Hawaii Sugar Strike Is On

ILWU on the Bricks at 23 Plantations

Strike Vote is 98%

HONOLULU — Midnight, Saturday, February 15, more than 9,100 ILWU sugar workers at 23 plantations in the state of Hawaii went on strike. The secret ballot vote was close to 98 percent to authorize a strike.

Stop-work meetings held on all plantations rejected the employers' last proposals and authorized the union's sugar negotiating committee to call a strike, if necessary, to achieve a satisfactory agreement.

The sugar strike vote was 6,994 yes; 156 no—exactly 97.6 percent.

The last three-year contract expired January 31 but, by mutual agreement, the deadline was extended to February 15.

When major issues remained unresolved and negotiations clearly were getting nowhere, the union's negotiating committee called on sugar workers to hit the bricks.

This was the first industrywide sugar walkout in 11 years. The last one began February 1, 1958 and ended 156 days later in early June.

Regional Director Jack Hall spoke of the responsible position being taken by the union:

"Cane that's been burned or cut will be taken to the mill, ground and boiled off. Equipment that's in the field will be returned. Nothing is going to be done to allow any damage to trucks or equipment."

Among the many outstanding issues considered during negotiations, the most important that brought the committee to call a strike included:

The union's demand for wage increases equal to at least the equivalent of pineapple wages won last year after a 41-day strike.

2. An adequate pension amounting to at least $5 per month for each year of service up to 30 years. This is also the pension won in pineapple.

Regional Director Jack Hall, spokesman for the union, pointed out that at least 1,000 people in the sugar industry are age 60 or over and will be retiring in the next five years. It is most important that they leave the industry with an adequate pension.

3. Employers demanded that whenever they want to work a mill seven days a week they can work people Saturday and Sunday at straight time and give them two consecutive days off during the week. This employer demand is also considered a strike issue.

Other issues of importance include protection of work jurisdiction, industry-wide seniority to protect against layoffs due to liquidations or mergers or new methods in a rapidly changing industry, improved medical coverage and numerous other fringe issues normally resolved through bargaining.

From the mainland have come pledges of full support to the sugar strikers from International officers and the Executive Board, from district councils and from numerous locals which have passed resolutions in the past offering whatever support is needed.

A Honolulu-dated sugar strike story in the Wall Street Journal, quoted the First Hawaiian Bank report that "The island's sugar industry had its second best year in 1968. Production was 1.2 million tons, almost equal the 1965 record and 34 percent higher than the 1967 output. Value of the 1966 crop was expected to exceed the 1967 record of $133 million."

Events leading to the strike, ever since negotiations first started late

—Continued on Page 6

Local 43 Inks

New 4-Year Contract

LONGVIEW — Local 43 has just negotiated and signed a new four-year contract with the Welch Panel Company.

The agreement will cost the company approximately $1.15 to $1.35 an hour over the four-year period, with the wage rate of the package running from 80 to 85 cents, according to CRDC president Ed Mapes.

Employees with eight years' seniority will receive four weeks of paid vacation, "the best we know of," Mapes said.

Other gains include 26 cents more an hour in health and welfare benefits, and these will increase by at least 7 cents an hour during the next four years.

The agreement calls for 12 paid holidays, a pension plan increase, vacation leave and Election Day leave, plus improved contract language.

Carl Redigo, Mike Alsten and Gene Quillin made up the local's negotiating team.

March 7 Deadline for Overseas Applications

This is a reminder: Friday, March 7, will be the deadline for mailing applications to the International Union office if you want to be an overseas delegate.

Applications must be postmarked no later than March 7 in order to be considered. They can be obtained from your local union secondly. They should be addressed to ILWU, 150 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, Calif. 94102.

Above: Replica of Convention Call. Full Story on Back Page.
"Oh, say can you see?"

ON FEBRUARY 10 the City of New York came to a complete halt. New York Stock Exchange (surely a capitalist citadel) involuntarily closed — hardly any business was conducted anywhere in the city; the community just as in our reactors" is the plea of outraged taking a stand against setting up an ABM the experts say it won't work anyway. ABM will cost at least $70 billion, reports: "ABM will cost at least $70 billion, in our skies in a world in which man steps to a workers' picket line does not enhance many others, it threatens the fighting capability of the organized workers.

