Deadline for Sugar Pact
Now Feb 15

HONOLULU—Deadline for conclusion of sugar contracts has been extended to February 15. ILWU and sugar industry spokesmen agreed on the 15-day extension of the former contracts at a major negotiating session on January 21.

At the subsequent meeting, January 28, negotiators for ILWU Local 145 presented in detail their position in relation to the "package agreement". It was summarized in the statement: "The proposal does not come near an acceptable basis for agreement on new contracts."

The companies' package and union response dealt with every major section of the contracts: duration, wages, pensions, hours and overtime, layoffs, medical plan, disability insurance, holidays and other fringe issues. Stop-work meetings at all plants were voting to authorize the union sugar committee to call a strike, if necessary.

March 10 Meeting
Exec Board to Pick Overseas Delegates

SAN FRANCISCO—A special meeting of the ILWU International Executive Board will be held here Monday, February 11, to prepare a request to the request of the board which meets Monday and Tuesday in Los Angeles and voted to hold a final meeting before the International Convention, starting April 15. Overseas delegates will be selected on the basis of section of the contracts: duration, wages, pensions, hours and overtime, layoffs, medical plan, disability insurance, holidays and other fringe issues.

Key items on the agenda will be the selection of overseas delegates and discussion around the advisability of restructuring the top leadership of the International union. The deadline for applications for overseas delegates is March 7.

STUDY ALA

In addition to the March 10 Executive Board meeting, a tentative date of February 17 has been set for the special meeting of the Robertson-Ala local and to prepare a report for the Board concerning the structure, function and purposes of the Alliance for Labor Action (ALA) which was set up last year by acting Teamster president Frank E. Fitzsimmons and United Auto Workers president Walter Reuther.

The ILWU, among many other national unions, has been invited to affiliate with the ALA. Therefore, the Board decided a study-in-depth of the ALA was necessary. The special committee is made up of J. Johnny Parks, Local 40, Portland; Paul Pujatalo, Local 42, Honolulu; and L. L. (Chick) Loveridge, Local 13, Los Angeles.

Urgently Need Dock Injury Information

SAN FRANCISCO—An urgent call has been sent out to dock local officials in San Francisco by Michael Johnson, Northern California ILWU legislative representative, requesting prompt reports on the approximate number of injuries and deaths on the waterfront. "I will use this information to make permanent our dock safety bill, which has been in effect for two years. It is extremely important that we have these statistics to present to the Legislature," Johnson wrote.

Stress Development of Leadership

WAILUKU, Maui — Leadership was the lead-off topic in this, the second of the Hawaii bull sessions, and the last of seven ILWU weekend workshops, the pioneering experiment in communication between union rank and file and leadership.

It was a no-holds-barred weekend in this county seat of the "Valley Island" and feelings were not viewed as views were exchanged on a wide variety of issues ranging from human rights to union dues; from the agencies of organizing to the mysteries of today's rebellion of youth.

About 60 persons participated, including top leadership from the international and local and island divisions. But mostly they were rank and file workers. They came from Maui, a center for sugar and pineapple production and a growing tourist attraction, from the seldom-traveled pineapple islands of Lanai and Molokai; and finally from that wonderful mix of contracts: duration, wages, pensions, hours and overtime, layoffs, medical plan, disability insurance, holidays and other fringe issues.

Participants included three women—two from Maui, one from the pineapple canneries, the other a laundry worker; and a hotel worker from the Kona coast of the Big Island. There were many other hotel workers and tourist drivers and service workers.

ALL KINDS OF WORK

There were longshoremen from the ports of Hilo and Kahului, men from sugar and pineapple plantations, mills and canneries—field workers, planters, equipment drivers, mechanics, machinists, electricians—all that remains variety of the skilled and the unskilled that make up the highly mechanized agriculture of Hawaii, and work together as members of the same ILWU local. And they came from retail trades, food stores, offices, and much, much more.

At the front tables were the three delegates and many international titled officers who have attended all these bull sessions—to hear and to be heard. Bridges, Robertson, and Goldsmith. This was the first time the three were together on Maui at the same time.

There was also Dispatcher editor Sidney Roger and Local 142 education director Dave Thompson. Also among the participants in this open-ended talk-fest were the local's top officers, the division directors, the business agents and international reps and organizers.

There were plenty of leaders—but the heart of the bull session was the rank and file workers who came to speak their minds, to ask questions, to expect frank answers.

BREATHTAKING SETTING

To a visitor from the mainland the setting for this meeting was breathtaking. On a blue, hot January day in this semi-tropical land, from the 7th floor penthouse of the Wailuku Hotel, we faced on one side the picturesque old town, with white-steeped churches and old island homes surrounded by palms, lush greenery and flowers. We looked to a green-carpeted background of precipitous, sharp-spined volcanic cliffs dropping abruptly into deep brown-black-rutted ravines.

