Vesting Benefits Deadline Now June 1

SAN FRANCISCO — The filling deadline for M&M vesting benefits has been changed from March 1, 1971 to June 1, 1971—an extension of three months—by agreement of the ILWU and the PMA.

This was announced last week in a letter to all locals by the Coast Committee.

The change means that men qualified for M&M vesting who intend to retire by June 30 of this year must have their application on file by June 1, or lose the M&M benefit.

Qualified longshoremen, clerks and bosses should go to their local before the June 1 deadline to file for the M&M vesting benefit. Applications must be at the Benefit Funds office by that date.

There have been no other changes. Class A men from age 62 to 68 may be eligible for vesting. Requirements include 25 qualifying years out of 35 payroll years and Class A registration for the 9 years preceding retirement.

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There are some typical questions members have asked:

Q: Should I make up my mind now?
A: It is not necessary. You can wait until the end of May but make sure your decision is made before June 1, 1971.

Q: If I qualify for M&M vesting ($12,000), and I decide to take a chance on a higher pension in the next contract, could I keep working past July 1, 1971 and still get my $12,000?
A: No. The M&M agreement ends on July 1. However, if any man decides he wants to keep working and believes the ILWU will be able to negotiate a better agreement on wages, pensions and fringes, that's his choice.

Q: If I pass up the $12,000 M&M vesting benefit, what will happen to the money?
A: It will be used to pay M&M death and disability claims.

After 30 Years

Cal Milling Signs Union Pact

LOS ANGELES—In 1939, Local 26 first attempted to organize California Milling Corp. The effort failed after an unsuccessful strike. During the next 30 years Local 26 and several other unions attempted to organize the plant and again failed.

Last year, an organizing drive was launched again and the 100 workers voted by a big majority to certify Local 26 as their collective bargaining agent.

After nine months of negotiations an agreement has been reached and a contract ratified by the union membership.

The contract contains substantial wage increases and other fringe benefit improvements, including adoption of the Warehousemen's Pension Plan, with the employer contributing 20 cents an hour for coverage.

The ILWU International Executive Board will meet in San Francisco, Wednesday, March 3. This will be the board's last scheduled meeting before the Nineteenth Biennial Convention, which will convene in Honolulu on April 19.

Longshore Parleys Resumed

SAN FRANCISCO—Longshore contract negotiations—broken off by the ILWU on December 15—resumed February 3 as The Dispatcher went to press.

After an exchange of letters between the ILWU and the PMA, it was agreed that consideration of the problems on which talks had broken down would be sidestepped to a future date while negotiations continue on the main industry-wide demands.

Negotiations broke down seven weeks ago when the ILWU longshore negotiating committee insisted that matters such as jurisdiction, manning and "steady men" (section 9.43 of the contract), be dealt with on a local or area basis, while the PMA asked that they be subject to coastwise talks.

With this problem temporarily out of the way, the ILWU and the PMA will go on to consider the weightiest set of demands ever submitted to longshore negotiations.

These include a wage hike of one dollar per year over two years and a work opportunity guarantee—with the employer furnishing either work or pay for all registered men.

The preliminary caucuses which set negotiating strategy last October, also demanded a $500 per month pension, extensive medical and dental improvements and eventual reduction of shifts to seven hours.

Also, no further reduction in gang sizes, all longshore work to be done by longshoremen, ten paid holidays, a prescription drug plan, safety improvements, and payment of all outstanding M&M claims.

Nixon Drive Seen to Bar Transport Strikes

WASHINGTON, DC—A revised version of President Nixon's "Emergency Public Interest Protection Act"—aimed at barring strikes in the transportation industry—is being prepared by the administration.

An early push is expected for hearings and action on this and other anti-labor legislation, including a cargo theft commission to recommend a national licensing system for cargo handlers in all modes, and the defense facilities and industrial security act revising political screening.

Anti-labor forces in Congress hope to use the March 1 expiration of an imposed ban on railroad strikes as a kickoff for broad new legislation.

ILWU members ought to begin contacting legislators now to demand they oppose compulsory settlement bills in the transportation industry. The ILWU International Executive Board called last year's version of the Emergency Public Interest Protection Act, "a major attack on organized labor, free collective bargaining, and rank-and-file democracy."
What are we doing way up here... when there’s so much to be done down there?