No amount of dialogue and sympathy with the cause of student campus rebellions can bridge the generation gap between worker and worker. To believe that organized labor can resolve the differences between the young and the older by communication and cooperation with students is a mistake. It is simply an attempt to substitute the bandwagon of popular press for the hard struggle of training, educating, and organizing and being responsive to the young men and women who are working.

No amount of revolutionary rhetoric culled from the pages of required university reading, no amount of campus guerilla strategy will make students a revolutionary force. My friends, it is clear: for like so many other differences, it threatens the fighting capability of the organized workers.

The gap — and it is clear that one exists — between the older and the younger generations is a gap between the older worker and the young worker. That it must be bridged is clear: for like so many other differences, it threatens the fighting capability of the organized workers.

No amount of sympathy and support for student rebels is one thing, but this cock-eyed line which says students constitute a new working class and which identifies student demonstrations with an industrial strike, is for the birds. One would think that it shouldn't take 15 inches of snow to prove that.
Oregon Unions Pledge Battle against Sales Tax

SALEM—The sale tax squelched past the Oregon state senate on Tuesday, February 18, by a 16 to 14 vote, after a Democrat the CRDC helped elect changed positions after voting against the tax only the day before, when the galleries were full of tax resisters from her home county.

She is Betty Roberts, Portland, who pointed to her anti-sale tax record in the house when she appealed to the ILWU Columbia River District Council last spring for support in winning the Democratic nomination to the state senate seat.

The three percent sales tax package now goes to a special Senate-House committee to iron out their differences. It will hit the voters at a special election in June.

The pre-sales tax vote followed a motion to reconsider an earlier 16 to 14 vote to turn down the tax.

At that time the galleries were jammed with women who had stormed into the capitol in answer to an appeal from COST (Citizens Opposing Sales Tax) for a mothers' march on Salem.

They brought with them petitions bearing more than 50,000 signatures.

Local 10 Aids Relief Group For Children

SAN FRANCISCO — Members of Longshore Local 10 have voted unanimously to volunteer their services to load a ship with food and medical supplies for the children of Biafra.

At the same time, they voted support for the efforts of the West Coast Committee to Save the Biafran Children toward raising money and getting donations of food and medical supplies. They urged all ILWU locals to join with them in these actions.

The entire executive board of the local pledged to donate a day's work each to the project.

A resolution adopted at a Local 10 meeting February 12, asks that a committee on the East Coast had filled a ship for Biafra and that a ship had been built but this look tuned if exposed by CRDC lobbyists Ernest Baker and A. F. Hartung (retired president of the International Warehouse Workers, AFL-CIO), were two of the main witnesses against the tax.

MArING NEW FIGHT

The senator who carried the ball against the sales tax, a fellow of Gresham, called the sales tax "one of the most damnable taxes known to man."

CRDC and auxiliary leaders are mapping plans to win the people's fight against the sales tax at the polls. Part of the campaign will be a "No Sales Tax Day," to finance publicize to expose the tax for what it is—an attempt to tax the poor and take the pay—the average homeowner, worker and pensioner.

Warehouse Local 6 To Hold Convention

SAN FRANCISCO—Warehouse Local 6 of the ILWU voted this week to hold a contract convention for 1969 on Saturday, March 8. It will be an all-day convention, starting at 9 a.m., in the ILWU building, 150 Golden Gate Ave.

Delegates are being elected from each warehouse and hiring hall on the basis of two delegates for each 25 members.

Any member in good standing may attend the convention on his own initiative and may, with the consent of the delegates, be given voice but no vote.

Local 34 Helps Juneau Workers, SF Teachers

SAN FRANCISCO — Support for ILWU Local 16 of Juneau was voted by Shipclerk Local 34 this month. A $300 contribution was sent to help in a court case involving the work of tying up ferry boats at Juneau.

A $200 contribution was voted in support of Local 1352 of the American Federation of Teachers in their strike against San Francisco State College.
**John English, IBT Leader, Dies at 79**

M前来 CH - John F. English, general secretary-treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters for the past 23 years, died here February 9. Formal services were conducted February 8 in Boston.

