ILWU Executive Board sets drive for free Hoffa

SAN FRANCISCO—The ILWU International Executive Board met here for four days, July 29 through August 1, to cover a wide area of union business. The Executive Board is the governing body of the union between conventions.

This meeting took place to a packed house. In addition to the four titled officers and 12 board members, all regional directors were on hand, plus all the members of Hawaii Local 142's executive board and several 142 observers. Also present were Local 13 president Pat Leonard and Local 20 president Joe Ibarra.

Items on the agenda covered an enormous range. These included the financial state of the union, warehouse negotiations, the United Farm Workers, a report on a Transportation Federation, meetings with ILA officials, the Alliance for Labor Action, the status of the new International building, the California Council for Health Plan Alternatives, the Columbia River strike, insurance, and much more.

High on the list of priorities was a powerful policy statement on James Hoffa, charging that "Hoffa is in jail, framed and vilified, because of his forceful and unexcelled leadership of the nation's largest labor union, the IBT."

HOFFA WAS FRAMED

The Board reiterated its belief in Hoffa's innocence, reaffirmed its conviction that he was framed and railroaded to jail because of his union leadership and pledged itself to work for Hoffa's freedom.

The Board called on every section of the ILWU to petition for Hoffa's immediate release on parole and urged all ILWU locals to meet jointly with Teamster and AFL-CIO bodies to work for Hoffa's freedom.

The Board was unanimous in congratulating the United Farm Workers, a report on a Transportation Federation, meetings with ILA officials, the Alliance for Labor Action, the status of the new International building, the California Council for Health Plan Alternatives, the Columbia River strike, insurance, and much more.

MONEY FOR TRONA

The Statement of Policy on Hoffa was also referred to the upcoming longshore caucus.

In another action the Board members unanimously voted to extend congratulations to the United Farm Workers, who have in the last two months signed contracts covering some 60,000 field workers in California and Arizona.

In discussing the full page ads in two San Francisco papers at the time of the invasion of Cambodia, it was reported that signatures of more than 400 trade union leaders and shop stewards had an enormous impact in counteracting the so-called "hard hat" development. The ad was reprinted in the Congressional Record.

MONEY FOR TRONA

Secretary-treasurer Goldblatt, in his financial report, pointed out that the International had undertaken a tremendous obligation to help the Trona strikers and that a few locals which had assessed themselves $1 per member in support of Trona, had not yet sent in their money to the International.

The International made heavy financial advances to the Trona strikers and all locals were urged to send in their assessments as quickly as possible to reimburse the International.

Southern California regional director Bill Piercy pointed out that morale is good in Trona and that contributions were sent not only by ILWU locals, but from every ILWU pensioner group, from auxiliaries and from locals of Teamsters, Chemical Workers, United Electrical Workers and the Retail Clerks, as well.

Board members saw drawings of the projected International building. It will be a five-story building of 33,000 square feet, with parking
Washington Report:

Restrictive Trade Bill Nears House

WASHINGTON—The House Ways and Means Committee is completing work on a trade bill which, according to the President's consumer affairs expert, Virginia Knauser, “will hurt virtually every consumer in the country.

“If as many economic experts believe, a trade war results and the other nations do retaliate, there will be an even greater reduction in the supply of goods and price competition, and the effect on the consumer will be devastating,” she said.

The bill would reverse a 37 year old policy which has moved the US closer and closer to a free trade position. Here are some of the provisions which the Ways and Means committee, chaired by Rep. Wilbur Mills of Arkansas, a spokesman for the textile industry, is expected to produce:

MAIN POINTS

• Annual quotas will be placed on imports of shoes, clothing and other foreign textile products. This would mean, for example, the slaughtering of cheap clothing imports from Hong Kong, or Italian shoes.

• Additional quotas would be automatically put on any other imported goods whenever sales of these goods reached 15 percent of the US market. Only the president could veto use of these quotas.

• An existing quota system which penalizes the imports of cheap foreign oil would be written into law. These quotas now exist while the President permits them, but under the law, would be mandatory.

• The quota on all imports already costs the consumer $5 billion yearly.

The main argument in favor of such restrictive legislation is that American industry cannot compete with foreign workers who receive sweatshop wages in areas like Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan.

Opponents of the bill claim that lower income Americans will be badly hurt by the price hikes sure to result from an end of foreign competition, and that, in fact, most of the imports come from US-owned runaway shops.

KILLING OFF

Opponents fear that retaliatory legislation by, say, Japan, would cut American exports to those countries, and therefore, lose more jobs than it would save.

President Nixon has voiced his opposition to restrictive import quotas. “We are an exporting nation rather than an importing nation,” he said. “On the other hand, while it would save some jobs, it would cost us more jobs in exports, and . . . (such legislation) would be highly inflationary.”

Yet Nixon appears to have caught between his desire to avoid a trade war and his political obligations to the blue textile magnates of the country. “The President is stuck on this issue,” says one New Yorker. “He is clearly against it, but he has no choice but to support it.”

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

While no action is expected during this session of Congress, advocates of a National Health Insurance plan are building public support in anticipation of serious efforts to win legislative approval in the near future.

The latest and most comprehensive plan came from the Committee of 109 for National Health Insurance, initiated by the late UAW President Walter Reuther. In brief, the wide-ranging proposal—soon to be introduced in Congress by Senator Ted Kennedy—would use general tax revenues, a payroll tax on employers, and a 1.8 percent tax on individual incomes to finance a federal insurance program which would pay almost all doctor and hospital bills for every American, excluding only adult dental bills, some drugs, and some nursing home care.

The plan would encourage group medical practices, and comprehensive health plans, would include psychiatric care, dental care for children under 15, (if substandard), all hospital care, 120 days of skilled nursing home care, hospital or group medical prescribed drugs; it would replace Blue Cross and Medicare.

