Anti-Labor, Anti-People
Reagan's Shameful Program

California labor's first year under Governor Reagan was a time of running hard to avoid losing ground.

While union members as a group fared better than the poor, the unemployed and the mentally ill, individual unionists who were at the mercy of Reagan-appointed welfare administrators got a taste of right-wing "conservatism" in power; for example, administrators of workers' compensation invariably sided with the employers against claims by working people, or refused to accept the claims.

In former years, under any administration, unions could draw up plans for better labor and welfare legislation, knowing that some of it would be enacted, that things would get better from year to year.

Now it is different. The Reagan administration is preparing a new anti-labor push in 1968, the ILWU was warned by legislative representatives Michael Johnson and Nate DiBlasi at its year-end Joint Council meeting.

The same bad bills, of which there were almost 700 in 1967, will be reintroduced, along with others that are in the works.

ATTACK ON UNIONS

At the year's end, two unions filed suit, asked a writ of mandamus to require Reagan's labor commissioner to accept and process claims for unpaid wages and benefit contributions for union members. This had been done for many years, until 1967.

The unions were the California State Council of Carpenters and Alamada County Central Labor Council. Sigmund Arywitz, Los Angeles County AFL-CIO secretary, charged that William Hern, Reagan's labor commissioner "willfully abuses his powers when he discriminates against one class of wage claimants by denying them protection properly needed."
HOPE STIRRED throughout the world and the new year seemed suddenly broader as word of possible peace swept Asia and Europe. From Hanoi and Paris, spreading to Indonezia, Laos, Burma and Cambodia. Reported statements that North Vietnam had sent out those “signs” that Washington has repeatedly said it awaits.

Throughout the world there were reports that the North Vietnamese foreign minister’s statement was to be taken seriously. It started with a New Year’s day statement in Hanoi, reported by a French press agency. North Vietnam, it said, “will begin talks with the United States on all pertinent problems” if bombing and other acts of war stop unconditionally.

Here is more than a sign; a specific, formal and seemingly unequivocal statement. President Johnson said the news story was being studied; Rusk said he was viewing it cautiously, and stocks dropped in New York as a “peace feeler” scare swept over the money changers, which lent even more credence to the story.

THERE was backed up by the French government saying it is convinced talks will follow a bombing halt. It was endorsed by the British Foreign Office, and by an interview between a US broadcaster and a North Vietnamese official.

And then came this clincher by Schoenbrun: “Stop the bombing unconditionally.”

And then came this clincher by Schoenbrun:

“Stop the bombing unconditionally they told me in Hanoi, and cleared it through censorship and, I quote the prime minister’s words, will follow very rapidly.”

The signs seem pretty clear. The world again sees the possibility of light at the end of a long, dark tunnel. And if there is a chance to start talking—no matter how long talks take—the first thing that matters is that the killing will stop.

A CTUALLY THERE is a very good chance that you first read here in The Dispatcher that an unconditional ending of the bombing will start talks. It was firmly stated at the National Labor Leadership Assembly for Peace in Chicago by former CBS correspondent David Schoenbrun, a man of vast experience, who had been in Hanoi in September.

Schoenbrun said before more than 500 labor leaders (and his speech was tape-recorded by The Dispatcher editor):

“I asked them: ‘What are your terms, what are you willing to do, how can this war be ended?’ Ho Chi Minh told me, Pham Van Dong told me . . . all these men I’ve known for two decades, said: ‘Stop bombing and stop bombing unconditionally.’”

“This was the principle we expected to follow recently. And we stated as the first essential. Last April we not only stated this, but called on the rest of the labor movement to join the fight for peace.”

This call for an unconditional end of the bombing as the only meaningful step to start talks that could lead to peace is something the ILWU’s 17th Biennial Convention stated as the first essential. Last April we not only stated this, but called on the rest of the labor movement to join the fight for peace.

T HIS WAS THE principle we expected to follow recently when Local 34 president Jim Herman and I made an unsuccessful attempt to visit China after we finished our tour of Australia and New Zealand.

We did not expect to go in with the okay of the State Department, but as private citizens, without the protection of our government, and willing to take our chances, no matter what happened.

What the appeals court has done is to say that the State Department cannot enforce restrictions on travel by refusing to issue passports. All the State Department can do, according to the court, is to say where an individual can or cannot take his passport. Therefore if a person wishes to travel to an “off-limit” country the State Department may ask the traveler to forfeit or return his passport if he goes to a restricted area.”

The court, in its opinion, pointed out that the right to travel is protected by the Fifth Amendment which provides that “no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law.” Presently such prohibited countries are North Vietnam, North Korea, Communist China, Cuba and Syria.

This is also very much in keeping with the ILWU convention statement of policy which said, “We reiterate ILWU’s long-standing position that every American should be free to travel to any country in the world without discrimination as to race, color, religion, national origin, or political belief.”