From the other windows, we saw the white-created surf, rolling wave after wave onto a palm-fringed sand beach. Behind that, the piers and sheds of the ports of Kahului and Hilo, looming over all, rising softly and steadily from the ocean floor, the...
SUGAR NEGOTIATIONS in Hawaii have reached that crucial stage in which a showdown may well be in the works. As we went to press the January 31 deadline had been extended to February 15 and the next meeting between the union and employer negotiators was left subject to call.

Above all else — indicating how seriously our brother unionists in the islands consider the situation — they recommended stop-work meetings be called on all plantations to review union and employer positions and that a secret ballot referendum be conducted on the employers’ proposal.

The union committee urged rejection of the employers’ proposal — and rank and file authorization “to call a strike, if necessary, in order to achieve an agreement satisfactory to the membership.”

The sugar negotiations are broad and complex — but the real gut issues are simple. This they know: Everything that’s at stake is capital. That’s capital. That’s what sustains and wins strikes. That’s muscle. That’s what provides power at the bargaining table. And that’s what can do a better job of “hitting the bricks” when they have to. They have a brick in their back that every employer knows they can use.

And they know they are not alone!

To begin with they have built their own strength. They have consolidated island union — battle-hardened standards of unity and statewide solidarity. They bargain with muscle. In a quarter century of fighting to steadily improve the lives of their families. They have gone to work meetings be called on all plantations to review union and employer positions and that a secret ballot referendum be conducted on the employers’ proposal.

The union committee urged rejection of the employers’ proposal — and rank and file authorization “to call a strike, if necessary, in order to achieve an agreement satisfactory to the membership.”

That’s where the rest of us in the ILWU come in. When our sugar negotiators talk with the employers, they know they bargain across the table from a position of strength. They bargain with muscle.

We are prepared to back them all the way. That’s muscle. That’s what provides power at the bargaining table. And if there must be a strike, that’s the muscle that sustains and wins strikes.

We know our brothers and sisters don’t take strikes lightly. They have had too much experience. There are few among us who can do a better job of “hitting the bricks” when they have to. They have a sense of community, of mutual help, in feeding each other, sustaining each other, keeping the kids in school and in health.

They proved this last year in pine, and in every strike they undertook, after the ranks were given a chance to weigh the alternatives and show they understood the risks. This they know. Everything that’s been won was won the hard way — because they had muscle.

And they know they are not alone!

THE LAST OF the weekend workshops took place recently in Hawaii and a complete report on all the workshops is being prepared for the International Convention. One of the items that came up consistently during these workshops concerned one of the great myths of our times — which is that prices are forced up by increasing wages.

At every workshop the officers repeatedly pointed out that it is not more wages but a hunger for more profits that causes the cost of living to increase.

Last week the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported the cost of living rose faster last year than any since the Korean war, than any since last December than a year before — primarily because of boosts in the costs of food, medical care, clothing and housing. Every spokesman in Washington assumed this would mean the ten percent surtax would be extended by the Nixon administration. What made that so ironic is that when Congress put through that surtax last summer, at President Johnson’s request, it was done, they said, in order to stop the inflationary rise. It did, in a pig’s eye!

The biggest chunk of the increased costs bears heaviest on the working people. And we know that it isn’t increased wages but greater profits which are primarily responsible. We also know that this inflation is in good measure the direct result of the fantastic amount being poured into the war in Vietnam, as well as all spending for armaments.

We in labor are not primarily interested in the kind of profits the employer makes, but that workers make enough to live as well as possible. We know that workers must have more the time just to achieve the necessities of life.

So when we approach any negotiation, we ask first: What are the problems? And then: What are the strengths? And how can we do the job of “hitting the bricks” when they have to. For the employer is not alone. He has muscle. He has a power that a strike can’t touch. He has the muscle of the law. That’s the muscle that sustains and wins strikes. That’s what provides power at the bargaining table. And that’s what can do a better job of “hitting the bricks” when they have to.

One of the facts the cost of living borne on the backs of working people is not only the surtax, which is taken directly out of your pocket, but also the other taxes piled on top of that. That’s the muscle that supports and wins strikes. The only way we can beat the increasing tax burden is to demand more money on the wage line.

This is the economic weapon we have as a union. This does not rule out the fight for tax reform, especially closing those loopholes which allow some millionaires to earn fabulous fortunes while paying no taxes. But the “bricks” we use in a strike should be a substitute for wage hikes.

One thing our union and the whole labor movement should re dedicate ourselves to is to fight for more wages, as well as better and safer working conditions and the fewest hours of work necessary to get the job done. Fringe benefits should always be thought of as something to be won on top of good wages, never in the place of wages. It’s also our obligation to oppose all forms of wage controls. When it comes to taxes, we certainly believe in paying our fair and equitable share. But we don’t exactly relish the thought of the rich getting richer while workers are bled by taxation, or seeing our taxes poured down the rat hole of war.

