Locals Plan Campaign to Regain Work

SAN FRANCISCO—Reports on the recently settled Canadian longshore strike and pending northern California warehouse negotiations will highlight the next meeting of the International Executive Board, March 2-3, at International headquarters here.

The Board will also discuss a conference of all related unions on containerization on the Pacific Coast, the sending of an overseas delegation to Cuba and other matters.


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Some 59 official delegates attended from 22 locals from Bellingham to Sacramento. Fourteen Washington state locals were represented; six from Oregon and two from California.

The host local was Local 23, Tacoma. Elected conference chairman was Walter Williamson, Local 29, and secretary was Ed Anderson, Local 19, Seattle.

The log conference was developed by the ILWU organizing department, headed by vice president Jack Hall, and organized by the Northwest regional office, headed by G. Johnny Parks, with James Fantz and Oliver Olson assisting.

Other International officers present included president Harry Bridges, vice president William Chester, coast committeemen Bill Ward and Bill Forrester, as well as research director.

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New Era for BC Dockers

SAN DIEGO, Feb. 25 — Local 29 today reached complete agreement with the San Diego Bulk Terminal. Strike settled — full demands met with same contract as Copple Bulk Terminal in Los Angeles Harbor.

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TACOMA — A two-day Northwest log conference, representing all Washington and Oregon locals and two from California, met here February 15-17, to develop a program aiming at recapturing work for longshoremen in log assembly yards.

The conference program serves notice on employers, including the PMA and Japanese and other non-USA exporters, that the ILWU:

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The settlement climaxed nine long months of battle that twice shifted from the bargaining table to the picket line, the second strike ending only with membership ratification of the terms on February 12.

The new 30-month contract brings an increase of $1.15 an hour on a base rate of $3.88, which means money parity. Pensions of $235 a month, plus a retirement settlement of $19,000 under the M&M Agreement, also match those of US West Coast ILWU dock workers.

February 12, 1970, was called by ILWU officers here "the beginning of a new era for longshoremen on British Columbia docks." It was so described because it marks a controlled period of adjustment to technological change while the interests of the membership are fully protected.

"It is a good collective agreement," said Canadian Area ILWU president Robert Peghils. "We have built-in safeguards to protect our jobs, we have the machinery for joint union-management resolution of problems as they arise. The men wanted to see protection written out in black and white — and this is what we now have."

He noted there had been so many technological changes on the waterfront, and many more promised, that men expressed considerable worry about their job security.

Terms Listed

However, he added, "despite notable increases in productivity the work force has been maintained because volume is increasing, and we expect greater exports than ever."

The settlement, affecting 3200 Canadian Area ILWU members, contains significant new items:

New manning will provide "maintenance of safety, avoidance of undue individual work burdens, all the men necessary, no unnecessary men."

For the first time in BC waterfront history an 8-hour guarantee replaces the old guarantees which never exceeded four hours.

There is a 35-hour guaranteed work week averaged over a 26-week period. The men will have to be available for five days out of a six-week cycle.

Who Said It?

"If Fascism ever came to America it would come on a program of Americanism."

Who? (Turn to back page for name of author)
From poor housing and pollution to profiteering, taxes and inflation, the labor movement forges rough sailing in this coming year. This was highlighted by the AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting at Miami Beach last week. The inflationary spiral continues, while unemployment rises.

What can be said about the country as a whole goes double for Negroes and other minorities who have twice as much unemployment and half as many chances to get training and decent housing. The rise in unemployment coupled with scheduled cutbacks on construction are planned to place the heaviest economic burden on the backs of Negroes.

Dark clouds of inflation cast deep shadows over collective bargaining and trade union programs in general. What most unions bargain for these days is to try to replace the dollars erased by rising prices, increased health care costs, interest rates and taxes.

There are many theories as to why we are suffering an inflation. These include sky-high interest rates—why not the wealthy, but have a terrible effect on the little man who wants to buy a house or a car—and spending for military waste—especially Vietnam and unmanageable, unhampered profiteering.

While price increases have washed out the buying power of recent wage gains, profits keep zooming. During the decade of the ‘60s tax corporate profits rose 100 percent faster than weekly take home pay. No matter how hard unionists, through collective bargaining, tried to keep up with spiraling prices and profits, there’s enough in the pocket, and before interest rates, higher interest rates, higher prices—and, as they did during the recent GE strike, to act against union demands by claiming that wage increases would be ‘inflationary.’ Nothing was said about GE’s profiteaking.

