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Desert Strike Heats Up

ILWU Man Shot by Hired Guard

TRONA—A striking member of ILWU Local 35 is in serious condition at Trona Hospital after he was shot by a private guard near the American Potash Company's pump station early Saturday morning.

The incident was the most serious in a strike which has seen hired help—-a thing from Los Angeles. Wackenhu guard—-allegedly pull guns and threaten strikers on several occasions.

The injured man, Clarence Kramer, apparently made another calibre revolver. The bullet grazed his right calf, traveled through his right thigh and lodged behind his heart.

Kramer was rushed by ambulance to the hospital where he was placed on a critical list.

At about 1:30 a.m. they drove to the plant, because Pat Herman had picked duty. As their car passed a guard near the company pump house, guards shone a spotlight on them. They turned around and drove back, and the light was put on them again. The man believe that the guards were taking pictures because of a popping flashbulb they saw.

Clarence drew his .44 and asked that the light be turned off. The Wackenhu guard apparently made some obscene remark, and Clarence started across the road. He turned back, however.

As he returned to his car, the same guard apparently made another slighting obscene remark about Clarence's family. He and Pat Herman, justifiably furious, started walking toward the guard's car again.

Clarence drew his foot to kick the door shut and the guard fired. Clarence—who was at this time on public property—fell to the ground.

After shooting Clarence, the guard got out of his car and began threatening Jim George and Jackie Van Hook and Jim George were in nearby Ridgecrest, at the time Clarence, along with Pat Herman, got out of his car and began threatening.

The story begins at about 9 p.m. Monday night, March 30, around 9 p.m. the strikers met on site to discuss the company's latest offer. After a joint report by the ILWU, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), local 60, the two week old picket line.

The administration, however, has adopted the employer's approach of using the "third party" issue as a blackmail weapon against injured workers, and a smokescreen to hide opposition to vitally-needed benefit increases. Both the ILA and AFL-CIO, by convention action, oppose any tampering with "third party" laws which might restrict the rights of injured workers. Instead of the administration's bills, organized labor has urged passage of H.R. 13389 and S. 2467, which would raise benefits to $132, along with other needed improvements. The Act has not been updated since 1961 and the present $70 maximum is far below the two-thirds of wages benefit level intended by congress. No hearing dates have yet been set.

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Order in the Court

LAST WEEK the US Supreme Court declared in a unanimous opinion that trial judges may take the most vigorous steps to preserve "dignity, order and decorum" in the courtroom. Indeed, the guidelines in this opinion spelled out such actions as citing for contempt, expelling or removing from the court with misbehaved in the slightest degree, even such a savage sight as the shackling and gagging of an unruly or disruptive defendant.

It is perhaps significant that the court in hand is an old one, going back 14 years, the decision naturally brings to mind the recent trial of the "Chicago Seven" in Judge Julius Hoffman's court.

Though the case in hand is a mass trial of a large group of individuals, the judges in such cases are as much at fault as the defendants—something with which most people who viewed Hoffmann's behavior in Chicago might agree.

What makes this unanimous Supreme Court opinion so significant is that it was written by Justice Hugo Black and concurred in by Justice William J. Douglas—two giants in the history of upholding civil liberties; yes, even the right of revolutionary dissent. These two men especially have stood as bulwarks against the use of courts to punish political opponents.

We in the ILWU are no strangers to the courts—recall the years of hearings and trials for President Bridges, and the Bridges-Robertson-Schmidt trial which took place in a climate of McCarthyism. At no time was it necessary to put on a show or shout.

As a result the ILWU defendants were able to make their points, explain their union philosophy and ultimately expose the frame-up nature of the government prosecution.

It might have done the country a real service if the Chicago defendants had done a little less strutting and hamming and tried seriously to expose the potential dangers inherent in the use of a conspiracy statute in order to shut off dissent. After all, who knows better than the trade union members how historically conspiracy laws have been used to throttle workers' organizations?

We agree with the idea that the courts can be a useful instrument, when properly used, to protect our rights, even though we have no illusions that the courts are also instruments of the system. We agree with the High Court that the courts cannot be stopped from functioning. You cannot, on the one hand, make a rational disclosure of your point of view, and on the other hand plan to disrupt. You can't have it both ways.

What happens when a union meeting becomes disordered and disruptive? The first victim is each union member who is cheated out of his right to hit the mike and speak his mind. Union experience teaches that when order is not preserved, democracy flies out of the window.