By the way, labor is not alone in feeling that the wage increase is not high enough. The whole labor movement is feeling that. For example, you may notice that most politicians—from Nixon on down to Congressmen—are not the least bit lại hard on raising their own wages. They are raising their own wages, or fringe benefits. But first and foremost, it’s wages. Now we provide a 100 percent wage increase for the workers of the United States. We are keeping pace with a 41 percent wage increase for themselves. Imagine if we in labor asked for anything like that—how they would howl and accuse us of being responsible for inflation. But they don’t seem to mind inflating their own wages...
Oregon Unions Re-activate Joint Lobby

SALEM—Labor will reactivate the United Labor Lobby at this session of the Oregon Legislature in order more effectively to promote legislation directly related to the economic and social welfare of workers. Decision to resume ULL activities was the main outcome of a two-day state-wide meeting of more than 100 AFL-CIO and independent union leaders here January 9 and 10.

The new lobby, directed by Arywitz, PMA Unit 34 secretary-treasurer, has been discontinued in 1963, although unions maintaining lobbyists here continued to join forces in promoting specific bills.

Arywitz, who heads the ILWU-Smith, ILWU—CCHPA legislative, representative, was tapped to carry the fight on the tax front. "There's not a word in Governor McCull's year-end message about tax reform," Barker said. He should be looking to tax loopholes created by the 1961 timber tax rebate and the 1968 tax break on cargo clips and sellers of real estate at a profit. Instead, he is proposing a 3 percent sales tax.

Barker said he believed the testimony of auxiliary women before the Senate Finance Committee at the special session two years ago and the thousands of signatures they collected against the sales tax were key factors in its defeat.

Issues other than taxation in which the ULL will be deeply involved include workers' comp amendments, job safety, public employee elective bargaining rights, consumer prices and bills aimed at upgrading the conditions of migrant farm workers.

Paid Training Program for SF 'B' Clerks

SAN FRANCISCO — Each class B shipclerk in the Bay Area will receive a full week of training under a program sponsored jointly by ILWU Shipclerks Local 34 and PMA.

Classes will run for about ten weeks, with 15 men per week in attendance. The program started January 15. Those completing training will be paid the basic shipclerk wage.

Since the B men all have experience from deals with all aspects of dock operations rather than elementary shipclerk work.

Instructors are three members of Local 34: Don Davis, Fred Larmer and Tom Bobb. Davis and Larmer both hold ship master's licenses; Bobb is a veteran Supercargo.

Opening day ceremonies were conducted by Local 34 secretary-treasurer Arthur Rosenbroek, PMA training director. Local 34, PMA Northern California area assistant manager James Edwards and Northern California area training representative J. E. Harper.

Local 40, PMA Plan Supercargo School

PORTLAND—A school for supercargos will be conducted jointly by Checkers and the PMA. The first class of 15 will start February 17. Those attending will be paid eight hours straight time at the supercargo rate.

Classes will meet five days a week for a total of seven days. A second class will start February 26, according to The Recap, published by Local 40.

Unions to Bargain on Medical Care

HILLSDALE, Calif. — Organized labor in California has embarked on a program to pool its resources and bargain directly with the providers of medical care to achieve lower costs and higher quality for the state's two million union members and their families.

The state's major unions, including ILWU, Teamsters, Auto Workers, Steelworkers, California Federation of Labor and numerous central labor councils, gave unanimous approval to incorporation of the California Council for Health Plan Alternatives as a non-profit organization and on a financing formula based on membership. The newly incorporated organization, which has been operating as an ad hoc group for about three years, will have offices in Burlingame and Los Angeles.

ILWU secretary-treasurer Louis Goldblatt was elected secretary-treasurer of CCHA. Elmar Mohn, director of the Western Conference of Teamsters, was re-elected chairman of CCHA. Sigmund Arywitz, executive director of the LA county Federation of Labor, was named vice chairman of the council. A 17-man executive committee was elected.

Thomas G. Moore, Jr., was appointed executive director; Dave Williams will continue as executive secretary. Moore has had broad experience in the health field. He has served as director of legislation in the office of the US Surgeon General, assistant to California's Mental Hygiene director and deputy director of the California Department of Social Welfare.

"THE TIME HAS COME . . ."

At a daylong seminar, following the first board meeting under the new bylaws, Goldblatt pointed out that the huge sums which unions negotiate in collective bargaining pay only about 65 percent of medical costs.

"The time has come for organized labor to stop being merely an agency for the disbursement of negotiated dollars to insurance companies, hospitals and doctors, and start securing reasonably priced, high quality health plans for the health of our members."