WASHINGTON — American blue collar workers are not anywhere as well-off or satisfied as Ivy League economists have believed for many years, according to the verdict of a panel of labor department researchers, including former labor secretary Schultz. In a recent “confidential” memorandum to President Nixon. The labor department experts suggest that:

• American’s workers are increasingly in financial and economic trouble.

• They feel “forgotten” by the public, the government and the media.

• Their anger may take many forms, including strident demands for higher wages.

• The Nixon administration must find ways to accommodate this anger without making basic changes in the wage structure.

The researchers suggest that the 70 million people—black and white, who live on $5,000 or less a year—will use the law to pry open markets. “We are in for a public response to the pressing needs they feel so deeply.”

Meaning: American working people are mad.

The special report says that the typical blue collar worker is “on the treadmill.” As he enters his thirties and forties, as his children grow up, his bills increase and his potential retirement is some time in the future. When faced with mounting expenses, he realizes that his income is leveling off.

DEAD END

Despite the myth of the poor boy who makes good, the report states that many industrial and service workers’ jobs are “dead ends.”

Added to this, of course, is inflation. “Since 1965,” the report says, “money wages have advanced 20 percent, but real earnings measured in true purchasing power remained almost static.”

And the tax structure, despite various attempts at reform, has done little to rectify this situation. “Dependence for family maintenance of token in character” and have “no real effect on the age of children; though budget costs for older children are more than for younger.”

The report continues: “Economic insecurity is compounded by the fact that blue-collar workers are often the first to feel the effects of an increase in unemployment . . . and are also more dependent on sheer physical health for their livelihood than white collar workers.

POOR PROTECTION

“Yet there is inadequate protection for temporary or permanent disability under state workmen’s compensation laws.”

The problems are social and psychological as well as economic. People in the blue collar work force feel enmity toward people—those for whom the government and the society have limited, if any, direct concern.

They feel, the report says, that their jobs are not respected. “All blue collar workers—skilled or not, have been denounced—badly—so harshly—that their jobs have become a lost resort, instead of decent respect with a sense of purpose.”

The low status of blue collar work derives from working conditions which are inhuman. Much of the work is “oppressively tedious, noisy and monotonous,” the report says. “There is no room for human contact. Research has found a significant relation between poor mental health and such types of work.”

The picture is a hard one. Frustated, harassed, alienated and bitter, the American worker sees little going for him—with perhaps one exception.

“Their only hope seems to be continued pressure for higher wages. Their only spokesmen seem to be union leaders shepherding the demands for more wages.”

The American worker has responded to this situation with increased union militancy and this is where the big problem lies for the Nixon administration.

NO BASIC CHANGE

The labor department researchers are at least honest. “It would be impossible and undesirable to modify the American social structure,” the report says. In other words, how can a business—oriented administration de-fuse the anger of millions of workers?

They have a few ideas. They suggest that the government—particularly whites—feel resentment of the low status of blue-collar workers. Perhaps of the special assistance they appear to be receiving. Many of these workers, the report says, they have somehow been left off the gravy train.

Thus, many of them need day care facilities for their children so that their wives can bring in a necessary second income, but they make just a little too much money to qualify for such assistance.

Many teenage working class kids cannot get into special educational programs because their folks are a little too well off. The obvious thing to do, the report says, is to expand these programs to include lower-middle income people as well as the poor.

The experts also suggest job upgrading programs, improved adult education, liberalized tax laws, more appropriations for loans to college-bound working class students, etc.

Even the New York Times, in a discussion of the report, suggests that these programs are “calculated ludicrously minimally” when compared with the size of the problem. Perhaps worse, if they were not so tragic—is a suggestion that the post office could help the “image” of blue collar work by putting workers’ pictures on postage stamps.

Labor Dept. Pushes Pacifiers For Workers on Treadmill
Urges Letters Supporting New Container, Crane Safety Rules

SAN FRANCISCO—All ILWU longshore, clerks and walking bosses' locals have been asked by the Coast Committee, subject matter committee, to support proposed by the Bureau of Labor Standards to give "minimal" protection to longshoremen working containerized cargoes, or working with cranes.

The regulations, in brief, call for load-sensing devices on cranes, certification of container weights and markings, and a ban against overloaded or faulty containers.

The Bureau of Labor statistics has invited public comment on its proposals through August 25, after which the regulations will be issued in final form. The Coast Committee has asked that the locals write in duplicates.

Office of Evaluations
Bureau of Labor Statistics
400 First St., N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20210

The BLS has proposed that:
• Every crane used to load or discharge cargo must be fitted with a load sensing device in working order. This requirement shall not apply to cranes handling bulk commodities, a crane handling commodities by means of a magnet, or a crane used to transfer containers of liquid cargo.
• Every container shall have marked on it its weight when empty, the maximum weight that the container is designed to carry, and the sum of those two weights.
• No container shall be loaded aboard a vessel unless its actual gross weight has been certified by an official weighing station.
• Before loading onto the vessel, the person in charge of the cargo shall find out from the carrier the actual gross weight of the container.
• Any weighing station, foreign or domestic, will be approved by BLS if random samples indicate a pattern of significant inaccuracies.
• A container shall be restated if its certified weight exceeds the sum of its weight while empty and its maximum load. The container shall not exceed the capacity of the crane.
• No outbound containers shall be inspected before loading for any visual signs which indicate the container is unsafe or handling unsafe. Inbound containers will be inspected before unloading for the reason that this is possible. Outbound containers shall not be hoisted before correction of such a defect, while inbound containers with a fault will either be emptied of their cargo or specially handled in a safe manner.
• The regulations also specify that:
  • Employees shall have special eye protection when such is required by the nature of the cargo (flying particles, dust, etc.).
  • Employees loading loose scrap metal, bulk ores, or similar commodities shall be protected by hard hats.

Asking that ILWU locals indicate support for these regulations, ILWU

Raftsmen Join Local 12

NORTHBEND—Twenty raftsmen employed by the Knutson Towboat Company were taken into Local 12 at the last stop work meeting, according to CRDC delegate Forrest Taylor.

