Most Modern
In Canada

VANCOUVER — A new dispatch hall for Vancouver longshoremen, opened this month by the Canadian Maritime Association, is one of the most modern and efficient on the continent.

New dispatch regulations in effect at the new hall were worked out jointly between Local 500 and the BC Maritime Employers Association in negotiations over a period of six months.

More than 2,700 longshoremen are dispatched from the hall. It has ample parking space and facilities for observers from the ILWU and BCMEA.

“Local 500 officials deserve credit,” said Canadian area president Andy Kotowich, “for their success in working out these new dispatch regulations with the employers.”

Officers of Canadian area ILWU and Local 500 attended the ceremony marking the opening of the building.

NEW UNION BUILDING

Earlier, Local 500 opened its new building here. In addition to offices for union officials and a lunch room, the building has a large board room, where the Ladies Auxiliary and ILWU Pensioners meet. The Deep Sea Credit Union has also leased office space in the building.

“The local has just under 1700 men at present,” said Watson Jones, local secretary-treasurer, “but we service about 2700 men, including casuals. This new building gives us a fine place to operate from; we never had anything like this before and we’re rather proud of it.”

Pensioners Plan Convention

A convention for all ILWU-PMA pensioners and widows will be held at Redding, Calif., September 16-19. The Southern California Pensioners’ Group, which is sponsoring the convention, plans it as a “hobo” affair, meaning that “any bona-fide ILWU-PMA pensioner or widow will be a delegate and will have a voice and vote in all matters.”

Leo Miller, temporary chairman, stated that “The general purpose of this convention is to have a ‘get-together’ to develop a pensioner program, to air ‘beefs’ and to promote general pensioner solidarity and dialogue, so that we may have some direction and purpose toward a better and fuller pension life.”

Miller added that “Like a ‘hobo’ convention, every delegate will be on his or her own in regard to transportation, hotel, motel or trailer park accommodations.” Once delegates arrive, all possible assistance will be given, he said, and the area is “loaded with accommodations.”

Those who plan to attend are asked to write Leo Miller, 2667 Madison St., Long Beach, Calif. 90810, including information on the number in your party.
A wage cut has been clipped from your pay check lately. It's called the ten percent surtax. It is retroactive to April 1, so there's more to pay than is now withheld. This wage cut in the form of a tax is just one of your already exorbitant income taxes is intended to pay a part of the $30 billion a year that is poured into the rat hole of the Vietnam war. Therefore this surtax is actually a war tax. And in some measure it wipes out some of the hard won gains made by labor on many a picket line and bargaining table.

Not only does it take more from workers' wages, but in order to induce the Congress to enact the surtax President Johnson agreed to cut government spending for domestic needs by six billion dollars.

Thus the ugly face of poverty will become even uglier, especially in the great core cities of our nation as a whole! Any tax increase, however voluntary, drains the pockets of working people—most of whom already live from check to check with little chance to save in this day of high prices—but additionally the needs for social welfare programs, for dealing with poverty and slums and housing and health and the education of our children are being sacrificed in order to pour more loot into that endless rat hole of war.

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The new organization is named the Alliance for Labor Action. The announcement was made in Chicago by Frank R. Fitzsimmons, IBT president and Walter Reuther, UAW president. It followed two days of meetings by the executive boards of both unions. The Wall Street Journal also reported there had been a series of off-the-record meetings between labor leaders from Los Angeles and Chicago before the formal announcement was made.

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The announcement also noted that a representative national conference will be convened in the early part of 1969.

The union heads stated they had not agreed on specific candidates for state or Federal offices but would endorse and work jointly for any they do agree upon.

PRIORITY — JOBS AND HOUSING

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On the other hand, Reuther told the press, "the war in Vietnam is not on our agenda as highest priority."

In addition to primary trade union goals — organizing and bargaining — ALAs program stresses such goals as meeting head-on the crisis of the cities, poverty and unemployment, advancing education and vastly broadened health care; to remove the economic barriers of discrimination . . . reorganize the economies of hospital and medical care . . . increasing the income of older citizens . . . broaden the scope and quality of essential community and social services . . . " and much more.