"We cannot do without doctors," Goldblatt said, "we cannot do without hospitals, but we can damn well do without insurance companies . . . We want to work with all constructive forces in achieving our goals and we intend to press our bargaining on all aspects of doctors and hospital services."

Until now, Goldblatt noted, health plans have been handled on a "fire brigade" basis. Unions have tended to serve as collection agencies for doctors, hospitals and insurance companies.

"BEST CARE POSSIBLE"

The meeting was attended by about 200 persons who deal with medical service and was addressed by a number of union officials as well as two doctors. Mohn declared at the outset: "There is nothing closer to our concern than the health of our members and their families than the over-all question of health care. We are not out to feud with the medical care industry or individually with any doctors, hospitals or insurance companies . . . Our role is to get the best, care possible, both in respect to quality and price, for our members and their families."

Similar thoughts were expressed by Arywitz, who viewed the large attendance as evidence of the widespread discontent with the prevailing quality and price of medical services. "All of us know," he said, "that we have not been getting our money's worth and we are determined to do everything possible to correct the situation."

Moore reminded his listeners that organized labor ranks second only to the government in the purchase of medical care. He commended the CCHA for its preliminary work including the initiating of conversations with medical societies, hospital administrators, and officials of insurance companies.

"These will be pursued with vigor," stated the new executive director.

HEALTH CONFERENCE: Above: Union representatives at the first meeting of California Conference for Health Plan Alternatives. Left: Louis Goldblatt (at microphone), secretary-treasurer of both ILWU and CCHA, introduces those appointed executive director of CCHA. Seated is Dave Williams, CCHA administrative secretary.

"Moreover, we will launch research programs with the assistance of the University of California medical schools or any other agency that is geared to aid. There is considerable evidence that many doctors, particularly the younger ones, recognize the need for a change in the system by which medical care is purchased and dispensed."

The most promising aspect of the Council's future, Moore told the delegates, is that it marks the movement into the market place of the consumer in strength. Unless labor pools its bargaining power, coordinates its bargaining objectives, it will not get the mileage it expects from the $750 million it spends each year on health and welfare.

CCHA board members, in addition to officers noted previously, are Cass Alvin, Steelworkers; Paul Schrader, Auto Workers; George Johns, San Francisco Labor Council; Joe Belardi, Culinary Workers; Mike Elected, Retail Clerks; Al Erickson, Theatrical and Stage Employees; James Lee, State Building, and Construction Council; Gordon McCulloch, Carpenters; Wesley Olson, Operating Engineers; Hal Shean, Machinists; Charles Walker, Electrical Workers; Ernest Webb, State Labor Federation; Morris Weinberger, Sailors' Union of the Pacific; Thomas Young, Teamsters Joint Council 85, Los Angeles.

Pensioners Ask Higher Social Security Base

OAKLAND — A resolution asking that Social Security benefits be raised has been adopted by the East Bay Pensioners Club of ILWU Local 6. Copies have been sent to President Nixon, US senators and congressmen, to ILWU locals and the press.

The resolution points out that the President and members of both Senate and House have received big wage increases this year and asks them to consider the needs of retired workers: "We need a substantial increase in Social Security, effective January 1, 1969."
Incredible shield of Haleakala, the vast extinct volcano standing more than 10,000 feet above the sea.

This was a fitting place to hold an ILWU workshop—and to speak about developing leadership.

Secretary Goldblatt acting, as in all previous bull sessions, as moderator, broke the ice by having everyone present introduce himself, tell where he was from and what work he did. Then the ILWU secretary-treasurer gave participants the background to these bull sessions and set the tone.

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

“We are concerned about how members feel. Where they think we are and where are we going? How are we doing and how well?”

After Goldblatt outlined a list of possible discussion topics, he asked how the group felt about starting right off with something that was high priority at every session — the development of leadership.

What is at issue is the union’s desire to get more young people to take an active leadership role in union activities; to strengthen the union and create continuity. The composition of the union is changing, many of the founding members are getting older, many have retired, some have died. The big question: What sort of leadership is coming along? Are we training and developing new leadership?

One young activist from the big island points out: “There are lots of young members who would like to take part in union leadership. But they just don’t get enough cooperation and friendly help from the older members. Then after awhile they just give up trying. Then they get other interests, find new friends, do their own thing, and lose their interest in the union.”

“We’ve tried our best but we can’t get young guys involved,” says another. “A lot of them are money-conscious. New leadership has a way of giving up when they see so many old faces repeating themselves again and again.”

**NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN**

A young fellow spends a few months trying to do something, and comes up against the older folks, doesn’t get any encouragement, gets disgusted and then quits. Usually you never see him again.

Bridges asked, “Are some young people saying what the hell is the good of it all when you’re up against some of these old-timers who know it all and always seem to try to make a monkey out of you?”

A sugar worker from the Big Island asked: “What I want to know is what is this humbug that keeps us from making the ILWU, as we say over here ‘moh betah’?”