It’s really remarkable how those who make less than enough to keep up with the cost of living, every time they ask for a few nickels, find the wrath of government pouring down on them, blaming them for the inflation, while the most that’s done to bankers, real estate speculators, lenders and corporate heads who get out of line is to slap their wrists.

Considering the increasing number of younger workers, including young heads of families, and the enormous squeeze on workers, it becomes easier to understand why working people are demanding above all else more money on the line, and now.

What it all boils down to is that nobody ever gets rich just working, and every rank-and-file member knows that the most important job his union can perform is to get just a little bit ahead of the cost of living.

The union’s primary role is making sure there’s enough in the pocket, and before there’s any more talk about higher wages forcing prices up or about such things as wage and price freezes, let’s remember that the real culprit is uncontrollable profiteering.

What’s to do about it? Well, the trade union movement has always had one primary function—to make absolutely sure that workers can buy what they need—in food, clothing, housing, health care and education. The basic job of unions is to negotiate (or to strike, if necessary), to get more money into the hands of workers, so that they can at least keep up with or get ahead of the price-push.

Rising living costs last year wiped out 61 percent of the value of the dollar—which more than erased the pay gains of about 45 million rank-and-file workers.

Because we and the AFL-CIO have stated that excessive profits cause this situation, we repeat that the trade union’s business is to make sure their members are not forced to carry the profiteer on their backs. No matter how hard unionists, through collective bargaining, tried to keep up with spiraling prices and profits, it’s the idea of an anti-inflationary program is to above added burdens on working people, in the form of taxes, surtaxes, higher interest rates, higher prices—and, as they did during the recent GE strike, to act against union demands by claiming that wage increases would be ‘inflationary.’ Nothing was said about GE’s profiteaking.

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We have not seen our last set of negotiations or our last strike. Right now we’re on the eve of a Northern California warehouse contract which will be running out in a few months. 1971 sees the conclusion of the West Coast Longshore Contract. The union will soon be called upon to consider the questions which I’ve been raising here and plan strategy accordingly.

It might be a very reasonable idea to develop some new strategy, something we haven’t done before. For example, before negotiations start we might consider setting a definite date midway of negotiations at which the alternatives then will be clearly stated. This year will be getting after they’ve been on the bricks for a while.

Then there’s a fourth possibility, which is to call a strike and after a period of negotiations refuse to recognize any compromises whatsoever but keep falling back on original demands, no matter how rough they may be.

However, we’d also need to know, why all this and it could be unrealistic for us to believe that employers will be willing to negotiate across the table if they get the idea that no matter what is offered it’s going to be rejected and that there’s going to be a strike anyway. The usual employer spokesman would hardly put a final offer on the table in the hope of averting a strike if he knows he’s going to hit the table. In case he logically decides to hold back a little something to sweeter sometime when the workers send their negotiating committee back to the negotiating table to try for some more improvements.

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There’s no more danger in these new trends, especially in the temptation to use high inflation and militancy that all you can say is “no” to everything that’s offered—figuring that a few weeks or months on strike may temper the rank-and-file and that they’re more amenable to facing facts.

Personally I oppose such an approach. The union’s business is not first to strike, but to go about negotiating better wages and conditions and fringe benefits. There’s an organized labor movement in this country—let’s use it well, who seem to think a strike is a necessary gimmick and should be used as often as possible.

The trends that are being exhibited in many parts of the labor movement, and recently in British Columbia, indicate that circumstances and events will force some changes in our thinking, and maybe even in our course of action. With the big and important year ahead and next, we will be seriously studying how best to get our union job done.
ILWU Lobbyists Spotlight Issues:

From Pollution To Property Tax

SAN FRANCISCO — Issues from pollution to property taxation were hashed over at the February 9–10, 1970 meeting of ILWU legislative representatives from Hawaii, Oregon, Northern and Southern California, Washington State, and Washington, D.C.

The lobbyists met at ILWU International headquarters to discuss the legislative year and future prospects on the state and national levels.

Also discussed were the Defense Facilities and Industrial Security Act, national health insurance, social security, newly proposed anti-labor legislation, revisions of the longshore compensation act, and the 1970 elections.

The growing problem of auto insurance cost and abuses was given special attention. The legislative representatives helped forge a bill with the beginning of a program which could involve large sections of the labor force. The proposed law would offer state-sponsored compulsory public liability auto insurance.

