Executive Board:

Blasts Nixon’s So-Called Labor Reform

SAN FRANCISCO—The Nixon bill to impose federal settlement of labor disputes in the transportation industries is “clearly designed to weaken, if not to destroy the economic bargaining power of workers” according to the ILWU International Executive Board.

The board, meeting here last week, noted that “the introduction of this bill comes at the very time that the railroad shopcraft unions are reaching a climax in bargaining, and when the International Brotherhood of Teamsters is re-negotiating its national contract for over-the-road drivers.”

The bill called the “Emergency Public Protection Act of 1970” (Senate Bill 3526) was introduced by Senator Robert Griffin of the Kennedy-Landrum-Griffin Act fame. The bill has three key provisions.

• The president could extend for 30 days the 80 day so-called “cooling off period” already provided by Taft-Hartley.

• The president could order the “partial operation” of a struck industry.

• The president could convene a special panel to consider the final proposals of both the unions and the employers, and to impose one of them as a final and binding settlement without a rank-and-file vote.

“Despite its firm conviction that such legislation cannot be made to work in the face of a decisive commitment by workers to down their tools,” the board “nevertheless believes that this legislation consti-

—Continued on Page 7

Convention Delegates Say ‘More!’

SAN FRANCISCO — “Warehouse year—1970” had a lusty launching Saturday, March 7, as nearly 900 delegates to the 25th Annual Warehouse Constitution and Contract Convention packed the auditorium at International headquarters to formulate demands for a new contract.

The convention—one of the biggest, most dynamic ever—was characterized by tough, militant rank-and-file determination to stand together, work together and fight together to get what they need.

What they want and need is more—more money, more fringes, more pensions, better conditions.

Following the opening of the convention by Local 6 president Curtis McClain, an invocation by Reverend Elmore Giles, and words of greeting by Mayor Alioto, guests were introduced. Then significantly, the session was greeted by international Teamster vice president George Mock—the man who co-chaired the 1967 negotiations with ILWU secretary-treasurer Louis Goldblatt.

JOINT ACTION

Mock’s statement, plus several comments of other Teamster leaders, hammered home the fact that once again there would be joint action, with Teamsters and ILWU (Local 6 and Local 17, Sacramento), representing about 25,000 warehousemen in Northern California, from Fresno to the Oregon border.

After a report by secretary-trea-
On the Beam

Harry Bridges

CIVIL WAR GENERAL William T. Sherman, declining to run for president, declared, "if nominated, I'll guarantee you that any contract negotiated by a person from the ILWU — will continue to go to the rank-and-file for ratification. If we can't do that, the sooner we land in jail the better!"

The idea of imposing final and binding settlement — without rank-and-file ratification — is what we're most concerned with here. It goes to the heart of everything our union has built over the years — which means that the final word in any contract is always spoken by the rank-and-file, usually in secret balloting.

It should be added here that some building trades unions now have constitutional provision to ratify any contract by a majority of all the people, and few enough ever think of the welfare of the people, and few enough ever think of the welfare of the people.

Get the picture of the kind of politician in congress who would even think of going along with a program to rule out the right of workers in a union — and under their own rules — to vote in any fashion. That's a most impressive contract — voting their opinion by silence or by walking out.

And there's another thing I know — and so does almost everyone in our union — that is that your politician, in discussing the state of the nation and ways in which ils can be corrected, doesn't always think primarily of the welfare of the people, and few-ever enough ever think of the welfare of the people.

Try to get the picture of how this might work: Imagine a local union situation in which contract negotiations have been going on and both officers and the rank-and-file must be stopped from the simple act of getting up to make a motion.

The next thing, discussion on the motion — especially if it is a recommendation to adopt a contract — must be stopped. Furthermore you've got to stop the ranks from voting or otherwise expressing themselves on such a motion.

Picture a situation in which hundreds of unionists in meetings all over the country are asked to say either yes or no about national contract — and the moment they say either yes or no, they find themselves in violation of the law and even subject to jail!

In my opinion, unless there's a complete overhaul of our total bourgeois democratic system, nothing like this will ever get through congress. And if such can happen then we would indeed have a fascist state.

As far as trying to put over any device denying the rank-and-file the right to vote, they can pass all the laws they want. We've got national contract negotiated by people from the ILWU — will continue to go to the rank-and-file for ratification. If we can't do that, the sooner we land in jail the better!
Williamson to ‘Fire Up’ District Council

SEATTLE — Newly elected president Walter Williamson of Tacoma Local 23 pledged to “fire up this Puget Sound Council and drive on issues which concern us.”