H O U M, SAYS the man in the street, another moon shot. As The Dispatcher goes to press the three brave men on the Apollo XIV mission were well out in space—having a few technical difficulties—but fast orbiting towards the moon. No one can deny this technological marvel—and we wish them well.

We also wish to ask, Why? Why do we need more moon odysseys that cost billions in these times?

Why—when city and state governments are crying bankruptcy, and demanding “austerity” and taking it out on the young, the aged, sick and helpless? At the same time we were throwing a 36-story missile into the wild blue yonder, old people were being tossed out of nursing homes because of an alleged lack of funds.

What are we doing way up here...

S FEEN FROM the vastness of outer space this space vehicle on which we live, the planet earth, looks very small. But it’s also a mess. Gluing our eyes to our own turf where they belong here are a few priorities we have to live with and do something about:

• War—This is number one. And it’s escalating under a phony “Vietnamization” program that merely means we keep paying for the same economic system. Drug use is not because they’re bad, but because of crime, directly and indirectly...

• Education—In the big city jungles education is a shamble, and everywhere else children are being cheated in their schooling. Our kids—our most important investment—are being sold out, while Nixon veols education bills and keeps trying to bail out aircraft companies with super-sonic transports.

• Drugs—Pushers and profiteering are made for each other in this supply-and-demand economic system. Drug use is not limited to the ghetto any longer. If our kids are getting hooked, and mind —destroying drugs it’s not because they’re bad, but because they don’t see much that’s good.

• Crime—Former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark puts the blame on poverty. “Blums,” he says, “are clearly the major cause of crime, directly and indirectly...” And who are the real victims in the high crime areas? “It’s the poor people in the slums.” And who receives the most drastic punishment? Clark answers: “There’s never been a rich man executed in this country, to know me.”

• Pollution—Enough has been said about the trouble on oiled waters, the mercury in fish, the foulness in the air—and the fact that great resources and energy are needed now to clean this befouled nest of ours.

• Racism—Nothing will ever be resolved in this country until we come to grips with the racist sickeness which eats away at our guts. Racism is murder—murder for profit—which emotionally strangles generations at birth.

• Poverty—in the richest nation on earth poverty is a festering wound and around the world most people are perpetually hungry. Here at home countless kids go without lunch while food glute the market and rich farmers are paid for not growing more.

• Health Care—This is a national disgrace. Without immediate remedies the entire medical care system will break down in the next two years. The Administration is essentially anti-health as long as it favors the insurance companies and the “medicine business.” We are 13th in infant mortality, seventh in maternal mortality. Americans are less healthy than they were 20 years ago—even though we spend more on health than any other nation on earth.

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THE ILWU has long taken the position that we want the war in Indo-China to end—without any ifs, ands or buts! We want that war washed up right away, even if it means a cutback or recession or depression in this country! This position causes lots of problems among the ranks of working people who fear loss of jobs. It comes as no surprise that when a family’s pork chops are threatened a certain panic sets in.

Already, one aspect of the Indo-China war is winding down and the best news we get these days is that fewer of our men are being killed. We say, however, that we don’t want a single American killed in battle in Southeast Asia—or anywhere else.

The key point, as far as we’re concerned, is that for years we’ve been saying—in convention resolutions, at Executive Board and local meetings—that we want the war to end.

Do we mean what we say, now that the test may be close at hand?

The New Year started with close to five million men and women, ready, willing and able to work, without jobs, and it may get more serious. The situation is hitting far beyond the so-called blue-collar class. Tens of thousands of highly educated and skilled technical workers, engineers, draftsmen, designers, scientists, and many other white collar workers, are hitting the unemployment offices for the first time in their lives.

The slight de-escalation of the war in Vietnam is already affecting ships getting down on hours of work, causing unemployment for some waterfront workers, and digging away at the paycheck.

S O, HERE ARE some questions: What is the reaction of our rank-and-file? Will they decide to take another look-see at the union’s program? Do we mean that we say—stop the war at once, even if it means a depression?

As unpleasant as depression is, there is one hard fact that history teaches. It is this: that war, or no war, there is no guarantee that the working class will win. The economic system, depressions are built into the system because those who control the economy look out for their own profit needs first of all.

With this in mind, the union’s highest political priority of the war, includes our understanding that as long as we have a strong, unified and solid trade union movement, the working class has the ability to deal with the problems of depression.

That’s why, when we call for an end to the war, we must also concentrate as organized workers—with economic and political strength—on a program at home.