In the Officers’ Report, we insisted on “The right of Americans, and especially trade union delegations such as our overseas delegations in that country, to observe for themselves conditions of all countries of the world without hindrance or restrictions by our own government, and the right, in turn, of trade unionists and others to visit and observe for themselves conditions in the United States.”

T HIS QUESTION of sovereign rights is something we as a union have always understood. For example, the rank and file of any local can vote a member in, or refuse to take him in, even without giving reasons. A lot of people don’t understand this question of local sovereignty—or call it “autonomy”—and have gone to court blaming discrimination.

Yet a rank and file continues to have the right to determine if a man will be a good worker and a good union man.

However, a union that bars membership strictly for reasons of race, creed, color or political and religious beliefs may be discriminating in a fashion that is not only illegal, but immoral. This is something the ILWU constitution forbids, but we shouldn’t kid ourselves. Thinking that some unions don’t discriminate for racial or political reasons. Some do!.

Well, to get back to the point, Our Appeals Court has struck another blow for freedom of individual rights for all Americans. Naturally, we would like to see agreements reached by all countries in the world for free access to each other’s peoples. But that’s for the future, for a time when the entire world truly is at peace.

For the present, the sovereignty of nations is jealously guarded, and all nations, properly, do have a right to determine whether any particular individual can enter or be barred. What this court has done is to open up new possibilities for individuals to move about more freely—taking their chances as they see them—and learning more about the world we live in. These contacts will increase the chances eventually for peaceful commerce and use of the world’s tremendous natural resources.

From the ILWU point of view, it opens up new possibilities for our overseas delegates to move into areas previously banned, hopefully including China, and this is something we look forward to with enthusiasm.

T HIS IS NOT NORMAL to say that the end of the war is near. It is always bad news for those who profits from the conflict, and it is always difficult for those who wish to end it.

But there is a sense of hope that something is changing. The United States has announced that it will pull out of Vietnam, and the North Vietnamese have said they will stop bombing.

These are important developments, and they give us reason to be optimistic about the future. It is not easy to imagine a world without war, but it is possible. And we must work towards it.

The end of the Vietnam War will bring peace to the region and allow us to focus on other pressing issues. We must not forget the human cost of this conflict, which has been enormous.

We must also remember the lessons of history. Wars do not end overnight, and the transition to peace is often fraught with difficulties. We must be prepared to support the peace process and to help build a more stable and prosperous society in the region.

In conclusion, let us not forget the sacrifices made by those who fought for peace. Let us honor their memory and strive to ensure that their dreams of a world without war are realized.
Japanese Unions

Visiting ILWU international headquarters last week were trade union leaders from Japan, who also acted as interpreters. Secretary-Treasurer Louis Goldblatt, President Jerry Brady, and Secretary Sokai, general secretary of the AFL-Japan Telecommunications Workers Union.

Reagan Rousts the Old, Sick and Poor

The Governor signed a bill that eliminates the “right-to-work” drives are under court. And they’ve taken their grievance to court.

They’re talking about a new bill called “right-to-work” drives are under court. And they’ve taken their grievance to court.

Port Alberni, B.C. — Mark Mallos, a member of ILWU Local 19 here as the result of the final election, held December 20-22, 1967. He defeated incumbent Oliver A. Olson, by a vote of 426 to 385.

Local vice president is Jerry Tyler, who is the secretary of the ILWU Local 2. Alvin Spradlin’s 295. Secretary-treasurer is E. W. Anderson, with 566 votes over Olson’s 505.

Others elected included day business agent, Herbert W. Liles, and night business agent, Charles Black, Sr.


Also elected was an 18-man executive council, and various safety committees.

Delegate to the Puget Sound Council was James L. Cota, and Ray A. Nelson is area labor relations committee man.

Martin Callaghan

Of Local 10 Dies

SAN FRANCISCO-Martin J. Callaghan, past president and longtime local 10, died here December 20. He had been a longshore union member since 1933, which included the ILA, predecessor of ILWU.

The Local 10 Longshore Bulletin on December 25 paid tribute to Callaghan:

“All of the ILWU and labor will miss our friend, Mr. Callaghan, who has served Local 10 for many years. He has served as president, business agent, executive board, board of trustees, district council delegate to the state and national convention.

“He helped build the ILWU, fought during the strikes and lockouts. He had been a longshoreman for 40 years. He was on the labor relations committee, fought for working conditions and rights, was a good gang boss to work for. He will be missed by all of us Local 10.”

E. B. Pensioners

At Annual Fete

OAKLAND—Almost 125 members of the ILWU Oakland Pensioners Club held their annual Christmas party here at Local 6 East Bay headquarters.

All local officers were present as master of ceremonies, Dave Burke, East Bay business agent, congratulated the participants. A special bouquet for Bertha Schmidt, the club secretary-treasurer, was presented.

In a personal letter, Paul Heide gave a brief explanation of the beautiful concrete tile mural which he made for local 6. He also visited the Bay and have become a showpiece of the area, according to Jim Nelson, pensioner’s recording secretary.

