Warehouse Local 6 Counts Gains, Urges Protection of Peoples Rights

SAN FRANCISCO — Nearly 400 delegates to the 23rd Annual Constitution and Contract Convention of warehouse union, Local 6, ILWU, voted approval of a progress report detailing the gains made during “Warehouse Year — 1967” — gains continuing to be made into 1968 as more contracts are being negotiated.

The convention, not bent with contract problems this year, spent considerable time in discussion of fundamental social issues that traditionally concern ILWU members — such issues as protection of constitutional rights, ending the war in Vietnam, fighting racial discrimination, supporting peace candidates in the 1968 elections, and much more.

Also discussed at great length were a number of workplace problems, including improved pay for casual work, seniority, benefits for hiring hall men, unemployed dues, safety programs in the warehouses and several more.

The delegates heard recently-elected Mayor Joseph L. Alioto as he praised the ILWU both as an economic and political instrument in the community. The mayor gave special recognition to secretary-treasurer Louis Goldblatt for his role as a “major architect” in the settlement of the recent newspaper strike.

He also pointed out, as he has done several times in the past, that with an anti-strikebreaker policy operating in San Francisco, the community was much better off, even with a 52-day newspaper strike, than with the situation existing in Los Angeles where the Hearst newspaper keeps the community was much better off, even with a 52-day newspaper strike, than with the situation existing in Los Angeles where the Hearst newspaper keeps...  

—Continued on Page 2

Hawaii 142 Moves To Finance Long Strike

HONOLULU — Hawaii ILWU members are setting long-range strike-relief and fund-raising machinery into operation as the strike of 6,400 pineapple workers on five islands enters its second month.

Hawaii Local 142 practice is that members rely exclusively on personal resources for the first month of a strike. After that the union undertakes relief measures as necessary.

'BUMMING TEAMS'

Although a starting date has not been set, units are planning bumming teams to take the story of the strike to ILWU members in other industries and collect donations of money and food, as soon as the State Strike Strategy Committee (SSSC) gives the green light.

Donations become the property of the state committee to be used wherever needed most. Bumming will be strictly controlled and authorized bummers will carry I.D. cards signed by the Island Strike Committee.

No negotiations are going on at present. After federal mediator Ron Hagstil returned recently from a 10-day mainland visit, the board of employers standing pat on an impossible position. He left town again last week.

WAGES, PENSIONS

The central issues are an adequate wage increase and pension benefits. bisher benefits need improvement and the union wants pensions extended to retired workers and their Eligible workers, many of whom are now approaching retirement age after long years of service with no pension protection.

Another key demand is contract coverage for 13,000 seasonal employees, who were earning only $1.40 before the strike. The new federal minimum wage would raise that to $1.60, still far below the poverty line.

The union's record demand is for wage increases of 25 cents each year for three years, totalling 75 cents. The first year would raise the minimum for present employees to $2.45 in the canneries, $2.15 in the fields.

The total company wage offer ranges from 20 cents below the rate to 70 cents at the top over three years. It would result in a base rate in the first year of $1.60 in the canneries, $2.05 in the fields.

The union has made it clear that if agreement can be reached on the major issues — money and pensions — it is prepared to compromise all other issues.

BOARD WILL LOOK-SEE

The International's Executive Board will meet in Honolulu on March 26 in order to learn first...  

—Continued on Page 7

Editorial: Vietnam—Where We Stand

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE on Monday and Tuesday, March 11 and 12, were given an unparalleled insight into the conduct of the war and the arrogance of power, when the key Senate Foreign Relations Committee, after two years of trying, finally got Secretary of State Dean Rusk to answer questions. Senator Fulbright's committee tried to make sense out of a situation which has more profoundly disturbed this nation than any event in historical memory.

The impact of these public hearings — in the white glare of television and brought into every home in the nation — only seemed to reinforce the growing uneasiness, the building body of opposition. Even before this event there were significant new signs, such as the switch in the policies of NBC and CBS, with their chief reporters and commentators speaking bluntly about the need to end the war. Newsweek magazine, a journal that prides itself on giving the American people an insight into the conduct of the war and the arrogance of power, when the key Senate Foreign Relations Committee, after two years of trying, finally got Secretary of State Dean Rusk to answer questions. Senator Fulbright's committee tried to make sense out of a situation which has more profoundly disturbed this nation than any event in historical memory.

