ILWU Rep Raps Import Restrictions

WASHINGTON—Testifying before the House Ways and Means Commit-tee on June 11, ILWU Washington representative Albert Lannon, Jr. declared the union’s opposition to “protectionist” import restrictions and called for expansion of free trade with all nations.

“The first thing that should be pointed out,” the ILWU spokesman said, “is that the inevitable trade war that would be generated by American restrictions would hurt a great many workers, not just the es-timated four million people involved directly with foreign trade.”

COFFIN NAIL

In addition, proposed restrictions “would benefit a few industries at the expense of American consumers.” Attacked were steel and textile industry workers who refuse to lower prices and profits through competition with imports.

The union spokesman cited data showing that mechanization and stepped-up investment of private US money in foreign lands, seeking sup-er-profits appear to be more responsible for job losses in this country than competition with imports.

Criticized was the notion that American industry cannot compete with lower-paid foreign workers. The union statement quoted from industry statements citing unit labor cost figures to support the claim. “Further,” Lannon added, “workers throughout western Europe and Japan appear intent on winning de-cent wages and conditions,” thus re-ducing the threat of foreign wage competition.

Expressing the ILWU’s belief that war costs are the real source of the nation’s balance of payments prob-lem, Lannon pointed out that reduc-ing trade through the imposition of quotas could well worsen the situa-tion and lead to “such drastic ac-
tions as devaluation of the dollar and wage freezes.”

“The attention of this committee and of the Congress should be turned to the more proper and prof-itable question of expanding world trade, rather than restricting it,” he be-continued.

Acting committee chairman Al Ullman (D-Oregon) thanked Lannon and called the ILWU testimon-ey a “fresh approach” for the committee’s consideration.

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LOS ANGELES—As The Dis-patcher went to press talks were again underway, after a two week halt, between ILWU Locals 20A and 35 negotiating committees and US Borax Company. Also present was a federal conciliator. Inter-national secretary-treasurer Louis Goldblatt joined regional director Bill Piercy and international rep Don Wright in the talks. There was no further information at press time and picket lines con-tinued to march at both Wilming-ton and Boron.

BULLETIN

Borax Negotiations

LOS ANGELES — A new three-year contract for employees of Max Fac-tor has been negotiated by Ware-house Local 26.

In addition to money gains, the agreement improves job security and grievance procedure. Among the improvements are:

• Agreement that vacations may
• Improved language to clarify
• Assurance that sub-contracting
• Shortening steps in processing
• Wage increases are 15 cents an
• A dental plan with a company
• Workers with 20 years’ service will

LA Local 26 Wins New Contract at Max Factor
A GEOGRAPHY of hunger in the richest nation on earth? That must come as a surprise to those to whom the poor have been invisible for so long—until they started to make themselves not only visible but vocal as well.

A recently published report "Hunger, USA" by the Citizens’ Board of Inquiry Into Hunger and Malnutrition in the United States establishes that close to 11 million Americans are on starvation diets!

That's one of the things the "Poor People's March" is all about—hunger. When a group of marchers from the deep south stopped overnight in Selma, Alabama, recently they were fed in local church basements. One march leader reported: "Some of these people are getting the first good meal of their lives."

W ORKING TRADE unionists should have an absolute sense of sympathy and identification with people suffering poverty. After all, it was poverty, shared by exploited working men and women, that brought our movement into being. What it adds up to is this: The membership with today's working class is no longer any time. It has run out. If you as an individual, or as part of an organization, are prepared to lay it on the line, then you must recognize that ending poverty will mean continuing to pay high taxes year after year.

What is their program? They want an annual income for all people who are now in what is called the poverty level, who either do work but can't get enough to live on or that can't work, not live to work.

The Marching Poor want more than we in the labor unions have always fought for—a decent house, higher minimum wages, jobs and job training, guaranteed income when unemployed through no fault of their own, dignified living for the sick and handicapped and aged; food to raise healthy children; a chance to live in health, an end to violence and racism and the scourge of war. Is any of this too much to ask?

Where do we go from here? Many have said—stop the war, spend that $30 billion a year on ending poverty, on making reality out of Martin Luther King's "Dream."

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ABERNDEEN — The main topic of discussion at the June meeting of the ILWU's Puget Sound District Council was action to avoid further curtailment of the export trade in Washington. The council was hopeful that the Parole Board would act swiftly so that the two men would be reunited with their families as soon as possible.