This would cover the cost of damage done to others and would be a condition for obtaining an automobile renewal.

Drivers would be free to buy as much private insurance as they like to protect themselves with the state providing basic protection at low group rates.

Reports on ILWU political activity were given by Eddie DeMello, Hawaii; Ernest Baker, Oregon; James Costa, Washington State; Mike Johnson, Northern California; Nate DiBiasi, Southern California; and Al Lasson, Washington, D.C.

San Francisco legislative committee coordinator David Jenkins, Local 19 welfare officer Julius Stern, and the executive council of the Pacific Coast Pensioners’ Association were also present.

The representatives also discussed a need to involve more members in political action, bringing the dangers of waterfront screening and compulsory arbitration.

Hawaii’s Eddie DeMello stressed the importance of “not being married to one party, Democrat or Republican.”

The local won the right to represent these workers in a recently held NRLB election.

The meeting voted a $25 donation to the Indians occupying Alcatraz.

Local 8 Organizes Molasses Workers

PORTLAND — Workers at the Pacific Molasses plant at Terminal 4 were initiated into the ILWU at the last stop-work meeting of Local 8, according to President Fred Hunter, singer.

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Northwest Auxiliary Convention

TACOMA — The Federated Auxiliaries of the ILWU at the Pacific Northwest Convention will open Saturday, March 14 in the Winthrop Hotel, 9th and a.m.

ILWU Regional Director Q. Johnny Parks will be the speaker.

Local 142 Wins At Two Hotels

ILWU Local 142 has won bargaining rights for the employees at both Islander Inn-Kauai and Islander Inn-Kona. The union conducted a sign campaign and the overwhelming majority of employees at both hotels designated the ILWU as their bargaining agent, according to Eddie Tangen, ILWU International representative.

Tangen said the union had secured the top wages and benefits in the state, the same as are presently in effect at all other Inter-Island Resorts hotels.

Southern Cal Council Rips Screen

LOS ANGELES — After extensive discussion, the ILWU Southern California District Council voted to oppose the “Defense Facilities and Industrial Security Act of 1970,” which would revive “security” screening of waterfront workers.

The council heard an extensive report from Nate DiBiasi, legislative representative, on the legislative scene in Sacramento and a recent conference of the ILWU legislative representatives at international headquarters in San Francisco.

He outlined the maneuvers that led to election of Senator Jack Schrade, San Diego Republican, as president pro tem of the California Senate. DiBiasi described Schrade as an ultra-reactionary, who regards Governor Reagan as “too liberal,” and is closely tied in with big business lobbies.

The council then instructed DiBiasi “to express our suspicions and concerns at the maneuvering that led to anti-labor Senator Jack Schrade being elected senate president pro tem with the support of a number of pro-labor Democratic Senators.”

The council also voted to:

1. Support the warehouse Local 26 organizing drive.
2. Urge all ILWU locals to participate in the upcoming California Democratic Council convention and to push for the union's program there.
3. Support the strike of Local 29 at the San Diego Bulk Terminal.

The council also heard a report on the program of longshore Local 13 to upgrade 186 terminal warehousemen to “Class B” status in Local 13.

Local 26, Bag Firm Nose-to-Nose

LOS ANGELES — Negotiations between Warehouse Local 26 and the Friedman Bag Co. are at a showdown stage with the company refusing to budge on the union’s demands, which include the biggest wage increase ever sought from this employer.

The old contract expires March 1. As the expiration deadline neared international secretary-treasurer Louis Goldblatt and a state conciliator joined in the talks.

Union members voted to fight for a 20 percent wage increase across the board plus special increases to eliminate inequities in some classifications, such as mechanics, truck drivers, table loaders and turners.

Among new fringe benefits sought are five paid sick leave each year with unused leave paid off in co-op equity, $8.65 a month for dental plan coverage, and 15 cents per hour for the union pension plan.

Negotiations are being coordinated with Teamsters Local 809, whose contract at Friedman Bag in Portland also expires March 1.

The local negotiating committee includes Pete Escobedo, Erna Edmondson, Bernice Riley, Clarence Smith, Ruth Perez, John Urrutia and vice president Frank Lopez.

ELECTION WON

One more chemical plant in the Antelope Valley was brought into the Local 142 fold last month by the Coit-Lumber Co. voted, 13 to 4, for ILWU in an NLRB election last month. The plants in this area are Ashland Chemical and Great Lakes Carbon. Negotiations for a contract will begin next month.