Five hundred ILWU locals are free and autonomous to participate to any extent they desire in marches and demonstrations. But it should be done by action of the rank-and-file at any time. It is not only the union's proper task to protect members, but it happens to be the only effective way to do the job. But there is an important additional point: individuals or groups can quit, providing that the union does not refuse to protect them? This is a more difficult set of circumstances, but over the long period of time the union's proper task is to protect our rights, even though we have no illusions that the courts are also instruments of the system. We agree with the idea that the courts can be a useful instrument, when properly used, to protect our rights, even though we have no illusions that the courts are also instruments of the system. We agree with the High Court that the courts cannot be stopped from functioning. You cannot, on the one hand, make a rational disclosure of your point of view, and on the other hand plan to disrupt. You can't have it both ways.

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So how does the ILWU plan to protect the right to speak before a microphone, even though we have no illusions that the courts are also instruments of the system. We agree with the High Court that the courts cannot be stopped from functioning. You cannot, on the one hand, make a rational disclosure of your point of view, and on the other hand plan to disrupt. You can't have it both ways.

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More Action By Local 6

OAKLAND — Negotiations between Local 6 and the Container Maintenance and Repair Company have been concluded.

The first contract provides all area fringe benefits and area rates of pay for journeymen mechanics with a differential for working foremen. A two-year apprenticeship program has also been established.

Steward Ed Dobro and business agent Bill Burke headed the negotiations.

Also, the Sofo Company, manufacturers of cushions and pillows, has agreed to all fringe area benefits and across the board wage increase of at least 50 cents. The negotiating committee consisted of Gary Henkel, Eric Anderson and business agent Joe Blasquez.

Also, the S.S. White Company, a dental supply house, is starting negotiations with chief steward Mary Sheehan and assistant steward Donald Holland representing the rank and file along with business agent Evelyn Johnson.

Locals 6 and 67 Fight High-Handed Tactics

SAN FRANCISCO — A stationery and book warehouse unit contract with Local 6 for about 30 years was signed with IAM Local 67, were immediately released without severance pay, the company — Ancorp Company — refused. A picket line was established by Local 67 on March 18, and was respected by the 14 warehousemen.

A representative from the parent company in New York flew out and negotiated a 33-1/4, wage scale, but Local 67, are handling negotiations.

New Local 6 House Negotiates in Salinas

SALINAS — Members of Local 6's brand new Nester unit in the low-wage Salinas valley have been receiving a first hand briefing in rank and file-trade unionism as they prepare for their first negotiations with the company as ILWU members.

An elected four-man contract committee, bided out and packed out many contract language items with the company, and will meet with Nester Local 67 in Salinas starting April 9 to finish these items and get down to cost items—the guts of the contract.

Actually involved in negotiations are Elaine Dyer, Al Usery, Nick Gliksohn and Frank Rausch. Rausch was also elected chief steward.

These four sit on the larger contract committee, which also consists of Gary Kollman, Henry Sias, Henry Flores and Marcos Simonides.

Local 6 president Curtis McClain, secretary-treasurer George Valter and business agent Roland Corley have also sat in negotiations.

Local 8 longshoremen unloaded 750 tons of manufactured steel recently from the Anton Chekov, first Russian vessel to visit Portland since 1947. Local 8 supports the International's policy of trade with all nations, local President Fred Huntlinger said. The $256,000 freighter then left Portland for Vancouver, BC to load lumber and pulp for Japan.

Northwest ILWU Chiefs:

Urge United front Against Compulsory Arbitration Bill

PORTLAND — Urging that all labor "close ranks," officers of the Columbia River District Council have written to all local transportation unions and councils in Oregon and southwest Washington urging a fight against the "Emergency Public Protection Act of 1970."

The Nixon administration bill, according to Council President Fred Huntlinger and secretary J. K. Stranhahan "would amount to a long step forward toward imposing compulsory arbitration on nearly all unions."

The bill has three basic provisions:

- The president would be empowered to extend for 30 more days the 80-day "cooling off period" already provided for by Taft-Hartley.
- The president could order the partial operation of a struck industry.
- The president could convey a special panel to consider the final proposals of the union and the employer and impose one of them without rank and file ratification.

The CRDC officers called on all unions and councils involved in transportation in the area to immediately outline massive letter and telegram writing campaigns at once demanding defeat of Senate Bill 3026—and of HR 16226, a companion bill in the house.