Mark Mosher of Local 503

Elected School Trustee

PORT ALBERNI, B.C.—Mark Mosher, member of ILWU Local 503, Port Alberni and prominent community worker, was elected a school trustee for the Port Alberni District No. 70, adjacent to this port city.
**The Dispatcher**

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January 5, 1968

**It Was Warehouse Year —1967**

The union's major emphasis in both Northern and Southern California was “Warehouse Year—1967.” The key was ILWU-Teamster unity. The machinery was set into high gear in February by a standing-room-only Local 6 and 17 convention which rocked the rafters in approval of the Northern California Warehouse Council, representing ILWU and Teamster locals from Bakersfield to the Oregon border, involving more than 25,000 warehouse workers. Under the leadership of co-chairmen Louis Goldblatt, ILWU secretary-treasurer and George Mock, IBT international vice president, both unions set joint goals of substantial wage boosts, improved conditions, fringe benefits, classifications and a wide variety of changes. It was agreed that all decisions would be concluded jointly, voted up or down by a majority of all locals. This history-making precedent promised a new era in cooperation and strength. No longer would warehouse employers be in a position to play off one warehouse group against the other, no more whipsawing.

The rank and file flavor of “Warehouse Year—1967” was apparent from the beginning as warehouse stewards got together for full sessions to kick around all the problems and demands of a new contract. Negotiations got under way in April when the ILWU and IBT informed employers that they would negotiate jointly, and urged employers to set up machinery to bargain for the entire industry.

**Strike Vote**

By the middle of May the employers' offer was rejected as “an insult” by an overflow meeting of some 1,800 ILWU and Teamster warehouse stewards, who jammed San Francisco's longshore building and approved holding a strike vote by all involved. The employers' offer was for a three-year contract, 10 cents the first year, 9 cents the second, and 8 cents the third, and raised rates of productivity. The offer was rejected by locals called membership meetings, a uniform ballot was prepared, calling for rejection of the employers' offer, and authorizing the negotiating committee to take strike action when and if necessary. Contracts expired May 31, and the joint ILWU-IBT negotiating committee set a strike deadline, which was widened a rank and file vote of better than 95 percent.

One minute past midnight, Monday morning, June 12, June 12, the strike started after round-the-clock, day and night negotiations which had gotten nowhere. Pickets stood guard around hundreds of production and distribution warehouses as members of both unions joined each other on the bricks. Solidarity was further reinforced by pledges of full support from all ILWU locals, auxiliaries and pensioners' groups, and from Teamsters locals around the nation, as well as from other unions.

Negotiations went on during most of the strike, many of the sessions lasting all day and all night. “Warehouse Year—1967” reached its climax on Sunday afternoon, July 2, when more than 5,000 striking warehousemen and women—called on a day's notice—voted by more than 95 percent to approve the contract won after three weeks on the picket lines and marathon negotiation sessions. This sure-footed move of an strike action, combining ILWU and IBT strength, won the best warehouse contract ever signed. The terms of settlement included 65 cents an hour wage increase over three years—20 cents in 1967, 25 cents in 1968 and 20 cents in 1969. Substantial gains were made in health and welfare, vacations, holidays, shifts and other fringe items. Equally important is the fact that wage increase was won for women. Union negotiators never wavered on insisting on parity for the women. A tremendous breakthrough was achieved on the negotiating job, but as George Mock put it, “It was you on the picket line that got the job done.”

Other aspects of “Warehouse Year—1967” included a tough strike of some 80 Local 6 members at Thrifty Drug warehouses in Southern California, which included picking of some 40 Thrifty Drug stores throughout the area, with immediate picket line help by longshore Local 13 and other ILWU units, as well as the Teamsters.

The Thrifty Drug strike was highlighted by compromise of the labor movement on the national level and unity of the labor movement at the local level. In this successful joint strike by ILWU and Teamster workers, the warehousemen also won the right to have a picketing guard around all local union offices, as well as new fringe benefits.

In Northern California Local 6 chalked up a better than 2-to-1 score in an NLRB election to become the collective bargaining representative at the Schilling plant in Salinas, and promised to establish the union in other areas away from the San Francisco Bay. Local 142 members from six islands, who were pledged to give full support to pineapple workers, and to chart a course for even greater and more widespread organizational activities — concentrating on a growing tourist industry — and for the preservation of the natural beauty of the state, so that it could be used by all the people as well as tourists.

**Peace, Pineapple and Progress**

Hawaii's giant Local 142 chalked up remarkable gains organizationally and contractually in the wide variety of industries it covers.

Symbol of their activities was the union's Labor Day parade with its theme of "Peace, Pineapple and Progress"—referring to the union's desire for peace on the streets of our cities; their preparations for successful negotiation of the pineapple contract, which expires January 31, 1968; and for an end of the exploitation and destruction of the natural beauty of Hawaii by those expecting to make a fast buck at the expense of the people. Honolulu was one of the few places in the United States which continued to hold a Labor Day parade, and expressed a desire for continued labor unity, "to demonstrate that working people are not afraid of the past to achieve a better life." Local 6 president Charles (Chili) Duarte was the major Labor Day speaker at Honolulu. His keynote called for peace in the two wars America is waging—one in Vietnam, one in the streets of poverty-stricken US cities.