This program includes forcing the government to create jobs where necessary, subsidizing and educating the poor; meeting the vast need for new housing and education; improved social security and universal national health; and ending the threats to our life from air, water, food and pollution.

O NE THING WE must concentrate on is to make sure that nothing is allowed to confuse and divide the labor movement—such as the kind of statements that say “you can’t do this or you can’t do that because of the war.” The bars and restriction to action caused by war fever don’t sit any longer with union members who see cut-offs and even layoffs.

As one looks around the country and sees all the needs—housing, transportation, pollution, and much more—no real solution is available except for the tremendous changes available in this country to complete the enormous job which must be done at home.

We even need high-priced, well-educated, skilled men who are often on welfare today, who’d give their right arm to work on the waterfront if they could. A week doesn’t go by that I don’t get inquiries from such skilled technical workers and scientists asking if it’s possible to work as a longshoreman or clerk.

But there are the people who should be planning and designing the tremendous changes needed here at home; to create jobs which would not only absorb the current unemployed, but create new ones and replace all kinds of work coming out of high school and college, and even the dropouts.

One thing that so many of the white collar and technically-skilled unemployed are finally waking up to after all these years is that they sure could have used a union!

Well, that’s one thing we’ve got. We’ve got a union and a trade union movement, and if we as one union can help get it solid, strong and unified, we know we can face the future—including a depression. We know how to fight, and we know we can win this sort of battle here at home.
United Foam

Local 6 Strikes Against Open Shop, Low Wages

OAKLAND—Faced with a man- agement threat to install open shop at its waterfront facilities, Local 6 ILWU wage fighters yesterday scored an open shop and wage shop contract after 61 ILWU Local 6 members and three non-union dock drivers at United Foam Company here hit the brakes Tuesday, January 26.

The ILWU Local 6 represents the maintenance and warehouse workers who have formed a joint bargaining unit with their brothers, members of Teamster Local 70.

After Local 6 organized United Foam, wage-shop negotiations got off to a slow start. Representatives of the LA-based manufacturer—-they make cleaning and upholstery—-insisted on a gentle- men’s schedule of flying up once a week for negotiations and refused to meet more often.

OPEN SHOP

The employer insisted on an open shop, and argued that if an hour was a good wage because that’s 15 cents more than they pay in Los Angeles.

Treasury to Spring New ‘Pilferage’ Rules

WASHINGTON, DC—A second round of regulations have been put in effect by the Treasury Department to “combat cargo theft” with increased authority for the Cus- toms Bureau.

The new proposals require import- ing carriers, bonded warehouses, and export-ers to notify the Customs Bureau, on demand, with a written list of all employees including background information for un- known reasons — dates and places of birth. The new rules also create more work for all concerned.

Proposals to screen employees for issuance of photo identification cards are, according to Assistant Treasury Secretary Burt Ros- es, “still under review.” These proposals have been prompted by the affected unions, including ILWU, ILA, Teamsters, and the AFL-CIO Maritime Committee.

Rosés also indicated that legisla- tion will be requested “to set com- prehensive national standards for storage and handling of interna- tional cargo.”

Local 26 Wage and Fringe

Gains at National Silver

LOS ANGELES—A new three year contract was ratified last month by union members at National Silver Co., containing a substantial wage increase and other improved bene- fits.

Wages were increased 25 cents per hour, retroactive to January 1, 1971, with additional increase of 20 cents an hour on January 1, 1972 and Jan- uary 1, 1973.

Vacations were improved with the addition of 5 vacation days for Local 26 members after 10 years, and sick leave was extended.

The negotiating committee con- sisted of Juan Cordero, Katherine Adam in Seattle, Herman W. and Vice President Frank Lopez.

Unemployment Keeps Rising

ASTORIA—The rate of insured unemployment in Western Columbia counties has jumped to 16 per cent due to layoffs in lumber and seafood processing.

IMPROVEMENTS

Chief among the improvements as of January 1, 1971, are increased al- lowances for doctor visits, diagnostic x-ray and laboratory tests, and ma- ternity. Also, the 1964 Public Value Schedule for health services is be- ing used instead of the 1969 sched- ule, and the co-payment for hospital has been increased from $4 to $5.

These improvements in Insured Plan benefits add up to 20 in all, including increases in coverage for some of the state’s most medical and mental handicap cases for public assistance. Also, in- creasing numbers of veterans are returning to civilian life and many 1970 high school and college grad- uates, unemployed since graduation last June, face a tough job market for non-existent work.