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HELLO, RUSK, HEY BOY, YOU GO TALK TO THE SENATORS, I'M TOO BUSY 'SAVING' VEET NAM!

The recent Tet offensive has bolstered this union's view — stated at several conventions — namely that it is a civil war and we don't belong there; that we cannot play cop to the entire world. Certainly, the people of South Vietnam, by their apparent support of the "enemy," proved they don't believe our propaganda that we have "sacred commitments" and that we are there only to "help the people develop governments of their own choosing."

How can they believe this when we are supporting a regime that is not only corrupt to the core, but has recently jailed every moderate opposition voice, including former political candidates, including religious leaders, including — and the trade union movement in the USA should take special note — the secretary-general of the Confederation of Labor and president of the dockworkers' union!

What came through at the hearings, as Mr. Rusk played out tired old State Department clichés, is that the administration's hacks and brass are really starting to be licked. When he said, "A war of this kind may be falling apart beneath our feet," then the people with any regard for truth clearly questioned, and exposed as not treating us fairly.

The Senate hearings have reached people who have never been reached before. More Americans than ever before can better understand:

That nothing can be "won" by the destruction of a people;

That the UN does offer a chance of immediately stopping the killing; and that we should be bound by a pledge to support the UN's actions;

That the war and foreign policy must be taken out of the hands of the generals;

That the senate does have the power to tell the generals and the President that there will be no more money for escalating this slaughter;

That the representatives of the people demand to be consulted;

That the administration has been publicly questioned, and exposed as not treating the people with any regard for truth and good faith.

If the Administration proceeds, in the face of these hearings, in the face of growing popular discontent, to follow the course of escalation, then there will be no doubt that President Johnson and those around him hold the people in complete contempt, and care little for the welfare of the nation.

We, as a union — representing working people and their families, dedicated to making life better, healthier and more dignified for the workers we represent — must resist any further escalation of this war. If our voices are not heard, we must band together to resist with all the organized power we can gather. And, despite our differences with the AFL-CIO, we must call on the rest of the labor movement, the working men and women of America, to join us in this resistance.

The war must be ended. The sooner the better.
Unions Fight Anti-Strike Bill in BC

NEW WESTMINSTER, BC—British Columbia labor is mobilizing its forces for a province-wide fight against Bill 33. This, now before the legislature in Victoria, gives the provincial cabinet power to take away rights of the unions to arbitrate disputes, and to dictate terms of settlement in labor-management disputes.

Heavy penalties, including fines and jail sentences, are provided for unions, union leaders and rank-and-file members for infractions of the bill.

At a provincial conference called by the B.C. Federation of Labor, and attended by representatives from all union locals, including 15 ILWU members, a program of action was adopted. Its main features are:

- Area conferences throughout the province to mobilize rank and file support against compulsory arbitration.
- A lobby of members of the legislature on a mass lobby when the bill comes up for debate.
- Public meetings for trade unionists and the general public to enable civil liberties groups, church leaders and labor to present views on Bill 33.
- Raising a “Defeat Bill 33 Fund” from union locals and trade unionists to finance a publicity campaign against the bill.
- Asking the Canadian Labor Congress to adopt a national campaign against compulsory arbitration.
- 100 percent support to provincial civil servants in their continuing struggle to win full bargaining rights.

ILWU PLEDGE

Opening the conference, E. T. Staley, president of the BCFCL, condemned Bill 33 as “vicious legislation.” ILWU leaders also reiterated their opposition to the bill and pledged full support to the drive for its defeat.

The assembled trade union leaders welcomed the stand of the provincial council of the New Democratic party and the local public to enable civil liberties groups, church leaders and labor to present views on Bill 33.

Bills 33 is “a fundamental assault on civil liberties,” declared the NDP, pointing out that its members in the provincial legislature would wage an all-out fight to defeat the bill.

The ILWU called on all citizens to protest “until the very legislature rings.”

Northwest Council Seeks Action on Oregon Safety

LONGVIEW — Problems of men injured on the job, difficulties in organizing, and the contrast between state safety programs on the Washington and Oregon waterfronts were brought to the Columbia River District Council’s March 10 meeting.

Delegates from ten locals in five provinces heard council lobbyist Ernest E. Baker charge that in the past three years Oregon has slipped below ten other states in benefits paid to injured workmen.