Among delegates agreeing to carry this program into the locals for action were newly elected officers James Costa (Local 19), vice president; Ed Palmer, Local 52, secretary-treasurer; trustees Delene Bausch, Local 47; James B. Blagdon, Local 27, and John S. Modenese, Local 7. Elected as area labor relations committee, Eastern, was John B. Brown, Local 19, for the Seattle area and Don Gilchrest, Local 32, for the north area. President Williamson represents the south area on this committee.

Clerks Local 52 asked action by council members to set a common stop-work meeting night once a month for all locals and it was agreed to refer the matter to the membership.

During a spirited discussion on the effects of pollution on the everyday living and on the industry, lobbyist James Costa pointed out that while big business, according to Evans boasts that the state has a pollution control law and a progressive program, “Evans will not take on the big pulp mills through legislation or the courts.”

Council delegates expressed the opinion the State Pollution Control Board should be investigated.

Mrs. Nettie Craycraft, vice president of Washington State auxiliaries, pledged all-out support of auxiliary members to legislative efforts of the council.

The Puget Sound Council will hold a special meeting March 19 for the purpose of drafting revisions to its constitution.

Local 26 Wins Top Contract at Bag Firm

LOS ANGELES — After difficult bargaining, Local 26 members at Friedman Bag Company have received the “negotiator’s package” in the company’s history.

The vote to accept the contract was 96-yes and 25-no.

The three year contract provides first-year wage increases of from 11c to 85c depending on classification.

If there is no agreement reached through legislation or the courts.”

There will be across-the-board 10c hikes in March 1971 and March 1972 as well.

The company will also foot the health and welfare premiums up to $31.80.

Negotiations were coordinated with Teamster Local 609 which represents workers at another Friedman plant in Portland, Oregon.

If there is no agreement reached in Portland, Local 26 will respect Teamster picket lines, if they are set up in Los Angeles.

Local 29 Wins San Diego Harbor Work

The ILWU now represents 52 San Diego Harbor Department workers. These workers who form a great majority of those employed by the Harbor Department have been members of Local 29 as of March 1

It is expected that the few who have not become members of Local 29 will do so before the month is over.

A delegate hits the deck.

continued from page 1 —

more money—even if, as in 1967, a strike will be necessary.

Among the officers’ recommendations on wages for upcoming negotiations, these three were rate raises over three years of 50 cents, 50 cents and 50 cents, plus increased shift differentials and a negotiated cost of living clause.

These recommendations were the result of several week-end bull sessions with stewards and interested members who carefully considered not only wages, but additional holidays, health and welfare and dental plans, prescription drugs, vacations, life insurance, seniority, sick leave, overtime, and pension improvements.

Despite the officers’ recommendations amendments from the floor asked for $1 an hour each year for the next three years.

Many other recommendations were also amended from the floor.

In addition delegates voted, on the recommendation of Goldblatt, to reconvene this same delegated convention after ILWU and Teamster warehouse negotiators meet to sort out the variety of demands made by all the locals, to set up a joint negotiating committee, to develop a satisfactory joint program and resubmit the demands to the delegates.

Both Goldblatt and ILWU president Harry Bridges spoke in favor of a reconvened convention. Bridges also assured delegates that no anti-labor laws or attempts to put over compulsory arbitration will really hurt the ILWU “as long as we are unified.”

(As The Dispatcher was going to press the first meeting of the Northern California Warehouse Council—ILWU-IDT — was held at Western Conference of Teamsters’ headquarters in Burlingame.)

ALLIANCE

Goldblatt reminded delegates that “we are in an alliance, held together by joint negotiating strength. There is no substitute for joint effective bargaining—that way you’re able to shut down a whole industry at one time. When we finally agree on a fighting program, it’s going to be a program the ranks will support all the way.”

In his opening address, president McClain said, “1970 may very well be the most important year of the decade for the family of labor.”

In addition to the ILWU-Teamster contract expiring, many national agreements also terminate—rubber, auto and the Teamster national freight agreement.

Noting the hostile atmosphere in Washington, McClain added, “We know that big business still controls the government, state, city and national, but as a union we shall continue to act and fight for what we think is right.”

On other than pork chop problems, McClain continued: “As trade unionists there are other issues that we must be aware of and we must act individually and collectively to change them, or bring them to a halt because they are poisoning our country. A few of them are:

1. The continuing of the war in Vietnam; 2. The anti-labor legislation that has been introduced; 3. The refusal to implement the civil rights bills which have been passed.”