BEEFS AT MAX FACTOR

Three arbitration proceedings are pending at Max Factor, producer of cosmetics and union beefs.

One involves a company effort to upgrade 186 terminal warehousemen to “Class B” status in Local 13.

The present contract expires May 31, and negotiations will begin soon after the convention.

The convention will be held at the Benue Hotel at 150 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco. It will begin at 9 a.m. and last all day.

BULL SESSIONS

A series of pre-negotiation bull sessions has been held in the last few months to permit union officials to listen to rank and file demands (See Dispatcher, February 11).

The most recent of these bull sessions, featuring a free flowing discussion on pension problems, was held last week, with 150 members present.

Also there to listen were ILWU vice-president Bill Chester, secretary-treasurer Louis Goldblatt, all Local 6 officers and business agents, and Local 34 president Jimmy Herman.

Union officials have noted that area Teamster locals and Local 6 will bargain jointly, as in the 1967 negotiations.

Thus, Teamster and ILWU negotiators will represent approximately 25,000 northern California warehouse workers at the bargaining table.

Convention Set; Local 6 Prepares for Negotiations

SAN FRANCISCO — Over 700 delegates from all over the bay area will attend the warehouse Local 6 annual convention on Saturday, March 7, to work out the nuts and bolts of their demands for new contract negotiations.

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We arrived at the Manila airport at dawn, September 21, 1969, and were met by three officials of the Philippines Association of Free Labor Unions (PAFLU) — Mr. Catalino G. Luzano, national treasurer, and his associates, Gregg Aboy and Cipriano Cid, president. Behind this organization, the ILWU officers had written to Cipriano Cid, the union's national president, and they helped us set up our itinerary. We were deeply helpful and cooperative all the way through.

The first evening we had dinner with Mr. Cid, one of the most interesting and older trade union leaders. PAFLU was established in 1950 and now celebrates its 20th year. PAFLU is a major association, and although there are a number of other unions and labor groupings, this one is probably the most progressive. The longshoremen primarily belong to the PTUC (Philippine Trade Union Congress).

Mr. Cid spoke very warmly about the ILWU, and knew a good deal about our union. We mentioned that earlier in the afternoon we were strolling around a park across from the hotel and were amazed at the enormous number of kids we saw, children everywhere, many pregnant women, and that brought us to the subject of the population explosion in the Philippines, something that deeply concerns Mr. Cid.

The present population of 36 million lives in a land area of 115,700 square miles. Cid was concerned because the material resources are not sufficient to feed this population which is growing about 3.2 percent per year creates a widening deficit and even with increased agricultural production imports still exceed exports. Cid said there will be no lasting security until the people can be free from hunger and want. Some progress has been made in family planning in the last five years.

Mr. Cid talked about many things, including a developing interest in international union contacts, possibly even affiliation with unions in other countries, and then spent a lot of time telling us about the agricultural scene. Primarily the Philippines is an agricultural country and the major commodity is rice. For many years they imported millions of pesos worth of rice. In 1968 for the first time in the history of the country they started to erase the shortage — in 1968 they exported 30,000 tons of rice, and expected to export 100,000 tons in 1969. In 1970 they reached a million tons and hoped to export 250,000 tons in 1970.

Behind this accomplishment is the International Rice Research Institute jointly established by the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations, which introduced the “miracle rice,” that goes by the designation IR-8. The old variety of rice is a seasonal crop but with IR-8 the farmer can now harvest two crops per year. Now part of the rice becomes a cash crop which most small farmers never had before. Philippine rice production has more than doubled and a continuous expansion of acreage with this high-yielding variety is being encouraged.

The Rice Research Institute provides the seed and maintains continuous experimentation, so they have now developed another variety called the IR-5, which has a yield equal to if not higher than IR-8, and is of better eating quality. Cipriano Cid was particularly interested and enthusiastic about this miracle rice and what it would mean for working people and he encouraged us to spend some time looking over the research fields and learning more about the whole process.

No question, there was a great deal more interest in talking about things like rice production than something like the Vietnam war, which they simply refused to discuss.

Manila and Its People

With thousands of taxi cabs, public conveyances, jeepneys and private cars, Manila, with its population in the millions, swarms and buzzes. Along Roxas Blvd. you see fishermen in the morning returning home with their catch, the vendors bidding for the fish, the ships in the harbor being worked, people crowding the US Embassy seeking approval to enter the United States, others applying for Social Security benefits. You also see the beautiful Philippine Cultural Center and the modern hotel buildings high against the city skyline.

