May this coming season bring at last the peace so deeply desired by all mankind.
A Child of Hawaii

Who is this child of Hawaii, so curious, joyful and optimistic about the world he sees from his teen-aged auntie’s arms?

I met his family picnicking at Ewa Beach. Their three generations seemed symbolic for Hawaii trade unionists and all our friends who believe in human brotherhood.

The sturdy, middle-aged grandfather is a sugar worker—one of those who 25 years ago—impoverished and deprived of much dignity—changed their world and made it better for their children.

They found the power to do it when they overcame race-prejudice, fear and cynical individualism and united to advance together.

Brotherhood enabled them to shape a New Hawaii, in which workers send their sons to college and the state spends half its budget for education.

His son—father of our happy child—has a Master’s degree and is going on to law school. After that, he wants to apply his knowledge “in a socially useful way.” Like so many of his wonderful generation, he is a radical. He believes that war and poverty can be ended, and must be ended if mankind is to grow.

Like his father before him, he is determined to change this world for his children’s sake. The victories his father won encourage him and give him great advantages of knowledge, power, and freedom, to which he brings the fresh strength and higher hopes of youth.

Happy child, to have such a father and grandfather! You inspire us to do our best for peace and brotherhood, so that you, someday, may take the lead at a new and higher level, and with greater strength and courage.

(The above drawing and song of praise for the union and mankind is by Local 142 Education Director David E. Thompson—and is his personal Christmas card this year. It seemed appropriate to the editor of The Dispatcher to share it with the entire readership—and with Dave’s permission it is reprinted in full.)

A New Decade

This issue of The Dispatcher marks the twenty-seventh year of publication with Vol. 27, No. 24. As a result of the action of the last International Convention, The Dispatcher will now publish 24 issues a year. The next issue on January 13, 1970 will not only be Volume 28, No. 1, but will mark the beginning of a new decade—the seventies—and let’s hope a decade that will have more peace, more goodwill, and less of the violent, cynical and sordid sixties.

In the next issue we will review the last year, and take note of how the ILWU in the past decade took a leading role in the issue of peace, calling for an end to the killing in Southeast Asia long before this stand became popular, as well as leading in meeting the challenge of mechanization and technological change, and protecting and preserving the jobs and security of its members.

In addition, we are now seeing at year’s end a revival of unity within the labor movement—in the midst of a tough, show-down strike against gigantic GE, supported by the entire labor movement; a strike that could profoundly affect labor history.

It has been a great pleasure to serve the membership as editor, and it is my most sincere hope that in the coming year the paper continues to communicate with all. The staff would appreciate comment.

At Our Last International Convention in Los Angeles a resolution was adopted unanimously condemning an assorted bunch of phonies as “enemies of labor.” This is the first time I can recall any ILWU Convention so characterizing a bunch of individuals. Union conventions often label labor skates, race-baiters, politicians, corporation executives, the US chamber of commerce, and NAM as enemies of labor, but never before against characters of the type contained in this lawsuit.

There is a difference. After all, corporation executives, reactionary politicians and right-wing labor fakers at least don’t try to crawl out and say they never meant it. They tried to crawl out and say they never meant it. But they had been misled and duped by a phony and discredited people who are now suing the union and about me in a socially useful way.” Like so many of his wonderful generation, he is a radical. He believes that war and poverty can be ended, and must be ended if mankind is to grow.

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Finally I filed a libel suit against that whole gang.

One of the main purposes of the libel suit has worked quite well. Members of the committee have been forced, under oath, to make depositions and answer interrogatories, and it was he. The cases were then tossed out.

In other words under oath they said they’d never charged Bridges was a racist, or a dictator, but they had been misled and persuaded into it. They even put them in the mail order books of literature about the union and about me in a socially useful way.” Like so many of his wonderful generation, he is a radical. He believes that war and poverty can be ended, and must be ended if mankind is to grow.

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Goldblatt Blasts Campaign To Blame Workers for Inflation

NEW YORK—"The big business structure of this country has launched a national campaign—and GE is the leader—-to place responsibility for inflation on the backs of the working people."

This theme of recent comments in ILWU secretary-treasurer Louis Goldblatt's speech here at the meeting of the National Executive Board of the Teamsters Union was accompanied by a major meeting of the Teamsters, led by President Jimmy Hoffa, at the Teamster Warehouse Parley. Local 6's president Curtis McClain and secretary-treasurer George Valet represented at this meeting which dealt in depth with some of the problems which confront union leaders relating to bargaining, organization and the political implications for labor in the coming year.

Goldblatt said labor must keep a very close watch on the General Electric strike because it will have an enormous impact on all collective bargaining in 1970.

He was particularly concerned with the tough opposition expected in early 1970 when bargaining for a new national freight station agreement gets underway.

All collective bargaining, Goldblatt pointed out, will inevitably live under the shadow of this conflict with General Electric, and if the electrical workers don't win that one, industries throughout the country could be subjected to a "take-it-or-leave-it" package, GE style. And that package won't have much in it for the working people.

Under some discussion too at the convention was the national freight station agreement which teamsters expect to negotiate in 1970.

In his keynote speech, Teamster General Vice-President Frank E. Fitzsimmons called for an acceleration of unionization activities to protect gains won at the bargaining table, calling particularly for truly effective tax avoidance.

He also repeated his pledge that the Teamsters' form of collective bargaining for Labor Action has no intention of becoming another federation of labor, and reported that Jimmy Hoffa is in good health.

Other points made by Goldblatt included:

• Bargaining will be complicated by the fact that many younger workers don't have a deep attachment to the basic issues around which unions were originally built—such as full union recognition, job security, protection of work opportunity, value of the steward system on the job, as well as the strictly prospect gain.

• A lot of the workers have been kidded by the boss who tries to make it look like hard-earned union gains always existed, and that the boss hands out these favors out of the goodness of his heart," said Goldblatt.

He noted that setting a balance between the drive for more money and security demands has become a more serious challenge to the leadership of labor. The reduced age of union members has made many of them less interested in fighting for better pensions, for example, while older members often want to overcompensate on pensions.

Goldblatt expressed confidence that the ILWU and the Teamsters can handle these problems, as they showed by their close cooperation in joint bargaining and in jointly hitting the bricks in the northern California warehouse negotiations in 1967.

Picket Line Stalled by Injunction

PORTLAND — A land and water picket line, protesting a lockout of Local 6 workers by Waterways Terminal, was smashed last week as a federal judge, Robert C. Belloni, issued a temporary injunction.

Local 6 members had been braving rain and sub-freezing temperatures to picket the warehouse, by boat as well as on the bricks, for two weeks prior to the issuance of the injunction.

The beef developed when ILWU members were barred from work out of the Interstate Container operation when that company was taken over by Waterways. This work had been theirs since the 1894 strike.