Dock Workers Stop Work In Mourning

SAN FRANCISCO — Most of the ILWU waterfront local on the West Coast, including Local 13, went on a day of mourning over the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy.

On June 6, the day when Kennedy died, the ILWU International officers sent the following telegram to all locals:

"Another terrible tragedy has struck America in the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy. The President of the United States has designated this Sunday as a national day of mourning. The locals can be expected to close their gates this day. The action they deem appropriate to mark this tragedy. We urge all locals to join in this gesture of mourning. We send our condolences to the Kennedy family and in affirming our determination to defeat the evil of violence growing in our land."

In San Francisco, there was no work from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on June 6. Work was stopped for the full day shift on June 9 in the Los Angeles locals. In Seattle, San Diego, Stockton, Sacramento, Astoria, Seattle, Longview, Everett, Tacoma, Aberdeen, Bellingham, Olympia, Port Angeles, Port Gamble and Anacortes.

Puget Sound Council Hiltons State Log Ban Measure

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DURING the year 1966, 53,000 people were killed in traffic accidents and 1.9 million people suffered disabling injuries; 160,000 of these were permanent. These accidents, besides their loss of life and property, have also found themselves even harder hit by the skyrocketing cost of auto insurance.

Maybe you've been victimized by an auto insurance company which has gone out of business—73 of them did between 1960 and 1966, abandoning 390,000 policyholders and injured victims with claims running to $600 million.

Maybe you don't belong in any of these categories. So then maybe you're just "Joe Average" who is sick and tired of seeing his premium costs go through the roof at the same time he has every inducement to minimize its loss and give you as little as possible. Your lawyer, working on a 33 1/3 percent contingency basis, wants to get the most dough he can, and he knows you want a third share of a bigger pie.

As a result of all the legal finagling it is estimated that accident litigation accounts for 65 to 80 percent of total claims costs, and in New York it is estimated that accident victims would receive payoffs as that found in Saskatchewan, Canada. While a government insurance program would meet with little desirable opposition in the States, this in no way should indicate that adoption of such a plan would be an equal measure of success as that found in Saskatchewan.

In less than 10 years the insurance industry has already taken its 100 percent as useful and practical as the Saskatchewan plan. Everyone would collect for his loss by his own insurance company. It is unlikely that anything as useful and practical as the Saskatchewan plan could be created in the U.S. Well, one critic of the auto insurance industry estimated that auto losses would be reduced by 19 percent in auto accident cases. In addition, the insurance companies reaped hundreds of millions of dollars profit in the process.

Sure, you're convinced that auto insurance should be thought of as water, heat and lights for your home. The auto industry is by its own admission just another typical American business. However, within the framework of our society the characteristics of a public utility except for its relatively uncontrolled abuse of its powers base it against our concern for the public interest.

Essentially, the problems we run into in the auto insurance industry are four: 1) skyrocketing premium costs, 2) arbitrary or discriminatory cancellation based on our age, sex, race, occupation, or place of residence, 3) discrimination against the public interest.

The point is that we've all been getting socked by the auto insurance companies, and something has to be done about it. Drive an auto, as dangerous as it is, is a necessity, not a luxury for most of us. In auto insurance, a truly essential essential unless we want to play Russian roulette with our savings and earnings.

PUBLIC UTILITY

Auto insurance, therefore, should be.


It is generally conceded that the basic flaw in our auto insurance system is in the foundation on which that system is built—something lawyers call tort liability. What this means is that when you buy car insurance you are buying a commitment from your company to cover the losses of another party to an accident you are involved in, if the accident is caused by your negligence. You aren't buying insurance to cover your loss, and you can't recover the other party if at fault. The lawyers get into the act when you're not at fault, and the amount you may someday get may be too little and too late to offset the accident you suffered immediately after your accident. Out of luck, or averted by the system?

Professors Keeton and O'Connell have come up with a plan to change this costly and time consuming system, they call it "Basic Protection." Essentially what the Keeton-O'Connell plan would be to compensate all of the victims of an accident without regard to who was at fault. Each person would be routinely compensated for his loss by his own insurance company.