ILWU regional director Jack Hall, at the Labor Day meeting, served notice that pineapple workers—the union's biggest section—"are going to have some healthy gains"—although he predicted that, regrettably, it will be a year. At the end of the year pineapple negotiations had started and every sign pointed to a tough road ahead.

In other major actions by Hawaii's ILWU members, major gains were chalked up by longshoremen, clerks and fruit sugar workers when a state-wide labor pool designed to equalize work opportunity was set up, and longshoremen started traveling between ports whenever necessary and were guaranteed a weekly income, as well as new fringe benefits.

Other Hawaii's included wage and fringe increases at Hawaii dairy farms; a successful strike at Macadamia Nut on the big island, and at Ultra Marine Chemical units in various places throughout the islands; strikes at several hotels, winning the highest wages in the state hotel industry. ILWU also won the highest wages for food store and bakery workers, as well as a sharp contract. Honolulu Iss. Works 1969.

A victory in a crucial Maui hotel vote made ILWU the dominant union of the hotel industry in the Neighbor Islands. Sugar workers at Ales, at the Hawaiian Sugar Company's refinery, scored a tremendous victory, with gains equal to those made by Local 6 members at the C&F plant at Crockett.

All in all, Hawaii's forward progress under ILWU Local 142, was hailed at the Eighth Biennial Convention in late September, the biggest and best convention ever, with 621 delegates from six islands, who were pledged to give full support to pineapple workers, and to chart a course for even greater and more widespread organizational activities — concentrating on a growing tourist industry — and for the preservation of the natural beauty of the state, so that it could be used by all the people as well as tourists.

The ILWU's 17th Biennial Convention brought together delegations by ILWU locals from the West Coast, Canada, Alaska and Hawaii. Meeting in San Francisco, April 3-7, it was one of the biggest ever, attracting a great deal of press and public interest as a result of its forthright positions on peace, on trade unionism, on political and social policy.

There were 316 regular delegates, representing 63 locals, and 31 fraternal delegates, six auxiliaries and five pensioner groups. The convention was addressed by Senator Mark Hatfield of Oregon, who presented a powerful indictment of the Vietnam war, by Eljar Mohn, director of the Western Conference of Teamsters, who spoke of the need to bring an end to this nation into the union orbit, by Mayor John Shelley, by Clive Jenkins, general secretary of a British trade union, and by many others. Senator Mark Hatfield's plea that we stop sending boys to the Vietnam "meatgrinder" was heartily applauded.

The convention also gave the ILWU a new president, who was a former president of the National Maritime Union—Charles (Chili) Duarte.
the Way

Harry Bridges in his keynote with the statement that the organizing power of working people still holds the greatest potential for social change in this country.

The convention pledged full support, moral and financial to the warehouse locals and resolved to continue support to Teamster president James Hoffa who had been jailed.

The resolution war declared "We don't belong in Vietnam and should get out" and proposed a specific program leading to cease-fire, negotiations, and eventual peace.

Other resolutions covered such ground as support for organization of farm workers, discussions of "black power," the need of Mexican-Americans for special measures to overcome discrimination against them, and much more. A civil rights resolution stated "Our union in no way means to depart from the principle and use of labor power, which is the united strength of all persons, races, and beliefs, national origins." The State Department was urged to permit an ILWU delegation to visit mainland China. The war against poverty in the United States, it was pointed out, could be overcome within the next ten years for far less than we now spend in Vietnam in one year.

It was a tough, hard-hitting and warmly received day, considered by many who had participated in other conventions as one of the best ever.

The three titled officers, president Harry Bridges, vice president J. R. Robertson and secretary-treasurer Louis Goldblatt were nominated without opposition for re-election and a new International Executive Board was nominated, and finally elected on a June ballot.

The convention was followed by the 1967 longshore, clerk and walking boss caucus, which spent days considering by the deep problems of implementing the contract.

The caucus called for the addition of "B" men in some ports and advancement of "B" men to "A" status.

The caucus also considered M&M benefits, a study to see if pensions could be raised for some members of Local 10.

Another most significant gain hailed by California unionists was the passage new ideas and programs to provide the best care for workers that would truly meet their needs.

The CRDC scored two negative victories by defeating sales tax bills and measures to prohibit export of logs. The auxiliaries played a role in convincing their members of the unwise nature of supporting such legislation. The council noted, the CRDC scored two negative victories by defeating sales tax bills and measures to prohibit export of logs.