The Philippines is an agricultural country and in many provinces there is no work available so they migrate to the city, living with relatives and friends to swell the ranks of the unemployed. Some of these people are called squatters because they have no place to go and the only alternative is to build shacks with any materials they can lay their hands on. They are drawn to the city from the countryside looking for jobs to fill their empty stomachs. When they come to the city they find just too many people clawing for the same thing. The unprepared, the unqualified and the ignorant are exploited even in their ghettos. We saw the hunger in the children and the despair of the parents.

Manila is growing and expanding into Rizal province in the area called Makati. On Buendia Avenue there are large and tall buildings with business offices like Davies and Dole, banks, International Harvester distributors, warehouses and large shops.

By contrast, there's one section where the squatters are two or three feet away from the railroad. They just kept on crowding each other there.

There's no running water, no sanitation facilities, nothing. They have to carry their own water in. There are hundreds and thousands of these squatters. At one time these people were moved and taken to some rural areas. As soon as you move one group there's another group that just moves right in.

The union is deeply concerned with the way the people live, although they didn't say they had any program to help them out.

The people seem very friendly to the USA. They open the doors for us the minute they find out we're from the islands, or are Americans. With some 7,000 islands making up the Philippines, and so much importing and exporting, longshoring is very important. For many years there were so many independent unions negotiating with the different companies. There were so many different states involved, and there was a lot of organizing and a lot of bargaining, negotiations.

Like 10 million other Philippine residents, this woman worker is dependent upon the coconut industry for her livelihood.
Mining Industries

One of the largest gold mining companies in Baguio is Benguet Consolidated, which produces annually the equivalent of the gold in the country. To enter this mine and the Rogen Gold Mines, Mr. Greg Adaci and Mr. Marcial Salavas, the company's American representatives, arranged for us to visit operations and talk to the workers.

Baguio is located in the mountain province and mining is one of the most remunerative industries. The outskirts are reached by roads built along the mountain sides which are steep and narrow. In the mines we observed how the government is six pesos per day (approximately $1.50 in US). Higher skilled workers receive salaries above the minimum. They say the wages are definitely too low. The longshoremen we did see working did not seem to be working as fast as our men in the USA do.

How are men hired? Let's say, for example, ship owners need 150 men. They go to a labor contractor. There is no hiring hall. The contractor gets his cut off the piece rate. We were told how at times if a ship needs, let's say five days to load and unload, he may contract out to the union and say can you do it in four days, or three days? That's the way they operate. It's a form of corruption in some cases.

Sugar Industry

• PAFLU attorney Felipe Javiar, Jr., met us at Bacolod Airport to discuss our visit to the sugar industry. The sugar mills are called "centrals" and the independent planters are called haciendas. The centrals are independent corporations which process sugar cane on contract with the haciendas. The centrals also rent equipment to the haciendas. The return to the haciendas is 67 percent of the profit realized minus whatever union, negotiated salaries from six pesos 20 cents to seven to eight pesos for the common laborers and seven to eight pesos for the semi-skilled and skilled workers, plus the perquisites.

Sugar Industry

Dolefil's representative who also piloted the company plane. In approximately 35 minutes flying we arrived at Palomalok in South Cotabato on the southern island of Mindanao we were met by Dolefil's representative who also piloted the company plane. In approximately 35 minutes flying we arrived at Palomalok in South Cotabato.
Log Delegates Set Strategy
Continued from Page 1
or Barry Silverman and Dispatcher editor Red Ryan.

The ultimate purpose of the conference was to prevent an eventual ILWU umbrella over all log work on or adjacent to the docks, and to deny foreign exporters any further opportunities to undermine longshore conditions or allow non-union workers to handle logs or other types of cargo.

In addition to developing a longshore program, delegates also heard a report from ILWU Canadian area officers, Robert Feehan, president, and Louis Kaufman, secretary, about the newly-voted Canadian longshore union.

The log conference recommended that each of the 22 interested locals appoint one man to maintain contact with the International and Northwest regional office, keeping them apprized of "log situation from week to week," and elected a seven-man strategy and organizing committee, two each from Washington and Oregon, one from California, one each from clerks and foremen.