Meanwhile a bill has been intro- duced in the legislature to “disrupt” the Legislature in its deliberations. It was report- ed out of the Senate’s Committee on Finance.

The artwork, according to The Oregonian, included a drawing of a bathroom plumbing fixture.

Local 6 Turns Back

Raid at Paper Plant

OAKLAND—Local 6 workers at the St. Regis Paper Company turned back a raid last month by the Interna- tional Brotherhood of Pulp, Sul- fate and Paper Workers AFL- CIO, by a more than two-to-one margin.

The challenge to ILWU juris- diction, as negotiations for a new contract were set to begin, and delayed the opening. Local 6 offi- cers are pressing now for prompt negotiations, with the contract due to expire on March 1.
UAW Board Condemns US Intervention in Cambodia

DETROIT — The United Auto Workers' International Executive Board, meeting here last week, condemned the use of "any American troops in Cambodia in the air, on the ground or by any other means," urging "a speedy end to the war and the restoration of peaceful conditions in Indo-China."

The UAW statement said, in part:

"We are gravely concerned with the growing role of the United States in the Cambodian war. Far from decreasing, all indications are that, contrary to the spirit of the Cooper-Church amendment to the Military Appropriation Act of 1970 and to the off - repeated declarations from the Nixon Administration, the United States role and military presence in Cambodia is actually increasing."

"Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird stated recently that we're going to use air power in Cambodia and I don't care to get into a question of semantics on that."

"Competent U.S. news reporters in Cambodia, however, indicate the phrase 'air power' is being used by the Administration to cover a multitude of military activities beyond the conventional task of airplanes."

"Vice President Agnew indicated on Aug. 23 that we're going to do everything we can to help the Lon Nol government because 'the whole matter of Cambodia is related to the security of troops in Vietnam.' The argument of the Vice President is precisely the one now used by the Administration to explain the invasion of Cambodia last spring.

BROKEN PROMISE

"This Administration, which came to power on the promise of disengagement in war from South Vietnam, is clearly not keeping its pledge. Increasing military assistance to South Vietnam will further widen the fighting and will not bring this tragic war to an end.

"If our presence in Indo-China could ever have been justified in terms of our obligations to others, that obligation has been more than met by the 43,000 dead, hundreds of thousands maimed and wounded, and hundreds of bombed and burned villages and towns in Indo-China. Let us now commit ourselves to a speedy end to the war and the restoration of peaceful conditions in Indo-China."

New Bill to End War in Indo-China

WASHINGTON—Against a backdrop of a Saigon news blackout and the most recent report of a widening Indo-China war, a recent Gallup poll here showed 73 percent of the American people in favor of requiring the US government to bring home all US troops before the end of this year.

Last year's McGovern-Hatfield Resolution setting such a withdrawal date was defeated in the last Senate, 55 to 39. It has now been reintroduced as S.176, the 'Vietnam Disengagement Act of 1971,' with Senators Crane, Gravel, Inouye and Udall, among the co-sponsors. The bill declares:

"That in light of all considerations, the solution which offered the greatest safety, the highest measure of honor, the best likelihood for the return of United States prisoners, and the most meaningful opportunity for a political settlement will be the bailing of all war funds except for the orderly and safe withdrawal of all US troops by December 31, 1971, the release of prisoners, and arranging asylum for South Vietnamese who want it.

Nixon Plays Politics in State of Union Message

WASHINGTON—President Nixon's State of the Union message was billed somewhat over-enthusiastically in advance as a "blockbuster." It actually represented more of a shifting of rhetorical emphasis than a genuine legislative program. The fact that one of his major recommendations—requiring the reorganization of the Executive Branch—had not been discussed at all with congressional leaders indicates the notion that the program is not serious. The President seems to be creating issues to fight with Congress about in preparation for the 1972 elections.

The President talked about the "future role of war and division, or crime and inflation." Yet his proposals ignored the war. "The escalation in Cambodia; crime went unnoticed and the plans for dealing with unemployment and inflation were foggy. This Administration has always said "watch what we do and not what we say." And what they've done most recently to the economy is to give a four-plus billion dollar tax break to big business while vetoing public service jobs legislation.

TEXTILE LOBBY

While talking about making government more responsive, the President's Postmaster-General issued an order forbidding post office workers from contacting their Congressmen.