English, 79, was in Miami Beach to attend a meeting of the union's General Executive Board. In a telegram to IBT general vice president Frank Fitzsimmons, the ILWU officers expressed him as "a member of the officers and members" of ILWU and "a true leader and friend" through you to his family and to members of the IBT who will sorely miss him and his guidance." The message was signed by president Harry Bridges and secretary-treasurer Louis Goldblatt.

John F. English began his working life in 1944 at the age of 15, driving a two-horse dump cart. He became a member of Cool Drive Local 68 in Boston. In 1910 he was elected business agent. Later he served as an officer of the local union; then as president of the Teamsters' Boston Joint Council.

In 1917, English was elected fifth vice president, a position he relinquished after four years to become general auditor. He became general secretary-treasurer in 1946— and was re-elected at every subsequent convention.

**TRIBUTE**

A tribute from the IBT international office in Washington said: "In the process of installing and removing a time of his right, the ILWU has set a new pace in the accounts of willing but poorly trained local union secretaries, settling strikes while disbursing thousands of international strike benefit dollars, conducting contract negotiations, he became one of the best known personalities in the Teamster movement.

"At all times he was the sincere elder statesman to whom the organization looked for his wisdom and who he lived a lifetime of integrity and honor."

**Anne Road Durst—ILWU Librarian Loved By a Generation of Unionists, Students**

SAN FRANCISCO — Anne Rand, founder of the ILWU library, died here February 11. A service memorializing her as a friend and as one who had contributed much to the union was planned by the International officers for the latter part of April. The date will be announced soon.

A resolution adopted by the ILWU International convention in 1967 noted Anne Rand's retirement the previous year and continued: "She built one of the finest labor libraries in the country, which has been not only a great aid to the negotiating and legislative program of our union, but a resource for students of labor history throughout the country."

The ILWU library was established in 1946 in San Francisco. It is the full-time trained librarian in 1946 and developed into one of the finest union libraries in the country as well as the major one in the west. This was noted in May, 1956, at the annual meeting of the Golden Gate District of the California Library Association.

At the last convention, The Dispatcher (Sept. 3, 1965) re- ferred to "Anne Rand, a woman beloved of a generation of unionists and students."

She had a Master of Library Science degree from the University of California, following preliminary work at Columbia University, and was a long-time member of the Special Libraries Association.

**SCENE AT PORTLAND, notland, Maine, but Oregon, one day early this month after the worst storm in many years. Several towns were isolated and power failures forced residents to take refuge in basements. A boat on which the crewman was caught in ice in the channel and crewwmen walked to shore on the ice."

**BC Fishermen Fight to Aid Small Vessels, End Monopoly**

VANCOUVER, BC — License limitation, monopoly control of the British Columbia fishing industry and anti-labor legislation were key issues at the annual convention of the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union held here February 1-7. In attendance were 115 delegates representing 6400 members. Fraternal delegates included John Tadich of Purse Seine Local 3, ILWU, Seattle.

Condensed was the fishing license limitation scheme introduced by the federal government which licenses fishing boats in the BC salmon industry. It will tighten the grip of giant fishing companies on the industry, the union stated.

"It places the right to fish salmon in the hands of those who own and financially control fishing vessels," the union charged, adding that the plan was introduced with "ruthless haste and callous disregard of the rights and views of fishermen."

Delegates resolved to fight for the replacement of the government scheme with a limitation program which "protects the rights of individual fishermen," including establishment of a government sponsored loan board to finance vessels, gear and engines.

Delegates said recent mergers of fishing companies had closed down "numerous" long-established canneries throwing many workers out of a job, including hundreds of native Indian workers.

The convention demanded that those companies be responsible for providing job opportunities for workers in other sections of the industry, or that they be retrained for new jobs in the federal government's expense. Nationalization of the fishing industry under workers' control with labor representation was also recommended.

**SCORCH COMPULSION**

The convention urged BC labor to mount a massive campaign to press the government to rescind those sections of the Mediation Commission Act that provide for compulsory arbitration and penalties for non-compliance with the Act.