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SCDC Raps Cop Action

In Strike

WILMINGTON—The July meeting of the Southern California District Council, ILWU, was highlighted by widespread statements to the effect that the resignation of Council President Nate DiBiasi, who said it is impossible for him to continue his duties as Council President and Southern California Legislative Officer, was due to an illegal chain election as Local 13 welfare officer is too time consuming.

DiBiasi's work for the Council as presiding officer and his lobbying for the ILWU in Sacramento was highly praised by southern California ILWU councils in a regular council meeting on July 26, 1968.

DiBiasi indicated in his letter of resignation that he had every intention of continuing to cooperate with the District Council in an unofficial capacity and to help in any way possible.

The office of President will be filled by the delegates at the next regular council meeting.

DiBiasi's letter stated in part that the role he played with the Council has been an experience and a fulfillment which will never be forgotten.

A report on the efforts of pensioners to get improvements in their councils meeting included:

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IT HAPPENED HERE at Mission and Steuart Streets in San Francisco. This is the spot where two men were killed on July 5, 1934, followed soon by the San Francisco general strike and victory. Above, at spontaneous ceremonies, speakers recall the history and meaning of the ILWU. Chairing the meeting, at right, is Cleophus Williams, Local 10 president.

LONGSHOREMAN Shelby Daffron, who lost his life during the 1934 waterfront strike in Seattle, is remembered by his family and former comrades who are meeting here to commemorate and endorse candidates.

Small Ports Health Benefits

Health Plan benefits were increased retroactive to May 1 for longshoremen, clerks and walking bosses in the thirteen small ports having only Insured Plan coverage.

In its announcement to locals, the Coast Committee stated that the purpose of the raise is to meet sharply increased "out of pocket" expenses for hospital and medical care. This will bring the small port insured program into parity with that of the Oregon Blue Cross program.

Chief among improvements is the hospital room and board allowance now payable at the hospital's three-bed ward rate for a period up to 90 days, both for men and dependents. Before May 1 the plan paid $27.50 per hospital day and limited dependents' hospital days to 35.

ALL EXTRAS

All hospital extras are new covered where formerly there was a limit of $500 for men and $350 for dependents. extras are necessary services and supplies such as drugs, dressings, x-rays, lab tests, physical therapy, and use of operating room. A new supplementary accident benefit of up to $300 is payable for certain charges not otherwise covered, such as special nursing and physicians' charges in excess of basic medical or surgical benefits.

A special feature of the plan was the "boat float," a floating platform with a motor which took pensioners on a tour of the bay's attractions. The weather was wonderful and everything went fine. It was a real family day and there were all one big family on a picnic.

Goldblatt to Address Typo Convention

COLORADO SPRINGS — ILWU Secretary Treasurer Louis Goldblatt will be a keynote speaker at the 110th convention of the International Typographical Union, to be held Aug. 6-10.

Goldblatt, who is scheduled to speak Tuesday morning, Aug. 6, was recognized last Fall as a principal architect in the settlement of the 55-day newspaper strike in San Francisco. The strike brought all the newspaper unions together.

"We had the park practically to ourselves" said picnic committee chairman Bernie Lahay. "The weather was wonderful and everything went fine. It was a real family day and there were all one big family on a picnic."

Goldblatt Urges Safety Action

SAN FRANCISCO—Prompt passage of the Occupational Health and Safety act (S. 2864) was urged in a letter by ILWU's three international officers to Senator Ralph Yarborough, chairman of the Senate labor subcommittee.

"Legislation such as S. 2864 is long overdue and desperately needed. We in the labor movement have too often seen safety shunted aside in deference to the economic interests of employers;" 

"Dollars and cents considerations cannot take precedence over the health and safety of working people, nor can their conditions of work be compromised in the struggle of states' rights versus federal authority."

"The slaughter must be put to an end. S. 2864 is a good place to begin."
THE HIGHLY SKILLED pilots of the Czechoslovakian Airlines slipped the big jet between the Iron Curtain without denting a wing tip and deposited us on the snowswept airfield of Prague at 3:30 p.m. March 2, 1968, on a clear, cold day.

We were, to the people we visited, an unusual looking trio. John, from Local 142, Hawaii, a stocky, built man of Oriental descent; Dave, from Local 10, San Francisco, is 6 feet 4 inches and 260 pounds of very dark Negro; Jerry, from Local 19 in Seattle, is a "boarding house stew" Cauca-

Transport and Communications Workers Union, the exciting whirlwind we were walking into we were a dead beat trio. Had we known so his words had to come to us through either iron -grey hair and a rugged face that easily breaks into a gleeful smile. He speaks no English "some Americans died in this country too." "That is right. We honor them. But..."