While declaring that it is time "to set free again the real greatness of this nation," the President, in wire-tapping and repression increases, Jimmy Hoffa remains in prison, unbelievable "conformity" decrees against nuns and priests, and more and more "hazardous" actions are planned.

While claiming a "far-reaching commitment for the health of America's health care," the actual proposal is quite limited, and nothing approaches the National Health Insurance program backed by a united labor movement and opposed by Mr. Reagan. Also wondering what the President's promise to make health care "available more fairly to more people" means, the Administration has just ordered the closing of eight Public Health Service facilities.

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Wrapping Up the Hotel Strike

From Voice of ILWU, Hawaii

HONOLULU — How did the hotel strike come about and what was accomplished?

The union conservatively estimates the total cash value of wages and benefits in the final settlement package at 90½ cents, which is 31½ cents more than the value of the employers' pre-strike offer. The union's firm stand also prevented the employers from taking away long-established and valuable benefits enjoyed under earlier contracts, especially at Inter-Island Resorts.

Apparently, the employers were convinced despite a 99 percent strike vote — that the hotel workers, a scattered, untried group, would not dare to strike. They made no serious concessions to avert the strike. Once struck, they obviously felt the workers could not hold out, and would be forced to accept an inferior agreement for the Neighbor Islands on the employers' terms.

They attempted to turn the clock back and impose a pattern of labor relations resurrected from the bad-old days before unions were strong. They tried strikebreaking, arrests, intimidation, lawsuits, and back to work movements.

The employers finally realized they had misjudged the intelligence and guts of this segment of the union and came through with a settlement that made the 76-day fight well worthwhile.

More even important than the 31½c worth of added benefits gained, and the 3c worth of existing benefits retained, is what was prevented. Had the employers succeeded in their plan, not only would hotel workers have lost any future they lay in their own destinies, but employers in other industries would have been encouraged to try the same thing.

Most important of all, the employers' strategy — designed to weaken and discourage the union — backfired. By forcing hotel membership into a united, disciplined group, rich in leadership of proven worth.

SEATTLE — As the nation's economy continues to suffer from masses which broke ranks, and took a firm position that (1) they would meet Waikiki wage rates, and (2) make up for this by taking away long established and valuable benefits, enjoyed under earlier contracts, especially at Inter-Island Resorts.

Unemployment statistics are staggering. The current rate for the state is 10 percent. A year ago it was a hefty 6.3 percent. In the Mount Vernon-Anacortes area, 18 percent of the work force is unemployed; in Bremerton, 14 percent; Covington, 22 percent; Ellensburg, 14 percent.

In the Seattle metropolitan area, nearly 10 percent are out of work, compared to 4.6 percent a year ago.

NOTHING NEW

In his maiden speech to the state senate, newly elected Seattle democrat George Fleming last month pointed out that the economic crisis was nothing new for the ethnic minority. "In the black community, we have never been under six percent unemployed," Fleming said.

Fleming — the first black state senator in Washington in recent years — told his colleagues that many of the newly unemployed look around and suddenly see the pathway people and the minority people who've always been there.

"So many people used to think of those people on unemployment or welfare as bum. They'd say, 'They are lazy and don't want to work.' Now these people are there and they know that it's like that."

New Oregon Lobbyist Warns On 'Fink Bill'

SALEM — John Olson, ILWU legislative representative here, has alerted Oregon locals to the dangers of a bill (H.B. 1004) which if passed would kick the props from under the FIFTH amendment and offer a witness the choice of going to jail on a contempt charge for refusing to testify, or a perjury rap, should his testimony be contradicted.

"This legislation was made ready for finks and is a legal cop-out that may be unconstitutional," Olson wrote.

The bill, introduced at the request of the Oregon lobby-General Lee Olson and particularly distasteful to ILWU members . . . familiar with the many frame-ups and phony witnesses . . . used against us over the years.

(Other warnings against the bill, now in the House Judiciary committee headed by Rep. Gordon Macpherson of Waldport, were issued by the American Civil Liberties Union and Bill McCoy, chairman of the Multnomah Democrats.)

SOUNDS GREAT

In his first report to the locals, the new ILWU-CRDC lobbyist covered the Governor's message to the Legislature.

He noted that the Governor's many plans for improvements in aid to colleges, grants for public safety and sewer facilities, pollution control, housing, trade "sound great, but where's the catch?"

