japanese officials have agreed to pay for it.

Local 6 Petition Asks Social Security Hike

SAN FRANCISCO—A petition urging a substantial increase in social security benefits is being circulated by stewards of Warehouse Local 6.

The message, addressed to President Johnson as well as senators and representatives from California, asks that “you use your good offices to alleviate the financial problems of the more than 20 million Americans dependent on social security.”

Many millions of older people have no income, the petition says, other than their social security checks averaging $93.77 a month.

Stewards received the petition along with a letter signed by Local 6 president Charles Duarte and secretary-treasurer George Valter, asking that they get as many signatures as possible.

Look, Ma, No Crane

When the Andreas U docked at Los Angeles and San Francisco last month up to 1,200 cars can be stowed on seven decks. They are driven on to the ship, gasoline is not removed and battery terminals are not disconnected. Picture above shows low clearance between decks. Below: a car is driven up a ramp from one deck to another. In order to obtain Coast Guard approval for this method of handling cars, high powered blowers must be installed to remove gasoline and exhaust fumes. In two days, by removal of decks, the Andreas U can be converted from automobiles to bulk cargo, with capacity of from 15,000 to 18,000 tons.

Left: A car is driven from Andreas U to dock. Right: Unloading a car as it is usually done.
Hospital Drama Recalled

Willie Christensen, who retired last month after 44 years as a union member, was thrown into the Bridges-Robertson-Schmidt case. Willie, in bed with a spinal injury caused by a job accident, was a key witness in that case. Harry Bridges is at the left and Henry Schmidt at the right. (See story below.)

Willie Christensen Retires

SAN FRANCISCO—Willie H. Christensen, for 44 years a longshoreman in the San Francisco Bay Area, active veteran of the 1934 strike and every one since, and many times an officer of his local, retired in January, six months before his 60th birthday.

Willie, as he is best known, though his name is William, isn't bashful in his praise for the union that he helped to found and build.

"If it wasn't for this union and its leaders, I don't know what I would have done," he says. "And, like so many of the oldtimers leaving the fold, he has some advice for the men still carrying the union's torch:"

"You young fellows who are taking over from us oldtimers should take very good care of this union. Keep building it. Keep it strong."

Willie started longshoreing in 1933, after he arrived here on a Danish ship where he was a cook. He went to sea in the galley as an apprentice at age 14. He remained at sea for 52 years, leaving the fold, he has some advice to the men who are still carrying the union's torch:"

"You young fellows who are taking over from us oldtimers should take very good care of this union. Keep building it. Keep it strong."
Booming BC Ports Step Up Gang Calls

VANCOUVER, BC — Increased port activity and the backlog resulting from the recent 23 day tie up of the ILWU in the state of Washington, has necessitated a substantial increase in the number of work gangs as well as an expansion of the training program.

The number of ships in the port of Vancouver is double that of last fall. On September 1 there were 23 ships in port; on October 1 the number was 26. Last week on January 27, it had risen to 24.

The registered work gangs in Vancouver number 52, but an additional 40 or more scratch gangs are being sent out daily. The figure for January was 26. A survey made recently by ILWU officers revealed that in Vancouver a total of 1438 gangs were dispatched in October. The figure includes night gangs.

Between December 15 and January 16 a total of 2095 gangs were dispatched, all day gangs, an increase of over 50 percent. The calls for gangs are still going up.

'DIET OF LOGS'

One of the expanding fields of exports is that of logs which have shown a remarkable increase. Deep sea log exports to Japan rose from 4000 tons in June to 18,600 tons in November.

"We have at least five log ships working right now and more to come," said Bob Peebles, Local 500 officers revealed that in Vancouver Island, workers are still going up.

"The people trained are not yet fully qualified, of course," said Ben Dunphy, Canadian Area ILWU first vice president in charge of industry training for the union. "The membership is co-operating 100 percent by working with these men and helping them gain experience.

"Our training plans include checkers, train crews and other categories."

In this expanding fishery, the training program to meet immediate requirements is only seven months old, the Voice reported, but already it has trained 196 persons.

This is your opportunity to sound off — straight from the shoulder, with no holds barred. Naturally, the officers of the ILWU are expecting a completely honest set of answers. And this will mean spending a little time and effort and giving some real thought to the questions.

A Survey of Members—John E. Patel, International Representative, pointed out that the success of this unusual and historic questionnaire is dependent upon the cooperation of each member. This is your opportunity to open up questions of consequence, be as critical as he desires, to present a positive as well as a negative point of view, then he should be delighted to take this responsibility.

The union must continue to bring its power to protect its present members, the board agreed.

Voice of the ILWU, published by Local 142, reported that the total number of workers in Hawaii increased by more than 31,000 in the past five years.

"The union must grow just as fast to keep up," said the Voice. "ILWU is strong now and can win benefits for its members at the bargaining table and in the legislature and county politics because it is the biggest union in the state. But this can change."

Workers on the docks, in the sugar and pineapple industries are completely organized, the board noted; so new members will have to be organized among hotel and other workers serving tourists.

"At the same time," said the Voice, "the union will be establishing good wages and working conditions in the very industry where most union members' children still to find their jobs."

Local 142 has initiated a hotel workers' training program so the local people will be prepared for jobs in this industry. The program is only seven months old, the Voice reported, but already it has trained 196 persons.

**Win 2 Elections in Northwest**

CHARLESTON, Ore. — Employees of the Fishermen's Cooperative Association voted 24 to 4 in favor of ILWU affiliation in an NLRB representation election January 24.

Thirty of the 31 eligible plant workers cast ballots, International Representative James S. Pantz said. These workers will form a unit of Local 4.