An accident victim could get up to $10,000 in medical expenses and lost wages, and up to $25,000 for pain and suffering. If the total damages involved were less than $15,000 the victim could be released from negligence liability. Total damages were more than $15,000 one could still go to court and sue. Everyone would collect for his losses, and no one would be forced to sue another party and attempt to establish fault. Court calendars would be cleared, and the whole cumbersome system would be made much less expensive.

As Professor Keeton has pointed out, "A person injured in an auto accident would be reimbursed for doctor bills, hospital bills, and the like, and also paid for any damages. The insurance company would be required to pay money when losses occurred, rather than delaying until the injured person and the company could agree on a lump sum settlement."

According to one actuarial study, Michigan motorists' auto insurance costs reduced by 19 to 25 percent with the Basic Protection Plan, and 55 percent more accident victims would receive payments. In New York it is estimated that the system would cut auto insurance costs by 15 to 25 percent.

2. Auto insurance premiums should be set in such a way that they reflect both the income earned by the companies on these premiums and the underwriting losses, if any, and they should be non-discriminatory.

Auto insurance companies have long raised a furor about underwriting "losses" on auto insurance. However, as studies point out, underwriting losses do not measure the overall financial performance of a company.

For example, in an article in The International Teamster, February 1967 it was pointed out that in 1965 the auto insurance companies had an underwriting loss of $275 million which was more than offset by the
$850 million gained by investing the premiums we paid. In 1966 the companies had a $10.9 million underwriting profit, and $900 million investment earnings.

In the last two years, with the Insurance Commissioner’s Office in Kentucky and New Jersey, four states have knocked out rate increase requests from insurers on the grounds that the companies are in self-defense. The Insurance Commissioner in New Jersey estimates that auto insurance premiums have increased by about 4 percent in that state.

What should be the standard for premium increases? They should be eliminated. One is either licensed to drive, or he isn’t.

Until very recently most companies were in the habit of canceling the insurance of anyone who felt they had been either not insured altogether, or had had to pay exorbitantly high premiums for their cars because they were dropped by another insurer.

Cancellation should be allowed only if one refuses to pay his premiums or if the state commissioner finds the policy has been canceled for violations of the law.

Some insurance companies are starting to wake up. In recent months a number of them have offered guaranteed renewal policies to their customers. Other companies have “voluntarily” altered their cancellation rates. With insurance rates under way, it is essential that each state establish regulations which would permit at least opportunity to challenge the assignment. The typical excuses for putting people in high-risk include the neighborhood they live in, their race, religion, and the job they hold. In some cases a couple of minor traffic violations are all it takes.

Assigning risk policies should be based solely on a realistic assessment of a policyholder’s driving record. The insurer should be able to challenge such assignment, and the premiums for family members should not be raised just because one member of the family is making a high-risk assignment.

5. Careful consideration should be given to the establishment of an Unassigned Claim Fund in each state.

Countless numbers of auto accident victims are denied any reimbursement for their injuries unless the other party to the accident they are involved in is either not insured, or is not financially responsible. We should consider a system whereby a victim must seek reimbursement from the person who is at fault in an accident, many victims wind up having to pay their own expenses, and not getting anything for the wages they lose as a result of an accident.

Money necessary to provide an Unassigned Claim Fund could come from a motor vehicle fee, gasoline tax, and assessments against the insurance companies. If an accident victim is unable to recover his loss, he could seek to be paid out of the fund. Such funds are presently being used by the state of California for funds.

6. Regulations must be established to prevent conflicts of interest in the offices of the State Insurance Commissioners.

In most states the office of the State Insurance Commissioner is the final say in controlling the insurance industry in that state. At the same time, however, the commissioners and their staffs are also serving as the insurance companies. So you have people who are supposed to regulate an industry in the same offices in which they compete with it and are directly beholden to it.

There is no doubt that the State Insurance Commissioners and their staffs must be professionally qualified to administer the office.

To avoid conflicts of interest, however, there must be regulations which will make it clear that people should not hold concurrent employment or advisory connection with an industry they are supposed to be regulating, nor should they hold pension and re-employment rights or substantial financial interests in insurance companies or the companies they regulate. Such legislation was recently recommended by the Senate Antitrust and Monopoly Subcommittee.

Until such time as we are able to institute the Basic Protection Plan described above, we ought to establish a system whereby any accident victim’s own insurance company is immediately responsible for his medical bills and lost wages.