The men elected are, from Washington: Randy Vekich, Local 34, Aberdeen; Don Gilchrist, Local 32, Everett; from Oregon: Fred Hunsinger, Local 8, Portland; and Eugene Bailey, Local 12, Coos Bay; Bill Hooker, Local 14, Eureka, California; walking boss Cecil Ecklund, Local 92, Seattle; and shipper and rider Tony Boll, Local 40, Portland.

A set of guidelines was adopted for the strategy and organizing committee.

1. The Committee shall be bound by these principles and guidelines laid down by the Northwest Long Organizing Conference.

2. The Committee shall be responsible for the overall direction and guidance of the log organizing program.

3. The Committee shall be answerable to both the Conference and each of the participating locals.

4. The Committee shall not call a strike or work stoppage without the approval of the affected local or locals.

5. The Committee shall not sign any agreements without the approval of the affected local or locals.

6. The Committee shall meet only at the call of the Northwest regional director, or by a majority vote of the members of the Committee.

7. The Committee will serve on a per diem basis, the costs to be proportioned among the locals in the area.

Canadian Local Uses Bull-Session Format

VANCOUVER, B.C. — The rank and file bull session—where members and officers sit down and say anything—will become more formal—become an increasing popular form of communication within our union.

These bull sessions were initiated in 1959 on a regional level, but are now starting on a local level. For example, shop stewards, officers and members of Local 517—clerks, office workers and maintenance workers—a successful workshop last month.

"No minutes were kept," said secretary-treasurer Mike Skumanich, "but certainly the consensus arrived at will result in certain recommendations for women. Because of the high rate of unemployment there is little work opportunity for women and many of our women go home to the Philippines or Okinawa."

"The House that ILWU Built."

The first person I met in Bacarra was Manuel Acob Saganabo from Libbys in Moloc. He returned in July, 1967 with his lump sum settlement and bought a home which is very comfortable. In the town of Barrio Ibarro, 22, Laoag, Guillermo Doctador, a former employee of Pioneer Mill, Lahaina. He was pensioned in 1965, and returned home with the lump sum settlement. I met two old friends, Pio and Enrique Balicco, father and son, former employees of the same mill, in 1958 and 1959. The father returned in 1956 with the lump sum settlement. The son Enrique arrived in Hawaii in 1946, a few months before the sugar strike. The sugar industry tried to use these immigrants as strikebreakers and failed. When his job disappeared he voluntarily ac-

cepet lay-off with severance payment. Both father and son are doing well and their land is in cultivation of miracle rice.

In Barrio 53, Laoag City, I met Francisco Garma, a former employee of McBryde Sugar Co. He came to Hawaii in 1927 and continued working for McBryde until he retired in 1967.

In the City of Laoag, I met Rafael Manibog from Baguio who has been an employee of McBube, Hamilton and Renny.

One thing both delegates noticed is that there are very few opportunities for women. Because of the high rate of unemployment there is little work opportunity for women and many of our women go home to the Philippines or Okinawa. For example cleaning the rooms in hotels, are done by men. During the 20 days we were in the Philippines we saw just two women driving cars. Even a lot of the secretarial work is done by men. Life is very hard for women.

The children in the barrios all seemed to go to school, mainly in the towns where the children go to school in shifts. One group in the morning, another in the afternoon. That's why we saw young kids coming home from school as late as six in the evening. Most of them quit after the sixth grade and that's the end of their education. These kids usually have to go to work on a farm in order to help support the family and all their smaller brothers and sisters.

In all my interviews with the people I met, their feeling and appreciation is "I was lucky because of the ILWU in Hawaii." Without the ILWU these people would not enjoy the benefits that were negotiated for the members. Certainly the people from Hawaii live much better than their neighbors.

The people in Laoag City and the surrounding town and barrio say "The house that Social Security built." Actually, the saying should be "The House that is that will give us the right direction in travel in dealing with management."
WATERFRONT SCREEN BILL PASSES
House: Here We Go Again!

WASHINGTON — Most inmates of Congress, like most inmates of prisons, tend to be repeaters, it seems. Having been found guilty in court of violating the constitutional rights of workers with previous “security screening” legislation, the House of Representatives has done it again by approving the “Defense Facilities and Industrial Security Act of 1970.”

Many ILWU members can say, “Here we go again,” because our unions were primarily targeted to legitimize the boom on the daddy of the present bill. This story goes back to the Korean war hysteria of 1950 when Congress passed the “Port Security Act.”