The local has moved to appeal Belloni's decision.

ILWU Leaders Clarify Relations with Teamos

HONOLULU — "The ILWU has no plans to affiliate with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters or any other labor organization," said a statement to the press here by William Chestier, ILWU vice president, Robert McElrath, regional director, and Carl Damaso, president of Local 142.

The statement, issued after a conference with Teamster representatives from the islands and the mainland, continued:

"Our relations with the Teamsters on the mainland have been excellent and we intend to continue that relationship.

"Should the ILWU eventually decide to give up its independent status, that decision will be made by the membership and will have approval of the leadership."

Retiring Welfare Director Roland Smith Honored

PORTLAND — Community leaders from the health services joined Local 12 officers, PMA representatives, and friends at a luncheon in Portland on December 8 to honor Roland Smith, ILWU-PMA Welfare Fund Director.

After four decades in the Portland-Columbia River maritime industry, Roland, a member of Local 6, will retire at the end of this year. His past sixteen years as area director held special meaning for the more than fifty friends present at the farewell luncheon of December 8. Roland's wife, Clara, was a special guest of honor.

Introduced by John J. Dee, Fund administrator, speakers included William T. Ward and William H. Forrester, coast committee members and union trustees of the Fund, Justine A. Cross, Fund employer trustee, M. C. Tremayne of Blue Cross of Oregon, Dr. Ernest Swain of Oregon Kaiser Permanente Clinic, Dr. Harold Kramer of Oregon Dental Service, and W. B. Ferguson, PMA Oregon office.

Log Workers in Local 12

NORTH BEND — Affiliation with Local 12 brought their first signed contract and a pension program to 12 men who prepare logs for delivery to shipside in the Coos Bay-North Bend area.

"These were non-union men doing what we felt was longshore work, so we met with them and received their unanimous consent to set as their bargaining agent. The result was a signed contract, effective October 1," said Eugene Bailey, president of Local 12 and spark plug of the local's organizing committee.

The agreement brought a 41 cent per hour wage increase, with another 20 cent increase effective January 1, 1970. Other workers won a 23 cent increase, with 20 cents more in January, also employer contributions will be paid into a pension trust.

Prior to being organized into Local 12, machine operators received only $4.07 per hour; now they get $4.46 per hour, and this goes to $4.68 in January.

The men were sworn into Local 12 November 6, and are working primarily under terms of the container freight station agreement. Future hiring will be through Local 12.

Director on health and welfare programs pioneered by the Union and maritime industry.

At the luncheon were ILWU Northwest regional director, C. Johnny Parks, Oregon international representative James Pants, and Clyde Munger, union trustee of the Walking Boss Benefit Trust, officers from the locals and pension groups in the Oregon-Columbia River area, and J. B. Newton and Ralph Hoge from the Oregon office of PMA.

Among the representatives from Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Oregon, Blue Cross of Oregon, and Oregon Dental Service were James Crockwell and Sam G. Huford, KPFP officers, Miss Bernice Searns of Blue Cross, Dr. William Howard, Dr. Alan Y. Clark and Dean Hosie. from ODS.

DEEP RESPECT

The good will and respect earned by Roland over the years was evidenced by those who spoke of his honesty and understanding, his ability to help find answers to the day-by-day problems without bias or favoritism, and his humanitarianism. In comment on Roland's particular contribution to the community, it was clear that his efforts on behalf of longshoremen had benefitted the community at large.

In his own remarks, Smith expressed his pleasure at having had the opportunity to work as an area director on health and welfare programs pioneered by the Union and maritime industry.

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Whose Ox Being Gored?

NEW YORK—While General Electric bigwigs brag about their "patriotism" in holding back inflation—a patriotism which costs hard at the expense of 147,000 striking workers—business executives all over the country are making merry, for their own nests are well feathered.

The Wall Street Journal reports that the five blue chip corporations shows that "there has been a sharp upswing in the total compensation that top executives are receiving."

INFLATION FIGHTERS?

The average gain in 1968 for top executives was 9.8 percent, which is the biggest leap in the last 15 years. Leaders in the automobile industry got raises of as much as 13.8 percent but are expected to become inflation fighters again when the major auto contracts come up for negotiation in 1970.

Executives in the electronics industry, where GE is supreme, were satisfied at a mere 6.9 percent hike.

The Journal notes that the reason for these increases has been the attempt to keep up with the rising cost of living. Thus Scott/ Paper Company's Chairman Donnelly was scratching by on $149,661 in 1967, so they raised him to nearly $200,000 in 1968 to help him make ends meet.

Columbia River Pensioners

PORTLAND—The Columbia River Pensioners Memorial Association became the first ILWU affiliate in Oregon to put money on the line for the GE strikers, at its December 4 meeting.

Bound by a ruling which limits treasury reserves, the old-timers voted that sum to the UE-GE strike fund, then passed the hat and collected $180 to go with the treasury check.

When veteran strike leader Jack Morrow, who was too embarrassed to attend the meeting, heard about the donation, he sent a $5 check, upping the pensioner contribution to $212.

SF Pensioners Give $50; Then Pass Hat for $273

SAN FRANCISCO—The San Francisco Bay Area Pensioners Club not only donated $50 to the strikers, but passed the hat and took up $273 more to send the General Electric strikers.

Added pensioner president Bill Rutter: "We are sure there are many more pensioners who would like to participate in this. It's simple. Just send your money in and mark it for GE strikers and we'll get it to where it belongs."

Message to Pensioners

Leo Miller, former coordinator of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association, has requested publication of a message to ILWU pensioners:

"I wish to express my appreciation of your support during my fifteen months as your coordinator. As you know, this office has been eliminated, but I am now in limbo. I have served you to the best of my ability and I think we made considerable progress under my tenure."

Next Dispatcher
Deadline January 6

A 'Little Issue'
In A Big Strike

SAN FRANCISCO—One of the "little issues" of the GE strike, one of the "irritations and hurts that pile up" for employees of this giant company, was told to the ILWU International Executive Board last month by Jim Maltes, general secretary-treasurer of UE:

"GE requires that the women employed by General Electric wear-three dresses on a very critical operation in dust-free rooms. The company gave them exactly what job two dresses. When these wear out, the women have to buy their own out of their already inadequate wages."

"During the three months of formal negotiations which began July 28, and ended at midnight October 28 when the strike began, the union repeatedly demanded that as long as these women are required to wear special clothing the company must continue to provide them after the first two wear out."

"GE refused. This mighty corporation claims sometimes women wear these dresses outside of the plant and even to church on Sunday. So let them wear out."

Every few days the union raised the issue of the dress buying table. Every few days GE said it was studying the matter and might find a way to help. Matrix, to amend to 'ameliorate' the problems.

"The day before negotiations came to a halt, I again asked if the company had a proposal to solve the dress problem. As a compromise, the union demanded that the company could put the GE emblem on their dresses and, if they did it, it would be a free ad for GE."