Another chimes in: I was a kid when they put Bridges in jail. I stood back and refused to work. A thousand of us demonstrated when Bridges went to jail. A thousand guys can get together on something like that!

Another sugar worker says the main reason he came to this bull session was “because I wanted to talk about leadership.”

The theme song repeatedly sung was: Why don’t the old-timers give the young men and women a hand.

“They act as if they know everything,” said one young man. “The old-timers discourage the young. We know the old-timers did a good job, but when the older man slacks off and still tries to control the union it’s bad for everyone.”

**A LUCKY ONE**

Another from the ranks adds, “Most younger people now are graduates of high schools or trade schools. They understand what it means to be trained. I’m lucky, I’m being trained by older union officials. I am being allowed to participate in union activities. Some of the older folks in my unit are giving me a hand in this.”

Robertson speaks of leadership from an organizer’s viewpoint: “I think it’s good and healthy and encouraging that you spent so much time here talking about how to get more people active at the unit level.

“The thing that makes me prouder of the ILWU than anything else is that I believe there’s a nucleus of young people I know of that could hold a meeting such as this where we can have such an open discussion and lay all these issues on the line. That in itself is real progress.”

He concludes: “Let me tell you a little secret I’ve learned. If you’re going to develop leadership you’re going to have to let individuals you work with know that you have confidence in them; give them responsibility; let them try their hand; even let them make mistakes when necessary. And be on the spot to help them.”

**HAVE A STAND-IN**

Then Robertson, pointing out that he is retiring soon, gave this advice: “Every time you eleet a unit officer, have a stand-in who will work right along with him. In other words, instead of having ten unit officers, have 20. If you are chairman of the unit, have a stand-in with you and every time you do anything, take that stand-in with you and let him participate and learn.”

And then Robertson wound up by saying, “Let me tell you frankly how I feel about you folks here. In the 25-year perspective, the organizing job done by you in Hawaii has been absolutely phenomenal and you’re still on the move, and I’m pround.”

A hotel worker, pointing out that 80 percent of hotel workers are women, said they don’t have time to stick around for grievance meetings or other union activities because they must have to take off and take care of their family, feed their hungry husband after he puts in a day’s work. The union should understand this and do everything possible to make it easier for the women to be involved in union activities without disturbing their routine family activities.

One business agent adds that many young men take hotel jobs part time, moonlighting while they do a regular job somewhere else. Money is the big issue with the high cost of living. The young fellows want to be able to buy a home, a car, and all the things they think they need.

A Hilo longshoreman remarks that the average age on the waterfront there is about 50, and many young men are left. That means very few older leaders are left and no new people are being hired. “Now we’re going to have to get our new leadership from other parts of the union.”

**A BROTHERHOOD**

Goldblatt summarized the discussion: “The union is a brotherhood, a self-defense mechanism, and it’s also a group hoping to bring some changes in society. In a cannibalistic society, the union does a better job than any other institution in the nation to struggle against such a dog-eat-dog society and work for a change. That’s one thing new leadership can help carry on.”

Some concluding suggestions on education and leadership included the following:

- We may need new literature on how the union functions, bringing it up-to-date, telling it like it is today, and forgetting about the past.
- Younger members have to be given more responsibility and serve the highest degree of an-arrangement.
- Emphasis should be placed on the job steward—as the best education—both to settle grievances, and as a training ground where young
people can get involved and try out their wings as leaders.

• More local island workshops may be useful, and should be tried to see how much interest can be developed.

• Finally the union should keep looking for dedicated people, recognize their dedication, give them every opportunity to serve—and make sure they know that their dedication and service is appreciated!

From the complex and varied question of leadership, the workshop turned to important economic issues such as the question of equal pay for equal work. Some seasonal people not organized in the union work side by side with those who are organized, but don't get the same coverage or wages.

However, it's a matter of pride that the ILWU won unemployment benefits for seasonal workers in Hawai'i. This makes them the only agricultural workers in the entire United States who now receive unemployment benefits.

Bridges noted that it has always been ILWU policy that there be equal pay for equal work. And now that preparations are underway for a possible sugar strike, it was added, there is the problem concerning tradesmen in the sugar industry. Many of these skilled workers expect more because of the competition for their services in other industries. This creates conflicts.

FRINGES V.S. WAGES

At another point discussion turned to issues raised by the membership attitude questionnaire. Why, for example, so much interest in pensions and other fringe benefits, rather than on wages?

Officers were told that many of the younger people actually continued to work in the sugar industry, for example, because of the good medical plan.

One young man said: "If I had enough years of service and could take a vacation with those medical benefits—I'd grab that pension today."

Everybody wants high wages, but, "we also want to live longer. That's the statistics say."

One young man said: "If I had enough years of service and could take a vacation with those medical benefits—I'd grab that pension today."