The warehouse delegates were assured that the entire ILWU is behind them in the coming struggle. Greetings came from Joe Baarra, Local 26 president, Los Angeles; Jim Herman, Local 24 president, San Francisco; Peggy Burke, Local 67 business agent; and Local 10 chief dispatcher David Littleson.

Also introduced were business agents and board members, all the International officers, as well as George Pedrin, Local 12 Teamster business agent, who promised “you will have our full cooperation and solidarity at the negotiating table and on the picket line.” East Bay business agent Bill Burke acted as convention secretary.

MEMORY OF CHILI

A very moving moment came when the entire convention stood for a minute in the memory of the late Local 6 president, Chili Duarte.

When Teamster vice president Mock spoke, he said, “Let’s make this a bigger warehouse year than ever in honor of Chili.”

Three Locals Win PMA Safety Award

SEATTLE — Three northwest ILWU locals have been commended by the Pacific Maritime Association for their 1969 safety records.

Foremen’s Local 56, Seattle, will be given a trophy and plaque for the lowest disabling injury record among foremen’s locals for 1969.

Local 58, San Pedro, also received a similar award for the best record on the Pacific Coast in cutting accidents.

SF Bay is Third Busiest Port in US

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco Bay has become the third busiest harbor in the nation, according to a recent report from the San Francisco Maritime Exchange.

Only New York and Philadelphia rank ahead of the Bay, which moved up from fourth place by surpassing the Long Beach-Los Angeles port last year.
Auto Insurance: How It Is and How It Should Be
By BARRY SILVERMAN
ILWU Research Director

The automobile insurance system in the United States, expensive, inefficient, cumbersome, discriminatory and outdated, has been under constant public attack in recent years. The public is calling for radical changes in the entire system. Both the insurance companies and the government have been slow to respond.

HIGHER PREMIUMS

High premiums, way out of proportion to benefits or services provided by the insurers, are at the top of everyone's list of complaints about auto insurance. For example, for the period 1957-66, the premiums for bodily injury liability rose by 117 percent in Hawaii, and 52 percent in California. In the same years, auto damage insurance rates rose by 57 percent in Hawaii and 73 percent in California.

On top of these increases insurance companies represented by the Insurance Rating Bureau in California announced in 1968 that they were raising their rates for Bay Area drivers by 12.2 percent. In New Jersey, the State Farm, the single biggest carrier in the state, raised its rates by 19.1 percent in December, following a rate hike of seven percent in April, 1968; and no end is in sight.

In response to a rate increase of 22 percent in Ohio, the Ohio AFL-CIO last November declared: "The only remedy we see in the foreseeable future is to provide auto insurance to our members at a reasonable cost and in a permanent basis."

In New Jersey, in 1968, the State AFL-CIO succeeded in blocking a 20 percent increase in liability insurance rates. In retaliation, some carriers in New Jersey have occasionally raised rates on specific policy types, thus the companies are able to set their rates higher because of the threat of rate increases in other areas of the state. In New Jersey, for example, the companies are able to set their rates even higher because of the threat of rate increases in other areas of the state. In New Jersey, for example, the companies are able to set their rates even higher because of the threat of rate increases in other areas of the state.

ASSIGNED RISKS

Rate increases are not the only problem which has drivers up in arms. Cancellations and nonrenewals of policies have created unnecessary hardships for millions of drivers. Others have been placed in high-risk categories for simple traffic violations or minor accidents. Others have been forced to pay higher rates because of their occupations, the place they live, the color of their skin, their marital status, their nickname, or for other equally phony reasons.

For example, in its rating manual, the Continental Insurance Co., tells its agents to be wary of employees of taverns and night clubs, race track employees, musicians and entertainers, circus and carnival personnel, and pool hall employees.

The manual describes as "some-what less desirable" waiters and waitresses, janitors, cooks and bus-boys, taxi drivers, parking lot attend- ends, bellhops, painters, seamen, longshoremen and dock workers, oil field workers, paperhangers, beauticians, un-married manicurists, and liquor store employees.

SEtTLEMENTS

A third and equally serious area of insurance company abuse is inequit- able and long delayed claim settle- ments coupled with exorbitant law- iers' fees. The auto insurance system is based on insuring drivers against the damage they may do to others. Settlements therefore are dependent upon a finding of fault or negligence on the part of one of the parties to an accident. As anyone who has ever had an accident knows, such find- ings or exclusive guilt are time con- suming and usually difficult if not impossible to obtain. Even then, the settlements often do not reflect the actual loss, either because they are company anticipates that it will incu- bate a loss, but that a settlement won't be reached for some time to come. It makes a guess as to what the settlement might eventually be and puts that amount of money into what it calls the loss reserve. Be- tween the time of the accident and the time of the settlement the company has this money at work earn- ing more money.