"The company repeated, however, that the proposal demanded too much—speak for such a solution and they wanted more time to study the matter."

"The women involved want cost-of-living protections but they also want 'dress trimming' and they are striking for both."

"It's such a little item for such a big company to make such a big fuss about. We think GE can afford it. GE's net profits for 1968 were $357 million and profits for the third quarter of 1969 were 11 percent higher than for the same period of 1968."

UE Debunks GE Statistic

A UE strike leaflet shows up General Electric's statistics as being about as reliable as the claims of an infomercial for a "rabbit stew." It was half-and-half rabbit and horsemeat, he claimed. Sure, he put in $5.77 a week for the amount of each—rabbit and one horse.

GE says its average weekly pension is $29. Not a very high figure, but even so—who gets it? The company arrived at the amount in a company executive with a pension of $1,175 a week and 1,510 retired workers, who gets $577 a week.

"It isn't that GE hates old people," says a UE leaflet. "It's just that GE loves money more."

One of the union's strike demands is a minimum pension of $7.50 a month for every year of service for every GE worker who is already retired.
NCDC Backs Indians, GE Strikers

SAN FRANCISCO — The efforts of American Indians "to recapture a portion of the land stolen from them, including Alcatraz," and the Northern California District Council meeting here last month. The Council also recommended to locals that they adopt the California Council for Health Plan Alternatives' program and affiliate with the organization. The CCHA has recently stepped up a program to grade and evaluate union health care plans.

Delegates reaffirmed full support to GE strikers, requesting locals to send voluntary pickets to the lines, give all possible publicity to the boycott of GE products as well as going along with the $2 assessment.

On a national level, the Council voted to send letters of congratulation to all senators in ILWU states who voted not to confirm Judge Clement Haynsworth for a Supreme Court seat, and criticized Vice-President Agnew's apparent efforts to stifle criticism of the Nixon administration.

TAX PROGRAM

Michael Johnson, secretary and legislative representative of the NCDC has written to several Bay Area AFL-CIO central labor councils, teamsters and other union officials asking joint action on a tax reform program for California.

Johnson suggested that a labor program might place a greater tax burden on California oil interests through an oil severance tax and an oil depletion tax.

He also suggested revision of bank and corporation taxes, taxation on the transfer and issue of stocks and bonds, the doubling of inheritance tax rates, the reinstatement of an inheritance tax and other measures.

Johnson noted that many organizations and individuals, including the California Farm Bureau Federation, the California Teachers Association and the California County Supervisors Association have been circulating petitions to push their own programs.

He suggested that labor use a similar tactic.

GE turns me off!

Statement on Dropping Libel Suit

Some six years ago a group of "organized longshoremen were deregistered for cause by joint action in San Francisco. They brought suit against Local 10 and the International union claiming among other things, that the union had conspired with employers to deregister them.

In order to solicit funds to finance that lawsuit, a group, dubbing itself "The Longshore Jobs Defense Committee" and made up of some 15 members, attempted to impose on prominent personalities in the professions—many of whom had helped a longshoreman with utility work—circulated letters and printed material which, among other things, scurrilously and maliciously charged President Bridges, the coast committee and others with engaging in unlawful practices to union dictatorship.

Inasmuch as the union has a long public history of fighting for racial equality and for rank-and-file trade unionism, Bridges moved to sue this group for libel.

This action was unanimously endorsed by the last ILWU convention which condemned the whole group as "enemies of labor." The International officers have now decided to dismiss the suit:

(1) We have achieved our main purpose, which was to force that anti-union gang into standing under oath, in depositions and in answers to interrogatories, that they were not telling the truth. They said in various ways they were misrepresented or were not told the truth and did not mean to imply that Bridges was a racist, or that the ILWU was not run in true rank-and-file style.

(2) In recent times, the law of libel has undergone significant changes, as a result of a number of historic Supreme Court decisions, and we are told by legal advisors that where anyone is involved in a pending lawsuit, any libel or malicious statement can be made without such statements being held to be legally libelous.

SCDC Urges:

Auto Insurance Reform, Tax Relief, Pollution Control

WILMINGTON — The importance of setting up a priority list of projects for labor to push in the upcoming legislative session was pressed upon all California ILWU locals by the Southern California District Council at its November meeting at longshore Local 13 hall here.

Southern California legislative representative Nate DiBiasi outlined the priority list:

- Automobile insurance: there have been many hearings, DiBiasi said, but no meaningful improvements yet. An increase of between 13 and 14 percent in auto insurance rates is in the works. The union was urged to work with all labor in demanding "laws with teeth in them," such as a commission that could control rates.
- Consumer legislation: shoddy merchandise and price gouging continue to bedevil the consumer, and especially working families.
- Taxation: the ILWU should take the lead in pushing a number of tax reform bills, DiBiasi said. Equal funding to all districts in proportion to the number of students was urged.
- Council secretary Paul Perlin suggested that the priority list include legislation to eliminate air, soil and water pollution.
- "What value are improvements in assessment money for political activities," Perlin asked, "unless we can achieve an environment in which our kids can grow up healthy and strong?"
- Items dealing with mental health, alcoholism and new sources of tax revenues—such as from huge oil interests which pay little or no taxes—were added to the priority list.
- It was agreed that these priorities would be printed and distributed to all ILWU locals.
- The Northern California Council will also be asked to join in pressing these projects.

In other actions the Council:

- Voted against supporting the initiative for the 18-year-old vote.
- Called for a joint council meeting as early as possible next year.
- Urged support to City of Hope Fair dinner, sponsored by Local 13, which honored Assemblyman Vincent Thomas.
- Criticized the editor of The Dispatcher for not printing more news from southern California family circle.

December 16, 1969

A Lycning For Civil Rights Act

By ILWU's Washington Office

WASHINGTON—"It looks like the Klan was on the floor of Congress voting to lynch the Negro at the polls," said an NAACP official as a five year extension of the 1965 voting rights act was rejected by the House of Representatives last week.

A coalition of southern Democrats and Republicans substituted a tame Nixon-endorsed measure, according to ILWU Washington Representative Al Lannon.

The Nixon substitute would, if it clears the Senate, drastically reduce the role of the federal government in protecting the voting rights of minorities in the south. It was passed by a vote of 208-203.

The 1965 act banned gimmicks aimed at keeping black voters off the rolls, provided for federal registrars and prohibited states from enacting new roadblocks to voter registration.

It is estimated that minority voters have more than doubled in the south since the law was enacted.

SOUTHERN STRATEGY

The administration-sponsored measure, widely viewed as part of the Nixon strategy to woo the south at the expense of minority and southern urban voters, empowers the attorney general to bring court suits aimed at striking discriminatory voting laws, a process which could take years.