Then, someone brought up that age-old myth that when you ask for a pension—with those medical benefits—so much interest in age-old myth that when you ask for benefits—I'd grab that pension to- bership attitude questionnaire. Why, pensions and other fringe benefits, for example, is the union going to set up—"finally, the union should keep looking for dedicated people, recognize their dedication, give them every opportunity to serve—and make sure they know that their dedication and service is appreciated!"
Local 6 Wins Two Elections in East Bay

OAKLAND—Warehouse Local 6 has won two labor board elections in recent weeks. At Emeryville, employees of Charles Pfizer & Company voted 46 to 3 for representation. There were 45 eligible to vote. Organizing was done by business agent Paul Haugh and organizer Ole Fagerhaug.

In Pittsburg, workers at Interface, Inc. voted 41 to 25 for representation by Warehouse Local 6. The company manufactures fire bricks.

Who Are the Real Chisellers?

By Francis Fink

Caterer Is Not OK

LOS ANGELES—The ILWU Southern California District Council is asking all members to observe a boycott for one reason or another. The rich who are yelling “Stop, thief!” because of the few dimes welfare recipients may get are surely should. Maybe next time they’ll see as a means by which their efforts will be made to start plugging tax loopholes used by large corporations and wealthy politicians. They also talk about half to halt state tax measures which are not based on the ability to pay.

A new system of information-exchange between the ILWU reps. is seen as a means by which their efforts will become more effective. A two-way flow of information between the areas and the Washington, D.C. office was established so that pressure can be applied at each base on those most important to members of the union.

Auxiliary 5 Hits New Sales Tax Bid

PORTLAND—Auxiliary 5 has proposed the inclusion of a three percent sales tax “on a state which has never had a sales tax and doesn’t want one.”

The auxiliary asked Rep. Edith Green (D. Ore.), to support legislation to keep the sales tax from being counted as income when computing “need” in awarding pensions to the elderly.

“The many retirees who do not receive industry pensions and owing to early retirement or layoffs are better off as a result the Labor University of Mexico was founded, predicated on the concept that power stems directly from knowledge as well as through the economic strength of the working class.”

The letter was signed by Harry Bridges, president; J. R. Robertson, vice-president; and Louis Goldblatt, secretary-treasurer, ILWU.

ILWU Legislative Reps Meet, Plan Action to Lower Taxes

SAN FRANCISCO—ILWU legislative representatives met to compare notes and discuss common problems. Present were Albert Lannon Jr., ILWU rep. in the nation’s capital, Ernest Baker from Oregon, Margaret Pryor, Local 10; Eddie DeMello, ILWU legislative representative, Hawaiian area ILWU; Ernest Baker, legislative representative, Oregon; James Costa, legislative representative, Puget Sound District Council.

ILWU Tribute to Lombardo Toleaño

SAN FRANCISCO—The ILWU officers have joined teachers and students of Universidad Obrera de Mexico (The Labor University of Mexico) in a memorial tribute to Vicente Lombardo Toleaño. The former leader of Mexican labor federation (CTM) died last November.

In a letter to be read at a memorial candlelight meeting, the ILWU officers wrote that during the early days of organizing the CTM, “… our friend Lombardo Toleaño was the organizer of our efforts and a courageous defender of our cause.”

“The ILWU message is in response to a letter from Professor Adriana Lombardo of the Labor University. Cooperating with the ILWU, the ILWU leaders said: “From the very beginning, Lombardo Toleaño whom many of us got to know as ‘The Maestro,’ saw the importance of labor education and as a result the Labor University of Mexico was founded, predicated on the concept that power stems directly from knowledge as well as through the economic strength of the working class.”

Nominations Open for Local 6 Presidency

SAN FRANCISCO—Nominations will be open during the period from February 5 to February 20 for an election to fill the vacancy in the office of president of ILWU Warehouse Local 6. The office was left vacant by the death of Charles Duniway January 4.

Nominations blanks can be obtained in any Local 6 division office.

Auxiliary 17 Officers

OAKLAND—Auxiliary 17 has elected: Leslie Dowell, president; Edna Crocker, vice-president; Margaret Pryor, secretary-treasurer; Ida Young, recorder; Dorothy Rutter, treasurer; Wenonah Dras- nin, corresponding secretary; Dawn Hefner, corresponding chairman of the committee. Members at large are Anna House, Mary Huls and Luverinda Jackson. Mary Huls is chairwoman of the social committee; Anna House is chairman of the sunshine committee.
The new government took over outmoded, rundown equipment which had to be kept operating at a profit to finance the plans to first improve all the people with the necessities of life (a gigantic job which they seem to have done), then start building the economy and raising living standards. "Old factory, new spirit" was about all they had to start with.

Some old hands in fact factories in waterfront shops who did a heroic job of not only patching up the old machinery and making new parts to keep them running but in many cases actually hand-made, piece by piece of machinery they could never have bought.