Also, the companies set up what they call a claims reserve. This money is set aside which will at some time be used to cover the admin- istrative and legal costs of settling claims. This money is also invested and put to work for the company.

These sources of income are not reported in rate-making with the exception of four states on the East Coast. The companies consistently claim that they lose money on auto insurance. But from 1957 to 1968 it

is estimated they had over $7 billion in investment income.

As Senator Phillip Hart (D-Mich) pointed out back in 1968, "When someone turns one pocket inside out to show you how empty it is, but has over $7 billion in the other pocket, it is difficult to take their claim of poverty too seriously."

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

What is more, the companies are able to hide their actual rates of return through the use of an intricate accounting system. San Francisco lawyer Gilbert Friedman, an expert on auto insurance, has explained it this way:

"Ignoring the profit from reserve funds when making their public-fi

nancial picture is not the only way in which insurance companies let it appear that they are losing money. They have a procedure which makes it look as if they are losing the most money at the very time they are en- joying the greatest increase in busi- ness."

PHONY CATEGORIES

Insurance premiums are especially high for those thousands of drivers placed in assigned risk. The companies do what they can to avoid adverse selection—not insuring people who may be likely to make claims. The companies create phony categories according to such things as residence, occupation, race, or marital status.

Thus the companies are able to milk millions of drivers for higher premiums. They couldn't do this if they actually evaluated personal driving records and abilities.

The insurance companies have tried to make it appear as if they were the guardians of public safety on the highways. The companies have sometimes justified their higher rates by claiming that the threat of higher rates is one way to encourage safe driving.

As one enlightened insurance company executive has said: "The primary purpose of driving must be our vehicle and police systems. I don't think the insurance industry should be placed in the role of the policeman. More- over, one could argue that if pre- serving yourself is going to make you drive safely, then insurance penalties are not going to be effective.

In short, auto insurers now have the power to place the burden on and who shall not by their ability to categorize drivers and assign rates. They ought not to have that right. Decision as to what constitutes de- fensive judgment, poor driving skill, or recklessness is for the courts and motor vehicle department au- thorities, not the insurance companies."

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

One reason the auto insurance companies are able to get away with such highway robbery is that many "public servants" are in the hip pockets of the companies.

State insurance commissioners, presumably protectors of the public interest, are often taken right out of the insurance business. Consciously or unconsciously they operate as if they were in the position to protect the companies from the con- sumers rather than vice versa.

In testimony before a Senate Sub-
A Right to Walk Like Men

ALCATRAZ, Indianland — “You folks are just like a labor union on strike. You have to last one day longer than the other guy.”

The speaker was Louis Goldblatt, ILWU secretary-treasurer who was part of a labor delegation which paid a call recently on the 150 Indians who have occupied Alcatraz Island, a former federal prison in the middle of San Francisco bay, for three months.

Mrs. Stella Leach — half Sioux, half Colville — gave the delegates a great tour of the island, cleaning up the material goods for these 16 acres is more than the lowest type of human degradation. Mrs. Leach said that before it was a federal prison, Alcatraz was a prison for Indian warriors, and before that a Spanish prison.

She took the delegation down into the hole, the old Spanish dungeon, where Indian braves had been taken, ripped away from their homes and their people.

She spoke with feeling of the white man’s fouling of the earth, of his own surroundings.

“We will not be buildings, not Disneyland objects. We want to build a monument here not for the gain of Caesar or other greed. We want to build a monument here for the gain of our own people like dirt. Just look at how union men fought and have had to keep fighting just to keep off their knees.”

The first stop was in a nursery where 10 or 15 Indian children were hard at work drawing, under the guidance of two young women.

EDUCATION

There are four teachers on the island who run classes for children for the first through the seventh grade. The school has been accredited by the Berkeley School District.

The morning is spent on required subjects, while in the afternoon the children learn native American history, culture and crafts.

The adults are divided in work crews, maintaining and restoring the island, cleaning up the material used by hundreds of years of human despair.

Indeed, it’s strange to such vibrancy and hope on an island which for so many years represented the island’s former use as a federal prison, Alcatraz was a prison for Indian warriors, and before that a Spanish prison.