The fishermen also pledged full support to any union threatened with penalties under the Act.

Pursuing its application for affiliation with the Canadian Labour Congress which has been repeatedly turned down, the convention stated that it prefers direct affiliation to the CLC although it was willing to "explore the larger with any other union as a step toward greater unity of the Canadian labor movement."

Delegates called for immediate withdrawal of Canada from NATO and NORAD. They recommended that the money saved be directed to "socially useful projects such as housing, medicare, higher pensions, education, hospitals, new wharves, sewer systems for native Indian villages, and safety at sea measures."

The convention asked the federal government to prohibit all shipments of arms to the US for use in Vietnam, and urged the US to "get down to business in the Paris peace conference," reiterating the union demand for removal of all foreign troops from Vietnam.

**OIL DEBACLE**

Citing the damage to fishing, shipping and other marine industries of the runaway oil drilling off the BC coast, the convention requested the immediate halting of all oil drilling off the BC coast "until a study can be made and assurance given that no further drilling will threaten our own fisheries and wildlife."

**CRDC Calls on Rep. Green to Hear AFT Side**

PORTLAND — The Columbia River District Council reaffirmed its "unalterable opposition to the sales tax in any form or guise," and moved to join forces with other groups battling against the federal sales tax package now in the works at Salem, to be presented to voters at a special election May 30.

The action was taken February 9 at a meeting in the Local 8 hiring hall after State Rep. Elizabeth Fitzsimmons (D-Gresham), and CRDC lobbyist Ernest E. Baker explained the sales tax would clip working people "with those in the ILWU wage bracket being hardest hit."

**HAYAKAWA DISTORTS**

International Rep James Pants discussed the teachers' strike at San Francisco State College. He accused Dr. S. I. Hayakawa, acting head of the school, with twisting the meaning of events on the campus.

Several Portland ILWU people, including Photocopy of a letter from American Congresswoman Edith Green, protesting the fact that she invited Hayakawa before her education subcommittee while failing to consider the problems of the AFT local at San Francisco State. Pants wired the Congressman: "To get the best information about the current unrest at San Francisco State College, I urge you to seek testimony from the leadership of the American Federation of Teachers, whose knowledge of the problems is incomparably greater than that of any other group."

The delegates lent support to two causes given the light that the emissions from San Francisco State College. The first was the AFT local and the other was the throttle of the Al-Akka labor council and now a member of the local at Longview.

Astoria Local 50 longshoremen voted a $5 assessment, CRDC delegate Jim Jones explained.

In other actions, the council:

• Discussed the situation between the protesters Local 28 and Port of Local 10's struggle for survival in Juneau, Alaska, and the Southern Conference Education Board, urging "a united front" among white and black workers around political and economic goals in the South.

Local 21 voted a $1 assessment to aid the Juneau dockers, it was reported by local secretary-treasurer of the Al-Akka council and now a member of the local at Longview.

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Continued from Page 1—

last year, came to a head when a sugar employer's counter-proposal was rejected by union negotiators on January 28th after a week of careful study.

It was then the employers put out a bulletin—quaintly titled "Sugar Workers Bulletin"—and headlined "Companies Hit Union's High-Handed Rejection of the Package Proposal."

It was, to quote the most recent issue of the Local 142 Voice of the ILWU, "A news handout with an emotionalism not seen in sugar negotiations for many years."

The employers, after considerable amount of highly emotional language, plus large doses of poor-mouthing about the economics of the industry, finally came up with the statement "The union has its obligations to its members . . . that's why we cannot believe you have given our approach very serious consideration . . ."

The union in its own messages to the membership pointed out that if the employers had doubts about whether the union committee really represented the thinking of the membership the best way to find out would be to let the members themselves make their decision by secret ballot. And this was done.

With the final tally of 6,294 in favor of dumping the offer and 156 against, the message to the employers from the union membership was clear.

When the extended deadline had reached its final moments at midnight, February 15, the next clear message was spoken by sugar workers, as 9,100 of them hit the bricks at 23 plantations, on four islands!

That's where it stood at the time The Dispatcher went to press. No negotiations had been scheduled at that time, but negotiations were subject to call by either party, or by the mediators.