With Attorney General John Mitchell being considered the architect of both the "southern strategy" and the administration bill and, many believe, the guiding force behind recent attack on black militants—adoption of the measure is seen as a total federal abandonment of the black voting rights movement.

A move for speedy Senate action may be in the works, and if the 1965 act is to be saved, Lannon said, it will be in public outcry.

Joining Republicans and southern Democrats to dump the voting rights act were western representatives Edith Green and Al Ullman.

ILWU area Republicans opposing the administration bill included Californians Pete McCloskey and Al Bell; also John Dellenback of Oregon and Tom Pelly of Washington. Other ILWU area Republicans voted with the administration or were not recorded.

Threat to Labor Politics Smashed

WASHINGTON — A serious threat to labor's political muscle, in the form of an amendment to the tax reform bill and another on the US Senate floor by a vote of 59 to 27 last week.

The amendment, proposed by veteran unionists Paul Fannin (R-Arizona), would have denied tax exempt status to unions who use dues or assessment money for political activity.

The effect of Fannin's amendment would have been to stop all union voter registration or get-out-the-vote activity, deny union financial aid to candidates or political action committees, and forbid union lobbying activity, according to ILWU Washington representative Albert Lange.

The amendment could have even been interpreted to forbid mentioning politicians, candidates or issues in The Dispatcher, local bulletins or even minutes of union meetings, Lannon said.
Wages have been fluctuating from one pay period to another. We also found that prices of manufactured goods and food in France are comparable to ours in the USA. With wages far below ours, we could therefore see why the average French worker is having it pretty tough trying to earn enough to live comfortably.

The railroad strike mentioned earlier was the result of a protest to the government for not stabilizing the prices of goods in relation to the devaluation of the franc. The workers demand that when the franc’s value dips a certain percentage, the wages of workers should be raised proportionately. The sole purpose of this is purchasing power but also affects a worker’s social security benefits later when he becomes eligible for retirement.

The ILWU delegates discussed the devaluation with a number of people. We found out that despite the theoretical claim that for Frenchmen at home prices would remain the same even if the franc was devalued, the fact was that the cost of living really did go up.

For example, at a restaurant portions of food were reduced and quality of food changed suddenly. We got less for our money. The theory behind devaluation is to increase the capacity to sell stuff on the foreign market, while for the people at home, all you get is a change. Actually it doesn’t work that way at all.

Union people complained bitterly, struck, and slowed down work. We saw posters put up by unions and left political parties throughout France concerning the government’s reneging on wages and prices.

Feeling of Unrest

There’s a real feeling of unrest throughout France. This is something the delegation discussed at various times with union leaders. We continuously wondered how the people could live with the prices being almost equivalent to what we pay for things in the USA, while wages were about one fourth of what American workers average.

Another major problem which exists presently is workers’ pensions. In 1957 the unions and employers reached an agreement that if the franc would be devalued, the same percentage on an escalation basis would be applied to the workers’ wage benefits. But throughout a person’s work years the benefits workers and companies contribute to the retirement plan basis would be applied to the workers’ wage benefits. So throughout a person’s work years the workers object proportionately. It not only presents a problem to and from the city was at a virtual standstill. A few days later a union official met us and explained the reasons for the strike.

Getting to our hotel, which was located within the metropolitan area of this large city, presented additional problems because of the sudden traffic congestion caused by the mass of bicycles, trucks, cars and every means of transportation which people used to go to work as an alternative to railroad transportation.

Our ILWU delegation set out immediately to contact the French union officials to whom we were referred by our international research office in San Francisco. We found it quite an enjoyable experience riding in their “mini” cars and traveling through streets not much wider than their cabs. (These cabs carry only three people.)

Without too much difficulty we arrived at the central office building of the CGT (Confédération Générale du Travail—General Confederation of Labor). The CGT comprises about one million members throughout France. It is one of the largest unions in the country.

Three other major unions in France with very large memberships include: CGT-PO, Confederation Générale du Travail—Force Ouvrières (General Confederation of Labor—Workers’ Force); the French Democratic Confederation of Labor (CFDT); and the Confederation of Supervisory Employees. About 70 percent of industrial output is in the private sector, and about 30 percent is produced in nationalized enterprises.

Our delegation’s interview with Brother Guston Henry, General Secretary of the CGT proved quite useful. However, the language barrier complicated communication and comprehension of what information we were seeking and of places we desired to visit.

To eliminate this language problem we hired an interpreter. The CGT secretary didn’t speak English, and unfortunately the ILWU delegates spoke no French. We asked questions about the French economy and he told us the workers were quite useful. However, the language barrier complicated communication and comprehension of what information we were seeking and of places we desired to visit.

By DELONE BAUSCH
Local 47, Olympia
RALPH SOUZA
Local 13, Wilmington
ANTHONY VERIATO
Local 142, Hawaii

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Another major problem which exists presently is workers' pensions. In 1957 the unions and employers reached an agreement that if the franc would be devalued, the same percentage on an escalation basis would be applied to the workers' wage benefits. So throughout a person's work years his accrued vested pension benefits would remain stable. However, the companies now want to renege on the agreement and change the percentage basis to the lower rate. The workers object and this results in "walk-outs" and much unrest.

In both pension plans and social security benefits workers and companies contribute to the plan. Under social security, the employer contributes a fixed percentage and the employee makes up the rest. Union members also enjoy such fringe benefits as sick leave, maternity leave, disability benefits, etc.

Government participation in labor disputes are quite common in France. Labor contracts are reached either by direct negotiation between companies and the unions, or may involve government officials as well.

Contracts can be extended by the minister of labor to all workers or to workers only in a specific designated industry (such as auto, steel, agricultural or civil services). Contracts can also be negotiated for very short periods of time. We found later in the Port of Dunkirk (where English spelled Dunkirk), where contracts were negotiated sometimes for only four months.

Le Havre—on the English Channel—and Marseille—the Mediterranean’s two main seaports—are the two principal seaports in France. Along with other smaller ports there are altogether about 15,000 dock workers. The CGT represents 88 percent of these workers.

Containerized cargo is beginning to present a problem in French seaports and union officials anticipate it will become an even more serious problem for union rank-and-file members. We were told that longshoremen were told containers up to a radius of 15 miles, also that they are still struggling to retain gang sizes.

An interesting French longshoremen was related to us with great pride by the secretary-general of the CGT. It was that the dock workers throughout France have given up a day’s work and pay in sympathy with the longshoremen on the US east coast during the Containers are being handled. We also visited the Union Terminal in San Francisco, a three-man office in San Francisco. We found it quite an enjoyable experience riding in their "mini" cars and traveling through streets not much wider than their cabs. (These cabs carry only three people.)

Without too much difficulty we arrived at the central office building of the CGT (Confédération Générale du Travail—General Confederation of Labor). The CGT comprises about one million members throughout France. It is one of the largest unions in the country.