“We are now in 38th place. Take that back to your locals and chew it over!”

A married worker on temporary total disability in Oregon, on a yearly basis, is $606.44 under the poverty level set by the Department of Labor.

Efforts to get Governor McColl’s advisory committee to work on a plan and compensation to recommend legislation raising benefits came to nothing. The Salem meeting—which was supposed to last two days—was adjourned after only one day, “It was a selling chasing party,” Baker stated.

A LABOR COMMITTEE

He indicated it might be necessary to reconvene the Labor advisory committee on workmen’s compensation, and for the labor members to drop out of the Governor’s committee, “and take it from there,” he said.

The Governor himself is aware that job-injury pay is inadequate, but some members of the committee aren’t, Baker said.

He also had some harsh words for the state compensation board’s failure to follow through on promises regarding crane safety. At the Salem meeting, he was handed a list of 17 rules on the subject containing such masterpieces as:

“Loads shall not be carried or swung over people except when it cannot be avoided.”

The contrast between state regulations—or lack of regulations—regarding crane safety, and those in effect on the Washington waterfront was brought into glaring contrast when Voight P. Clevenger, Washington state marine dock inspector, an invited guest speaker, explained that under the crane safety and testing program initiated last year, the Evergreen state all cranes that longshoremen work under must be tested and certified as safe, with the date of inspection stamped on the crane.

Baker said every cent of Clevenger’s work is in the longshore industry.

Moving from safety to the political scene, the delegates approved a four-point program outlined by Baker, with workmen’s comp at the head of the list.

Baker and council secretary A. F. Stoneburg were instructed to prepare a brochure on US Senator Wayne Morse for distribution to all locals.

More Union Leaders Back Sen. Morse

PORTLAND—More than 100 union leaders prominent throughout Oregon have joined the Labor Committee to Reelect Senator Wayne Morse for a third term.

In urging Morse’s re-election, Robert L. Bradfield, Portland Building and Construction Trades Council president, cited the Senator’s position on repeal of Section 14-B of the Taft-Hartley Act and on situs picketing — all important to construction industry workers, as well as those on the waterfront and other labor areas.

Welfare Fund To Pay Hike In Medicare

Beginning April 1, the cost of Medicare Part B goes up one dollar per month. Part B, which helps pay doctor bills, will now cost the subscriber $3 per month; now it will cost $4.

The extra dollar per person will be furnished for all those eligible for ILWU-PMA Welfare Plan coverage who are 65 or over and enrolled in Medicare Part B, in the same way that the first had to be.

The premium money is deducted from regular monthly social security checks just like payroll deductions are made. This is paid by the Welfare Fund — to pensioners in the form of higher pension checks, and to non-pensioners in monthly checks in the amount of the premium.

For people not on social security, who, consequently, have no checks from which deductions can be made, the Welfare Fund pays the premiums directly to the Social Security Administration.

The $1 increase is said to be needed because of improved coverage under the program, increased use of the program, and expected increases in physicians’ fees.

Talks Go on At Colgate, Continental

OAKLAND — Negotiations have been continuing in daily sessions for a contract at Colgate, and no substantial progress has been reported, with the expiration date only two weeks away, on April 1.

Business agent Paul Heide has entered the negotiations, along with Local 6 president Duarte, secretary-treasurer George Volpe, and East Bay business agent Bill Burke.

In the event negotiations break down, the ILWU will strike against Continental on Saturday, March 9, provided full financial support to members at Colgate.

Major issues at Colgate strike previously covered are wages, hours, and the area pattern; a new contract, according to the ILWU-Teamster joint strike against the Northern California warehouse industry.

A special Colgate stewards’ meeting was called for Friday to review the status of negotiations.

Continental Can workers are demanding the warehouse area contract, despite the fact that lesser settlements in the cannery and other contracting area industries have prevailed.

The demand for the area wage settlement also includes the area dental and welfare benefits.

The Continental Can employees include Walter Joaquin, chief steward, Al Cunliffe, Bill заболев, Henry Blagg, Paul Opperman, Norman Harris, Lin Dangkerfield. The company is represented by East Bay business agent Burke.

In Hayward, the 80 workers on strike who are members of Local 10 are living on the 10th week on the bricks. Many are getting jobs in the hiring hall. Morale is reported at a high peak and picket lines are manned around the clock.