Workers at Ewa Plantation (left) as they mark secret strike ballots in their union hall and then deposit them in the ballot box. Their vote was 370 to 23 to strike if necessary. (Right) ILWU members from Oahu Sugar Company after a stop-work meeting streamed down from the grandstand into the ball park to cast their ballots, voting 387 to 18 to give strike authority to their union negotiating committee. The state-wide strike vote in Hawaii was almost 98 percent.

These ILWU sugar workers—now on strike—don't just work in fields among the cane. Hawaii sugar production is the most thoroughly mechanized, and our members are among the most highly skilled agricultural workers in the world.

Here are just a few examples: At right, close to the cane, bull and crane drivers and crews prepare irrigation flues. These pictures were snapped in January on Kauai, during the clean-up period.

Below, left, a welder repairs a section of the heavy crusher. Right, men work near giant flywheels in the crusher section.

ILWU sugar workers are mechanics, drivers, planters, electricians, machinists, warehousemen, pipe fitters, bricklayers, crane operators, and much more—you name it, they can do it.

—Kauai photos by Dispatcher editor Sidney Roger.
Southern Cal. Union Backs Bradley in LA Mayor's Race

WILMINGTON — ILWU Southern California District Council, meeting February 14 at Local 13's building, concentrated on the upcoming Los Angeles election, backing an outstanding Negro councilman for mayor, and endorsing seven choices for the Junior College Board of Trustees.

The well-attended council meeting Tuesday evening also heard a long report on international activities. A record number of members attended the meeting.

The ILWU is a teachers union, and that report was made by the district’s education committee, which includes George Murphy (R-Calif.) is seeking a name change to the House Education and Labor Committee.

The committee is seeking a name change to the Committee on Education and Labor. It’s a common practice in Washington, and this committee is no exception. It’s a good name for the committee, and it’s not a bad name for the legislation it deals with.

The committee’s jurisdiction includes education, labor, and health care. It’s one of the most important committees in Congress, and it’s a key committee for the ILWU, which represents teachers and other education professionals.

The ILWU is also involved in international affairs, and it has a strong presence in the Committee on Education and Labor. The committee is responsible for a variety of important issues, including education reform, teacher retirement benefits, and student loan programs.

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Strong ILWU Support for Oil Strikers

SAN FRANCISCO—Longshore Local 10 is giving active support to the major strikes in this area—those of the Oil Workers and American Federation of Teachers.

On February 16, a busload of longshoremen went to bolster the Oil Workers’ picket line at Martinez, starting at 6 a.m. With the group were vice president Bill Bailey, business agents Larry Wing and George Karo, and two regulars, six supervisors, and ten members of the ILWU.

Bart de Boer, head of the picketing committee, said, “We’re going to support this strike. It’s to the advantage of the working people of the United States and to our own people here. We’re going to stand with them.”

Our ‘Whole Local’

Recentley, Local 10 at the January meeting of the ILWU Northern California District Council, vice president Bill Bailey said, “If necessary we will send our whole local to the (Oil Workers) picket lines.”

On the A.P.T., Local 10 decided to help Bob Rohatch say “This is a legitimate strike. They need assistance.” He reported that Henry Schmidt, retired former president of Local 10, has been meeting picket lines every day.

Delegate Archie Brown told the council meeting: “Governor Reagan is the chief strikebreaker of California and Hayakawa (R. I. Hayakawa, acting president of SF State College) is his hatchet man. Labor must counteract these Birchite telegrams of support going to Reagan and Hayakawa.”

Local 12’s Repute

For Aiding Unions

COOS BAY—Aid to unions whose members are on strike or deadlocked in negotiations is the hallmark of Local 12. Local 12 at its last meeting pledged to support the Oil Workers’ strike by not buying Texaco products and to give moral support to embattled Retail Clerks at Coquille in their beef with the J. C. Penny Company. It made no purchases in the firm’s Coos Bay Store.

Recently local longshoremen helped Coos County road department employees, members of Public Employees Local 502, to complete contract negotiations with the county road department.

The negotiations had been in progress for nine months.