If the bill is passed—"if, despite our efforts, the Administration is successful in its plans to destroy the economic power of organized labor"—the involved unions should hold conferences to work out mutual aid and assistance pacts, they suggest.

This is in line with a policy statement adopted by the ILWU executive board in March. The board described the bill as "clearly designed to weaken if not to destroy the economic bargaining power of workers in the transportation industry."

BUSINESS MAGAZINE

And in fact, according to the big business magazine, Business Week, the "original bill 'would have brought all industries under the compulsory mechanism.' " The business organ said, "changing the law, not just for transportation but for all negotiations in which the public is involved, would provide a therapy that the country badly needs."

The bill has also been condemned by AFL-CIO president George Meany and teamster vice-president Frank Fluminos.

Stranahan and Huntlinger go on to call for quick action, "mindful of the fact that Taft-Hartley (1947) and Landrum-Griffin (1959) passed over the too little and too late opposition of a partially divided labor movement."

Copies also went to ILWU affiliates in the area, ILWU councils in the three Pacific Coast states and Alaska, and ILWU regional directors and international representatives, as well as the Oregon and Washington AFL-CIO state councils, the Oregon Labor Press, Oregon Teamster, Union Register, AWPPW Rebel, Tacoma Labor Advocate, Seattle Scanner and King County Labor News, and the International Woodworker.

Puget Sound Labor Girds For Politics

SEATTLE—While not discounting the importance of money in a political campaign, AFL-CIO official Joe Davis told the ILWU Puget Sound Council's special meeting last month that "participation by the rank and file of organized labor is the most powerful weapon of all."

"It is something that money cannot buy. You get it by making sure members are registered to vote, mail them data on the issues and get them wise to what's going on. Involve them. Get them to ring door bells. That action will pay off in a better life for everyone."

At present chairman of the United Labor Lobby in Olympia with which the ILWU Puget Sound Council's Steve Davis, a veteran of 20 years of trade union political action had been invited to speak to council delegates.

Asked why he considered the United Labor Lobby so important when after each session their report complained about how little they had gained he answered that "without the lobby things would have been much worse. It has proved its worth in stopping bad bills from being passed as well as getting some, not nearly enough, but some, good bills passed."

He stated labor had to work in a united manner to get any results and that on those few occasions when lobby members could not agree and acted singly "this could be heard to say "Leave that alone. Labor is divided on it. I wouldn't touch it with a ten foot pole. You can't be right."

Veteran Local 6 Leader, Sam Barren, Dead at 85

SAN FRANCISCO — Sam Barren, member of Local 6 since 1934, died March 11, 1970, at age 85. He joined the union when it was Local 61, Warragul, Victoria, and moved from there to San Francisco.

He was a volunteer organizer for three years in 1943 and organized civil service warehouse men and women at various Marine Corps bases in San Francisco.

He was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1950 to 1962 and a delegate to the International Convention many times. He was elected Business Agent in the San Francisco District Division in 1950 and again in 1952. He is survived by his widow, Addie Barren.

(Incorrectly, when The Dispatcher published the news of Sam Barren's death in the last issue, the accompanying picture was not of Barren, but of his son, Henry Gilkooh.)

Our apologies to Gilkooh and the family and friends of Sam Barren—Editor's note.)

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The ILWU OVERSEAS delegation to Tanzania brought together three people from different West Coast localities who combine the entire range of longshore experience: Roy Cutchlow, Seattle, longshoreman, with a skilled background; Dennis Hooper, Eureka, longshoreman with a supervisory background; and Kenneth Miles of Portland, a walking boss. It was a racially integrated delegation from a predominantly white and prosperous country visiting a predominantly black and impoverished country.

Leaving San Francisco September 23, 1969, the delegation reached Tanzania on September 25, by way of Los Angeles, London, Rome, Nairobi, Kenya and on to Dar es Salaam, the capital of Tanzania and our major destination.

Tanzania is in the southern half of East Africa, on the Indian Ocean, bounded on the north by Kenya and Uganda; on the west by Rwanda Burundi and the Congo; on the south by Mozambique, Tanzania includes the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba on the Indian Ocean. The last census gave it a population of about 12 1/2 million, mostly Bantu tribes, and also Indians, Pakistanis, and some Europeans. Swahili is the official language, though after the English is universally taught. Third grade English is universally taught.