Three other major unions in France with very large memberships include: CGT-PO, Confederation Générale du Travail—Force Ouvrières (General Confederation of Labor—Workers’ Force); the French Democratic Confederation of Labor (CFDT); and the Confederation of Supervisory Employees. About 70 percent of industrial output is in the private sector, and about 30 percent is produced in nationalized enterprises.

Our delegation’s interview with Brother Guston Henry, General Secretary of the CGT proved quite useful. However, the language barrier complicated communication and comprehension of what information we were seeking and of places we desired to visit.

To eliminate this language problem we hired an interpreter. The CGT secretary didn’t speak English, and unfortunately the ILWU delegates spoke no French. We asked questions about the French economy and he told us the workers were very concerned about the devaluation of the franc.

Getting to our hotel, which was located within the metropolitan area of this large city, presented additional problems because of the sudden traffic congestion caused by the mass of bicycles, trucks, cars and every means of transportation which people used to go to work as an alternative to railroad transportation.

Our ILWU delegation set out immediately to contact the French union officials to whom we were referred by our international research office in San Francisco. We found it quite an enjoyable experience riding in their "mini" cars and traveling through streets not much wider than their cabs. (These cabs carry only three people.)

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Central bulk control room which longshore members run in Dunkerque. On this particular day was iron ore.

Below: Enormous bulk ore handling at Dunkerque. Russian ships bring logs from Siberia; Longshoremen work logs inside hatch; Logs being unloaded by big grab on Russian ship.

This is far higher than the average daily pay for French workers which is closer to 40 francs or $8 per day. There is a system on French docks that can be called “turn-to-pay.” It works like this: Every longshoreman must show up at the hiring hall in the morning 5 days a week, in order to get a guaranteed payment of 14 francs, 20 centimes if there is no work. Naturally they would rather work, because there’s a mighty big difference between 14 francs and the average of around 70-75 which longshoremen earn on the job.

We asked them about their hiring methods, whether sons of longshoremen have preference and much else. In many ways our methods are similar, but first preference for new membership is given to relatives or sons. They have a probationary period of about six months in most cases before workers can become full members of the longshore union.

We were also told that registration is frozen now primarily because of the development of mechanization, and the number of men who can be jointly registered is controlled by a government bureau. First preference is given to union members, and then to casuals. Sons of longshoremen seem to have the first crack at the casual work.

How does a longshoreman get a job? In the morning he goes to the dispatch hall and signs up for work. There are already a number of steady employees—like gear men and others who pick to one job. There are also men with special skills. Much of the pay longshoremen receive depends on the kind of cargo they work, on skills, on the penalties that are paid, the types of jobs, etc. On particularly obstinate jobs it is possible to make very high pay.

For example: a man working on a banana dock, we were told, can make between 100 and 150 francs a day, which is far above average. They still seem to work basically on a piecework method which, we were told, is not only common throughout France, but throughout dock areas in much of Europe. There is a different rate of pay set up for each commodity, which is why pay can vary so greatly from job to job.

As we were shown around the docks and the ships in the port of Dunkerque, by our guide Brother Roger, longshoremen would stop him with their problems, much as our own men come up with problems when one of our union officials is on the docks. In more ways than one we found that the longshoremen over there were very much like our own guys here.

In fact we agreed that if we just walked down the street and didn’t know these men we would still have recognized them as longshoremen, because they look and act very much like our own longshoremen. Our members would fit in over there on their jobs and their members would fit over here on our jobs.

One amusing item happened when we first got to a ship. We looked all over the place to find some longshoremen. Well, finally, we heard a sound and behind us was an old truck bed and inside there were about six guys with those cards flipping out, just like you see them here. French longshoremen are no different in that regard. We met some very fine people over there and it was a pleasure.

We found out that they will not work Sundays unless there’s a call back from the ship that they worked the day before or if there’s an emergency and as long as they have permission from the union.

While we were in Dunkerque, they were not working either nights or Sundays as part of their organized protest against the government and employers for reneging on the minimum wage situation which developed after the devaluation of the franc.

Slowdown—Protest

These systematic slowdowns or refusals to work were recognized throughout France in all industries and transportation—in nationalized industries as well as private enterprise. It ultimately was successful because the government finally did raise the minimum pay to compensate for the devaluation. However, this doesn’t mean the workers are really satisfied, although the government finally did come in on this issue.

The two longshoremen in the delegation both were aware that every piece of modern machinery being used at that French port—whether cranes or lifts or bulkloaders—could have been handled by any skilled longshoreman from the west coast. The skills are almost the same and the types of machinery have so much in common that any one of our skilled men could have moved right in with those French dockers.

The Hawaiian delegate—a welder by trade—watched some welding being done in the container yard at Dunkerque. He commented that in Hawaii it would be considered pretty old-fashioned equipment. He recalled with amusement that he was able to get into a conversation with this welder, who after a few moments said, “I’d like to talk to you a little more but the boss is watching me and he’s really been pushing me so I better drop this conversation”—or words like that.

The longshoremen on the job were friendly, but the language difficulty always came between us. Like any other longshoremen, when they’re playing cards, they concentrate on what they’re doing and don’t stop their game to engage in small talk. That sounds pretty much like our own men.

They knew who we were, that we were with the ILWU, and that we did basically the same kind of work that they did. A lot of them would walk up, shake hands, smile, say a few words, but because we couldn’t converse that pretty much ended our communication—except that we all felt pretty friendly.

The delegates happened to get into conversation with a young married couple who expressed the opinion that it was absolutely ridiculous that they should have to work for the equivalent of $8 a day—40 francs—and pay prices which are so far above their earnings. They felt that France had a lot more to offer people who work for a living, if only it could be run properly.

Before we go on to other parts of this report we want especially to thank the longshore leaders and members in Dunkerque for their hospitality, for the elaborate dinner they spread for us at a restaurant in the port—the good food, the good wine and fellowship that we shared. They had a great variety of food, lots of different wines, a different wine for every course.

They insisted that we enjoy ourselves after a long day on the docks, that we eat and drink and have a good time. That’s the French way. They didn’t want to discuss the job or talk shop, but just showed a terrific capacity to relax and have a good time. We really felt at home with them.

Later on there was a little talk of politics, but not much. Actually we felt they were on their guard, because they look and act very much like our own men on the docks. They knew who we were, that we were with the ILWU, and that we did basically the same kind of work that they did. When we told them that the ILWU’s official policy was in opposition to the war in Vietnam, that seemed to change the entire atmosphere. Our delegation made our union’s official position very clear, and told them about our 18th Biennial Convention’s resolutions, passed unanimously at Los Angeles in April, 1969. It really was an icebreaker!