CRDC Women Elect

PORTLAND—The Columbia River District Council of Auxiliaries in a fast-paced meeting February 7 reaffirmed its opposition to the sales tax and reelected its three top officers. They are Ada Dorse, secretary-treasurer; Betty Cullumber, dispatcher; and Betty Cullumber, secretary-treasurer-business agent.

Jane Kasshun of Tacoma, a member of Local 10 and a member of the Peninsular Club, tells of an incident which occurred. A man, standing junket, made the tackle down the mouth of the Klamath River in northern California last summer.

Enclosed is a photo depicting a limit of salmon taken by my husband, Michael, three beauties weighing 12, 22 and 23 pounds. The smallest one—a 11-pounder—was taken by me. He doesn’t know I sent this in because I want to surprise him when it appears in your column.

Many anglers intent on catching a trophy fish will travel hundreds, perhaps thousands of miles and be satisfied if they come back home with just one fish. But big fish will never have to brag about it.

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Local 10’s Outreach

Phone numbers for GI’s injured

DOUGLAS COUNTY—The Douglas County Veterans Administration has a new phone number for GI’s who have been injured or are sick in service.

The new number is 661-1000, and it is for emergency use only.

The VA has been receiving a steady stream of calls from GI’s who are in need of medical attention.

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Greetings Suggested

SAN MATO—Warren Billings, a labor leader who was framed along with Tom Mooney many years in prison, is seriously ill at his home here. His friends suggest that expressions of regard would be welcome.

Billings’ name was known throughout the west and what he spent more than twenty years in prison. He was accused, along with Mooney, of bombing a 1916 “preparedness day” parade in San Francisco. This was proven to be a frame-up of militant labor leaders, but it was not until 1939 that a California governor had the courage to pardon Mooney.

A short time later, Billings was released.

Greetings should be addressed: Warren K. Billings, 219 E. Fourth St., San Mateo, Calif.

Jan Kasshun of Tacoma
Gets Life Saving Award

TACOMA—Longshoreman Jan Kasshun will receive a life saving award at the March 11 meeting of Local 23 here. He is credited with saving the life of Frederick Boyd on February 10.

Boyd’s hand was crushed in machinery and was bleeding badly when Kasshun used his belt to tie a tourniquet and sent another longshoreman to help with the scene—and a few words as to what the photo is about.

Send it to:
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Box 258
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Of course, retired members are eligible. Please list your local number and zip code.

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Australia

Ship's Gear Makes Record Lift of Wool

MELBOURNE, Australia — A record 270 bales of wool, weighing at least 40 tons, were lifted by ship’s gear from a dock to a hatch of a Holland-Australian Line ship late last year.

The wool was received at dockside strapped in bales. The bales weighed 14 to 15 tons each. Fork lifts placed 15 bundles on each of three “dolly” trailers.

The bales were then lined up side-by-side, each 15-bundle lot was slung in a net and the three nets were hoisted in the lift, as shown in the accompanying picture.

The nylon nets remained around the wool until in the ship’s hold for use in discharge at destination. A spokesman for Patrick Stevedoring Company said that the entire operation, from forming the slings to final stowage in the hatch, had been finished in an hour.

Melbourne longshoremen are members of the Waterside Workers Federation.

Alaska Local Asks Help of All ILWU

SAN FRANCISCO — In a letter to all ILWU locals, International secretary-treasurer Louis Goldblatt has relayed an appeal for funds by the Longshore Local 16, Juneau, Alaska, along with a request from the International executive board “that each local assist Local 16 in any way it can.”

Local 16 has been involved in a fight for the jobs of its members and the existence of the local. This resulted in the recent-hired city manager of Juneau that longshoremen no longer would be employed to tie up ferry boats.

Local 16 reacted with a waterborne picket crew. In a test case, two men handled data by refusing to unload baggage and the city filed suit, charging an unfair bargaining on the part of the city.

The union won in court, but the costs of the case were so high that the local was unable to meet them. This is the reason for the appeal to all other ILWU locals.

Convention Call Mailed

SAN FRANCISCO — A call to the 18th Biennial Convention of the ILWU has been mailed from International headquarters to all local unions. The convention will be held in the International Hotel at Los Angeles, starting April 7, 1969.