We noted with your taste that new machines and equipment of all kinds came from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Italy, France, Great Britain, Japan, every place except the United States. "We'd like to buy US machines, but . . ."

Mechanization to the Nth Degree
In spite of the scarcity of funds and skilled technicians of all kinds, the construction of new industrial plants has seen a steady growth. We visited the Egyptian Company (SEMAF) south of Alexandria, a subsidiary of the Consolidated Edison Company of Arub heavy industries, builds railroad cars of all types. Highly mechanized, producing at full capacity, domestic orders standing up ahead, it is very impressive. We also visited a textile plant where we saw mechanization to the nth degree. Acres of machinery of the latest design operated by skilled Egyptian men and women.

Just to show that our friends are not merely joking under a date palm smoking a water pipe, we reproduce here a table from 1969 showing production value in millions of Egyptian pounds: textile 123.5 to 402.5; food industries 95.3 to 269.5; engineering 30.1 to 177.9; petroleum 34.2 to 107.9; electrical energy (this will leap sky high when Aswan dam facilities go into high gear) 10.1 to 56.1; iron and steel 250,000 tons to 1,500,000 tons.

As you cannot call Egypt a highly industrialized nation at this point, you are forced to believe she is on her way when you see that industrial output which has enabled her to make so much progress against seemingly impossible odds. Frankly, we'd like to see our country giving her a hand.

Our trip to Egypt was not without its disappointments. One was the lack of time which limited our tour. Instead of charging a rate in order to see Aswan and the Upper Nile valley. Another was the "drowned war situation" whose light Second thought comes from getting at one near Port Said or the Suez Canal and gave us only a minaret look at the waterfront in Alex-

Like Longshoremen Anywhere
We heard the unmistakable sound of winches running and walked out onto a balcony, looking down and saw our first Egyptian longshoremen. One man was working a single winch on a Greek ship discharging Volvo automobiles in heavy wooden cases. The working right in the square and two men were slugging up, two others sitting on the coaming off to one side and all hands on the job, working in Arabic. But we understand what they were saying: "Up a hair on that midship, you one armed so-and-so." The ship was a spot-lighted ball rail and the wagon big enough to use in a hay field and one man grabbed the stinger, three others put their shoulders together and worked a load off under the gear. A jitney came up, dumped another wagon, hooked on the load and hauled her away.

Someone yelled down and told them who we were and we swapped waves, smiles and friendly insults.

We walked through the building to the bal-

cony on the other side where three gangs were loading cotton. Up at the face of the dock were eight horse-drawn wagons, each with four bales of cotton lying on the flat. One wagon came clattering down the dock to the gear below us. Two men jumped aboard, worked the bales over the edge to an upright position on the dock and two other men worked the rail bull and the wagon clattered away for another load. They were taking two bales at a time on rope and canvas. We noticed two crane boom tips moving across the way and that, except for slacking hands and two or three observers on the way out, ended our visit to the Port of Alex-

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Visit to Longshore Hall Three more disappointed guys you never saw and it must have been because our friends were so upset we felt sorry for them. They arranged a visit to the longshore hall later in the day. We went over a side where which was immediately packed solidly as was the hallway out-

side. There was a window on the alley filled with beaming faces. We shook hands with what seemed like every longshoreman in Alexandria, sang the song we knew to be the "brothers from the United States."

At this time Alexandria was jammed with diverted cargo from Port Said and booming com-

mercial and military traffic. 85 ships were work-

ing that day and many more hanging on the horizon a way off. 2800 men were scheduled, including checkers and bosses, are registered and averag-

ing 40 pounds per month which is good compared to the average worker's wages. (They have a 9 pound per month minimum wage.) Their 42 hour week is made up of 6 days of 8 hours in a row of 8 and 12 hour day not back-to-back.

Gangs are composed of 2 winch drivers, 1 boss, 4 stevedores and 4 front or sling-up men. On the gang there are two-I said al- discharge on load-out just as we do. One checker handles 2 hatch; one super cargo for the ship. They have special gates for special cargo such as lumber, cotton, general etc.

They dispatch low man out as provided in our contract. The bosses thought they were going off the day shift at 4 p.m. and signing in for the next day. They get sick pay, complete medical care, vacation time paid, sick leaves paid, 3 months and all the people with the necessities of life (we have a military solution to the Arab-Israeli question). They seemed satisfied, except for shaking hands with two of our members who remembered the hard days before our union made things better and we told them "even our youngest men recall the hunger and pain of the old days."

Was their lot improved with the establishment of the new government? "You damned right! Before the revolution our unions had no strength. We were treated like dogs and worked horses. Now we are treated like men and work like men and walk like men." We told them only a few of our members remembered the hard days before our union came together better and were told "even our youngest men recall the hunger and pain of the old days."