After an uprising against Britain they achieved independence on December 20, 1960, and Tanzania joined with the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba on April 26, 1964, to form what is now the United Republic of Tanzania.

The approach by air to Tanzania is breathtaking. On one side stands the famed Mt. Kilimanjaro with its snow-capped head above the clouds, while the land mass below is a fantastic array of beautiful colors.

Dar es Salaam—means in Arabic “haven of peace,” or “peaceful harbor”—looked like a modern city as we approached it. From the airport building boom in Dar es Salaam. Floors of modern structure are shored up by tree limbs.

Modern Red Chinese ship in harbor.
The system of electing union representatives is based on earnings, but even so the average African worker must budget very carefully to afford more than mere subsistence. Increases or decreases are in pointess. Under government control of unions the American worker is said to be in precarious position. Typical discharge to barge in bay. Tallyman rides the crane.

We met a dock worker who seemed unhappy and anxious to give us the lowdown on the labor picture. We had been getting official views so this was an opportunity to get a worker's point of view. He agreed to meet us privately at our hotel. He did not show and we suspect he was discouraged from keeping the appointment (after the same sort of thing about letting the cat out of the bag in the presence of our official guide). Several other attempts to get workers to express opinions were met either silence or evasive conversation.

Readers must understand that foreigners are very suspicious and Americans most of all—and Tanzanians make no bones about it. However we did enjoy more freedom and latitude than the embassy personnel who are restricted to a 14-mile radius.

On the first day of October our host took us for a trip to University College of Dar es Salaam, located about seven miles from the city center. It sits on a hill overlooking the city and the Bay, a complex of most beautiful and striking architecture. We wanted to see some pictures of the university, but our request was turned down. (There are two ways you can snap photos: 1. Get official permission; and 2. Sneak. We were told that an American using the sneaky techniques spent about three weeks in the poky.)

We had seen lift trucks, bulls, tractors pulling trailers under the gear. One thing we found unique is there is no division of labor personnel. All menning necessary to run a port are employed here—dockmen, foremen, checkers, etc. are all lumped together as a unit and belong to the dock workers and seafarers section of NUTA. They have regular and casual workers; regulars are salaried by the month with overtime provisions—e.g., double time for time after 48 hours, Sundays and public holidays. The casuals are paid daily. Wage comes to 1.815 shillings per hour (25 cents an hour).

A Hostile Reception

Conference with harbor officials. Man in African shirt (dashiki) is Cutchlow of Local 19; next to him, Dennis Hooper of Local 14. Ken Miles, of Local 92, took the picture.

The quay has three berths alongside the dock but using ship's gear is impossible because of the proximity and limited mobility of several cranes serving the vessels.

New dock will solve some problems, but bring others—such as displaced workers. At this time Tanzanians are vitally concerned with questions of employment and deployment of their people. Their main goal—th effective social and economic development of the nation. The government on behalf of the workers and the Ministry of Labor. The delegation realized very soon that a great many of the workers we saw are probably only one generation or less removed from straight, simple, small agriculture. After all up until very recently the African colonies were nothing but raw material producers for the great powers. Therefore, the union itself would be a relatively new concept for new kinds of workers who are coming into a new society which is still a long way from being built.

The difference between country people and the city people is almost like two worlds in the same country. In the city people dress like westerners and do things similar to workers in industrialized nations. In the rural areas it appears as if time has stood still. People live on the canots and using the canons.

The quay has three berths alongside the dock but using ship's gear is impossible because of the proximity and limited mobility of several cranes serving the vessels.

Tallyman rides the crane.

Hatch tender in precarious position. Typical discharge to barge in bay.

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The impression of the delegation would also be that inasmuch as the government is both the primary investor of capital and the primary controller of the economy that for workers to strike would be, in a sense, striking against themselves. The delegation's impression, however, would be that if the government was opposed there would be nothing much the union could do about it because the strike procedure is so complicated as to make strikes almost impossible.

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The impression of the delegation would also be that inasmuch as the government is both the primary investor of capital and the primary controller of the economy that for workers to strike would be, in a sense, striking against themselves. The delegation's impression, however, would be that if the government was opposed there would be nothing much the union could do about it because the strike procedure is so complicated as to make strikes almost impossible.
wife Ethel. The Londons are beautiful and sincere people who have come to Tanzania to offer their teaching skills which are so badly needed. We discussed the social and economic aspirations of the government, in which utilization of all aspects of labor is the basis for launching the country off dead center. We were told that this was a very poor country—one of the poorest in all Africa—and that about 90 percent of the people were barely on a subsistence level.