We, the native Americans, re-claim the land known as Alcatraz Island in the name of all American Indians by right of discovery.

We will offer them our religion, trade union delegation; and “Indian Joe” Morris, a member of ILWU Local 10, also a member of the Council, talks with two young Indian women.

Continued from Page 4— committee last year the president of the Ohio AFL-CIO hit the nail on the head when he said, “But the Superintendent of Insurance ... only indicated that the Department in its operations and in its thinking had aligned itself with the insurance industry.”

Florida legislature have insurance company interests. And the chairman of each of these committees have considerable amounts of legal work for the companies.

Auto insurance is a necessity in today’s world of high speed, unsafe cars, overcrowded highways and freeways, and careless licensing procedures.

Clearly, the auto insurance system cannot now be changed by piecemeal reform. That time is long since passed.

In the second part of this article we’ll describe the efforts which have been made to date, what should be done, and what we as consumers and trade unionists may do to build a new and equitable system of auto insurance.

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California Auxiliaries Stress Political Action for 1970

According to Mrs. Taylor, "it is not a question of knowing what the problem is or who is contributing to the problem. The big question is to get the funds appropriated on a federal and state level to clean up the situation... the auxiliaries must support all efforts for clean air and water legislation with the idea in mind of placing the blame where it belongs, mainly on industries."

Auxiliaries were also asked to assist in the repeal fight on the Winton Act, which handicaps teachers' unions in collective bargaining.

The delegates also heard from ILWU International president Harry Bridges. "These are difficult times," Bridges said. "It is hard to be objective and cold blooded to arrive at solutions of the problems of the day. It is a great world but with a lot of bad things to be changed. There are the hungry, the illiterate, those with no medical care; there is discrimination, there are brush wars and threats of larger ones. All of these things exist in specific forms everywhere. I prefer to take the positive approach. Our job is to see where the bad spots are, to try and find some answers that will work or which have the tendency to work. Any other approach is too negative."

Sixteen delegates and one alternate represented five auxiliaries. The convention was also attended by Federated Auxiliaries president Valerie Taylor, first vice president Ruth Harris, secretary Norma Wyatt, as well as by Northern and Southern California Federated vice presidents Barbara Ellsworth and Gertrude Brasted.

Joseph Zirr, ILWU Veteran, Passes Away

PORTLAND — Funeral services here March 3 for Joseph Zirr, a veteran of the '43 strike and longshoreman on the Portland waterfront for 40 years. Born in Selz, Russia, 75 years ago, Zirr was an Army veteran of World War I. Oldtimers remember him as a man who never missed picket duty or a union meeting. His first strike was in 1922.

After his retirement nine years ago, he was active in the Columbia River Pensioners Memorial Association, and was an executive board member of CRPMA at the time of his death.

He is survived by his widow, Mary G., two daughters and other relatives.

Mrs. Ruth Harris, Los Angeles, first vice president of the ILWU Federated Auxiliaries of President Nixon, California Federated Auxiliaries Convention, held last week in San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO — One delegate summed it up. "I will do all I can to show the present administration that I am not of the silent majority and will work for the defeat of the anti-union, anti-civil rights, anti-student, anti-everything policy of the government."

In this spirit, an ambitious program of defense and political action this election year was charted by the Ninth Biennial California State Convention of Federated Auxiliaries meeting here February 28 and March 1.

The Convention agreed to concentrate on the social welfare, consumer and education sections of the Joint Northern and Southern California District Council ILWU programs for 1970.

At the same time auxiliaries were warned to be alert for action on other important fronts, especially items of interest to labor. They were urged to act with the local unions.

WORLD PEACE

First on the list was the question of world peace. In her report to the Convention, Federated Auxiliaries president Valerie Taylor said:

"The ILWU program for peace has been our guide in working for a cease-fire... to stop being the world's cop... and we have been urging congressional control over the military-industrial complex... Most auxiliaries have taken the union seriously in its recommendations that members take the peace program into the communities."

The Convention resolution on AHI characterized the new proposal to expand the Geneva Gas Protocol, with the inclusion of a ban on the use of tear gas and other harass ing agents, the initiation of a ban on the use of herbicides and defoliants. In addition, delegates signed and forwarded a petition on this subject.

Mrs. Norma Wyatt, Federated Auxiliaries secretary, also reported the widespread concern on the stockpiling, storage and transportation of "nerve gas" in Oregon.