They were obligated by Internationa l Representative James S. Pantz.

The local's political action committee is assisting local member Henry Hansen in his campaign for election as Port of Coos Bay commissioner.

Local 26

Wins on Classification at Wilshire Plant; Strikes Roofing Company

LOS ANGELES—Local 26 recently signed a three-year agreement覆盖ing 123 members at Wilshire Industries Inc., winning substantial wage increases and new classification methods.

ILWU workers at the fireplace manufacturing plant won wage increases of from 15 to 60 cents in the first year, and twenty cents in 1971 and 1972.

The most important gain in the new contract, according to the negotiating committee, was individual classification for all employees.

In the past, according to Local 26 president Joe Ibarra, the "company always used the general wage classification method of playing one worker against another and normally classifying them in a position.

The negotiating committee felt that individual classification would give the senior workers a chance for advancement, and would eliminate the discriminatory practices of the company in selecting individuals for additional or more desirable jobs.

The agreement also improves vacation schedules, sick leave, and compensation for refusal of work.

A five cent maximum cost of living clause will take effect in the last year of the contract.

Daniel Huerta, Willie Gaddies, Pete Segura, Girth L. Williams and Local 26 president Joe Ibarra served on the negotiating committee.

WINS STRIKE

Local 26 also reached agreement with W. W. Henry Co.—a manufacturer of roofing and adhesives—after a company strike held off beginning Wednesday, July 27, when contract negotiations deadlocked.

The strike ended when approximately 40 ILWU members in the plant unanimously ratified a new company offer, after which added eleven cents onto the package, bringing the total wage gain up to 80 cents over three years.

The company also gave in on a cost of living clause and an additional half-day holiday.

The union won an additional five cent contribution on pensions, validation of overtime language and, for the first time in the history of the company, a major medical benefits clause that frees workers of the responsibility of paying any additional costs demanded by health and welfare carriers.

The negotiators were Ernest Hol lie, Gerald Theobald, Richard Cullen, Local 26 secretary-treasurer Lou Sherman, and president Joe Ibarra.

Portland:

Council Demands
ILWU Seat on
Port Commission

PORTLAND—Mayor Terry Schrunk last week was asked by the Columbia River District Council to name an ILWU member to the Commission of Public Docks.

The letter, signed by CRDC president Fred Huntinginger; secretary J. K. Stranaahan; legislative representative Ernest E. Baker; and John J. Fougrouse of the area pensioners, pointed out there has never been during the entire history of the port "a complete worker representative of this main work force."

"In some other port areas in Oregon ILWU members have been elected to their port authorities," last month in San Francisco "our international representatives, Bridges, was sworn in as a member of the port commission of that city. We feel that now is the time to correct this omission here in Portland."

"Tens of thousands of people in our city have a direct or indirect interest in the welfare of our waterfront—shippers, brokers, exporters, importers, etc."

"But the largest group involved, and one of the most interested, is the main work force on our docks, the longshoremen, stevedore foremen, supercargos and checkers who handle the thousands of tons of cargoes that come and go through our port each week."

CFS FACT-FINDERS — The fact-finding team for the Container Freight Station supplement met recently in Wilmington to answer the complaints submitted by clerks' and foremen's locals, Chairman Pete Segura, Girth L. Williams and one of the most interested, is the main work force on our docks, the longshoremen, stevedore foremen, supercargos and checkers who handle the thousands of tons of cargoes that come and go through our port each week."

Port Commission

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The letter, signed by CRDC president Fred Huntinginger; secretary J. K. Stranaahan; legislative representa-
**Unit Leaders Aid Local 142 Organizing**

HONOLULU—Rank-and-file leaders are beginning to play a greater role in Local 142 organizing here, as the pace of a Local 142 organizing drive around the islands gathers momentum.

Already, organizing training sessions for rank-and-file activists—held on each island last spring—are beginning to take effect.

In Maui, for example, significant victories have been won with the help of many of the unit leaders who attended a recent organizing conference at Kaanapali.

In Kahului, for example, 42 employees in a new Foodland super market have joined the ILWU family. The Maui employees will be covered by the contract now in effect for ILWU Foodland employees on other islands. The contract will be up for renewal in October.

**LAUNDRY WORKERS**

Elsewhere on Maui, in Lahaina, Pacific Laundry employees voted 11 to 4 for ILWU representation in an NLRB election last month. The firm services a growing hotel complex at Kaanapali.

**ISLAND DODGE**

At Island Dodge, employees voted to join Local 142 by a vote of 22-3 last month. And in Kahului, draftsmen and salesmen for A&B Commercial Co. voted to join the ILWU by a 5-3 vote. Production and sales workers there are already represented by the clerical workers there.

In each case, organizing was helped along by the efforts of rank-and-file activists and, in the case of the Union's own time to answer the questions of many workers, and assisting the full-time staff.

**Bare Wires**

Local 10 Gang On Safety Beef

A Local 10 gang hung the hook for safety recently when the men in formation saw that an electric jitney that had been sent into the hold was unsafe because the wires from the battery were exposed.

The walking boss entered the hold and told the men to work with the jitney removed. The men refused, called the BA. The walking boss said that they were fired.

**STOOD BY**

The men stood by. An hour later a supervisor came by, told the men to work with the jitney and told the men to work with the BA.


**ILWU Foodland employees**

**Down-Under Labor Leader Urges Peace, Full Employment**

PORTLAND — Labor unions can reduce the prospect of war by pressing for full employment at home and trade with undeveloped countries abroad, Dr. James Cairns, leader of the Labor opposition in the Australian Parliament, said here recently.

But the trade must be on an equitable basis so that underdeveloped countries can develop independently, and this isn't going to happen “unless the people in the undeveloped countries obtain an effective say in their government.”