"The Governor alludes to every-thing we need and wish for, but no-where is there a plan to finance these many necessities," Olson concluded.

Local 10 Scholarship Open

SAN FRANCISCO — Applications are available in the Local 10 dues office for the Jeffress Memorial Scholarship. Awards under this program are limited to children of longshoremen who are members in good standing in Local 10.

The applications must be completed and on file with the scholarship advisor at 400 North Point Street on or before April 1.

Staggering Job Loss in Washington

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Development of the Port of Oakland's 140-acre Seventh Street Terminal has generated some 2,000 direct jobs for area residents. Some 20,000 other depressed positions are indirectly attributable to development of the $35 million facility.

Seventh Street Terminal Means New Jobs for ILWU Members

OAKLAND — Some 1,000 permanent jobs have been generated as a direct result of the development of the Port of Oakland's new Seventh Street Terminal, a recent port study indicated. Over half of these positions are filled by ILWU members.

The study, conducted by port Research Director Shanti A. Vora and port Equal Employment Opportunity officer Joseph H. Barnett is believed to be the first examination of the job potential of a large, all-contained complex.

The researchers also found that another 2,000 jobs in Oakland and the surrounding area, were created indirectly by the new facility—for example, in warehouses and container freight stations.

MINORITIES

Approximately 35 percent of the total jobs are being filled by members of minority groups.

Work began on the $35 million Seventh Street Terminal in 1965, with portions of the facility first opened in 1968. Already Northern California's largest maritime shipping center, the five-birth installation is expected to provide additional employment for residents when construction of two remaining berths is completed in May.

Development costs for the complex are being met by port-generated revenue, bond issues, tenant terminal improvements and $16 million in grants and loans earmarked for the project by the Economic Development Administration.

In making the EDA funds available, Commerce Department officials pointed to the terminal's potential as an economic stimulus for Oakland, a city long plagued by a high unemployment rate.

The addition of container facilities at Seventh Street and other terminal areas has spurred Oakland's recent emergence as the second largest containerized cargo port in the world, behind New York. At the same time the Port has become the city's leading industry. Oakland Mayor John Reading recently estimated that as many as one in five Oakland jobs can be attributed to activities of the Port.
Thanks Baker for Years Of Service as Lobbyist

PORTLAND—Ernest E. Baker recently was presented a plaque commemorating his 35 years of service to the Columbia River District Council and as president of the CLWU at the Oregon Legislature.

With the plaque went an honorary farewell from his union and the council, which he helped to organize in 1935.

Baker worked on the Coos Bay waterfront, served almost continuously as a delegate from Local 8. He also served many terms as council president and as council secretary.

When Oregon labor was threatened by an anti-picketing law in 1964, Baker was sent to Salem to lobby against it by Local 8; and he represented the local again at the 1963 session.

He became CRDC lobbyist in 1955, and pioneered the effort to draw all Oregon unions, regardless of affiliation, into a united front against bills threatening working men and women in every area of the state.

Presentation of the plaque was made by CRDC president Fred Huntinger.

The auxiliary council presented the outgoing lobbyist with a pen and pencil set. Baker often referred to the auxiliaries as his “secret weapon.”

A huge cake decorated with a colored icing map of Oregon, and small replicas of the state flag and the blue and gold council banner, was served CRDC delegates and guests at a luncheon in the Clerks Local 42 Hall.

GREEN BUT WISE

Lois Stranahan, the Auxiliary member who placed the cake in front of Baker, described him as “the man who kept Oregon not blue, but green with wisdom from 1953 to 1971.”

Baker, who retired from the water industry in 1971, is on standby call to help the new lobbyist, John Olson, also of Local 8.

Pensioners Ask Social Security Hike

OAKLAND—The Local 6 Eastbay pensioners’ club has written to members of the 92nd Congress asking for a 20 percent hike in social security benefits.

According to the letter, signed by chairman Lou Gonick and recording secretary Jim Nelson, “the bills passed by both houses last year are grossly inadequate. The continued rise in the cost-of-living raises more burdens for our senior Americans.”

East Bay Pensioners

OAKLAND — All incumbent officers of the East Bay Pensioners Club, Local 6, were re-elected for the 1971 term. Brother Charles Drasin of Local 34, Pensioners, conducted the election.