We drove on to the famous Hradcany Castle, usually called the Prague Castle, one wing of which houses the President and his offices. This Castle too was built in the 1300s. We walked through many meeting halls, chapels and ban-

quet rooms filled with priceless works of art. Dave said "it never dawned on us that the day would come when I would be seeing all of this with my own eyes." We walked into the Cathedral, a place so awe-inspiring it stuns you. A Mass was in prog-

ress. The place is so huge it would be hard to estimate the number of people there but we were many and more coming in all the time. We noticed lots of young people in attendance.

It was at this point that Jerry made the remark that preceded everywhere we went in the CSSR from then on. "If this is just a show you are putting on to convince us you have religious freedom here, you are sore going to get a helluva lot of trouble." We heard about that remark many times afterward.
On the way back to Prague we stopped at a country tavern. It was crowded with people relaxing and enjoying a Sunday afternoon, juke box playing popular Czechoslovakian music and much talk and laughter. We noticed that while everyone had beer or wine there was no evidence of anyone getting out of line. We only saw one man with too much of a load all the time we were in the CSSR.

(JOKE CSSR STYLE: Kruschev visited President Kennedy and asked: “How do you control the problem of drunkenness in your country?” “We have no drunkenness here.” A period of scoffing. Said Kennedy: “Here, take this pistol and these extra cartridges. You have permission to shoot every drunken person you find on your way back to your hotel tonight.” Next morning headlines screamed: “Short, bald, gangster shoots entire Russian delegation.”)

After a long railroad trip served cold with vinegar and chopped onion and Pilsen we continued to Prague to have dinner with President F. of the Transport and Communications Union. It is not hard to see why Filo holds that position. He radiates friendliness, intelligence and mildness. He is a fine sense of humor and even though he speaks no English, in no time at all we were all at ease with each other. Everyone promised that something would be done.

We might as well tell you right now that although we did have the time and opportunity as promised, as much as we had hoped for. We feel certain that all who interpreted for us were honest and accurate but somehow there is just not the same as man-to-man talk. There is a certain stiffness and loss of understanding. We got more, for example, in five minutes’ conversation with a longshoreman who spoke English than we did in a half-hour with him in interpreted conversation.

Therefore most our information and the quotes you will see here came from trade union officials, newspaper writers, officials of the CSSR and foreign writers we met here and there, businessmen from France, Italy, Japan, Great Britain, everywhere people who represent the CSSR, the occasional waiter, student and worker on the job who spoke our language. The balance of our impressions and the quotes we have are not from “eye-ball-it-ing” as John says.

Feel we have the game of being observers and have an approximation of the real life of the so-called workers. We feel two weeks is not enough time to do more than get a general impression and scratch the surface. We would also advise any future delegations to do what we wish we had done, split up. Had we another go at the CSSR, one of us would go to a collective farm, another to a shipyard, another to the Port of Bratislava and live and work there, if possible, for at least a week. As it was, we worked hard, did our best, had the time of our lives and at least know much more about the CSSR than we did before we went there.

At 3:00 o’clock the next morning we were awakened by what sounded like an army out in the street. It was an army of skiers walking up from the railroad station a few blocks away and heading for a night-run bus line. Every weekend...

Big Dave snaps a picture of (from left) Blanka Matonohove, interpreter; union driver; Mikulas Fodor, Bratislava port manager; Jerry Tyler; John Arismus; Leonard Mristovic, trade union chairman, Bratislava.

The developments in the last weeks in CSSR is very, very interesting. A week after our visit:

Confidence in Planning

“Very, very interesting.” We are confident our new planning system will bring greatly increased profits. In your country those profits would go to a few people. In ours it will go to increase the bonuses and benefits of the employees, enrich our state treasury and enable us to build our heavy industry, our social benefits and our living standards.

All socialist countries, we are told, have found it necessary to break loose from the power clique and each time they did so the explanation was very logical, but, somehow, not quite satisfying. Little by little we got enough side remarks to convince us that it was just simply not too healthy to go kicking at the "establishment," like maybe leading a freedom march through Alabama.