The call includes all necessary information on “Steps to Be Taken,” transportation, accommodations and handling of credentials.

The week-long convention is the highest policy-making body of the union. It reviews the work of the preceding two years, nominates candidates for officers and executive board members for the next two years and lays down policy guidelines for the coming period.

The call informs locals that resolutions in triplicate should be sent to the International office not later than March 24, 1969.

It also reprints most of Article X of the ILWU constitution, dealing with conventions. Section 3 of that article states that “Each local shall be entitled to one vote regardless of membership up to 100, and one vote for each additional 100 members of major fraction thereof of its paid membership averaged from one convention to another.”

The constitution does not limit the number of delegates a local may send. The official voting strength of each local is divided among the delegates representing the local.

O NLY SIX WEEKS remain before the ILWU’s 18th Biennial Convention meets in Los Angeles—and, as usually happens at this point, “convention fever” seems to be spreading. It’s only normal and natural that politics becomes a big issue around convention time. This convention will be no exception.

The important thing now is for every ILWU member to aspire toward union leadership to give the most serious thought to programs and policies which will benefit the union and strengthen and keep intact the union as a fighting organization.

Over the 35 years of this union’s existence, a very functioning fighting machine has been maintained always dedicated to the best interests of the membership as a whole. But over these same years, too often we found a stress on personalities rather than issues when political struggles developed.

We’ve tried many forms in developing our present structure. The present structure of titled officers and executive board has proved historically — and in the day-to-day struggle — to be the strongest we’ve found to date.

I say this because it is common knowledge that many propositions have been advanced over the years to try to change the structure. Most recently these ideas have been repeatedly stated. Most people advocating these structural changes believe they are necessary, others feel things should remain the way they are, and still others have yet to be heard from.

I’m sure the question of international structure will be discussed at some length at the next International Executive Board meeting.

Whatever else happens, it’s my most profound hope that we will talk this question through to a logical end, and then go into the convention united around a program of action that will bring dividends to the entire membership.

NY UNION program of action demands a united front. Two major negotiations are in process as I write these lines: One, on the West Coast waterfront, and the other in Hawaii, where the membership in secret ballot voted close to 98 percent in favor of their executive committee to call a strike when necessary.

These are powerful issues, and in themselves point up sharply the need for the NYUN to be united. As to what happens, the full economic, financial and political power of the entire membership can be placed behind these two major ILWU groupings.

How to Write A Resolution

Many ILWU people will be writing convention resolutions in a seeming weeks (deadline at International headquarters is March 24). Here are some suggestions that may help if you are tapped to prepare resolutions for your local, or if you decide to submit some of your own.

First: One subject only per resolution. The big problem of the resolutions committee at every convention is the handling of resolutions with two, three or four subjects.

This committee refers resolutions to various other committees on the basis of their content. If the content is mixed, a lot of re-writing is required under difficult conditions, committee work is delayed and discussion is not heard from the delegates may be delayed.

Before you start to write your resolution, make some notes. Put down in the fewest possible words:

* Your purpose. What position are you advocating, make sure.

* What action are you proposing and by whom.

* Background. What facts are required for an understanding of your position.

* Arguments that are most effective to support your position.

Now you are ready to write. First, set forth your facts using a paragraph for each major one. Next, state your supporting arguments building your case. Finally, the point of your resolution—the position you are taking on an issue, what should be done and who should do it.

READ IT

After it is written, expend your resolution carefully several times. If some of the facts don’t seem necessary, cross them out. If some of the arguments are weak, delete them.

It is a good idea to ask other people to read your resolution. Have them cross out a line or two, especially some who are well informed on the subject. For example, if your resolution is on Social Security, get the opinions of pensioners and of the welfare officer of your local. You may not go along with their opinions, but you may get ideas that will strengthen your presentation.

Auxiliary 14 Installs New Officers

LONGVIEW, Wash.—Auxiliary 14 installed officers for the 1969 term on February 5. As part of its community service program, the Auxiliary contributed $200 to Applied Industries, purchased a movie projector for Progress Center. “B” men’s wives are welcome to attend meetings.

Let’s Not Sacrifice Unity for Politics

By J. R. (Bob) Robertson

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