Large shipments of nerve gas from Okinawa are expected to be stored in the Northwest in a short time. The Northwest auxiliaries have been particularly active in opposing the shipment of this poison gas.

The Convention demanded that President Nixon initiate measures for deactivation and detoxification of the gases while in Okinawa.

Barb Harris, first vice president of the Federated Auxiliaries, discussed the problems of drug use and the extension of penalties for the use of marijuana.

The delegates responded by recommending a message of legislation to reduce the penalty for mere possession to a misdemeanor.

In the area of voting rights the Convention asked President Nixon and California senators to support the extension of voting rights to 18 and 19 year old people, describing youth as "highly motivated and eager to participate."

An ILWU Dispatch Editor Sidney Roger told the delegates: "We need to work together with our young... they are trying to get our attention. Ask yourselves 'why am I not bothered by the things that are bothering them'? The generation gap is our gap and there has to be an awful lot of us with them before we can bridge that gap."

A letter sent by the delegates to the California senators and to the House Democratic caucus called for support of the Metcalf Bill and a concurrent one in the House to establish a National Independent Consumers' Counsel to represent consumers in rate proceedings before federal and state regulatory bodies.

Resolutions were passed on amendments to the "Fair Packaging and Labeling" laws asking for lists of all ingredients, including additives; price per unit information and standardized weights.

NUMBER ONE PROBLEM

In her report to the Convention, president Taylor reported that hunger is the No. 1 social problem facing about 13 percent of the nation's population and that 15 percent of American children live in poverty.

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ILWU Exec Board Knocks Labor Law, Supports Indians

Continued from Page 1

Full sympathy and support was extended to the Indians occupying Alcatraz Island "as a haven and safe harbor of the genocide they have suffered." (See story on Page 8.)

- Voted to continue affiliation with the California Council for Health Plan Alternatives.
- Swore in newly elected members Wes Johnson, Local 8, Portland, and Ken Anderson, Local 19, Sacramento.
- Extended condolences to Dispatcher editor Sidney Roger on the death of his wife.
- Discussed negotiations with architects for the new International headquarters.
- Heard a report from vice-president Bill Chester on a developing survey of container freight stations.
- Finally, vice-president Jack Hall delivered a report on the ILWU organizing drive. He noted particularly the success in organizing campaigns in all ILWU areas.

Cal Assembly Anti-Scab Bill

SACRAMENTO — A bill to outlaw professional strikebreakers, drafted by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, has been introduced in the State Assembly as AB 599.

The principal sponsor of the bill is Assemblyman Peer E. Ward (D-Los Angeles), but the bill is also co-sponsored by many other legislators.

Barnett and Ortega On South Cal Staff

LOS ANGELES—Two trade union veterans, Earlie Barnett and Roy Ortega, have recently been added to the ILWU southern California organizing staff. Both are members of Local 20.

Barnett first became a union man thirty years ago when, at the age of 18, he organized the secret sauce man and man bakery in which he worked.

Since coming to Local 26 five years ago, Barnett has been a member of the stewards’ council and recording secretary for the executive board.

Ortega has been a member of Local 26 for 12 years. He has been as a steward and on many local committees. He also has been a member of the executive board for the last five years. He is also chairman of the Local 26 stewards.

Workers’ Real Income Down for 12th Month

American workers’ purchasing power dropped for the fifth straight month in January 1970, as prices continued to rise, the Labor Department reported yesterday.

According to the government figures, average weekly earnings and income from nonfarm workers dropped 81 cents between December and January to $116.81.

Although the figures say that take-home pay rose slightly, they are wiped out by the rise in the consumer price index four-tenths of one percent for the month. Real, or purchasing, income was down.

The biggest price hikes in the December through January period were in transportation, medical care, food and clothing.

John Felando (left), clerks Local 63, receives the Perpetual Trophy from Ed Molle (right), longshore Local 13, Chairman of the ILWU, as Larry McDaniells, Clerks Local 13, owner of the Harbor Harbors. This was the first annual presentation of the Perpetual Trophy by ILWU Local 13, Foremen Local 94 and Local 63. The inscription on the trophy reads: "In Honor of the Father of Our Union." Monthly club tournaments held throughout Southern California have player participation of 85-100 men. Membership is limited to longshoremen, clerks, foremen and others in the industry. An ILWU women’s Golf Club has recently been formed in the Los Angeles-Long Beach area.

Local 20 Borden Unit Fringe Wins Hike

COMPSTON, Calif.—Members of ILWU Local 20 employed by the Borden Chemical Company here have approved an agreement providing solid improvements in health and welfare benefits.