The fact that these people, our friends among them, stuck their necks out and kept trying until they were able to make the breakthrough makes us very proud of them. We respect and admire them very much.

None of the three of us were skilled in the sciences of economics or politics when we went to the CSSR and it is a cinch we could not become so in a short two weeks’ visit. So our description of the economic and political changes taking place there is probably highly oversimplified. We beg our friends over there to be patient with our criticism. We only do our best.

Here is what one of our friends said in a letter written a month after our visit:

The political development of the last weeks in CSSR is very, very interesting, a week after your departure our President Novotny abdicated under the pressure of the nation. The Central Committee of the Party declared in a long session (a week) to establish more democracy, more freedom and civil rights.

To be short: We started the big experiment to build a society on the basis of Marxist socialism with all components of western democracy. It means also a more independent foreign policy in the economic relations to western countries.

We have a new government, new men in the Presidium of the Party—all this without firing a shot! A big evolution in our Revolution!

You know something? We wish them success.
We are confident, we have nothing to fear or hide...
Dockers, Widows On Pension List

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


Hawaii: ILWU Teamos Sign No-Raid Pact

HONOLULU—An agreement that there will be no raiding in Hawaii between the ILWU and the Teamers was reached June 18 after two days of conferences between leadership groups headed by ILWU president Harry Bridger and ILWU regional director Jack Hall, Teamsters international vice president Elmar Mohn, and local 996 president Arthur Rutledge.

A joint press statement said: "Our two organizations have agreed to accord on some of the important matters that have been in dispute. "These matters will be incorporated in an agreement to be executed by the two International unions for a period of one year. The agreement shall provide for no 'raid' provision where either union has established representation rights, or where a collective bargaining agreement is in effect."

In talking to the press later, Bridges and Mohn said the agreement does not cover the Teamsters and Restaurant Workers Union Local 5, even though Rutledge is president of Local 5 as well as Teamsters Local 996.

Bridges pointed out, however, that the pact is binding on both Hawaii Dockworkers Local ILWU 142 and Hawaii Teamsters Local 996.

Broderick Local 17 Sponsors Winning Team

Eating meat is bad for those who are on a diet. Dodgers, sponsored by Warehouse Local 17, are in first place in the senior division of the Washington Little League. Helene Schultz is hostess for the team.

Right-to-Work Failure Cheers Columbia Council

LONGVIEW—The "right-to-work" drive in Oregon failed to get off the ground, CRDC lobbyist Ernest E. Baker reported at the July meeting of the Columbia River District Council.

The delegates were jubilant, but their mood was tempered when Jack Russell, president of Local 21 Penclosers, recalled his own experience in helping defeat a "right-to-work" initiative in Washington state in 1956, only to have it pop up again in '58.

"If the right-to-work were circulating petitions in Oregon and yakkling about it this year, watch out for two years from now," he warned.

Washington state also will have two initiative measures, one good and one bad, on the November ballot, CRDC president Ed Mapes noted.

The good one is Initiative 32, which would ban the export of logs from state-owned lands.

Safety also had a prominent place on the council agenda. The effects of carbon monoxide building up in the bloodstream were discussed by several delegates, including Oroville Mischler of Local 12.

"You get two machines running around in a confined space like the hold of a ship, and no blower is going to whip that. . . . Then you wonder why some of your brothers are dying from something that can't be diagnosed,"

Carl Anderson of Local 8 recalled that in 1960 "we had a man in from the federal government, and he told us malathion works on nerves to cause spasms which stop the heart--but 30 minutes after death, the body has expelled it and no trace of the killer can be found."

A case of blinder twine which had been treated with chemicals and stored in a locker, sending five men to the doctor with sore eyes, was the subject of barbed comment from the delegates, as was the fact unmarked chemicals are coming in on foreign ships.

The employers' interest in safety—or their lack of it—was discussed at some length, with a delegate charging, "The only thing they care about is lost-time accidents, not whether you and I get hurt."

Secretary A. F. Stoneburg was instructed to invite Federal Safety Inspector Eugene H. Harrer to the next council session, to be held in Portland.