We are aware of the amount of mechanization in the Port of Alexandria. We were told the machine had been introduced but not nowhere near the volume we have stateside. We are in no hurry," we heard several, "even if we had the money to buy the machines. Right now it is more important that our people have jobs.

Constantly we were asked about Vietnam and other political situations. Our first night in Alexandria we met with what Farouk said was a "small group of union committeemen" and it turned out to be 90 of the top union official-

Visitors to our country, then, are from left: Dave Littleton, Jerry Tyler, John Arisumi.

Tell It Like It Is
It is quite obvious that voting an opinion favorable to the Arab position in the Middle East is not the most popular pastime in the United States today. This delegation had long talks about this phase of our trip and decided to hell with it, we would stick our chins right out there and do what we sent us to do - defy the situation, learn all we could, weigh what we found, use our own judgment and come home and tell it like we saw it.

As we said at the outset, we were able to talk to many people. Among the most prominent were Father Fathi Kameil, ex-General Secretary of the UAR Federation of Labor who remembers Harry Bridges with affection as "a real fighter."

Probably the most important man we inter-

viewed was Brother Ahmed Fahim, a very fine man, President of the UAR Federation of Labor and Member of Parliament who did us the honor of getting out of a sick bed for a special visit.

By John Arisumi Dave Littleton Jerry Tyler

In the Arab's kitchen, so to speak, he said, with a smile, that everyone who never did anything wrong to anybody in all her life, sang and working away with a plow in one hand and a gun in the other to fight off the horses of hate-filled (evidently for no reason at all) everywhere, and make the people of the Arab countries work hard, and in the brush with murder in their hearts.

But when you sit in the Arab's kitchen, so to speak, he said, with a smile, that everyone who never did anything wrong to anybody in all her life, sang and working away with a plow in one hand and a gun in the other to fight off the horses of hate-filled (evidently for no reason at all) everywhere, and make the people of the Arab countries work hard, and in the brush with murder in their hearts.

Military Solution Impossible
Every opinion of every expert we have read about tells us that a military solution to the Arab-Israeli question is not a solution to the problem, but a clear and present threat to world peace.

We told them, and we stand firm in this opinion today, that very few voices speak for the Arab people in the United States.

They readily understood when we said the average American, including us three guys to a large degree, pictured these, and not Israel, as people who never did anything wrong to anybody in all her life, singing and working away with a plow in one hand and a gun in the other to fight off the horses of hate-filled (evidently for no reason at all) everywhere, and make the people of the Arab countries work hard, and in the brush with murder in their hearts.

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The best wish we can think of to make to the membership of the ILWU who made our trip possible would be that each of you will be for-

Overseas delegates to the Egyptian longshoremen in their headquarters in Alexandria are members of the Egyptian longshore union official (whose face is off camera). By Dave Littleton, Jerry Tyler, John Arisumi.
ILWU Demands Government Protection for Fishermen

WASHINGTON, DC—ILWU called upon the US government on January 10 to protect its fishermen members in their right to fish in international waters.

Washington representative Albert Lannon, Jr., in a telegram to Dean Rusk, secretary of state in the Johnson administration, stated that an Ecuadorian gunboat had fired on an American tuna boat January 9 when it was 35 miles off the coast of South America. The ship’s crew are members of ILWU Local 31, San Pedro.

The government of Ecuador claims the incident is but one of over a hundred in recent years. If the government of the United States cannot assure these workers that such illegal abuse will come to a prompt end, the ILWU must reserve the right to take appropriate action to ensure that such abuse and harassment cease, so that our members may pursue their livelihood free from fear.

On January 16, William Stedman, Jr., the State Department’s director of Ecuadorian-Peruvian affairs, wrote to Lannon, in part: “Recently, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile have agreed to meet with the US in a four-power conference to discuss possible solutions to the problems which have resulted in physical danger, inconvenience and economic loss for our fishermen. We are hopeful that this conference can be held soon and that it will lead to a mutually satisfactory and lasting resolution of the difficulties.”

Local 11 Planning for Next Contract

SAN JOSE—The annual convention of Warehouse Local 11 made an early start toward preparation for next year’s contract negotiations with three dried fruit packing companies. The convention voted to call an exploratory conference to meet in March for an exchange of views between leaders and members concerning the direction to be taken in planning contract demands, bargaining strategy and relations with other unions in the same field.

With 55 delegates and 14 visitors present, the convention voted without opposition to support the striking teachers at San Jose State College. Professor Tony Levagis of the teachers’ union spoke. (This action was approved by the subsequent grand membership meeting, with 100 present.)

The delegates re-stated the support of Local 11 for United Farm Workers and their boycott of table grapes. All members were urged to help the UFW win its strike.

Guest speakers included Roland Conley, business agent of the Central Labor Council of Santa Clara County.

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