Undoubtedly it will take some time before the Basic Protection Plan is made a matter of public policy in most states. In the meantime, each insurance company should be forced to compensate its own policyholders who are involved in accidents for their medical bills and lost wages. A policyholder should stand now with no possibility of waiting a year or more to have it wait months if not years before he can regain any of his out-of-pocket expenses. While the auto insurance industry is necessarily going to have a number of cases a couple of minor traffic violations are all it takes.

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Borax Strike was still going hot and heavy last week for both Local 20A in Washington, pictured here, and for Local 35 in the desert at Boron, California. The line at US Borax in Wilmington is lived on some days by equestrians doing picket duty. The couple on horseback is Ed and Hazel Wellem, He’s a member of 20A, and the horse is Coco Rojo, a member of the Screen Actors’ Guild who won the best animal actor award in 1967, and was loaned to help out in the strike. Talking at the local’s internal, the Executive Board member L. L. (Chick) Lovelidge, Local 20A president Dave Womack and left, picture below: strikers appear to be talking to cop. What was being said wasn’t heard.

CRDC Backs Borax Strike, Hits Right-to-Work Move

NORTH BEND—Delegates from eight locals preaced the Columbia River District Council’s June meeting here by taking measures to help the Borax strikers.

Affiliates were urged to take “whatever action is necessary” in support of the strike.

The Council authorized a new barrage of letters on S.2485, the Senate bill to upgrade workers’ compensation, and then plunged into consideration of primary election voting for a legislative program for the months ahead.

A letter was read from Senator Wayne Morse, who said in part: “I know from personal experience the hard campaign work that was done for me by the ILWU members in Oregon and the members of your auxiliary.”

A report by CRDC lobbyist Ernest E. Baker was adopted, reaffirming the CRDC’s four-point program on workers’ compensation, unemployment insurance, taxation and labor-management relations, including strengthening of the permisive state law relating to collective bargaining between government subdivisions and their employees.

WORKMEN’S COMP

On workmen’s compensation, the program calls for enforceable-on-the-job, elimination of the waiting period and “outlaw” any provision of the 3-way law,” under which the council contends the right of injured workers were sold out to the insurance interests.

Other sections of the report pledged the CRDC lobby at the 1968 session of the Oregon Legislature to work for:

- Consumer legislation, including efforts to lower automobile insurance rates.
- Farm worker justice.
- An anti-strikebreaker bill.
- Measures to alleviate poverty, including implementation of the immediate needs of the state’s poor and its dependent children.

In other action the CRDC endorsed a petition calling on President Johnson “unconditionally to halt all bombing in order that the current preliminary negotiations bring about a meaningful cease-fire and a genuine peace in Vietnam.”

The vote to endorse the petition was unanimous.

Scab Bill Exposed

PORTLAND—An expose of “right to work,” compiled by CRDC lobbyist Ernest E. Baker, hit the mails last week.

It was authorized at the June CRDC meeting in North Bend, which decided it was time to lower the boom on the right-to-work initiative rearing its ugly head in Oregon.

Baker points out that 19 states now have right-to-work—among them the five states with the lowest average per capita income in the United States. Mississippi is right down at the bottom of the list.

The average Mississippian had only $1,098 to live on in 1965, while his neighbor in Arkansas struggled along on $1,385. The average national income that year was $2,746—more than $1,000 above the annual average in the two cotton belt states.

Moreover, people in the right-to-work states suffered income losses after passage of the legislation. South Dakota was $79 above the national average in 1948. By 1965, it was $533 below. The overall economy of these areas suffered also.

Texas passed a right-to-work law in 1947. By 1965, Texans were $33 below the national average.

Seattle Memorial Service Honors Ernesto Mangaoang

SEATTLE—A stirring tribute to the life of veteran union leader Ernesto Mangaoang, former President of ILWU Local 37, was given by his widow Baba John at memorial services held here last week.

“I am proud to have been the wife, the companion, the comrade-in-arms of Ernesto Mangaoang. I am proud to have had the courage, the determination, the love for humanity, his unending concern and struggle for the betterment of all fellow working people.”

Describing the long and painful struggle against death she said: “He died as he lived, fighting every inch of the way and more concerned for the feelings and welfare of those around him than his own.”