Coming to grips with the immense problem, Professor London said, the government has mobilized much on the same order as our civil service system, only determining when and where projects and manpower are to be allocated depending on the priorities of need. Thus, the labor movement as we know it is practically non-existent.

Education is one of the greatest needs in the country. For example, we were informed that some full professors teaching in the University of Dar es Salaam only have the equivalent of a two-year high school education. That's why it's so important for professors such as London and others, at great sacrifice, to come to the country to contribute their time and skills to teaching. The delegates from the number of people on the plane on their way to various parts of Africa to donate their services as teachers. Most of them were from the United States.

Education Is Top Priority

Education has become one of the highest priorities of the government. Whatever money is available that isn't needed for something more desperate, they immediately invest in schools. One of their problems is that if a teacher gets even a little bit pregnant, they try to teach others even before he has really learned enough himself.

We were learning a great deal during our short stay and were impressed by the fact that people in government and responsible position are extremely hard working, very conscientious and devoted to building a better country.

We were especially impressed with what we were told about their young president Julius K. Nyerere. Under his leadership a very strong program against corruption has been developed. We heard about the president's frugal existence and the fact that he never puts on a big show as so many people in power do. All cabinet officials seem to live a relatively simple and even, from our point of view, a poor life. There is one story we heard that when Nyerere took over the government he called in all the cabinet members and said that he knows that some of them have money and some don't, but he wants them to understand that if a year from now any of them suddenly become millionaires he isn't likely to stand for it.

We also were very impressed with the fact that the government has decided to build on their own by importing skilled workers to build their country themselves and they don't intend to be dominated by any outside forces, capitalist, communist, socialist or anyone else.

The day following our meeting with Professor London, we called on Dr. Mitha, whom we had previously agreed to interview. He was not home, however, Dr. Holmes, an Englishman, welcomed us and attempted to give us information concerning the medical situation.

The government, through an insurance carrier, subsidizes medical aid to an injured worker and concerning the medical situation. In London, we called on Dr. Mitha, whom we had interviewed by any outside forces, capitalist, communist or anyone else!

We learned that there are a variety of diseases and an acute shortage of doctors and medical facilities in the public sector; also the low pay doesn't encourage the few doctors there to be in private practice to become more involved in public health. The government may find itself in a position where it must nationalize medicine as it has certain other industries. A most interesting thing was a paradoxical situation where many people are afraid to seek even a diagnosis of their ailment because they fear they will lose their jobs or position.

After a day we got the good news that our safari to the interior to visit a sugar plantation was all set. If Americans relate a safari to a long procession of native bearers, etc., trapping through the brush, forget it. Safari in Swahili simply means a trip or journey. Our means of transportation was a Volkswagen bus, and you have never lived until you have traveled over an African road. The roads were originally designed for light travel, but between extreme heat, rain, and heavy truck convey you get a combination of rocks, mud, holes and ribbon or washboard effect which is something else. The roads are extremely narrow and hazardous and often crowded with people on foot or bicycle. Bridges permit only one vehicle at a time. Imagine meeting a big animal coming. Sometimes it is passing you eyelash-to-eyelash and no one is giving quarter, if it's thrills you want forget the roller coaster! As it was we were blessed with an experienced driver who allowed us to see all there was to see.

Dar es Salaam street vendor.

We arrived in Morogoro at dusk and spent the night there as to continue after midnight would be sheer suicide. Early the following morning we put out for the Kilombero sugar estate via the Mkumi game reserve. This was a fantastic trip! While traveling through the park about the only wild animal we didn't see was a lion. (Maybe they didn't know we were coming.)

At Kilombero, we again noticed the vast gap between the haves and have nots, between management and workers. There are two types of workers: the permanent and transient, and the permanent have the better plantation housing. There were more than 3,000 workers, divided into skilled and unskilled categories, with the skilled commanding the five shillings a day earned by the unskilled.

The sugar mill generates its own electricity. A sugar mill generates own electricity.

The mill and estate cover approximately 7,000 acres and were originally built and operated by the Dutch. Some Europeans are now teaching the Africans to manage and operate the mill, to process sugar and about marketing operations. The mill and property is a joint venture of both the government and a private company. We were told that the mill was put in this particular area—even though it isn't the best place in Tanzania to raise sugar (because of certain plant diseases and other liabilities) because the government was especially anxious to bring work to the people of the area in order to raise their standard of living.