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On March 7, president James H. Hoffa of the Teamsters union began an 8-year term in federal prison on a charge of jury tampering. The ILWU convention termed this "the payoff in one of the most outrageous frame-ups in the history of the American labor movement." Hoffa will be vindicated. . . . The ILWU's alliance in joint bargaining and mutual support with the Teamsters union will continue strong as ever.

Members' Opinions Surveyed

A precedent-breaking examination of the attitudes and opinions of ILWU members was included and drew wide comment from the daily press and labor newspapers, as well as requests for more information from other unions, universities, and students.

This was a confidential "ILWU Survey of Membership Attitudes" in the form of a four-page printed questionnaire which, according to an accompanying letter, was designed to "find out what you and other members of the ILWU are thinking about the union and its program."

It was sent to all members on The Dispatcher mailing list and received a remarkable return of almost 57 percent. Under ordinary circumstances, survey experts say, a return of 10 percent from a single mailing is considered high.

The questionnaire's results, presented to the 1967 Biennial Convention, showed the majority of members have a positive attitude that the ILWU is doing a better job than most other unions—but it could and should do a lot more. Most members believe that the ILWU has a primarily an economic weapon, but also desire programs that go beyond immediate collective bargaining issues; the majority wishes the union also to represent them in community problems on issues of equality and social justice.

Better Health for Workers

The California Council for Health Plan Alternatives, made up of a number of unions, with strong leadership by ILWU and the Teamsters, continued during the year to plan health coverage for workers that would truly meet their needs. Health and welfare plans, with union assistance, are usually chewed up by constantly rising costs.

The next step is to get toward the day when the strength of California unions is pooled to buy the best possible care for the worker and his family, to make a plan that deals with organized doctors and hospitals and other segments of the health industry, to encourage new ideas and programs to provide the best that is available in existing plans.

ILWU Councils Were Busy

All of ILWU's councils were busy during 1967, representing the interests of the membership in state capitals at Sacramento, Salem and Olympia.

The CRDC scored two negative victories by defeating sales tax bills and measures to prohibit export of logs. The auxiliaries played a major role in fighting the sales tax, gathering thousands of signatures in a few days during a special session of the legislature.

By helping defeat the log ban proposal, CRDC was protecting jobs of many waterfront workers as well as those of loggers and other workers.

ILWU and Teamster warehousemen accept contract to end three-week strike.

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ILWU secretary-treasurer Goldblatt, member of the council's executive committee, in his report to the council stated, "We absolutely must slow down the rate of increase in fees by doctors and hospitals—and stop the gouging." The council is made up of ILWU, Teamsters, Steelworkers, Carpenters, Electrical Workers, and the San Francisco and Los Angeles Federations of Labor, AFL-CIO.

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ILWU Auxiliaries Stress Peace

ILWU's Federated Auxiliaries held their 13th biennial convention in San Francisco June 20-23, with people in Vietnam the principal subject of discussion and action.

Resolutions calling for an end to the war and opposing military conscription were adopted and sent to Washington and to West Coast congressmen and senators. The delegates voted a $500 donation to the Committee of Responsibility, a group of physicians and laymen which is bringing napalm-burned children of Vietnam to the U.S. for treatment.

A resolution endorsed the "Vietnam Summer" plans and coordinations to help the handicapped through donations to the Alice Van Brunt Memorial Fund, and of scholarship funds now sponsored by a committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy) wherever it is needed. The convention asked continuation of programs to help pensioners' widows and children and of higher social security benefits. Morse complied with their request, and identical bills were introduced in the Senate and House during October. The Senate and House bills call for an increase in the weekly compensation benefit from $78 to $121 a week and identical bills were introduced in the House.

ILWU Delegates Roam World

It was a big year for travel by ILWU overseas delegations, making people-to-people contacts with workers in other countries, meeting them on the job, at trade union meetings and in their homes and reporting back to the ILWU membership with no holds barred. During 1967 reports were given on Thailand, Cambodia and South Vietnam; on Chile; on Hungary and Bulgaria; on East Germany; on Scandinavia, Japan, and sometime this year, Egypt.

There were also extensive reports from Australia, made by ILWU president Harry Bridges and Local 34 president James Herman. As a result of a recommendation by the April longshore caucus, and with the approval of the International Executive Board, the ILWU accepted an invitation from C. H. Fitzgibbons, general secretary of the Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia to attend that union's 20th All Ports Conference, which opened in Sydney, September 11.

Bridges and Herman addressed the conference, speaking of their special experiences with various phases of modernization and technological changes on the waterfront.

This was Bridges' first visit to his homeland in 48 years, since he left as a young sailor in 1919. The delegates visited all the major ports in the country, as well as traveling on to New Zealand.

ILWU represents a large segment of the labor movement, and contributed much to development of the union's position in relation to the Machinery and Modernization agreements.

ILWU was credited with putting through the legislation and modernization agreements on the waterfront.