Speaking to 50 AFL-CIO and independent union leaders at a labor breakfast sponsored by the ILWU, the internationally known economist and expert on foreign affairs, noted that maintaining in office a government has “definitely decided that increased trade through the port of Vancouver is so obviously in the best interests also of our province and country that we need hardly enumerate the benefits.”

Representative James S. Fants, served as chairman, was one of many public appearances made by Dr. Cairns during his visit here.

**San Francisco Meeting**

Cairns also spoke in San Francisco, where he was interviewed at the ILWU. He also appeared at an invited gathering of labor leaders from the Bay Area, also sponsored by the ILWU.

He told the Bay Area labor leaders that most Australian unions were either strongly opposed to war or said nothing about it. Whereas a few years ago 30 percent of the Australians in public opinion polls said that they supported the use of Australian troops in Vietnam, over 50 percent are now opposed to the use of Australian troops there.

Australia has about 7,000 troops in the war.

Cairns spoke movingly of the importance of the struggle within the United States. “I believe that the United States is the most powerful nation on earth, and that the struggle between good and evil is more acute than anywhere in the world here,” he said.

“Furthermore I believe that the way America goes, we will go.”

**Canadian Area**

ILWU Asks More Container Construction

VANCOUVER — The Canadian Area ILWU is asking for public support for the building of more container handling facilities here and for the establishment of a regional port authority for the Lower Mainland area.

In a letter sent to labor and municipal councils and senior government bodies, the ILWU points out that container trade is bound to increase beyond the present capacity of the one container crane now at Centennial Pier. The ILWU asked assurance from Ottawa that the government has “definitely decided to build several more container facilities within a specific period of time.”

“Admittedly our concern stems from the fact that existing container facilities mean greater work opportunity for our members,” says the union’s letter. “But it cannot be denied that increased trade through the port of Vancouver is so obviously in the best interests also of our province and country that we need hardly enumerate the benefits.”

The ILWU called for the establishment of a regional port authority, including the Lower Mainland, New Westminster, Surrey and Robert’s Bank, which would be under federal control but allowed a considerable degree of local autonomy.

**Representative**

“Such an authority,” said the union’s letter, ‘would not only take care of the shipping and business interests, but also of the unions and workers and the community in general.”

The ILWU letter was endorsed by the Vancouver and New Westminster Labor Councils as well as the municipal council of Burnaby, T. C. Douglas, national leader of the New Democratic Party, has also expressed his support.

**Portland Pension Picnic Observes Hiroshima Day**

PORTLAND—The area Pensioners’ Picnic was held at Jantzen Beach Park on August 6—which happens to be Hiroshima Day.

A telegram reminding those present that the date marked the 25th anniversary of the dropping of the bomb on the Japanese city was read to the 400 oldtimers, their wives and grandchildren by Mike Sicking, president of the Vancouver and District Labor Council. It was signed, “Another Mother for Peace, Lois Stranahan,” and read:

“Today is Hiroshima Day! Please ask for moment of silence and say to God it never happens again.”

(More than 200,000 persons, half of them children, perished on August 6, 1945, or perished later of radiation sickness.)

The group was told the pensioners’ grandchildren and the chatter of old friends quieted as the request was made.

Mrs. Stranahan, a charter member of one of the Portland auxiliaries, is the wife of J. K. Stranahan, Secretary of the Columbia River District Council.

The picnic has been an annual event since 1953.
CARGO PILFERAGE

Customs Still Refuses Public Hearings

WASHINGTON — The Bureau of Customs has extended the date for submission of written comment on its recently proposed rules on cargo pilferage until August 24, but is refusing to hold public hearings on the controversial rules.

The ILWU, which has objected strongly to the proposed rules, (see Dispatcher, July 31) has pressed for public hearings on the regulations, and has appealed to both the IIA and the Teamsters.

SUPERSEDE CONTRACT

According to a statement by ILWU International officers, the rules are "vague and impractical," are unnecessary, and have racist implications.

The rules were drafted by the Commerce Department and the Pacific Coast Longshoremen's Agreement which has adequate safeguards in its current contract, the officers said.

Unless the regulations would permit the Customs Department, if it feels that pilferage has become a serious problem, to compel certification of all waterfront employees involved in the handling of imported merchandise under customs jurisdiction.

Workers would be fingerprinted and undergo physical examinations, background checks, and drug tests. The officers said.

They would be issued identification badges that would have to be kept on their person at all times.

The Offense Men ACT

A Dispatcher story criticizing the bills and calling for public hearings was entered into the Congressional Record by California Democrat Phillip Burton (Dem.-Calif.)

"A matter of this complexity and scope ought to receive full public hearings," Burton said.

In a letter to ILWU International president Harry Bridges, California Senator Alan Cranston agreed that "These regulations, if adopted, may reduce the most significant victory in the history of the union." He described the complexity of the negotiations, with two sets of employers who refused to meet with the union simultaneously, and the union negotiating committee finding itself "in the position of a single team playing against a platoon system.

He reported that the 89 percent vote to empower the committee to call a strike, if necessary, meant, "the employers understood that this was not a bluff, and we broke through with the power of the strike vote and the alliance which held together in negotiations."

On the California Council for Health Plan Alternatives, Goldblatt noted that there are "stirrings all around the country for a national health plan." In California the CCHPA represents every section of the labor movement and has launched a program to bring hospitals under some sort of regulatory legislation.

President Bridges reported on a container conference he attended in Chicago and on the last Executive Board's decision to explore the possibility of a Transport Federation. The results so far he found are not encouraging.

Bridges also contacted a number of labor people in the East to encourage them to get into a joint campaign to free Jimmy Hoffa.

Concerning a possible conference on containerization of Pacific basin shipping, the Board agreed that there was no reason for it to be held at this time.

William Chester, vice-president, assistant to the president, reported on many activities, including helping the San Francisco Labor Council by becoming a member of the negotiating committee for the Hospital and City Employees Workers Union, which struck for three days and then reached a substantial settlement.