One thing for sure, the government is moving in the direction which eventually will see the Africans running their own businesses, not just making profits off them and the profits used for further development of the country.

As we have stated, the housing and living condition gap is appalling, but probably no less than the conditions characteristic of the housing of some of our American migratory farm workers and we are a rich nation.

On the return trip we concentrated on viewing the countryside. It's a far cry from the bush and vine-encrusted jungle depicted in the Tarzan novels and movies. Actually vegetation is sparse and land without irrigation is not conducive to large-scale farming.

Life must be about as it was hundreds of years ago. A village or a community usually consists of a group of grass huts or shambas huddled fairly closely together. In the main, livestock consists of a few chickens and goats and in some cases a cow or two. There is a small plot growing enough vegetables to sustain life. Meals in most cases are prepared over an open fire in a central area outside the shamba.

Excess products, if any, that an individual might want to sell, are usually transported to market via a bundle well balanced on the carrier's head. Life is very simple and in many instances very cruel. The people living in the grass huts live in poverty and are poorly dressed and are paid bad dirt. The houses are not built to withstand weather very long and there's nothing more than the bare minimum of shelter to keep a person out of the weather and to sustain life. This is primitive agriculture. No wonder we were told the life expectancy in this harsh area is around 40 years.

Back in Dar es Salaam, much of our time was spent in observing the burgeoning trade and talking with merchants. Here it is evident the Asian community (Indian, Arab, Pakistani) dominate business activity, especially in capital goods which earn hard currency. In other words, except for nationalization, the wealth is concentrated in the hands of Asians who are a minority.

Why Strike Against Yourself?

With the wage structure being so low there is little incentive to save, invest or accumulate money into either control or administration of private enterprise. Hence we have concluded there are two alternatives: One, the government will have to tax the business community very heavily in order to redistribute the wealth, or two, the African is simply going to try and accumulate what he can and hoard it. This, of course, will lead to the kind of social difficulties which are roiling Africa today.

We came to the conclusion that this might not be a bad thing. To begin with it might prevent bloodshed in the future. Eventually, if the African in his homeland is constantly kept in the background while the government or the leaders are being exploited and enjoyed by others he at some point is going to explode.

All people, everywhere, want a share of their land and want to build a better life for themselves. We wish the Tanzanians well—and we wish to thank them for their hospitality.

Also thanks to our fellow ILWU members who made it possible for us to venture into this exciting and building land and we hope our report brought some new information and insight into the opening in one section of the African continent.
Longshoremen Help Stowaway

SEATTLE—Here’s old snappy Roy Taft, who spotted a young black guy locked in a deckhouse focale on the MV Neder Ebro. With a lot of making fun about, the kid was stowaway from Einwa, working the ship at sea but was locked up in port due to strict immigration laws.

He spread the word and guys started passing cigarettes and money through the port and after the coffee wagon hit, they poured in a deluge of cakes and candy bars. In the meantime Taft went down the dock to talk to the skipper. He agreed to take $50 worth of money with $56 worth of cigarettes to the skipper.

“Sorta fantastic,” said the captain. “You mean you longshoremen care enough about a total stranger to do this?” Assured he could believe what he was seeing him add: “If the diplomacy of the world was handled as well as men on this floor it would disappear.”

He gave Taft a receipt for the money and promised he’d turn it over to the kid when he got back home in Ethiopia where it would be a small fortune. Sorta gets you, doesn’t it?

From “The Hook”—Local 19, Seattle

Washington Report:

Urges New Trade Policy

Continued from Page 1

from US businessmen and from the Chinese government.

While the prospects for east-west trade are dim, the labor movement is turning away from 35 years of free trade policies. A recent Industrial Union Department (AFL-CIO) conference here, while pointing out the very real threats that maritime and longshore workers posed by international conglomerate corporations and the export of US capital, stated: “To those political leaders loudest at blindly protectionist calls for trade barriers. A confrontation is said to be brewing up between US and Japan over textiles, with American unions joining the fray.

BUREAU OF LABOR STANDARDS

Going into effect March 1 was a reorganization of the Labor Department’s Bureau of Labor Standards which runs the federal longshore safety program. The BLS replaced industry-oriented offices with broader functions such as office of standards development, office of evaluation, office of training, etc., partially in preparation for a hoped-for occupational safety and health bill.