Gene Navarro, Local 37 president, told how he first met Ernie in San Francisco during the 1934 strike. “I fought beside him since that time, through the early and tough days of trying to organize the asparagus workers, then the canneries workers. What Ernie helped build we cannot give up.”

DEPORTATION STRUGGLE

Marion Kinney, former official of the N.W. Committee for the Protection of Foreign Born, and Barry Hatten, honorary member and attorney for Local 37, described the tense, bitter drawn out fight against deportation of Mangaoang and Chris Mensalves, another veteran official and builder of the union. They stated unmistakable proof had been uncovered of hand and hand cooperation between Industry and Immigration Department to weaken the unity by deportation action against leaders like Ernie and Chris.

“Only the awareness of the membership enabled us to win that fight,” said Hatten, referring to the final decision that Filipino national debtors freed under the law at that time.

Both Mrs. Kinney and Barry Hatten told of Ernie’s bravery, either sitting in jail or about to go in, “would cheer me up, would try to lift my spirits because we felt confident that our fight against such discriminatory laws would be won in favor of all people.”

PHILIPPINES

Ernie was born February 22, 1903, in Aringay, La Union in the Philippines. Mangaoang was a graduate of the local school principal before coming to the United States in 1926 where for the next 10 years he worked at various jobs as a farm and canner laborer on the West Coast and in Alaska.

In 1936 he became Executive Secretary of the Cannery Workers Union in Portland, served with them in the army during World War II and became business agent of Local 37, in 1947.

Ernie Mangaoang died on March 28 at his home in Seattle. He is survived by his first wife, Sarah, their daughter, Juana, and a step-daughter, Mrs. Susan Hunt.

Most of ILWU Candidates Win in Calif.

Nearly all of the candidates endorsed by ILWU in the June 4 primary were elected. However, this did not apply to candidates for US Senator in either of the major parties.

In contests for nomination as US Congressman, twenty of those endorsed by ILWU were nominated; three failed. Eight of those endorsed in the Senate were nominated; two failed.

In the races for the state assembly 42 were nominated by ILWU backing while only 3 failed.

Both propositions on the state-wide ballot—farm worker justice and right-to-work—were also both carried. San Francisco voters sided with ILWU on nine of the city propositions, but not on the right-to-work.

The union made no endorsement in the presidential preference contest.

Anthony Belenson, ILWU’s choice for the Democratic nomination as US Senator, was defeated by Alan Cranston. On the Republican ticket, the union backed the incumbent, Thomas Kuchel, who was nosed out by the notoriously right-wing Max Rayburn.

In Northern California, the following won nomination as candidate for US Senate: Marks, Leggett, Drath, Mailliard, Cohelan, Edwards, McFickle, Pereira, Walda, McFall and Sisk. Dr. Nolan failed.

In the assembly races, all the successful endorsees were: Anderson, Hawkins, Corman, Schirry, Rees, Browne, DeLand, Ellenson, Miscockey, Pereira, Walda, McFall and Sisk. Dr. Nolan failed.

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All of those backed by the union for the position of Interior Secretary were nominated: Petris, Newsm, Marks, Alquist, Rodda and Collier. In the Senate, Edwards, Mailliard, Cohelan and Leonard and Calderon lost.

In the assembly races, all the endorsees were successful except California in the North, Negrete and McMillan in the South.
ILWU Members Active In Oregon Peace Group

COOS BAY—A local peace group headed by Robert Croft, history professor at Southwestern Oregon Community College and Eugene Haller, president of Local 12, has been making newspaper headlines since it was formed last April.

Mrs. E. V. (Pat) Richardson, secretary of Auxiliary 1, is secretary of the group, known as the Coos County Citizen for Peace.

Activities have included work for peace-oriented candidates; a public screening of the film, "Vietnam, how did we get in and how do we get out?" and sponsorship of a petition calling on the President to halt all sessions as a prerequisite to successful peace talks.

The petitions are being carried door to door, and also are available for signing in a booth maintained by the group in a shopping center.