Chester reported on meetings with other labor leaders, on the Taft-Hartley Conference, on his work as a trustee of the welfare, pension and M&M Funds. He was the keynote speaker at the Canadian Area ILWU Convention.

ORGANIZING

Jack Hall, vice-president-director of organization, gave a full report on organizing gains and losses. In all areas some new members were gained. Most of the ILWU victories were won in Hawaii, primarily in the tourist industry.

Organizing in Canada has made considerable gains, especially with the new terminals and the huge coal development at Roberts Bank.

Organizing in the Northwest region has brought in port employees in several cities, and in Tacoma ILWU Local 23 concluded negotiations of a master contract covering maintenance, office, switchmen, sweepers and longshoremen in the port.

The Board received a report from the ILWU Warehouse Local 9 that the local had been told if the warehousemen strike at Fishermans Terminal, Local 86 of the Grain Miller's Union said they did not intend to honor the picket line.

The Board approved sending a letter to the president of Local 86, pointing out that a local 9 of the ILWU expects at the very least that Local 86 would respect any picket line.

CUSTOMS 'SCREENING'

Concerning the recent move by the United States Department of Customs to put in a form of licensing-screening for people working on the waterfront-which affects not only longshoremen, but Teamsters, mechanics and others in transportation, Bridges reported the statement sent to him by the Commissioner of Customs advising him against this form of "screening." He pointed out that the ILWU contract has provisions concerning pilferage and doesn't intend to have its contract tampered with.

Bridges, together with the Teamsters and the ILA, have demanded open hearings and Bridges reported that the unions have written to congressmen and senators on this question.

WORKSHOPS

Highly successful workshops have been held by Local 13, the Board was told, and Local 13's officers expressed appreciation to Local 10's Stewards Committee for the research, and advice on conducting workshops. These workshops will be a regular feature at Local 13.

The next board meeting will be held in Vancouver, BC, the time to be decided by the officers.

Local 6 Wins NLRB Vote

at GE Supply and Sealite

EMERYVILLE—The employees of General Electric Supply Company, whose contracts expired, voted to be represented by ILWU Local 6 in an NLRB election held Monday August 3.

The vote was 6 to 1 in favor of the ILWU.

In nearby San Leandro, an NLRB election July 31 at Sealite, Inc. was also won by Local 6 by a 7-4 vote, with one challenge. The company manufacturers and distributes caulking materials.

"Unparalleled Savagery"

Executive Board Statement

On Hoffa Imprisonment

(The following statement of policy on Teamster general president James R. Hoffa was adopted by the ILWU International Executive Board at its meeting July 29-August 1.—Editor's note.)

James Hoffa, IBT general president, is presently serving his fourth year in the federal penitentiary. He was convicted through the perjured testimony of a renegade Teamster official and by the Executive Board at its meeting July 29—August 1.—Editor's note.)

The ILWU is pledged to do anything and everything to free Jim Hoffa. So, too, is the IBT.

The ILWU International Executive Board positively reiterates its belief in the innocence of Jim Hoffa, reaffirms its conviction that Hoffa was framed and railroaded to jail for being a great trade union leader, and repeats its pledge to work and strive in every way for his freedom.

The ILWU further resolves:

• To urge every ILWU local, auxiliary, district council, and pensioner groups to petition by wire or letter the U.S. Attorney General, John Mitchell, asking for Hoffa's immediate release on parole.

• To urge every ILWU local to arrange joint meetings or conferences at local or area levels with IBT locals and joint councils in order to set up contacts of ILWU and IBT, and such AFL-CIO locals and councils wishing to officially participate so as to work toward freeing Jim Hoffa.

• That in addition to what we know the IBT is doing on behalf of Jim Hoffa, we request their International office to advise all IBT locals and joint councils to cooperate with the ILWU locals and areas to make this limited program for the freedom of Jim Hoffa as effective as can be.

The International Executive Board, seen from another vantage point.
Two Young Officers

One Speaks for Fascism; Others Speak for Peace

WASHINGTON—A prize winning essay—judged by, among others, the new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—praised the unity of the United States Government and its military coup in the United States.

The winning essay in a recent competition run by the UK National Institute, written by one Naval Capt. Robert Hanks, implies that the President might some day be able to actually seize power to protect the country from "subversives."

On the other side of the coin, a Marine lieutenant, the son of Ohio Senator William Sache, wrote his father asking him to join his voice to others calling for peace and the USA back on the right track.

TWO MILITARY VIEWS

Senator Frank Church, on June 24, brought to the attention of the Senate the article written by Captain Hanks.

Hanks wrote: "... we must continue to single out and challenge those among us who, by their avarice and indiscretion, despise our integrity, destroy our efficiency, and bring our country to grief. While the threat from without remains, we now face an equally ponderous threat from within. We must stop as a nation the United States is to be protected against a police state. I have the efforts of the past. If we were to place her in peril—whether through apathy, ignorance, or malice—we must turn the guns of the military against her. Idly, by and by watch it done. Some of us may have forgotten the solemn duty of the oath: to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. (Emphasis in the original.)"

As Senator Church warned: "This increase of professional, union, and par- nes is the very stuff of which military coup d'états are made. The vanguard leaders of the military junta is always draped in the self-serving excuse that patriotism is not to choose the winner of the Cold War, but to win the war.

"When the Navy honors one of its officers for intimating that certain of our leading citizens are enemies against whom the officers' oath should be invoked, it is time to ask in what way I'm being kept to this Republic and its hallowed tradition of civilian supremacy."

DIFFERENT VIEW

A far different view was brought to the attention of the Senate by Alan Cranston on June 23, when he placed in the Record a letter from 22 year old Marine Lieutenant Charles Baxby to his father, Senator William Sache (R-Ohio).

"Dear Dad:"

"I'm not trying to be original, just speak out on what's happening here in the USA and what I say won't be new to you. I'm not going to be original, just sincere. Being in the Marines, I feel I have a strange perspective on the confusion here in the country."