They were interested in our contracts and we furnished them with literature which included some agreements and ILWU leadership handbooks which they accepted and appreciated. We pinned our ILWU buttons on their lapels and there was a good feeling of union brotherhood.

We want to take this opportunity to compliment and thank Brother Gouvier Roger, secretary of the Dockworkers Union in Dunkerque, and all the brothers there.
Social and Economical Problems and Education

Upon returning to Paris we contacted college and high school students who were well acquainted with the present Georges Pompidou regime and we asked them questions to try to get a better understanding of the problems which presently exist in France. The general opinion seemed to be that the people of France expect no major changes in governmental affairs. They say Pompidou will follow the same policies as set down by ex-president De Gaulle. They don’t think Pompidou is any big change.

The French economy is presently quite erratic and much of the credit program instituted by Pompidou administration does not seem to be working effectively. It is not accepted wholeheartedly.

The news media is constantly reminding citizens not to squander or spend their earnings on luxury, such as new cars, washing machines, etc. They say this will prevent inflation and keep the economy stable, thus supporting the value of the French franc and improve buying power as a whole. You see this repeated on billboard posters, newspapers, and on the radio all the time. In June 1968 the cost of living went up eight percent and so devaluation of the franc posed even more problems socially and economically for the people of France.

Education

In May, 1968 student dissatisfaction and protest aggered changes in the field of education in France. The problems began because of the many unqualified teachers and in-qualified standards in the high schools and colleges. As a result many students were not able to qualify for skilled employment. This created a rate of unemployment even though many jobs were unfulfilled in skilled areas such as radio, television, IBM, etc.

As a result of our protests, student participication in school administration was allowed, and improved curriculum standards and better teaching material in public schools. The government realized there was an immediate need for more technical and community colleges, and now students are better able to qualify for semi-skilled and skilled jobs in industry.

Tuition fees for schools from grades 1 to 12 are partially subsidized by the government. At the college level a student may enter free if he passes a standard examination. However, housing, books and other necessities must be furnished by the students. This makes it really rough for working class students.

Housing is a very serious problem throughout France. Rents are very high and purchasing a home is almost impossible. We were told a person must pay at least 50 percent of their income to build a home. Few French workers today could afford to own a home.

Because of the many unqualified teachers and inferior curriculum standards in the high schools, many students are unqualified to qualify for skilled employment. This creates monetary loss for the country and does not meet the demand placed on the American economy.

All hotel workers in France (not including small privately owned rooming houses) belong to some union—such as the bartenders' union, food handlers' union, waiters' union, etc. They are affiliated into one large union that represents them such as the hotel owners and government officials. In France before a person is employed in any hotel, he or she must first apply for membership with the hotel union. Hotel owners are very strict about hiring and workers must go through the union hiring procedures.

Men and women are given equal pay. Wage classifications differ as in our hotel systems. Headwaiters, head bartenders and chief cooks are rated as professionals and earn a guaranteed salary per month ranging from the equivalent of $150 in smaller hotels to about $330 in larger and more luxurious hotels. Each individual worker can be hired at this salary and he must have at least some professional school education and serve as an apprentice with no regular work week. A 15 percent charge is added to a guest's bill and a prorated amount of this percentage is for government tax, and for the ordinary workers (chambermaids, common waiters, bellboys, etc.)

The normal workday is about eight hours and a stickup work week of five days. There is 50% additional for overtime hours. They also have holiday "off days" with overtime if required to work. Promotions are made only after examinations are taken at union headquarters to qualify them for a better job. Uniforms are provided only by the more luxurious hotels. Meals are furnished to all employees even on their days off, if the workers come to the hotel. In summary, the hotel workers enjoy the same privileges and fringe benefits our workers have except in the area of pay.

On October 1, 1969, five days before this delegation left, the government of France increased the national minimum salary by 12% and also increased the welfare payments in an effort to minimize the effects of the devaluation of the franc on the poor and to calm the already agitated labor movement. The minimum wage increase was 3.5 percent or about two cents an hour. The major unions didn't think it was enough and social security benefits will go to about 1.5 million families with three children or more. Each family will receive a $8.50 per month, with additional increases to larger families.

The French minimum wage which covers about a million workers, including those in agriculture, will now be better suited for the hotel work week. It has risen about 50 percent in the last two years, including 25 percent following the strike in 1968. The government agreed at that date that all civil service workers would also get a three percent increase.

A Thank-You Note

The delegation would like to thank the officers and members of the COT who so kindly received us and gave us up so much important time to give us the benefit of their wide experiential hospitality. Thanks also to the interpreters who were very patient and made every effort to accommodate our requests and wishes and to those we talked to who contributed so much to this report deserve recognition also.

All to the present stewards of the ILWU who made this "once in a lifetime trip" possible, our sincere and wholehearted thanks.

Joe Ibarra Is
President

Of Local 26

LOIS ANGELES—In a hard-fought election campaign and the largest vote ever cast in Warehouse Local 26, Joe Ibarra, former president over incumbent George Lee. The tally was 1452 to 1066 votes, Ibarra had been a warehouse agent for several terms during the current term and is a former business agent.

Frank Lopez won the vice-presidency over John N. Lee, 1831 to 878. Lopez had been a business agent for several terms.

Three other main offices will be decided during the week of December 5. Balloting continue until January 9. Balloting will take place in all the houses, and the results will be made the week after.

Incumbent secretary-treasurer Leo L. Cebriain will face over 278 votes with Paul Perlin who received 695. Others who were eliminated include Myron, 333 and Nick Rochay, 333 votes.

A runoff will be contested for the job of dispatcher between Hy Drummond; sergeant-at-arms, Walt De Gu”lty, Ray O’Neil and George DeGau. They don’t think Pompidou is any big change.

Continued from Page 7—

The dockers union executive board meeting attended by the ILWU delegates in Dunkerque.

Local Union Elections

Local 8 Primary: Huntsinger vs. Todd

PORTLAND — Incumbent President Fred Huntsinger will meet Victor Todd in Local 8’s runoff election to be held December 19, 20 and 21. According to the results of a primary election last month, vice-presidential candidates in the final election will be Bud Condart and Mykol.

Andy Wilson and Everett Ede will vie for the job of secretary-treasurer, while Wes Johnson and Phil Barlow are up for the twin job of financial agent and LRC.

Jerry Kralicek and Willie Degner will compete for the job of business agent, Wes Hansen and Al Caramanica will appear on the ballot for regular dispatcher, Ray Owel and George Harms will run for night dispatcher.

Darell R. Coulson will oppose President C. Marshall for earnings clerk.

Local 40 Clerks

PORTLAND — Newly elected officers of Clerks Local 40 are President Jim Byrne, Vice-President Doug Hanson, Secretary-Business Agent Ed Strader and Dispatchers J. K. Stranahan and Larry Bowe.