Dockers, Widows Or Pension List

SAN FRANCISCO—Following is the June, 1968 list of dockworkers retired under various ILWU-PMA plans:


Local 50: John J. Kaufman; Local 52: Harold V. Sharp, Roy M. Strange; Local 54: Robert L. Hel- sen, Paul N. Young; Local 54: Jose Gallegos Araiza; Local 63: Ernest McFarland; Local 12: B. A. Moore, Charles Wetherit; Local 61: Allan M. Youngman; Local 63: John A. Allred, J. Hooker; Local 98: Ralph S. Pederson.


**SPORTSMAN of the Year 1967** was the title awarded Bob Pettie of Longshore Local 19, Seattle. The Leo Weis- feil Trophy was given to Pettie, former business agent of Local 19, for his work in the Washington State Sports Commission as delegate to the National Wildlife Federation.

Alcoholic Info Center Hailed In Longview

LONGVIEW — The Alcoholicism Information and Referral Center here owes much of its success to long- shoremen.

This doesn't mean a majority of its clients are from the waterfront, although some are. But, its solid support given by Local 21 has aided the referral office to develop what Roland Smith, area director of the ILWU-PMA benefit funds, describes as "one of the best programs on the Northwest.

"We have been able to extend the reach of the program to include family members, usually referred to by a friend, co-worker or family member, who is seeking help," he said.

In January Local 21 members voted to give the Center a $1 per month, following a pitch by a 25-year water- front veteran, Bill Murphy.

Another longshoreman and former president of the local, Charles A. Smyth, is treasurer of the Lower Columbia River Council on Alcoholism, the non-profit organization operating the Center.

If an alcoholic is sick enough, he is sent to a hospital for detoxification. Non-drinkers and their families are referred to facili- ties like Shadle in Seattle or Portland's Raleigh Hills. Others may be sent to a halfway house. "Half Way Houses" until they are "dried out." At present, the nearest such facility is in Olympia, but LCCA is in the process of establishing a half way house in cooperation with Clark county.

When the alcoholic is without funds needed for needed care, financial help is sought through public assistance or from other sources.

The help does not end once the alcoholic is "dried out." At present, the Center has 11 such information and referral offices in the state.

ALCOHOLIC Info Center Hailed

HAWAIIAN WILD PIG... the early Polynesian voyagers brought pigs to the islands and their de- scendants roam the islands of Ha- waii today. Consequently, on the islands of Kauai, Oahu, Molokai, Maui, and on parts of Hawaii, we have various species of wild pig, sometimes reaching a weight of 400 pounds, with about 135 pounds on the average. They range on all islands except Lanai.

They roam the wet forest lands but if undisturbed will do well in the lower dry forest and grove as well as pasture lands. Average litter ranges from two to eight.

The majority of hunting is with dogs, with many hunters using only a long knife to dispatch the pig. Tackling a 200-lb. boar is not for the clumsy or faint-hearted hunter.

MOUFLON... Also called the Euro- pean Bighorn Sheep, Rams weigh about 125 pounds. Originally native to the islands of Sardinia and Cor- sica in the Mediterranean, this wild sheep was introduced to the high- lands of Mauna Kea on Hawaii Island and on Lanai along the dry Kona and grassland coast of the northwest portion of the island.

A wary animal, it is difficult to stalk due to its alertness and ten- dency to seek out dense brush or forest when disturbed. A full-grown ram is a spectacular trophy with its spreading horns and black mane. The meat is delicious and can be prepared like mutton.

**DRAWINGS and text by R. J. Kramer and Ronald L. Walker. Anyone want- ing more information on big-game hunting in Hawaii may write to State Division of Fish and Game, Central Office, Honolulu, Oahu.**

ILWU members in good standing and their descendants may earn a pair of fishing lures. All that's required is a clear snapshot of a fishing or hunting scene, and a few words as to what the photo is about. Send it to:

Fred Goetz, Dept. TD
Box 598
Portland, Oregon 97227

Please mention your local num- ber. Of course, retired members are eligible.
**New Home for Local 63**

Continued from Page 1—

before they had a building they could call their own.

Bowen told how they started from scratch four years back. Each member put in $200, the balance was borrowed from the Pension Fund. The building will be self-supporting, paying its way from rent from tenants—Local 63, Local 94 walking bosses, and the area ILWU-PMA Benefit Funds.

The physical layout was described by the building director, Harry B. Akin, Jr. It stands on four lots, totaling 19,200 square feet. The building covers some 6000 square feet.