"I'm going to have to risk my life in Southeast Asia within the next year, so I'm thinking my way in the war that hasn't been declared, can't be fought and can't be won. What's more, I'm not sure that is even possible, and everything I've been taught to believe about America,"

"... but what do I plan to do about it all, what's my solution? The fact that I can offer no solution that would satisfy all concerned interests is not for the last decade Americans have been electing men who said they would solve the problems that were ones of those men. Going through the campaign you many times heard politicians go to Washington and see that the war was ended in as long as it would take to end a war."

President Nixon pledged to put an end to the insanity and the war, right inflation, end social reform and bring us together. Obviously, the war has been compromised, the war has been expanded as it was in 1964 and 1968, the economy has gone to hell, racism has been igno- ned, and the government has made a strong effort to polarize the country into two hostile camps with no middle ground.

GENERATION GAP

"The old generation gap concept is no joke anymore. The Indochina war is a war your generation started and continued to preserve your generation's concepts of world order and Americanism is being used to fight that war. Old soldiers never die, just the young live long enough to fight the old ones.

"I used to think that all the talk of revolution was just a lot of soap. That special education is a form of propaganda, but no more. I've watched my friends discover the banner of peaceful direct action, the banner of re- fense and resistance. ... I'm starting to understand and respect those in the military—about tearing down the walls..."

"Hopefully, people like you, Dad, will learn that the road to revolution is the right track. People like you can save America but you'd better get busy, because I think the Adminis- tration is rapidly destroying the relative harmony that the schools Teach and that exists in the USA. I love you and Mom very much and hope you can understand what I've tried to say."

Lots of Cargo, Few Jobs in Stockton

STOCKTON—Because of a continu- ing falling off in longshore work with no relief in sight, 40 members of Local 54 here have transferred to San Francisco, San Pedro, Portland, Tacoma and other ports.

Another 50 have received transfer permits allowing temporary work in other ports. Both moves were made possible when the Coast Labor Relations Committee signed an agreement with the USA back on a "distressed port" last May.

Longshore work has fallen off drastically despite a steady increase in tonnage through Stockton, ac- cording to Local 54 president and business agent Hanks.

In an interview with a local daily, Fuller blamed the lack of general cargo in the port on former Port Director George Hanks, who resigned earlier this year. Hench, Fuller said, created the goods' emphasis on commercial general cargo in order to get short-term military car- go.

"For three years, 70 percent of our cargo was military. It's now been four months since we handled any," said Fuller.

As far back as September, 1968, Local 54 protested poor administra- tion of the port in testimony before the city council.

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Local 8's 'Andy' Anderson Dies; Secretary of Pensioners

PORTLAND—C. H. "Andy" Anderson, secretary of the Columbia River Pensioners Memorial Association and six times a secretary of Local 8, died at the wheel of his car, ap- parently of a heart attack, a few minutes after leaving the old-timers' picnic at Jantzen Beach Park, Thurs- day afternoon, August 6.

Born October 8, 1905 in Sweden, Anderson also served Local 8 as earnings clerk, dispatcher, and cau- cus and convention delegate before his 1968 retirement. He had also been a delegate to the Columbia River District Council, serving two ten-year terms.

He was a charter member of the Local 8 Credit Union, was on its board of directors, and had long been active in July 5 rites on the Portland waterfront.

Following his retirement, he was elected secretary-treasurer of the Columbia River Pensioners Memo- rial Association, and was re-elected to that post last December.

His death came as a tremendous shock to pensioners with whom he had been laughing and joking less than an hour before. He had known two of his fellow pensioners for days.

RECOLLECTIONS

"Andy came on the Front in '32," recalled Mike Gahr. "He worked for the States Steamship Line, painting and scaling dead ships at Terminal 4. Bill Larsen had a gang there... they decided to join our Ship Scalers local—I don't have the exact dates because our records were destroyed by grooms some years back.

"We were ILA then, Local 37, affili- ated to the Maritime Federation of the Pacific. It was one of the first locals to vote for CIO affiliation. We were known as ILWU Local 33 until we transferred into Local 6 in 1942."

"Andy was a veteran of the '34 strike," Gahr continued, recalling with relish how "we went down and took over a picket line at the dry docks. We stopped scab cargo from going on two ships they were going to sneak down river. We shipscalers and painters were a militant bunch!"

His tribute to Anderson as "one of the grandest guys I've known in a union" was extended by legislative representative Ernest E. Baker, who retired July 1, and was at the picnic where Anderson's last chore for the union was picking up candy wrappers and pop bottles left by the pensioners' grand kids.

In an amusing ceremony, ILWU Presi- dent Alan Cranston, acting as "supreme" and "great-grand," presented the former leader Andy Anderson with his first pen- sion check. This took place at the 1968 longshore council, to which Andy was a delegate and where he announced his retirement after a lifetime of service to the union movement.

"No job was too small—or too big for him to tackle where the good of the union was involved," Baker said. "He was active in the shipscalers, and active in Local 6, and his death leaves a gap in the pensioners' organi- zation that will be hard to fill."

"He was first, last and always a union man," agreed international representative James S. Fantz. "His honesty and backing of trade union principles were a legend in Local 8."

John J. Foutz, a member, and area publicity director for the pensioners, who had known Anderson for 32 years, de- scribed his death as "a tragic loss for the entire GRA, but particularly for the pensioners."

TRIUMPH OVER POLIO

Union brothers recalled that in 1931 he triumphed over an attack of polio to return to the docks as a lift driver. "Courage was his middle name," one old-timer said.

Funeral services were held 11:00 A.M., Monday, August 10 at the Little Chapel of the Chimes, with inter- ment at Skyline Memorial Gardens.

Survivors include his widow, Lour- dita; two daughters; a step-son; four grandchildren; a great-grand- child; a brother and four sisters.

The step-son, Richard Benchocher, and the sons-in-law, Jerry Kralicek and Willard Crippen, are members of Local 8.