The law was supposed to protect “national security” on dock and ship, but after seeing it in action a few wild authors concluded, its purpose was something else. President Harry Bridges voiced the union’s view (Dispatcher, April 27, 1951):

“COMPANY UNION

“The whole purpose of the Coast Guard was to establish company unions, controlled by employers and government agencies, whose established conditions are broken down, and the provisions of union contracts completely ignored.”

“The law was not achieved, but the Coast Guard gave it a good try. Having decreed screening for all seamen on luxury cruisers as well as military cargo carriers, the CG made a few passes at extending this rule to commercial as well as military.

That’s where ILWU drew the line. By unanimous convention decision the union served notice that if any member was screened from commercial work no ILWU men would touch it.

At the same time we supported legal challenges, and in 1955 the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals concurred in a: ‘we work or screen’ by the union five years earlier. Said the court:

“The question is: Is this system of secret informers, whisperers and talebearers of such vital importance to the public welfare that it must be preserved at the cost of denying to the citizen even a modicum of the citizen’s natural right to know what is going on? Is it not glaring and legion. R. J. (Ray) Kee- nan, then secretary of ILWU’s Coast Guard District Council.

Congressman Louis Stokes of Ohio, opposing the bill, recalled that in invalidating the old waterfront screening program, the Supreme Court “looked with obvious disfavor upon the practice of obtaining information from confidential sources while reading the habits, political philosophy and beliefs regarding social and economic issues” of waterfront workers.

Yet,” he added, “Section 2 of this bill would authorize the government to institute such broad and equally improper inquires. . . . It does not have any chance to gain any chance of procedural due process. . .”

Auxiliary 4, Everett

EVERTET, Wash.—Marcia Beroot will head up Auxiliary 4 this year. Auxiliary officers for 1970 include Beverly Mo- bergen, vice-president; Estella Mattie, secretary; Emma Phillips and Doris Snyder, Sally Toso and Ann Lalone, executive board.

BENEFITS HIGH

Deadline—March 5

Roland Smith (right), retired Oregon-Columbia River area ILWU-PMA welfare director, is near tears as he holds spare travel trailer fire given him at banquet in his honor. With him are Fred Hunt singer, chairman, the Columbia River District Council, which hosted the event, and Mike Sicking, head of the Columbia River Pensioners Memorial Assn.
CRDC Blasts Dock Screen: Elects Huntsinger, Stranahan

VANCOUVER, Wash.—Fred Huntsinger, president of Local 8, was named head of the Columbia River District Council by delegates from 11 locals at the CRDC's February meeting.

In accepting the gavel, he turned the minutes book over to J. K. Stranahan of Clerks Local 40, elected secretary.

Others elected at the meeting and installed by International Representative James S. Fantz included Ruth Dallaire of Fish Processing & Allied Workers Local 42, Coos Bay, vice president; A. J. Foyt of San Francisco, Columbia River Pensions, Mel Bannister, Local 21, Longview, and Ernest E. Baker, Local 8, trustees.

Bay Area Labor Backs Marin Strike

SAN RAFAEL — Over 1,000 union members affiliated with Local 20, AFL-CIO, at a rally last Saturday at the office of the San Rafael Independent-Journal, stopped production of the scab-produced paper.

Members of the International Typographical Union Local 20 had been involved in a strike against the Journal since early this month—a strike marked by increased use of office and private police violence.

The rally was called by several prominent Bay area labor leaders, including ILWU northern California regional director LeRoy King.

According to the ITU, "pickets were struck down in club-swinging rushes to clear them from the plant area. A number were brutally beaten while trying to defend on the ground, and several suffered severe injuries."

Strike supporters showed extreme patience throughout the day, holding the line against police attacks. The rally only dispersed when the paper agreed to shut down for the day.

Negotiations, under the auspices of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, began last Thursday. This initial meeting, the first since early January, was exploratory in nature, the ITU said.


The delegates moved to ask Sidney Roger, editor of The Dispatcher, to run a recap in the union paper on the previous bombings by the maritime unions when a similar measure was introduced in Congress last year (unconstitutional) was in effect in the early '60s.

ILWU, because of the solidarity of its membership, came out of the negotiations with few, if any, concessions, delegates said, but members of several maritime unions were "blackballed" and "sent to starve on the beach."

The council also seated four new delegates: Everett Edlund, Local 41; Mel Bannister, Local 21, Jim Plaat, Local 50, and Dave Willis, Local 12.

Secretary Stranahan was instructed to send letters opposing the measure to the Oregon and Washington delegations in Congress.