While they were in the capital, Stern and Murnane met with Senator Wayne Morse (D. Ore.) to ask his help in expediting introduction of a bill to increase longshoremen's compensation benefits. Morse complied with their request, and identical bills were introduced in the Senate and House during October. The Senate and House bills call for an increase in the weekly compensation benefit from $78 to $121 a week and identical bills were introduced in the House.

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Resolutions calling for an end to the war and opposing military conscription were adopted and sent to Washington and to West Coast congressmen and senators. The delegates voted a $500 donation to the Committee of Responsibility, a group of physicians and laymen which is bringing napalm-burned children of Vietnam to the U.S. for treatment.

A resolution endorsed the "Vietnam Summer" plans and coordinations to help the handicapped through donations to the Alice Van Brunt Memorial Fund, and of scholarship funds now sponsored by a committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy) wherever it is needed. The convention asked continuation of programs to help pensioners' widows and children and of higher social security benefits. Morse complied with their request, and identical bills were introduced in the Senate and House during October. The Senate and House bills call for an increase in the weekly compensation benefit from $78 to $121 a week and identical bills were introduced in the House.

ILWU Delegates Roam World

It was a big year for travel by ILWU overseas delegations, making people-to-people contacts with workers in other countries, meeting them on the job, at trade union meetings and in their homes and reporting back to the ILWU membership with no holds barred. During 1967 reports were given on Thailand, Cambodia and South Vietnam; on Chile; on Hungary and Bulgaria; on East Germany; on Scandinavia, Japan, and sometime this year, Egypt.

There were also extensive reports from Australia, made by ILWU president Harry Bridges and Local 34 president James Herman. As a result of a recommendation by the April longshore caucus, and with the approval of the International Executive Board, the ILWU accepted an invitation from C. H. Fitzgibbons, general secretary of the Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia to attend that union's 20th All Ports Conference, which opened in Sydney, September 11.

Bridges and Herman addressed the conference, speaking of their special experiences with various phases of modernization and technological changes on the waterfront.

This was Bridges' first visit to his homeland in 48 years, since he left as a young sailor in 1919. The delegates visited all the major ports in the country, as well as traveling on to New Zealand.

ILWU represents a large segment of the labor movement, and contributed much to development of the union's position in relation to the Machinery and Modernization agreements.

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Local Union Elections

Eddie Holland Re-Elected Local 54 President

STOCKTON — Eddie Holland was re-elected president of Local 54 for the year 1968. Others elected include: vice president, Robert Ruiz; secretary-treasurer, Charles Foreman; night dispatcher, Ronald Ruiz.


Len Benard Named Local 9 President

SEATTLE — Local 9, ILWU, here named the following officers for 1968 in an election held December 16:

President, Lenard Benard; vice president, Jerry Williams; secretary-treasurer and business agent, Eugene C. Hutcheson; recording secretary, Archie G. Gruesse; trustee, Wayne L. Newman, and sergeant-at-arms, Dieter Biwick.

Also elected was the following nine-man executive board: E. G. Anderson, Gustav Carlson, Charles Harris, R. E. Biggough, Louis Marotte, Robert L. Schwartz, Ralph R. Vetsch, Ron Jones, Ed Larson, and Cloy Simpson.

McCaffrey Re-Elected At Boron Local 30

BORON, Calif. — ILWU Local 30, Mine, Mineral and Processing Union in this desert community, re-elected Tom McCaffrey president and William Day secretary. Also elected as recording secretary is Curtis Petri. A run-off election is to be held for vice president between Les Cole and Chuck Williams.

The results of the election for president are, McCaffrey, 228; Ralph Abel, 69; and Jack Ratliff, 56.

Peterson Re-Elected Local 18 President

SACRAMENTO — Longshore Local 18 here re-elected Duane Peterson as president, business agent and caucus delegate. Others elected include Alfred Victor, Jr., vice president; and the Northern California District Council; Joe Schaffer, secretary-treasurer; Tom Phillips, chief dispatcher; Donald L. Brown, relief dispatcher. The executive board consists of Robert T. Becker, Donald Brown, Jacob Hofer, R. J. Risse, and Vern Wheeler.

A run-off election was scheduled to be held for several other positions.

Local 32, Everett

EVERETT — Irvin Hansen has been re-elected president and Donald Gilchrist, financial secretary-dispatcher-business agent of Longshore Local 32. Other officers for 1968 are Joe McCormick, vice president; Grant Hudson, recording secretary; Donald L. Brown, relief dispatcher. The executive board consists of Robert T. Becker, Donald Brown, Jacob Hofer, R. J. Risse and Vern Wheeler.

A run-off election was scheduled to be held for several other positions.

SF Watchmen Elect

SAN FRANCISCO — Local 75, Gate and Watchmen's Union, ILWU, has elected the following officers and committees for 1968: president, Denver Davis; vice president, Alfred Fliegner; secretary-treasurer, Joseph D. McLaughlin; assistant secretary-treasurer, Roy E. Sbr, secretary, Jesse Hill. Also, one member on labor relations committee, three members on the board of trustees, and auditing committee, and a nine member executive committee. Denver Davis is also convention delegate.