Last picture of Carl Anderson. Top officers of Columbia River Pensioners Me- morial Association, Joe Werner, vice-president, Mike Sickinger, president, and Carl "Andy" Anderson, secretary, discuss picnic which is over except for late coffee drinkers in background. "All we have to do is return the coffee urns," Anderson told Werner and Sickinger.
LONGVIEW—The Columbia River District Council meeting held here August 14-16 elected local president Fred Huntinger, of Local 8; vice-president Ruth Dallaire, Seafood Processors; and Secretary-Treasurer Odell Franklin, of J. K. Stranahan, clerks Local 40.

The three top officers and newly elected trustees Dave Willis, Local 12; Rocky Brown, Local 8 and Carl Van Beveren, Local 21 were installed by International representative James S. Fantz.

Affiliate locals were urged to take action against the Customs screen

The court ruled hearings

get started in the sport. He died in a

fourth annual Pat Bucceroni golf

locals if the trade in containers were

should be held.

Nerve Gas Protest

Protest wires were authorized on the Army's plan to dump nerve gas rockos into the Atlantic.

Delegate Rocky Brown, a leader in the campaign to remove the gas from being transferred state-side from Okinawa, discussed the technical

Representative James S. Fantz pointed

out the danger to what's left of American prestige abroad "if we dump this lethal stuff in interna-

tional waters."

The meeting featured a report from President Huntinger on his appearance in behalf of the Port-

land Waterfront Docks at a hearing August 3 and 4 before the Federal Maritime Commission in Washing-

ton.

Japanese Consortium

A consortium of Japanese compa-

nies had indicated they would ser-

vice the Northwest through British Columbia, Seattle and Portland, Huntinger said, and received approval from the maritime people to "put the Consortium into effect without hearing an issue."

The dock commission went to court, and the court ruled hearings should continue.

Huntinger testified on the "loss of work and wages that would ac-

ce in the Northwest if the three CRDC locals if the trade in containers were restricted to British Columbia and Seattle.

In other actions, the Council rec-

ommended affiliate locals send let-

ters or wires opposing import quota,

extension of the amendment limiting log exports (H.R. 18263),

and Sen. Ervin's bill to move unfair

trade in containers were

broader if the trade in containers were


BRUCE KEARNEY—Huntsinger and Stranahan to

re-elected president Fred Hunt-

inger, Wash., Coos Bay, Ore., Hoqui-

nier, Wash., North Bend, Ore., and

District Council meeting held here

August 9, re-elected president Fred

Huntsinger and Stranahan to

All waterfront workers including

Communications were urged in

Local 24 Golf Tournament

The 1971 ILWU Bowling Tournament was awarded to Aberdeen, Washington and will go to Coos Bay, Oregon in 1972.

support of the amendment to have all troops out of Vietnam by June, 1971; the Hart-Coper amendment holding back on Phase II of the Safe-

guard anti-ballistic missile system, and national health plan legislation

being introduced by Sen. Kennedy.

CRDC lobbyist Ernest E. Baker dis-

cussed new dangers looming up on the tax front in Oregon, including

proposals to levy an additional 2 cents per pack on cigarettes.

A guest speaker at the meeting was Oregon State representative Vern Cook. He has thrown his hat into the political arena against Rep. Wendell Wyatt, Republican Con-

gressman in Oregon's first district.

Cook charged Wyatt, during his first seven years in Washington, with having the "worst labor voting record of any Republican in Con-

gress."

Almost 4,000 people in Oregon are

about to exhaust their jobless insur-

ance, and won't be reflected in the

next batch of statistics. The true

rate here is "close to 10 per cent," Cook said.

Russian Fishing

Delegate Ruth Dallaire of Coos Bay

began attention to the many fisher-

men's complaints by West Coast trawlers as a re-

sult of Russian fishing activities off the Washington, Oregon and Cali-

fornia coasts.

After considerable discussion, the following recommendation was adopted:

"That we urge the government to prom-

ote the interests of American

men in ocean fishing by establishing a proper mileage limit from Alaska to

other fishing areas in the Pacific."

The meeting closed with a minute

of silence for a former delegate, Carl "Andy" Anderson.

ILWU Bowlers Hosted

By Eureka Local 14

EUREKA—The 5th Annual ILWU

Bowling Tournament was held here June 27 and 28, with Local 14 acting as host. The follow-

ing outstanding bowlers were award-

ed trophies:

Doug and Bonnie McCready, Ar-

cata; Betty Knowles, Arcata and Al

McGregor of the Eureka Times-Press

with a 2237 series. The runner-up

was held here June 27 and 28, with

the Men's Singles with a 646 series.

The team event was won by the San Francisco waterfront in 1936.

James Kearney (at right) and Odell Franklin as they were sworn in as president and secretary-treasurer of Local 10 this year.

Longtime Union Man

Local 10 President Jim Kearney Dies Suddently

San Francisco—James Stanley Kearney, president of ILWU long-

shore Local 10, died unexpectedly Thursday, July 30 at Moffitt Hospi-

tal, University of California Medical Center. He was 56 years of age.

In addition to his official office Kearney was a member of the San Fran-

cisco Planning Commission.

When word of his death spread

across the Bay Area waterfront, longshoremen and other waterfront workers spontaneously left their jobs and all work on docks and ships ceased until 8 a.m., Fri-

tday, July 31.

On hearing the news, ILWU Inter-

national president Harry Bridges

said:

"The union has suffered a griev-

ous loss by the passing of Jim Kear-

ney. The union will miss his leader-

ship. We express our deepest and

most heartfelt sympathy for his wife

and children."

A eulogy to Kearney was delivered

by Bridges at the Local 10 stoppage meeting here Saturday, Aug. 8.

"James Kearney was a sincere per-

son who had only the interest of the

workers in mind, but also as a humanitari-

controlled by labor leaders and public spirited citizen.... Jim Kearney cared deeply for this city—about how the city looked—about open space and conservation and about the little man in San Francisco. He also cared about jobs and taxes and did his utmost to help balance and plan for these needs while aiming to preserve and en-

hance the beauty of the San Fran-

cisco area."