The three-year contract negotiated in 1969 was open for health and welfare benefits this year.

The big gains were in the field of medical, maternity, surgery, and hospital expense benefits. Also the cost of life insurance has been reduced.

Negotiating committee members were unit vice-president Donald Williams; chief steward Jerry Clingan; Ernie Smith, John Rodrigues, Tyrone White and John Liebzeit. Alternates are Bert Cooper and Bob Yancy. They were assisted by contract administrator Sid London and International representative Don Wright.

Local 8 Cement Workers Strike

PORTLAND — Local 8 workers at Ashgrove Lime & Cement Company went on strike February 25, after rejecting an offer which did not include union security or an adequate pay increase.

The contract expired February 26. Negotiations began last December, according to Local 8 President Fred Goetzinger. Some 25 workers are involved.

Local 26 Wins at West Coast Forge

LOS ANGELES—Local 26 won an overwhelming victory in an NLRB election late last month at the West Coast Forge Division of Whittaker Corporation.

With 49 of the 54 eligible workers voting, the final results were ILWU—34 votes; no union—15 votes; and Boilermakers Union—6 votes.

Memen R. Muniz of South San Francisco, a member of Local 6, president of the ship.

Here’s a photograph of the far-travelling scatter-gunniers with one day’s bag limit of ringnecks.

Two longshoremen, brothers Jess and Hewitt “Red” Brackfield, both retired out of Local 13, Wilmington, got it in their heads to do some pheasant hunting, and both decided that distance didn’t matter much, just so they had a chance at the big one.

So they took off from Wilmington and headed for Idaho where they say: ‘We got our share of the gaudy wingers and met a lot of nice people—

Offmost of the oddest target sports is trapshooting. More than 5,000,000 hunters in America today, it’s a good bet there’s a few million clay targets.

Trapshooting was practiced in England as early as 1750 and we note that in the early 1800’s there was an English shooting group known as the “High Hats.”

Earning the name from the high topppers they wore, they had a unique method of releasing targets. At a given signal, the shooter raised his hat to release a bird from underneath. As the winger took off into the blue, the shooter calmly replaced his toppor and fired away.

In 1886 glass balls were introduced as targets. To give the illusion of actual live game, the balls were filled with feathers which scattered in a puff when the shooter scored a hit. The name “trap,” the device used to throw the targets, came from the fact that the original trap shooters used live pigeons which were placed in traps. On signal, the trap operator pulled the cord, liberating a clay target from the high topppers they wore, they had a unique method of releasing targets. At a given signal, the shooter raised his hat to release a bird from underneath. As the winger took off into the blue, the shooter calmly replaced his toppor and fired away.

Would you like to add a shiny new spinning lure to your collection? We’d be happy to trade one of the illustrated KROCODILE lures for a clear snapshot—either in color or black-and-white—of a fishing or hunting scene, and a few words as to what the snapshot is about. Send it to:

Fred Goetz, Dept. TD
Portland, Oregon 97202

Please mention your Local number. All photos must show members of your Local and their families, and, of course, retired members are eligible.

A Funny Way to Catch Fish

In Japan, longshoremen have been known to use bundled logs aboard the Montsion in Olympia an 8-pound steelhead was trapped in a bundle of logs. When the logs were landed in the hold the fish was picked up and given to the supercargo Jack Franklin who presented said fish to the Captain of the ship.
Because We Love Our Young People—15,000 Ask For Peace

HONOLULU — More than 15,000 people attended ILWU Family Picnics for Peace at 15 locations throughout the State of Hawaii over the weekend of Feb. 28- March 1. Picnickers signed a peace petition which calls for President Nixon to adopt a program of (1) immediate ceasefire, (2) set a target date for withdrawing all troops in 1970, (3) further efforts to negotiate a political settlement, (4) withdraw all support from the Saigon government if it hampers peace negotiations, (5) all possible use of the United Nations to guarantee peace in Southeast Asia.

The petition asserts that "each day the war continues does more harm than good to the people of America and the people of Vietnam." Therefore, it says, "because we love our nation and our young people, and because we do not want to inflict further damage on the people of Vietnam, we respectfully petition for a new national policy."

They forwarded the petitions to President Nixon with a letter which says, "We are assembled here today to show you how much we want you to end the war in Vietnam and bring our boys home this year." They sent another letter to their legislators urging them to support a resolution memorializing Congress in favor of the points made in the petition.