One of those wondering about the position of more than one in five was Rep. Phillip Burton (D-Calif.) who asked: “Where is longshore safety going to be identified with the Bureau, placing the second most hazardous workplace in America on the same footing with an industry whose accident frequency rate is some 90 percent higher than Westinghouse’s? For instance, to the development of container safety regulations so vitally needed.

Seeking answers to those questions, representatives of ILWU, ISEA, Steamship conferences, and Shipyards workers met on March 24 with BLS Director George Guenther. He assured the union that hazardous cargo and container regulations are receiving a high priority.

STRIKEBREAKERS ON STRIKE??? President Nixon’s calling out the troops to enforce the contract was the first strike of postal workers in his ILWU Foreman Runs For Port Commission

ASTORIA—Albert Rissman, a member of Local 94, has filed a petition to run for re-election to the commission. During his years as a commissioner, he helped bring Astoria back from ghost port status and is now working to develop a barge movement between the lower Columbia river port and Alaska.

Team Walkout Grows

Freight Agreement Signed—But Many Unhappy

OAKLAND—Although Teamster and trucking company officials have lined up a Master Freight Agreement with sizable pay hikes for 450,000 drivers nationwide, the future of that agreement—at least in the Bay area—remained in doubt as The Dispatcher went to press.

The agreement is expected to boost the pay of 350,000 workers by $1.10 an hour over slightly more than another $2 an hour. Another 100,000 long haul drivers will get an additional 21 cents per mile.

Another eight additional cents an hour was set as the ceiling for cost-of-living increases. Employer contributions to health and welfare would be increased by $2 per employee, as would weekly pension contributions.

When the agreement was announced, however, dissident truckers, especially in the East Bay, refused to return to work. At a meeting of the large Teamsters’ Local 70 in Oakland, local president James Munis told a cheering crowd of 3,000, “It’s a jungle we live in today, and you must fight for what we have or it will be lost.” If we stay united, we’ll get it.”

Walkouts also occurred in St. Louis, Miami and New Orleans. Teamsters in Chicago are also negotiating separately from the internationals in an attempt to get more money.

SICK-IN

Despite a restraining order issued against the walkout, East Bay Teamsters began calling in sick early this week, continuing the shutdown of this major terminal center. Further north, picketing continued in Rich- mond and Pittsburgh.

Also, a growing walkout movement developed in Los Angeles, and trucking operations in Minneapolis, St. Louis and Chicago were completely or partially paralyzed.

Auxiliary Carnival

Aids Retarded Kids

PORTLAND—Auxiliary 5-A held a spring Carnival at the Clerks’ Hall April 3 for the benefit of Happy Hollow Retarded Children’s School in St. Johns.

The affair included a noon luncheon featuring clamb chowder, patronized by Local 49 members from the adjacent docks and officers of the four area locals and the CRMPA; an afternoon of cotton candy, “balloon busting,” and other games for young and of synthetic wig.

A highlight of the latter event was the unshaded modeling of a huge, “Spud” Baker, secretary-business agent of Local 92.

Former Local 94 Chief, Ernie Bowen, Retires

WILMINGTON—Local 94’s Ernie Bowen was moved to tears as 450 friends who had come to honor him and his wife Rose on his retirement stood and cheered him when he was introduced. The foreman’s local threw the party for early last month.

Ernie and Rose will spend the re- tirement years in the leisurely fashion they deserve, playing a lot of golf, enjoying the fishing between Long Beach, Calif, and Bend, Ore.

Next Dispatcher Deadline—April 16

Rose and Ernie Bowen greet Local 94 member George Bowers at Ernie’s retirement dinner last month.

Local 40 Constitution Is Ratified

PORTLAND—Procedures spelled out in a revised and updated Constitution are now in force in Clerks’ Local 40. The new Constitution was adopted at a special membership meeting March 11.

One major change provides that grievances will be handled by a special five-member grievance commit- tee, instead of by the executive board.

The new document also:

• Spells out for the first time specific duties and functions of the dispute and labor relations commit-tee.

• Updates strike and lockout proce-dures.

• Specifies that primary elections will be held by referendum ballot, instead of in a membership meeting.

• Raises the ceiling on donations from $10 to $25, and adds a 13th member to the executive board—the recording secretary.

• Amends the Constitution included J. K. Brananhan, Bruce As- chin, Bill McCormack, Jim Dodge, Larry Chinlon, Ben Reimann, and Qunit Grilli; sergeants-at-arms, D. Clark, who was committee chair- man.