He was also a member of the labor

committee which sponsored the

measure July 25 in support of the

strike at the Independent Journal at

San Rafael.

Ralph Hogeravage, Northern Cal-

ifornia area manager of the Pacific Maritime Association, representing the waterfront employers said:

"In our close working relationship through many years I always found to be a friend and a guy who really cared about the highest possible val-

ue and protection on the democratic principles established by his union for its membership."

San Francisco's Mayor Joseph Ali-

o called him "a truly dedicated la-

bor leader and public spirited citizen...Jim Kearney cared deeply for this city—about how the city looked—about open space and conservation and about the little man in San Francisco. He also cared about jobs and taxes and did his utmost to help balance and plan for these needs while aiming to preserve and en-

hance the beauty of the San Fran-

cisco area."

He was appointed to the City Planning Commission by Mayor George Moscone in 1961 and served as its president in 1965, 1966 and 1970.

The commission adjourned in his

memory. Planning Department di-

rector Alan Jacobs said, "He was an absolutely popular guy. He really cared for this city, he really did."

He is survived by his widow Jean Kearney; sons Brian, 28, and Mi-

chael, 18; a daughter, Mrs. Kerry Koller, 28, and two grandchildren.

The family requests that any con-

tributions be sent to the Apostleship of the Sea.

James Kearney (at right) and Odell Franklin as they were sworn in as president and secretary-treasurer of Local 10 this year.
After Five Years, California Grape Strikers Near Victory

DELANO, Calif.—The struggle by California's migrant farm workers for social justice—a struggle which goes back to at least the pre-World War I days—is at a crucial turning point.

This became clear earlier this month when 26 table grape growers here—often considered the bastion of resistance to agricultural unionism—signed a bargaining agreement with the United Farmworkers' Organizing Committee (UPWOC)-AFL-CIO.

The agreement with the growers in this center of the grape industry will affect 10,000 workers—mostly Mexican-American and Filipino. The farmworkers now have contracts covering 75 percent of California's grape acreage.

This marks the beginning of the end of a five year struggle for social justice in the fields. The strike year's purchases of California grapes were down 17 percent from 1969.

Larry Iliong, UPWOC assistant director, announced that the boycott would remain in effect until growers in Fresno, Merced, Madera and Lodi fell into line.

The three year agreement calls for a minimum hourly wage of $1.80 plus 20 cents a box. The hourly rate will go to $1.95 next year and to $2.05 in 1972. The employer will contribute 10 cents an hour towards health and welfare, and 2 cents per box towards an "economic development fund" to assist workers displaced by mechanization.

The agreement also calls for safety regulations on pesticides, a hiring hall and a no strike clause during the life of the contract.

Previously, growers said, workers received $1.65 an hour and 15 cents a box with no fringe benefits.

NO CHOICE

Speaking for the growers, John Giummara, Jr., said "unionism has finally come to this industry and there's no sense pretending it will go away. The thing to do is to come to the best possible terms.

The victory in Delano, where the strike began was foreshadowed by increasingly rapid breakthroughs in other areas. Within the last five months, fifty table grape growers in Arizona and California had signed with the farmworkers, with the first settlement in February in California's Coachella Valley.

Not Registered to Vote? Here are the deadlines:

California .................................. September 10
Oregon .................................. October 3
Washington General Election ............... October 3
Alaska Primary Election ..................... August 25

British Dockers Close Isles Down Win Overtime Gains

LONDON—British shipping was completely paralyzed for two and one-half weeks in July and August as 47,000 longshoremen — members of the Transport and General Workers' Union — walked off the job in their first strike since 1926.

The strike precipitated a declaration of a state of emergency by the new Tory government, the first time such a declaration had been issued since the seaman's strike closed down British ports for six weeks during 1966.

British workers were gratified to find that their continental brothers were refusing by and large to work diverted cargo. Longshoremen in Holland, Belgium, France, Scandinavian countries, and Germany all announced that they would refuse to unload any cargo bound for Britain or any cargo diverted from Britain.

In Asia, Indian longshoremen also cooperated.

Issues in this strike revolved around problems caused by modernization and containerization.

According to TGWU secretary-general Jack Jones, "the simple fact is that the dockers have not got anywhere near the value of the increase in productivity they have achieved. Some of this is in the process of being worked out in local agreements, but the dockers reasonably want to see their minimum time wage modernized to match the modernization of the industry." (AU)

BASIC RATE

The key strike issue was a demand by the workers for an increase in the basic rate from $26.50 to $48.00 per week. The time rate governs the computation of overtime pay, vacation pay and piecework pay.

Said Jones, "it is just not right that the sort of work which is done in the docks should not pay a decent rate of overtime at the end of the day." Underlying a great deal of the militancy which the British workers felt — on several occasions to the point of rejecting the advice of union leadership—has been a gradual deterioration in working conditions.

According to Jones, "although average earnings rank among the most highly paid of industrial workers there are wide fluctuations between man and man and day by day and week by week. This denies them easy access to house mortgages, for example, and in that respect makes them second class citizens."

When the strike was underway the new Tory government's secretary of employment Robert Carr established a "Court of Inquiry" under the leadership of 70-year-old senior judge, Lord Pearson.

Within a week the court recommended that although the basic wage rate not be raised the overtime rate should be raised substantially. The court also recommended improvements in fallback pay, vacation pay and modernization payments.

The court's plan should give the dockers up to $6 a week extra, and should cost the industry as much as $12 million.

Jones called the settlement a victory. He said that the terms were "not everything we wanted but they go a long way indeed to the achievement of our aims and ambitions."

The strike was particularly threatening to a country which produces less than half the food it eats, and frequent shortages of meats, vegetables and other imports were reported. British exporters were also hard hit although estimates of the damages to profits will not be available to the fall.