From start to finish the statewide peace action was a rank-and-file operation. Hundreds of union members were involved in the preparations for the picnics, which had previously been discussed and voted on in step-work meetings throughout the State.

The idea for the picnic was first raised in the Local 142 Executive Board in December. The Board noted that more and more people now agree with ILWU's long-time position that the war is wrong and the killing must be stopped. The student-initiated Moratorium movement demonstrated the tremendous growth of peace sentiment, but union members did not turn out in strength for moratorium activities.

The Board said that "this is the time when ILWU has the best chance of winning our goal, and when our mass participation can do the most good." The Board felt that "We owe it to ourselves and to our country to show where ILWU stands."

Congresswoman Patsy Mink spoke to a crowd in Maui and at a Big Island picnic in Pepeekeo, Hilo and Puna. She asked her audience to join her in urging President Nixon to take the initiative and announce a time table for the complete pullout of our forces." Otherwise, she said, the war could drag on for years.

Recalling that the bombing halt, which she had urged on President Johnson, had indeed produced peace talks in Paris, she said she believes that a definite time-table for a complete withdrawal "will yield the peace which we all want." She noted that in the Paris talks the North Vietnamese have not insisted on withdrawal before they will negotiate a peace, but have insisted that we agree to be out by a definite fixed date.

Mrs. Gilbert Rosa dances at the Hilo picnic. Musicians, from left to right, are Mrs. Lawai Yung, Mrs. Kahului Ioane, Neki Kauhi and Henry Umuiwi.

Picnic at Ookala. Tag of war between Ockela and Papaeloa wainhes ended in a draw.


At the ILWU Peace Picnic at Onekahakaha Beach, Hilo, Rev. Tuck Wah Lee meets some of the old gang. Left to right, Thomas Piga, Gregorio Bonilla, Don Haleamau, Jr., Eddie Paaluhi and Charlie Narimatsu (Bulk Plant), and Rev. Lee Lee Lee. Lee is a former Hilo longshoreman, and was treasurer of the Hilo dock unit during the 1949 strike. He's now the pastor of the Kawaiahao church, the oldest Hawaiian church.

George Martin, Big Island division director, said, "Our union had the courage and patriotism to speak out against this war when it first began and today the majority of the people agree with us that it was a bad policy and we were right. This is true patriotism."

Eddie Tangen in Lihue, Kauai, stated: "I made the same speech here in 1965. At that time there were only 4,000 American dead. Today there are 40,000. Just look around you at the young people with us today. Let's make up our minds right now that we're going to see to it that they are always able to enjoy themselves like this and don't come back home in caskets."

Activities varied from one location to another — all the way from Kauiki type entertainment at Puna to social dancing at Ookala. There was Filipino singing on Molokai, impromptu singing by union members on Oahu, and at Hilo and Kohala on the Big Island, and Hawaiian music at Paauhau and Kailua-Kona.

The Hilo High School band played at Hilo's Gilbert Carvalho Park and the Hawaii County Band at Onekahakaha Park, and the Honokaa County Band played at Kailua-Kona.

There were children's games at most picnics. On Maui, a color TV, two bicycles and 200 turkeys were given as prizes in raffles and treasure hunts.

Food ran the gamut from beef stew and broiled steaks on Molokai, kalua pig on Lanai and at two picnics in the Kaua area, to box lunches in Puna and Kohala. On Maui it was bring your own. At Puuiki Beach on Oahu, the 6,000 strong turnout confounded the cooks who had prepared kalua pig, adobo pork and beef stew for about 45,000.

Speakers on Oahu besides Mrs. Mink included Buddhist Rev. Yoshikichi Fujitani, Catholic Fr. Jerry Omakanani, UH Prof. Ben Norris, Quaker, Local 142 Pres. Carl Damaso and Division Director Jose Corpuz.

Guest speakers on other islands were UH professors Edward Beecher, Gay Nunn and Walter Johnson, Maui Mayor Elmer Cravalho, Kauai Councilman Ralph Hirota, State Representative Yoshite Takamine, UPW Education Director Max Roffman, Attorney James King, and ILWU representatives Tommy Trask, Eddie Tangen, Bud Arnon, George Martin, Thomas Yagi and Fred Taniuchi.

Clergymen who spoke on neighbor islands included the Rev. Tuck Wah Lee of Kawahiao Church, Catholic fathers Robert Kenally, Herbert Merzbach, and Episcopal Fr. Morimasa Kaneshiro.

Wailluku Sugar Unit editor Rogelio Tadcal circulates the peace petition at the Maui picnic.