Byrne Will Hold

Local 40 Clerks

P R O I N T S

December 16, 1969

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More about

Social and Economical Problems

and Education

The docks union executive board meeting attended by the ILWU delegates in Dunkerque.
WASHINGTON—In a statement following the December 11, 1969, votes in the Senate, the President of the Senate, Mr. George Norris, announced that the Senate would not act on the pending tax relief legislation, as the Republican-controlled Senate was not prepared to pass any legislation that would involve an increase in the national debt.

The President also announced that the Senate was not prepared to pass any legislation that would involve an increase in the national debt. The President further stated that the Senate was not prepared to pass any legislation that would involve an increase in the national debt.

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Hawaii ILWU Tournament: 340 Bowlers

HONOLULU—Hawaii ILWU sponsored its 13th Annual State Bowling Tournament in Honolulu's Stadium Bowl-O-Drome over the long Thanksgiving Holiday weekend (a two-day paid holiday for ILWU pine-apple and sugar workers). It was the biggest tournament ever, with 64 teams, and some 340 bowlers participating, representing all major islands. Two Oahu teams — Longshoremen in the open section, and Aloha Motors in the junior division — won the championships, and individual bowlers from the host island hogged almost all of the singles, doubles and all-events awards.

A reception at the ILWU Hall on Friday evening, and the annual awards banquet on Saturday night, highlighted the weekend's festivities.

Governor John Burns was on hand to roll out the ceremonial "first ball" and later did a lot of hand shaking with union rank and fileers.

The three-day sporting event — one of three state tournaments held annually (golf and softball are the other two) — was sponsored by the ILWU Membership Service Department and the Athletic Association. Next year's tournament is slated to be held in Hilo, on the Big Island in November.

Governor Burns rolls off the "first ball." Note: his ball ended up in the gutter. Hope not his '70 campaign.

Int'l Labor Organization Wins Nobel Peace Prize

The Nobel Peace Prize for 1969 has been awarded to the International Labor Organization, an agency of the United Nations. The ILO was established after World War I by the League of Nations, and with the International Court of Justice, is one of two League organizations still in existence.

In 1946, the ILO became a UN agency.

American union leaders had much to do with creating the ILO in 1919. It is made up of worker, government and employer deputies from the member nations and serves to help new nations increase production and expand their economic potential.

Dr. F. Lamora, a member of the Norwegian parliament and member of the Nobel peace prize committee, said "It is the international activity of ILO through 50 years that in my opinion makes it a worthy peace prize winner."

"The organization is now deeply engaged in the enormous problem of solving unemployment in the poor world combined with the birth explosion. This is a gigantic challenge to ILO and a task that calls for a concentrated effort of all its talents and resources to meet it."

In a $75,000 prize, a gold medal and a diploma has been presented to an ILO representative at Oslo University.

Two recipients of the peace prize in recent years were Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the noted physiological engineer Linus Pauling, both honorary members of ILWU.

Tourist Trade

HONOLULU — A successful, federally financed program of hiring and training disadvantaged workers for jobs in Hawaii's hotels, with union help, will be continued.

The Honolulu Star-Bulletin, early this month, was good news to ILWU union officials who had alerted Hawaii's congressional delegation in September that the program was in danger because of a breakdown in negotiations for a new government contract. All of Hawaii's lawmakers — Senators Hiram Fong, Dan Inouye, and Representatives Hirschfeld and Spark Matsunaga — showed deep concern and made immediate official inquiries which helped to get the project back on the track.

Stop Poison Gas Shipments Says Local 12 Meeting

NORTH BEND — At a stop work meeting December 4 Local 12 protested the plan to transfer poisonous gases, including lethal GB and VX nerve gas, to the Umatilla Army Depot near Hermiston, Oregon.

The local sent protest letters to Governor McCall and to US Senators Hatfield and Packwood.

Local 8 Pays Widows', Kids' Medical Tab

PORTLAND — Local 8 voted at a stop work meeting December 10 to continue hospital and medical coverage for widows and dependents of working longshoremen for a three month period.

Under the present contract, such benefits are cut off on the first of the month following the death of the husband and father. This leaves widows and children of active members in a worse position than pensioners' survivors, for whom benefits are continued, Local 8 president Fred Huntsinger pointed out.

"We do not anticipate this will be the final outcome of our action," Huntsinger said. "By 1971 we hope to overcome opposition that it would cost too much money to continue the regular ILWU-PMA coverage."

The death last month of former ILWU member Gordon Mays, who left a wife and four children, focused attention on the problem, union officials said.

The local will pick up the premiums for the widows and children of active members on an individual basis. A $1 assessment, effective in January, was voted to insure sufficient funds for this purpose.

Tourist Trade

Isle Local 142 Helps Train Disadvantaged

HONOLULU — The Hawaii Island Local 142 of the CIO Hotel Workers Local No. 5, said about 300 disadvantaged persons of Hawaii are being placed and trained in industry jobs.

"Almost complete since the 14-month period which ended in August, 1969, the $75,000, no union - 0. (Note: his ball ended up in the gutter. Hope not his '70 campaign.)
Christmas Party for Longview Women

LONGVIEW, Wash.—Auxiliary 14 held its annual Christmas luncheon December 5, at Bart's Restaurant here. Each member brought a Christmas toy for a retarded child at the Progress Center.

Special guest was retired longshoreman Jack Russell, Local 21, an honorary Auxiliary 14 member for some 18 years. He was accompanied by his wife of 50 years, Mrs. Russell. Jan Boerner, president, introduced guest speaker Capt. Edwin D. Davis, chief of police from Vancouver, Washington. Auxiliary 14 announced officers for 1970, re-elected for president, Jan Boerner; and vice-president, Barbara Lile. Also elected were treasurer, Phyllis Rice; trustees, and three members of the executive board.

Pensioners Christmas Party, Dec. 21 in SF

SAN FRANCISCO—The Pacific Coast Pensioners Association, ILWU, will hold their annual Christmas party on December 21, 1969, 12 noon, at Longshoremen's Hall, 400 North Point Street, San Francisco.

A small group of invitation cards will be sent out for this good-time get together which will include group singing and dancing. You will be there as well as various acts from Local 6's warehousemen's union. There will be coffee and fun for all.

In Vancouver Wash.

943 Apply for 60 Jobs

VANCOUVER, Wash.—Local 4 is now trying to sift 60 new "B" men out of 834 applications for the job. As reported in December 19, 1969 edition that "that's fourteen for every job to be filled. They came from people in all walks of life."

Processing of the applications started on December 15 and will last from 10 to 15 days, Combs said. The last time the "B" list was opened here, it only took three days to process the applications. Now everyone wants to be a longshoreman," Combs said.

How to Meet a Longshoreman

"Hey, Mac, where do you longshore?"