Roy Niemel of Local 50 was seated with voice and vote.
Senator Morse Joins Bloody Thursday Rites

PORTLAND—Senator Wayne Morse took part in this year’s Bloody Thursday ceremony here, marching with ILWU and civic leaders behind the floral tribute to unionists who were killed on July 5, 1934.

The character of the event was forecast in a letter to area locals signed by Local 8 secretary Fred Huntsinger. It said in part: “When members of ILWU, a recognized, militant labor union, our labor friends and all of our friends and trade union brothers march in silence, bareheaded, through the downtown section of Portland, it provides proof of our desire to honor our martyred brothers” and serves notice “we are prepared to march together to remind all men of the unity and determination we possess and are ready to use.”

The same theme was hammered home in a special issue of The Local 8 Hook delivered to all docks and ships. The bulletin said no work would be performed for 48 hours and urged a big turnout. Eight locals, two pensioners’ groups and three auxiliaries sent delegations.

At this conference the national officers and the regional directors from southern and northern California, Oregon, and Columbia River, Puget Sound, Hawaii and the Canadian Area ILWU, as well as the editor of The Dispatcher and the ILWU research director, were killed on July 5, 1934.

Then came Monte Brooks’ band, followed by the “34 strike veterans,” their thinning ranks beefed up by “B” men and casuals, representatives of the auxiliaries, delegations from the four Portland locals and the Oakland and San Francisco unions, and members of other unions.

A new note was added this year to the accepted ritual. Local 8 voted it would henceforth be union policy to hold the annual observance.

HARBOR WALL

At the harbor wall the marchers lined up to hear the speaker of the day, union attorney Frank Pozzi. He ticked off the gains won over the years since blood was spilled on the West Coast waterfront in the ’30’s and ‘40’s with the struggles of minority groups today. “Whether a man dies in the Delta of Mississippi or in the streets of San Francisco, he is fighting for what we fought for, dying for the same things we have today.”

In closing he reminded the assembled hundreds that the river esplanade “in which this ceremony is being held has been designated by the city fathers as the Francis J. Murmane Parkway.”

The arrangements committee for this year’s rites consisted of Art Ronne, Toby Christiansen, John J. Fougerousse, Ray Keenan, Fred Huntsinger and the late Francis J. Murmane, listed by the Local 8 Hook as a “permanent member.”

New Ideas Explored by Union Leaders

A TWO-DAY conference was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, on July 10-11, with the three national officers and the regional directors from southern and northern California, Oregon, and Columbia River, Puget Sound, Hawaii and the Canadian Area ILWU, as well as the editor of The Dispatcher and the ILWU research director.

At this conference the national officers reviewed the day to day operations of the union, how these operations apply to policy in each region and discussed in a remarkably frank and open manner the direction in which the union has been moving and what’s going on.

I think everyone at the conference agreed it was a most productive session and every bit of the time—over two days—was very well spent.

In fact it is the first time where all the ILWU regional directors attended at the same time and the same place. The three national officers reviewed in close detail their thinking on the economic, social, and political developments and got the value of the thinking of key ILWU people as to how union policies could best be carried out in each region.

It was also noted that the International Executive Board will be meeting in San Francisco early September and much of what we discussed will be carried on at the board meeting.

THERE WAS also agreement by those who had attended the Weekend Workshops—one in northern California, the other in Los Angeles—that these had been extremely valuable and constructive experiences, and with great enthusiasm the regional directors from other areas indicated their desire to carry on with the “bull sessions” in Washington, Oregon, Canada and Hawaii.

The next one is expected to be in the Puget Sound area and will be announced as to time and place very soon.

It was pointed out during our two-day conference at Vancouver that the weekend bull sessions had already created an excellent atmosphere for straight-from-the-shoulder discussions between officers and other sections of leadership and rank and file. This excellent spirit was reflected in the leadership conference in Vancouver as well.

If we can continue to hold such constructive meetings in the future—both in the larger arena of weekend workshops, in various areas, as well as within some locals (as has already been suggested and is being planned by certain locals) as well as local meetings such as the one we held in Vancouver—I am positive the benefits will be widely felt.

On a number of different levels I have already seen these benefits both in terms of better relationship between officers and ranks, better communications between staff people, and closer coordination between leadership and membership.

In many ways, it is my opinion, these recent face-to-face discussions, with no-holds-barred, may well be one of the healthiest developments we’ve seen in any part of the labor movement for a long time.