ILWU Board to Meet March 26 in Hawaii

The ILWU international executive board will hold its next meeting in Honolulu. The board will convene at the headquarters of Local 142, starting March 26.

Support for the ILWU pineapple strikers was a main point on the agenda.

Board members, in addition to the international officers, are Harold Ichimura, Antone Kahawaiolaa and Saburo Fujisaki of Hawaii; Charles (Chili) Duarte, Carl Smith and Michael Johnson, Northern California; Robert L. Standfill, Portland Building and Construction Local 8; Local 8 president Francis J. Loveridge and Paul Perlin, Southern California; Oliver Olson and George Giannis, Puget Sound-Alaska; G. Johnny Parks, Oregon and Columbia River; Robert Peebles, Canada.

ATTENTION MEXICO: Representatives of ILWU Longshore Local 13, Los Angeles, were invited to help celebrate the 52nd anniversary of the founding of CROM Local 42. Salina Cruz, Oaxaca, Mexico. Longshore leaders from all major ports of Mexico were present, and a fiesta was held from 6 a.m. to midnight. From left: Jerry Plante, president of Local 13; Tony Sedillo, Local 13’s Mexican liaison representative; Carlos Mendez, president of CROM Local 42.

ILWUers on the list include Inter-national executive board member John Part, Locals 10 and 41; Local 8; Local 8 president Francis J. Mormann, Carl H. Anderson, also of Local 8; International representative James S. Fants; CRDC legislative representative Ernest E. Baker and CRDC secretary A. F. Stoneburg; Eugene Bailey of Local 12; John Miller, Local 53, both of Newport; Archie Rainey, Local 50, 82 and 10; and Jim Byrne, Local 49, Portland.

The Building and Construction Trades Council of Portland, Salem and the Lane-Coos-Douglas tri-county area sponsored the Senator’s week.

In urging Morse’s re-election, Robert L. Bradfield, Portland Building and Construction Trades Council president, cited the Senator’s position on repeal of Section 14-B of the Taft-Hartley Act and on situs picketing — all important to construction industry workers, as well as those on the waterfront and other labor areas.

Frances C. Moore
Local 6 Builds
A Program
For 1968

Continued from Page 1—

has successfully maintained contact with workers there and has signed several contracts.

The most important issues that must be faced and fought for in the coming year, the Local 6 president said, deal with the basic concepts and ideals of the ILWU. They are peace, civil rights, and legislative action.

The high point of the convention was unanimous approval by the delegates in support of ILWU members engaged in a tough fight in Hawaii with the pineapple industry. 

CEASE-FIRE

The delegates unanimously approved the section of the Officers' Report "reiterating our opposition to war and the useless slaughter of multitudes of human beings. We shall continue to urge that the answer is cease-fire and the utilization of United Nations machinery. Peace represents security for the working man. War represents security for big business.

Other sections approved included the struggle for civil rights. "We pledge ourselves to aid and assist all human beings without regard to race, color or creed in any way we can until the day comes when all workers can walk with dignity and enjoy the fruits of their labor."

In political action, delegates approved the program "to fight to defeat any party and/or candidate that attempts to gag this union or the trade union movement in general; that recommends passing legislation that is anti-union; that passes the burden of taxes, such as is taking place in California, on to the back of the worker..."

Another section of the political program called on the union to fight for legislation that during World War II the US Army built enormous warehouse complexes in Nevada as central shipping points for the entire West Coast and that now speculators have taken over these tax-free warehouses when they were advertising the advantage of a cheap labor pool.

Mock added that the Teamsters have sent two organizers into the area to help fight the low average wage of $1.70 an hour, with no fringe benefits, no holidays, no security.

"I know we'll have complete ILWU support in our fight in Nevada," Mock said, "We're going to build a better-wage structure and some real security. We must continue to work together in organizing outlying areas in order to protect our jobs and our gains."

KEYNOTE

In his keynote address, Local 6 president Charles (Chili) Duarte outlined the gains made by the joint ILWU-Teamster alliance and the story of the three-week joint strike.

"The comradery that developed between our rank and file and the Teamster warehousemen will long be remembered and maintained and now is a part of labor history in this area," Duarte said.