Executive Board

Pensioners Grow: Push Legislation

SAN FRANCISCO—Organizational growth, legislative action and extension of fraternal ties with like-minded groups highlighted discussions at the February executive board session of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association-ITU at International headquarters.

Affiliation of San Francisco warehouse Local 10 pensioners with PCTA was announced. Al Quittenton and Dave Rader of the Local 6 group were introduced and presented a $444 check to PCPA.

The executive board attended a meeting of ILWU legislative representatives called by the International officers, and heard a detailed presentation of legislative developments in Washington, DC, from Albert Lannon, ILWU Washington representative.

Subsequently the board voted:

• To oppose a bill (H. R. 4249), recently passed by the House of Representatives, which would water down the 1965 Voting Rights Act and its protection of the right to vote of less skilled workers of race or color (compromise measure (S. 2507) is now before the Senate.

• To write Congressmen in opposition to raising Medicare fees from $4 to $5.30.

• To write Senators and Representatives protesting S-12 (Internal Security Act) and H.R. 14864 (Defensive Military and Industrial Security Act of 1970), which would revive waterfront screening of longshoremen and seamen, be unfriendly to and deny accused workers of the right to confront their accusers.

• To support S. 2236 and H.R. 1545, which would establish a National Insurance Guarantee Corp., a first step in bringing the automobile insurance industry under some federal control.

Answer to Who Sold It?

Huey P. Long (1899-1935), governor of Louisiana during the early depression days, Huey, sometimes known as "The Kingfish," developed what was seen at the time as the closest parallel to European Fascism in this country.

The new agreement also provides improvement in medical and welfare coverage and ten paid holidays, an increase of two over the previous contract.

The wage increase is broken down into three parts:

February 1, 1970, 45 cents increase in the basic straight time rate; February 1, 1971, another 45-cent increase; February 1, 1972, 25 cents increase.

The contract went into effect February 23 and Peebles noted that all port committees and local officers are working to assure a smooth changeover.

RETOACTIVITY

A retroactivity section provides for 40 cents for each hour worked between August 1, 1969, and January 31, 1970, to be paid six weeks after implementation, all in compliance with the new collective agreement.

The work opportunity section of the contract provides that every registered union member under the age of 65 will be guaranteed for each 26-week period "an opportunity to earn an income (including vacation pay) equivalent to 910 hours at the appropriate straight time rate of pay."

If the member was available for work on 196 days in a 26-week period and accepted and performed the work he was capable of doing, he will be eligible for the work or pay guarantee.

If a member's total income from his employment under the agreement, including vacation pay, is less than the amount of the guarantee, he will be paid the difference.

There is also an automatic protection plan that includes provisions for retraining where required; for relocation of members, if required; for early retirement and several other provisions.

Negotiations began after expiration of the old contract on July 31, 1969.

After being deadlocked, the union went on strike for two separate times. The first strike ended with a 90-day truce.

Negotiated settlements, recommended by an elected committee, were turned down three times by membership vote, two of them by the slimmest majorities. The second negotiation was turned down overwhelmingly, leading to new Canadian Area ILWU elections, and the vote in June was close.

The final settlement was accepted by a small but decisive majority. During the long negotiations it became apparent that security of employment in the face of technological change was the overriding concern of union members. What they wanted, demanded and finally won, were manning regulations and written guarantees against layoffs.

It was pointed out by ILWU officials here that even though there were strong differences of opinion during the negotiations, the good will and mutual respect that came into play and the men hit the bricks, there was complete unity.

MEMBERS INVOLVED

The membership showed its discipline by unanimously carrying out every decision arrived at by democratic balloting—whether to strike or to call off a strike.

All Canadian Area ILWU officers and board members at the union's negotiating committee participated in the final negotiating session.

The recommendation to accept was unanimous.

The negotiating sessions were not only the longest but, Peebles noted, an aroused membership expressed itself in unusually large meetings and widespread debate and discussion.

He paid tribute to the support the Canadian ILWU received from ILWU members on the West Coast and Hawaii, and also for the first-rate support by the British Columbia Federation of Labour, the Canadian Labor Congress, and many other unions in British Columbia.

In addition cooperation with prairie farmers was successfully established, with grain being loaded by the ILWU, not only on our contract but on our unity and strength and determination to get everything that is coming to us.

ILWU Canadian Area president Peobles explained the BC strike settlement at the recent Tacoma Log Organizing Conference.

Terms of BC Dock Pact

Continued from Page 1—

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