Veva Phillips Heads Portland Auxiliary

PORTLAND — Veva Phillips will head Auxiliary 5 again this year. Other officers for 1968 include Julius Ruuttila, vice-president; Lucille Utting, secretary; Freida Pellum, treasurer; Elia Hagen, marshal and escort; Emma Ough, Anna May Grif- fiths and Constance Schmidt, trustees, and Clara Jones, executive board member.

Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Utting and Mrs. Griffiths will represent the group at the auxiliary council.

Mrs. Jones, a former president of the auxiliary, installed the slate at a luncheon meeting December 27.

Clerks Gave Lots of Toys For Delano

SAN FRANCISCO — Local 34's "Toys for Delano" drive was a great success. A station wagon and another car loaded with toys left here early on December 16 to arrive at a Christmas party in Delano that afternoon.

Besides the toys, there was a collection of $696 from ship clerks here and in Oakland.

Members of the Stockton unit assessed themselves $1 apiece for a joint entertainment and social evening. The toys were taken to Delano by Donald Donald, chairman of the toy drive, and John Longdon, a clerk. Secretary-treasurer Arthur Rosen- brook gave much credit to them, and to eight clerks who made 50 posters which were displayed at all piers. They were H. Falase, Al Inserra, Dave Costecu, Ron Maguire, Jack Kucin, Bob Johnson, Jim Eldridge and John Carter.

Four posters by Falase have been posted on the wall of the Philippine Consulate in Stockton.

The entire event, sponsored by the Port of Stockton and stevedoring companies as well as Local 34, was the local's tenth annual holiday season party, with Phil Badalamenti and Dewey Pasquini serving as chairman. Salvation Army provided names of children to be invited. Toys: children and parents enjoy entertainment. Below: boys thank Santa for toys; little girl waits, not too patiently, for hers.

Great Talent Seen At Local 17 Party

SACRAMENTO — Some great talent showed up at Local 17's Christmas party held here at the union hall, Saturday afternoon. 16. This included a band, led by Dennis Flint, son of a member, which entertained between acts.

Aid to Paper Mill Workers

VANCOUVER, BC — The Canadian Area board of the ILWU has recommended a $1 per member assessment to all locals to assist pulp and paper mill workers at Castlegar in the interior of the province, who are out of work because they refuse to cross a picket line set up by the IWA in a strike against the southern interior lumber operators.

North Bend Adds Members

A story from North Bend in the last issue of The Dispatcher stated incorrectly that a new B list of 41 men had been set up at that port. The correct information is that 41 longshoremen were accepted into A status in Local 12.
**Pine Workers Prepare For Fight**

Continued from Page 1 —

Public relations campaign indicates the industry is laying the groundwork for a tough fight.

The local union temper Voice of the ILWU, wrote this week: The union membership is not letting ground grow beneath their feet. The rank and file mobilization program is taking hold on all pine islands. Strike strategy committees are being set up at all locations. The meetings have been scheduled to discuss programs, and the duties of the various committees—legislature, transportation, picketing, etc. to prepare the membership for any eventuality.

The local executive meeting, meeting at Lihue, Kauai, reaffirmed full support to pineapple negotiations. Support of all ILWU divisions on the mainland was also pledged last month by the International Executive Board, meeting in San Francisco. The next meeting of the International board is scheduled for Honolulu early in the year.

Local 13 Credit Union to Meet

WILMINGTON—The annual meeting of the Local 13 Credit Union for 1968 will be held Wednesday, January 15, at 6 p.m. in the Credit Union Office, 317 North Broad Ave., Wilmington, California. Report to the meeting will be the election of new officers will be on the agenda.

**Portland Pensioners’ Party**

Christmas banquet and party December 18, which was sponsored by the Columbia River Pensioners Memorial Association. Top photo is a general view of the banquet. In lower picture, ILWU 6242 P. Batson, 149, laughs over stories of “the old days” with Matt Meehan (with cigarette), retired area supervisor. Second from right, national representative James F. There weren’t any pensioners’ parties in Honolulu, Robberon said in a brief address. “Any one predicting we’d ever have pensions would have been brushed off as having put a few too many down the hatch.”

Gifts of candy were given to wives and widows. Photographs of the pensioners were present from Locals 8 and 40. Gifts of candy were given to wives and widows.

Women March To Seek End Of Viet War

SAN FRANCISCO—A Bay Area Jeannette Rankin Brigade held its first meeting here last month and made plans to hold a nationwide “power” demonstration against the Vietnam war. The demonstration will be held in Washington on January 15, opening day of Congress. The group was organized and gathered a woman to hold a seat in Congress. A Congress Democrat, she cast her first congressional vote against war — against US participation in the first world war.

A call has been issued “to all American women who are outraged by the ruthless slaughter in Vietnam and the persistent neglect of human needs at home.”