He also detailed the story of Local 6 members at Thrifty Drug in the East Bay who, though they returned to work on July 3 after conclusion of the strike, voluntarily pulled out on July 5 and remained on the bricks another two weeks in support of Thrifty Drug strikers in Southern California. The company attempted to recruit scabs to keep running, but finally signed a contract with Local 26 in Los Angeles.

"The support of Local 6 at Thrifty was in large part responsible for the settlement made in Southern California," Duarte added.

He also gave some details on a succesful campaign in the Salinas Valley where runway shops from San Francisco were established. Local 6

Joe Ibarra, vice-president of Local 26, thanked Local 6 for helping win Thrifty Drug strike in Los Angeles.

ILWU LEADERS

Sitting on the platform in addition to Duarte and Local 6 secretary-treasurer Louis Goldblatt, the newly elected general leaders presented the following reports:

ILWU International convention declared "the ILWU position is that we don't belong in Vietnam and should get out; we cannot protest and demonstrate," the resolution stated.

Ending the war in Vietnam. Noting that the ILWU International convention declared "the ILWU position is that we don't belong in Vietnam and should get out; we cannot protest and demonstrate," the resolution stated.

Continuing from Page 1—

publishing with the use of hired professional scabs.

A key speaker was Teamster international vice president George Mock, who shared with Goldblatt the chairmanship of the Northern California Warehouse Council during the three-week joint ILWU-Teamster warehouse strike last year in Northern California.

Mock told the delegates that warehousemen all over the country have been watching with great interest the Northern California ILWU-Teamster coalition, asking for advice, seeking new ideas on ways and means to advance their economic interests.

He warned that non-union warehouses are being set up in Nevada, with a number of run-away shops in and around the Reno area which pay lower wages and are advertising for business throughout the West Coast.

He noted that during World War II the US Army built enormous warehouse complexes in Nevada as central shipping points for the entire West Coast and that now speculators have taken over these tax-free warehouses when they were advertising the advantage of a cheap labor pool.

Mock added that the Teamsters have sent two organizers into the area to help fight the low average wage of $1.70 an hour, with no fringe benefits, no holidays, no security.

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He also gave some details on a successful campaign in the Salinas Valley where runway shops from San Francisco were established. Local 6
affirmed the union's position with the demand that there be:
(1) An immediate halt to the bombing of North Vietnam; and
(2) Negotiations with all parties concerned, including the National Liberation Front, for the prompt withdrawal of our troops, so that the Vietnamese people might guide their own destiny and rebuild their land.

CANDIDATES

Support for peace candidates in the 1968 elections. Because the war threatens not only catastrophe abroad but is scuttling effective domestic programs, and jeopardizing labor's rights and conditions, and because the Johnson administration is committed to continuing the war, the delegates urged "the ILWU International Executive Board to take the initiative to throw the full strength and know-how of our union into helping to build a coalition to oppose pro-war candidates for the Presidency and to support a candidate committed to peace..."

A delegate speaking from the floor rounded out the meaning of this resolution when he said, "As long as this war goes on it means more racism, less income, less health, less respect. We are going through the same kind of thing that young trade unionists went through during the 1930's. Black power is really something that every honest trade unionist should be able to understand."

USE OUR RESOURCES

Secretary-treasurer Goldblatt took the microphone to call for "an onslaught against this sickness that is eating out the heart of America." He recalled that when the country felt itself in danger during World War II, we used every pair of hands, every dollar that was necessary, every resource at our command. When we had to build ships, people from every part of the country got to work — housewives, school girls, people off the farms.

"There's no reason why some of the same ingenuity can't be used to put Negro youngsters to work. "Some holy cows must be slaughtered," Goldblatt added. "We must tell those unions which are keeping youngsters from working they must let their hands on to fight for equality at home."

STANDING OVATION

A speaker who drew a standing ovation was Felix Martinez, representative of Mexican-Americans in New Mexico who are being threatened with eviction from their long-held family lands. Martinez claimed the government was attempting to confiscate their lands without due process, and has already created more than 150 ghost towns.

"This is a fight to preserve our culture," he said, "Over a million Mexican-Americans have lost their lands, the young are being forced out, the old are dying. We are in a fight now. We have laid down our lives in wars, so why not to preserve our own people."

He said that 22 of their leaders, including himself, have been charged with more than 700 criminal counts. The government is trying to kick out the people who created the wealth of New Mexico in order to make "a paradise for white crooks and millionaires."

Martinez left the hall, all the delegates rose once again and gave him a roaring sendoff.