More than 95 percent of the mem- bership showed up at the meeting that ratified the changes—an unprecedented turnout.

Local 94 Re-elects North

WILMINGTON—Jim North has been re-elected to serve a new term as president of Foreman’s Local 94. Frank Agundez is vice-president and Jack Hotchkiss will be secretary-treasurer.

Trustees are Irv Wright, Earl Moore and Quint Grilli; sergeants-at-arms, Jack Ogburn and Tony Agen and LRC, Ray Radcliff, Walter Bert- schinger and Ed Mondor.

18-man executive committee was also elected.

LOCAL 94'S 5TH ANNIVERSARY

Local 94’s fifth anniversary was recently celebrated at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Portland.

The event was

Bandwagon Unveiled—Local 94's 5th Anniversary

April 8, 1970 Page 7 The Dispatcher
Deadly Cargoes: Steward's Council Warns on Safety

SAN FRANCISCO—Longshore Local 10’s Steward’s Council, reorganized and revitalized last year, has published four issues of its widely read “Bulletin.” The last issue of the “Bulletin” takes on the problem of hazardous cargoes, noting that contract provisions designed to protect workers from injury are seldom enforced. Here’s a recent incident which shows how important it is for stewards and all longshoremen to keep their eyes open.—Editor’s note

A couple of weeks ago, a brother who was working at 14th Street noticed a small steel drum which had been damaged and placed on a box for cooperage.

The white powder contents of these drums (which were marked hazardous, was spread all over the board. Eight days later, the drums came back to 14th Street and found the drums in the same windy place—near the corral of shed B and right on the aisle. He took the name of the stuff—Barium Oxide—and had a friend look it up.

It turned out that if you got the chemical on your hands or in your eyes, it could cause eye, nose and throat irritation and a severe skin rash.

If you inhaled it, the least you could expect would be vomiting, severe pains and cramps in the limbs, heart beat and chill, and perhaps paralysis of legs and arms due to oxygenation.

Taking one gram through the mouth—there are 28 grams in an ounce—would cause death.

The “Bulletin” then goes on to discuss the need to enforce regulations to protect the health and safety of longshoremen.

All our Safety Code says on hazardous cargo is in Rule 407 (supervision):

shall make every effort to determine cargo hazards and to have to correct personal protection at hand for known hazards

On the other hand, the kind of procedures which would go a long way toward solving the problems while cargo cargoes create for us are required by the Federal Safety and Health Regulations for Longshoring: Sec. 1504.86 Hazardous Cargo:

Prior to the start of cargo handling operations, a responsible representative of the employer shall ascertain from the cargo, the union, the ship clerks, and any other shipping documents, what hazardous cargoes are or have been received and shall provide such personnel protective equipment as may be necessary to avoid, or protect against the hazard, and has instructed the employees as to the safe method of cleaning up and disposing of the leaking containers. The use of these procedures would, of course, be dependent on the crew and the ship clerks. That won’t be any problem with these locals because we have a large group of locals working for the same company.

The use of these procedures would, of course, be dependent on the crew and the ship clerks. That won’t be any problem with these locals because we have a large group of locals working for the same company.

In the meantime, WATCH THOSE LABELS MARKING HAZARDOUS CARGOES AND PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR BROTHERS.

ILWU Pickets Shot in Trona

Continued from Page 1—

Hook. As these two left in search of an ambulance, the guard placed his gun under Pat Herman’s chin and threatened him as well.

The ambulance came soon, and Clarence—in obvious pain—was removed to the hospital.

Chuck Stanley, Local 35 president, reported that he was checking the pickets on the back gate of the plant at the time of the incident. The men at that gate had an industrial band radio and were monitoring the calls in the plant.

Stanley said that he and the pickets heard the order “shoot” come out of the tower.

As this issue of The Dispatcher goes to press, union attorneys are studying the case and are planning to order disarm the guards. There have been many threats of violence from the guards.

“We’ve had people followed, we’ve had people threatened and guns pulled,” said Local 35’s national representative Don Wright said.

A guard allegedly pulled a gun on Clarence that morning before the shooting incident.

Local 12 Aids Trona Strikers

NORTH BEND—Members of Local 12 at their stop work meeting last night voted to send $200 to help members of Local 35 who are on strike against the American Potash Company at Trona.