"Mac" was seated on a shuttle bus, about to leave London airport. I heard the question. He is Jerry Tyler of ILWU Local 19, Seattle. The question came from a stranger who turned out to be Adolph Bastendorf of Local 12 at North Bend.

"I am convinced that longshoremen are like fly specks," Jerry wrote from Cairo, Egypt, where he was headed when Adolph spotted his lapel button in the airport bus. "We talked longshore talk all the way from Paris, where we parted company."

Jerry's trip was a sequel to his visit to Egypt last year as an ILWU overseas delegate. Jerry had the good fortune to be in Cairo during the visit, and the tour operator arranged to take him on a tour of the city. The tour included a visit to the Pyramids at Giza, and the Sphinx. Jerry was able to take a tour of the Grand Egyptian Museum, which houses some of the most important ancient Egyptian artifacts in the world.

How to Verify Your Social Security Recently?

Upon retiring, some people have found that their social security deductions have either been credited to somebody else, their employer has not reported the contributions, or that some other error has been made which would reduce the amount they would receive in their social security monthly check. Ask for a social security postal card next time you come to the union office.

BC Auxiliaries are Busy

LADYSMITH, BC—The British Columbia Auxiliary of ILWU auxiliaries extend greetings and warm thank you to ladies of northern California auxiliaries for their donation of $25 to the BC longshore strike fund.

Vancouver auxiliary women sponsored a "moccasin walk" aimed at giving financial aid to Indians. Chacoan ladies spoke of their scholarship program which handles the non-salaried women who are renowned for their interest in fishery matters. Ron Pugh, of California grapes and the Safe- way chain which handles the non-salaried women who are renowned for their interest in fishery matters.

IN OTHER NEWS

APPLY FOR 60 JOBS

B C—Three men were advised in a thank-you note from the Vancouver auxiliary women sponsoring a Christmas toy for a retarded child at the field, here's a rundown on a "relative weight" chart of *Big 5* for salmon fishing in the Bering Sea. It's highly statistical and dry reading about a year old which is under- standable as it takes time to tabulate the catch.

Boerner, president, introduced guest speaker Capt. Edwin D. Davis, chief of police from Vancouver, Washington. Auxiliary 14 announced officers for 1970, re-elected for president, Jan Boerner; and vice-president, Barbara Lile. Also elected were treasurer, Phyllis Rice; trustees, and three members of the executive board.

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Norma Wyatt as she delivered a plea for Vietnam peace at Pacific Coast Pensioners convention held at Anderson, Calif. last September.

North Bend Women Give Award to Norma Wyatt

NORTH BEND, Ore.—The first 25-year pin to be earned by an Auxiliary 1 member was awarded to the secretary of the Federated Auxiliaries, Norma Wyatt, widow of Ronald Wyatt, Local 12.

Both Mrs. Wyatt and Federated Auxiliaries president Valerie Taylor are renowned for their interest in wildlife. The Auxiliaries press release, on the eve of the October Moratorium, saying, "We Want Our Boys Brought Home Now, Alive," was widely quoted.

Auxiliary 1, at a recent meeting, voted to support legislation pending in Congress to de-escalate the Vietnam War.

The auxiliary sent its Christmas tree decorations to the Roseburg Veterans Hospital. They will be used at the facility at Camp White and were greatly appreciated, the women were advised in a thank-you note. Pat Richardson, auxiliary secretary, marched with her husband in the massive November 30th March in San Francisco.

Can you use one of these shiny KROCKIDE jurors? We'll be glad to trade one for a photograph of a fish-
ILWU Canadian Area Convention

VANCOUVER, BC — With a new set of officers heading the ILWU's Canadian Area, recently elected convention delegates from the six ports met here December 15 to set up a long range union program and discuss renewed negotiations with the British Columbia Maritime Employers Association.

Sixty-six delegates from the longshore locals, met Monday morning with area officials and visiting international officers ILWU president Harry Bridges and vice-president William Chester.

On the first day delegates heard a short officers' report, including recommendations on wages, MIM, pensions, and the responsibility of joint labor—management committees.

Flip-Flop on Shoreside Comp.

WASHINGTON—After six months of confusion, the Supreme Court ruled last week that longshoremen injured or killed on the docks will not be eligible for federal compensation.

Until last June, the courts had always held that only those injured on a ship, gangplank or drydock were covered by the 1927 federal Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers Act. The claimants were not eligible for federal compensation because the accidents occurred on the docks.

The Canadian officers, led by newly-elected president Robert Peebles, called for a realistic program that "will be a true reflection of our aims."

As the Dispatcher went to press, the executive board of Local 143 has urged acceptance of the assessment. The recommendation now goes to unit membership meetings throughout the state.

In northern California, longshore Local 10 is having its third reading of the request for the assessment and will vote on January 8. Warehouse Local 6's executive board has voted to recommend a contribution to the January membership meeting.

Local 14, clerks, agreed to the $2 assessment and took it a step further, making the assessment retroactive to November.

In Eureka, longshore Local 14 will meet this week to discuss the assessment. Watchmen's Local 15, San Francisco, agreed to donate $100 per month for the duration of the strike.

Also walking bosses Local 91 met to discuss the assessment. Local 92, Portland, who made the first offer, was not included in the list of denominations and will vote on January 8.

The initial payment to the UE fund. For example, the Columbia River Pensioners Association gave its legal treasury donation of $10 and the Firemen's Pensioners Association gave $100.00.

The San Francisco Bay Area Pensioners Club gave a $50 treasury contribution and raised an additional $275 by passing the hat.

D-Day — December 18, 1969

"DOLLARS FOR DELANO"

Help Make This a Merry Christmas for All — Particularly Children of Striking Grape Workers!

The GRAPE WORKERS need your help and you can do it by putting your DOLLARS into action on behalf of the United Farm Workers' Strike Committee.

The Grape Workers are now seeking contributions for the first installment on a pledge to the United Farm Workers' Strike Committee. On the 18th of this month the Grape Workers are to call the D-DAY DRIVE to the attention of the ILWU local unions.

Many thanks for your prompt response to the call issued by the general fund.

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Thanks to Locals

Dear Sir and Brother:

Many thanks for your prompt response to the call issued by the international union, urging support for the strike against GE. The strike is hanging tough. There is every indication there will be a major showdown with big industry and it can well have a decisive impact on negotiations in the 70's. A receipt for the money you forwarded is enclosed.

Any response to the appeal issued by the International has been excellent and based on this the International union has forwarded an appearance to General Electric, Radio and Machine Workers of America, of $50,000 in view of the nation that they are bound to have as they keep walking picket lines during the holiday season. We will keep you posted on the progress of the campaign and a complete roundup of action taken by the ILWU to help the strikers will be carried at a later date in The Dispatcher.

Fraternally yours,

Louis Goldblatt,
Secretary-Treasurer, ILWU

ILWU Support in All Areas; 'All Labor United on Issue'