Other pictures framing these pages show rank-and-file delegates speaking or listening to proceedings.
Let's Make This a Better World for Our Children

Ruth Harris of Los Angeles, first vice president of the Federated Auxiliaries, attacked the Reagan administration in Sacramento.

"Our governor is toying with the idea of adding a food tax to our already over-tax-burdened California taxpayers. The promise of lower taxes has never materialized; instead they are escalating. We now have 5 cent state sales tax in place of former campaigns. "He denies that he is or will be a presidential candidate but is so busy campaigning that the last session of the legislature couldn't get a bill passed on mental retardation problems.

Nora Wyatt, Federated Auxiliaries secretary, reported on the Tenth Annual Peace Workshop, sponsored by the Methodist Federation for Social Action in Portland. The meeting was co-sponsored by the ILWU Federated Auxiliaries. ILWU International representative James Fantz chaired the main session. She pleaded with auxiliary members to organize and increase their ranks, especially to bring in the young wives of the many new members now working under ILWU contracts.

"TAKING OVER"

Nate DiBiasi, president and legislative representative of the Southern California District Council, told the delegations that "the word 'auxiliary' reminds me of a motor which will take over when and if the main motor fails."

"With all due respect to the male population," he continued, "I suggest you take over now. If one looks at the mess that the males have made of the world...you certainly could do no worse." DiBiasi warned of a trend toward "Joe McCarthyism." "Our country was created by revolutionaries," he continued, "and the only way that it will remain a democracy is by making sure that the rights of all people are protected—and that includes the right to protest."

BENEFIT FUNDS

A talk by Harold Schenker, area director for the ILWU-PMA Benefit Funds, created much favorable discussion among the delegates. He sketched the history of health and welfare programs in which ILWU is involved, emphasizing that they were the first group plans to provide prepaid group medical service, preventive medicine and a dental program for children.

"Today in the library of the ILWU, Schenker added, "there are 20,000 references, of all types, to this children's dental program. It is to the credit of the joint trustees that they believed that early dental care, preventive dental care and dental education could and would help avoid the many dental and health problems which adults suffer when they have not had this overall dental care as children."

"We are here in session solely because of the war in Vietnam. Need I remind you the taxpayers are in revolt, and rightly so. Much of Oregon's tax money is being drained to Washington and the Pentagon. The voters take no part in the budget...students, teachers, the poor, the sick, the retarded...three days' cost of the war would take care of our entire budget for 365 days. The war in Vietnam suffocates almost everything, even the attempt to do; it must be stopped."

Mrs. Taylor closed with the wish: "May your actions show that the auxiliaries continue to be the conscience of the ILWU."

State Senator Anthony Bellenson was thanked for introducing a bill to reform funeral legislation.

The delegates demanded of Governor Reagan that he increase the budget for the state's consumer counsel and "request that through your executive office, the consumer counsel be required to fulfill the intent of the law creating this office."

Letters were sent to students at Carolina State College, the governor of South Carolina and the Mayor of Orangeburg, S.C. The governor and mayor were told that "we are appalled at the horrible violence which was perpetrated by the state police on the campus of your college."

A resolution was adopted as a memorial to Rhea Wager, former president of the Southern California Women's District Council, who died December 23, 1967.

A money contribution was sent to the strikers against Hearst's Los Angeles Herald-Examiner.

GIFTS TO AUXILIARY LEADERS: A special event at Auxiliary convention was presentation of International Women's Day pips to officers of Auxiliary council. President Mrs. Elaine Yoneda (standing, right), president of San Francisco Auxiliary 16, to Ruth Harris (standing, left), first Auxiliary vice president, and Valerie Taylor, Auxiliary president. Mrs. Yoneda said the pins had been given to her in the Soviet Union by the secretary of the Soviet women's committee. Seated, from left; Virgie Thompson, Sacramento, Jeannette Whitney, Stockton and Gertrude Brasted, Wilmington.
HILO — Delegates to the Hawaii ILWU’s Fourth Biennial State Pensioners Association Conference, held here over the March 8-10 weekend, voted unanimously to support the current industry-wide pineapple strike.

A resolution, okayed by the conference, said:

“ILWU pensioners admire the pineapple strikers for their determination to win better wages and conditions for all workers in the industry, including the hundreds of intermittent and non-regular workers, who are now approaching retirement with no certainty of a pension.”