With the statistics out of the way, the keys were handed over to Local 63 president Jim Jackson, and they were in business.

Speakers included ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Louis Goldblatt, who was thanked for his aid and advice in developing building plans, writing by-by-laws, and gaining years of experience to the project. President Harry Bridges brought congratulatory sentiments, and Coast Committeeman Bill Ward spoke of the old days when he was a kid and his father Fred Ward was the first president of Local 63.

Ward told of amusing early days when he used to hang around the office as a kid.

The office was on 7th Street in San Pedro and was about the size of this stage. It had a well ventilated roof, and when it rained we used to run around with pots and pans to catch the downpour.

**LANDMARK**

Secretary Goldblatt congratulated the building committee for its determination to see the project through.

“A building such as this is a landmark in the development of a union. A symbol that the union is solid, and here to stay,” Goldblatt said.

He added his congratulations to Local 63 for its successful drive to eliminate and resolve old problems of racial discrimination that have plagued many locals.

President Bridges recalled “this place is a far cry from the old dump and that is before the union was started. This is a good place for the union to do its work, and remember the number one aim of a union is still to fight for better wages, for shorter hours of work and to constantly improve working conditions.”

At the conclusion of the meeting, the building was dedicated to the retired and deceased members who “built the house of labor we live in today.” The words are on a commemorative plaque at the building entrance.

**DEDICATION—**Bill Ward, top left, recalls old days at Local 63. At wall, left, the modern dispatch window in new building. Top right, Local 13 president Curt Johnston, and business agents Ralph Souza and Art Almeida; Local 20A president Dave Womack; and Local 13 welfare officer Nate Di Blasi. Left panel, below, Local 63 secretary-treasurer Albert Ryckaert visits President Jim Jackson’s plush new office. Right, office secretary Donna Kuhn was praised for her administrative work in managing building problems. Below, right, ILWU secretary-treasurer Louis Goldblatt congratulates all hands.

**On the March**

By J.R. (Bob) Robertson

Another Look at Member Participation

It’s called to order, the minutes of the last meeting are read, then there is old business, then possibly some new business, then someone may bring up good and welfare, someone else moves to adjourn, and everyone rushes out. In most cases it is a re-hash, and all too often there are a few “mike-hogs” who dominate and don’t give anyone an opportunity to express himself in any case.

Not the same duller than a union meeting where some secretary sing-songs the minutes and communications and everything is so routine the membership is practically asleep in their seats.

It is possible in the foreseeable future that unions at the local level will have to concentrate on some type of limited membership participation based on those members coming to meetings who really are interested in the union’s welfare and want to apply themselves to keeping alive a democratic structure.

Such small group meetings could become more like those weekend bull sessions in which there is a real exchange of ideas, real communication between the ranks and officers and development of understanding of the union’s programs and progress. Smaller groups encourage fuller participation while any real exchange of ideas is almost impossible at a mass meeting.

One idea that’s formulating itself in my mind at the moment is that large locals could hold membership meetings three or four times a year, while a number of smaller group meetings could be set up a couple of times a month. These meetings, operating along the lines of our weekend bull sessions, would appeal to really interested people who want to be involved in developing the agenda and formulating the material to be discussed and encouraging everyone to participate.

My first experience at the first bull session left an indelible impression. It also reinforced the point I’ve been making in the last 15 years strengthening the need to keep building strong steward set-ups in each local.

The recent assassination of Sen. Robert Kennedy brought forth a remarkable response of honest mourning and deepest feeling from the poor people of the country, especially from Negroes and Mexican and other minorities. The response was far greater than most of us could have expected. In other words, many of us had not really properly gauged the popular situation in the country. Now we certainly owe it to ourselves to do a little re-evaluating of ourselves and the membership and how we all think.

That is why I consider the value of continuing to explore the thinking of the membership and why those weekend bull sessions will be so important in setting up a yardstick to measure and understand membership opinion.

In fact, the idea of those weekend bull sessions takes on even greater significance as we consider how attendance at membership meetings keeps going down hill. As things now stand, the idea of mass membership meetings where a majority of members attend are becoming a thing of the past. There are exceptions—where meetings are compulsory—and backed up by a fine. And yet even among any of the unions’ stewards are not present, as some members would rather pay the fine and not bother with the problems of conducting a democratic union.

What happens at a typical meeting?