There will be supportive action on the same day in cities throughout the nation by women asking the Congress to make its first order of business the end of the war in Vietnam, “the struggle to save the power to heal a sick society at home.”

Among the initial sponsors are Nikki (Mrs. Robert) Baker, Phyllis, B. Boyce, Mrs. Harry Belafonte, Vida Barsky, Ruby Dee, Vivian Hallinan, Corinna (Mrs. Victor) Heilman, Jessica Mitford, Matilda Reynolds, Susan Sontag, Mrs. Benjamin Spock, Elizabeth Sutherland and Dagnall Wilson.

On the MARCH

By J.R. (Bob) Robertson

As any old time trade unionist will tell you, the best way of learning is through experience—and this includes learning what not to do. One such experience that teaches many lessons is to go through a tough strike situation such as a strike—then come out a loser.

As bad as any given situation might seem—and any old timer has seen some pretty bad days—if those who won’t learn and learn some of the basic causes of mistakes, made and use these experiences as yardsticks against which mistakes in the future, then and only then can we say something good can even come from a bad situation.

I want to speak about a bad situation. I spent the New Year weekend a few days in a striking plant—Mitsubishi Mutual Plastics Mold Corporation. It was no happy New Year for the 550 Local 26 members who were on strike against Local 26 as a bargaining representative, or to vote against having the union. The election is expected in the next few weeks.

A de-certification petition had been circulated and enough signatures secured from workers to get a hearing before the NLRB. The NLRB agreed—based on this evidence—that a de-certification election should be held. That means that workers at that plant will be enabled to vote in the future as to whether they want the union, or not. As a bargaining representative, or to vote against having the union. The election is expected in the next few weeks.

At a meeting called by Local 26 on December 28, 1967, approximately 150 out of the 550 strikers attended. The local negotiating committee recommended that the strike go on. The strikers were also told that there would be no union representation on the job until the de-certification election was held.

To make matters even more serious there were already approximately 350 workers on the job when the decision was made to call off the strike. Out of those 350, there were 26 pensioners who had broken ranks.

A you can see, this is not easy to write about. It’s a tough situation. But above all else, it’s something that simply cannot be avoided. We must discuss this. It calls for careful examination at every level of the union’s structure. The errors must be evaluated and reviewed and proper answers must be found to avoid such situations in the future.

In this tough situation, if someone can’t come up with answers then he is hardly in a position to make comments I’ve made. As an International officer, having met with the local officers and the Southern California officers, it put my obligation to take the prime responsibility for the situation—for not moving in before the strike was called, for not having the plant leaders and local officers to watch.”

Some members of the rank and file negotiating committee were militantly unrealistic in their evaluation of the support that would be forthcoming—not from just a handful of militant unionists—but from the majority of the 550 Local 26 members, of whom were woman, many of them sole providers for their families.

Since the situation developed during the closing weeks of the local union election, it is possible that some local officers were as much concerned with campaigning for re-election as they were with the outcome of negotiations. The local officers would do well to review some of their experiences in the last few years in which similar situations developed in other plants. Such a review can provide answers, give us ________________

**We Have Lost a Tough Strike! What Lessons Can Be Learned?**

and advised that they were obliged to commit themselves to provide full support before the strike was called.

Hearing my share of responsibility for the situation, as an International officer, I feel some other observations can be made about the strike process at a local level. For example, the local officers handling the negotiations kept their original demands and wouldn’t waver from them right up to the time that negotiations were broken off and a strike deadline set. Flexibility during a crucial bargaining period is a responsibility negotiators must be able to assume.

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Since the situation developed during the closing weeks of the local union election, it is possible that some local officers were as much concerned with campaigning for re-election as they were with the outcome of negotiations. The local officers would do well to review some of their experiences in the last few years in which similar situations developed in other plants. Such a review can provide answers, give us another long look at our methods and activities and, above all, teach the value of real teamwork at every union level. The key is a file and perhaps something constructive, something positive and good might develop from this bad situation.

We have a great union. We’ve survived over the years under the most severe attacks—survived, above all, because our file must make the ultimate decisions. The determination to have a union which works very well for us, and this might be the fact that there have been other times in our history when we’ve suffered more defeats. But we survived because we have a good, strong union. A union that lives and we’re not afraid to face up to the facts and learn from our experiences.

Realizing that these observations might have some effect on how members of Local 26 as Mutual Plastic vote in the de-certification election, I would like to repeat that we have a union with a proud record, a union worth keeping and strengthening.

My advice to Mutual Plastic workers is vote in favor of keeping Local 26 as a bargaining agent. Stay with the union, strengthen it. And if any members feel that any officers, on the plant, local or any other level, have not done their job efficiently and effectively — then they should recall them. The members have provisions in the constitution enabling members to remove any officers the rank and file feel is not doing a job. This protection that has been a built-in part of the ILWU from its very beginnings. It’s a part of our strength, of our ability to deliver the goods, as we have for over three decades. The way to use this strength is to stay with the union, to make the union work for you as a rank and file member.