“We wish them every success in their good fight, so that they can have their good fight, so that they can have for their families decently while employed and can look forward to retirement without fear of deprivation or having to burden the children.”

The confab got underway Friday afternoon with an opening ceremony, which included welcome speeches by Hawaii ILWU Division Director George Martin, Hawaii County Chairman Shunichi Kimura and ILWU Pensioners President Lawrence Miyamoto.

30 PENSION CLUBS
Close to 270 persons, coming from all over the islands, attended the sessions. There are now 30 ILWU Pension Clubs, statewide.

In other action the delegates:
• Called for a pension to President Johnson, signed by the delegating the ILWU’s Political Action Committee.
• Voted to support the ILWU’s Maiama (preservation of natural beauty) program.
• Elected the following officers to serve the 1968-69 term: Mauricio Bunda (Oahu), president; Tomakazu Yoshida (Maui), vice-president; Yoshikazu Morimoto (Kauai), secretary; and Henry Katakura (Oahu), treasurer.
• Scheduled the next conference for March 1970 in Honolulu.

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DiBiasi Warns Council
State Senate Is Killing Pro-Labor, Welfare Bills

WILMINGTON — The Southern California District Council ILWU, meeting here March 8 at Local 13's hall, heard council president Nate DiBiasi warn that practically all pro-labor and welfare bills in Sacramento are being killed in the State Senate.

DiBiasi, who is also Southern California District Council ILWU representa-
tive, added that even the few decent bills that do pass — such as one to aid welfare children — were vetoed by Governor Reagan.

At the same time taxes were raised apparently with state income taxes doubling and tripling for those in the middle income brackets, which include most or-
 ganized workers.

Two priority items were pressed as demanding immediate political action by the labor movement: Property tax relief and automobile insurance.

The ILWU has pioneered in this legislation and has succeeded in de-
voiding state board of commerce support.

"The heat is on," DiBiasi said, "and how far we can go on automo-
 bile insurance reforms and reduc-
tions in rates will rest on how much juice we can develop."

TAX BILL UP 23%

The Reagan administration, he reported, stripped of cutting out state funds for vital county pro-
 grams in the fields of health, wel-
fare and education. Despite these cuts, California's cutsbacks, California's
 will be 22 percent higher than last year, adding almost $6 billion to the cof-
 fers.

In the arena of civil liberties, civil rights and foreign policy, the ILWU was for a number vetoed for legislative changes, including erasing
 the so-called "criminal" records of civil rights demonstrators.

The Council took a stand against capital punishment, against the use of dogs to control crowds; to outlaw lie detector tests; and against a wide variety of bills which were introduced during the last session.

The ILWU led in trying to push anti-discrimination legislation, and for bills that would encourage ap-
 prentice training for minority youth.

In other actions, the council urged support for Local 13 in its fight against the recent unfavorable NLRLA ruling, and sent a letter of support to Rev. Mertin, president of the Joint Council of Teamsters, for urging all-out support for Local 13's fight.

Voter Rolls to Close Soon in Some States

Time is short for voter registrat-
ion in the ILWU states — California and Oregon.

In California, the final date for registration to vote in the primary election is April 11. In Oregon, it is April 12.

Primaries in those two states will include voting on "presidential prefer-
ences."

Washington voters have until April 27 to register for the primary elections. In Hawaii, voter reg-
istration will close September 5 for the General election of October 8.

Alaska has no pre-registration re-
quirement.

OVERSEAS DELEGATES bound for Czechoslovakia and Egypt at International Longshoreman's Union conference

High Court Praises M&M Pact; Raps Auto Rate Assessment

WASHINGTON, D.C.—After call-
ing the Mechanization and Modern-
tation agreement between the ILWU and Volkswagen "a milestone ,, a "lightened, forward-looking step in West Coast labor relations," the US Supreme Court last week ruled 7-1 that the method of financing the M&M agreement is not enforceable until approved by the Federal Mar-
time Commission.

The case was brought before the high court by the makers of Volks-
swagen cars who had refused to pay the M&M assessment on cars dis-
charged on the West Coast, claiming it was too high. PMA assesses cars by measurement tons rather than by weight, which VW says increases their rate tenfold.

"The court did not attack the M&M agreement itself, saying "nothing we have said in this opinion is to be understood as questioning the con-
tinuing validity" of the agreement. The court merely stated that the manner in which the employer asso-
ciation sets the rate and collects the money is subject to Maritime Com-
misison approval. Furthermore, only the assessment on automobiles was challenged and the court stated its belief that the commission will ap-
prove all other parts of the M&M agreement.

While the agreement was signed between the ILWU and PMA, union spokesmen pointed out that the is-
sue of how much money is collected and how the rates are set is strictly the PMA's problem. The contract says the employers will put neces-
sary moneys into the fund; how these funds are spent is up to the union.

The court decision is not expected to have any effect on the disburse-
ment of money to ILWU members who are eligible to receive M&M benefits.

Last week the PMA moved to get Federal Maritime Commission ap-
proval of the agreement.

On the MARCH

An open letter to President Johnson

Washington, D.C., March 15, 1968

Mr. President:

I want to tell you, Mr. President, that we not only cheered when you spoke about not sending American boys to get killed in Asia, but we did


Dear Mr. President:

As an American citizen — and a man born and reared in Texas, just like you — I feel compelled to ad-
dress you concerning some problems that have really been bugging me lately.

First of all, because you're the kind of man who likes to talk with other people — especially women, about what's going on behind the wheel, in the driver's seat, are the only man who can answer that question.

In asking, I feel I am really talk-
ing to the most important organ-
ization I represent, the International Longshoremen's and Warehouse-
men's Union. We are a union from the Pacific coast of the United States, from the Mexican border all the way up into Alaska, and out into the Hawaiian Islands.

The vast majority — I'd be willing to say practically all of — of our mem-
 bers are working in the ocean trade. We have a long history of fighting for the rights of those who work in the industries that provide for the basic needs of our people.

In my birthplace in Texas we had an old-fashioned handle-pump well. You know the kind. To keep them in running order we used to have a water pump, that operated by a large, pole-like extension of the engine. And you know, what happened if you didn't have that water. Well, the point is that in some way we've been pouring our own men and material wealth to the rest of the world. The question is, how long can we con-
tinue while the barrel is empty and the well goes dry.

Simple arithmetic should tell you that unless you slice that military budget down to size, and consider what is the "Great Society" you've been talking about so proudly is going to do down the drain. You talk a great deal about poverty, what should be done about it.

If we do alone could solve the plight of the poverty-stricken, of the farm workers, of the people in minority groups, the unemployed and the disenfranchised, then we'd be living in a land of milk and honey.

But words about the great society just don't mean a thing anymore, Mr. President, as long as $30 billion a year is being poured down the rat hole in Vietnam. I've heard your words, Mr. President, and I believe I know how you can make those words come real. You say you want a united America? I believe the best way to unite all Americans is in con-
centrating on common objectives that will guarantee that every American will have enough income to live decently, a clean home to raise our family, good food and enough to live in health, medical care to keep well, and above all education for our children, for their future.

I can't think of a thing that's more important than the well-being of our people at home — especially the large number of people that have the least, and who have the least.

Now I'd like to approach this war that everyone says he doesn't want, and even you say you would like to end, from a trade union point of view.

You know, Mr. President, you have a technique that is pretty effective during national labor disputes. You call in "experts" to get the opposing parties together, and you force the opposing parties to meet and stick with it, sometimes bargaining day and night, until the agreement is de-
cided and peace reigns again.

As a trade unionist, I say you have a formula that could work in the past and could also work in the case of Vietnam. You might take a tip from trade union experiences. You may remember that President Harry Bridges of the ILWU back in 1950 tried to approach the Korean War in this way, recommending that there be a cease-fire, that the slaughter be stopped, that negotia-
tions be opened. For that, Bridges went to jail. But after thousands more were killed and wounded, the very thing he recommended was ac-
tually tried, and the killing was stopped.

If there is a parallel to this situa-
tion, it could be tried in Vietnam. Maybe the "experts" you'd have to call in would be the United Nations. And why not? They have as great a stake in world peace as we any of us.

So why not pick the most qual-
ified individuals, without prejudice, put them to work to bring the par-
ties together, and stop the killing today like the possible holocaust tomorrow.

Let's do it, Mr. President. Let's do it now, let's not waste time. Let's go, Mr. President. It's only the path to peace.

Sincerely yours,

J. R. Robertson

vice President
ILWU