The following officers were re-elected: Chairman, Louis Yonick; vice-chairman, Eugene Lucarentay; secretary-treasurer, Wallace Larsen; recording secretary and delegate to District Council, Jim Nelson; sergeant-at-arms, Odis Brooks. Joe Gomes and Claude Larrabe were elected to the executive board.

Washington State Big Exporter

SEATTLE—Washington State figures show an increase in international trade from this state in 1969 amounted to $3 billion, the equivalent of $875 for every man, woman and child in the state. 1970 figures are expected to reach $3.6 billion. Officials estimate that this trade provides 120,000 people in Washington with jobs.

An Employer Gimmick

IT goes like this. You’re finishing up a shift for shipping or sailing, you’ve worked up to the 10th hour, when all of a sudden you’re told by Supervision that you have to work six more minutes for the church, or maybe he’ll be a good guy and offer to pay you for 10 hours. Do you believe it? Brothers, when you finish the 10th hour and you get that $B, just look at him like he’s crazy and get to stepping.

Therefore, he’s going to order another shift and pay extended shift violation pay. At any rate, don’t work over 10 hours except in a case of emergency, such as fire, or a leaking vessel in danger of sinking.

From Local 10 Bulletin

Despite Stall

Isle Matson

Clericals Join Local 142

HONOLULU—After long delaying tactics by the company, Matson Navigation office clerical employees got their chance and voted to be represented by ILWU Local 142.

The 50 eligible employees voted: ILWU 49, No Union, 51. The election was conducted by the NLRC December 15.

The ILWU led a petition for an election with the NLRC on July 27, 1970 requesting that all clerical employees be permitted to vote, excluding confidential employees.

The company claimed that a large number of confidential employees were supervisors, managerial staff members and essential employees and therefore not eligible to vote.

The NLRC held a formal hearing on October 17 at which both parties presented extensive testimonies. The case was then referred to the San Francisco NLRB office for a decision. On October 19 the NLRC issued its decision stating that nearly all classifications were entitled to be included in the bargaining unit.

Two days later the Company appealed the decision to the NLRB Washington office but this appeal was denied.

Blast Gas Rate Hike

SAN FRANCISCO — A $51.6 million hike in gas rates was approved last week as “both exorbitant and inflationary” by California State Labor Federation secretary-treasurer John F. Henning.

Henning noted that the PUC granted PG&E a 7.5 percent rate of return, while the commission’s own staff had recommended 7.2 percent.

The PUC has approved a rate increase of more than 55 million in rate increases for PG&E in the last two years.

In San Francisco and Oakland the hike will raise typical home rates an average of six dollars per month.

State Senator George Moscone (D-SF), said that he would call for investigative legislation into the function of the State PUC.

Auxiliary 7, Stockton

STOCKTON—Mrs. Dominie Quar-
tero was again elected president of ILWU Local 142 Auxiliary 7. Her fellow of-

Officially estimate that this trade provides 120,000 people in Washington with jobs.

after 35 years of outstanding activity in behalf of working men and women everywhere, and your many accomplishes in the field of social welfare at the Oregon Legislature.

"Your dedicated service to the Port of Seattle..."
BC Labor Presents Demands; Unemployed in Demonstration

VANCOUVER, B.C.—Repeal of anti-labor legislation, pollution control, and steps to aid disadvantaged citizens were the three main subjects of the presentation of Labor's annual brief to the provincial cabinet.

Included in the labor delegation which made the presentation were two ILWU organizers, Kenneth Kenney, treasurer of the Canadian Area ILWU and executive member of the BCFL, and John Williams, Canadian Area ILWU president, and vice president of the New Westminster and Delta Local of the BCFL.

The disadvantaged, the BCFL brief pointed out, include the unemployed and underemployed, the low wage earner, the small farmer, the majority of old people, many young people, recent immigrants and native Indians.

DRAMATIC STEPS

The BCFL called for a comprehensive program to meet their needs, including a "dramatic increase" in the minimum wage, now $1.50 an hour, and extension of its coverage to include "casual occupations," programs of economic expansion and development to ensure productive employment, increased social security pensions and public, low-cost housing, and an end to the removal of the burden of education costs from residential property.

The BCFL asked the government's Pollution Control Board, acceding to its functioning as an agency which it "primarily concerned with protecting industry against the public." The brief proposed that the province retain and exercise effective responsibility for pollution control and that it act to ensure that "environmental preservation be given priority over industrial expansion."

BILL 33

Removal of Bill 33, which provides for compulsory arbitration, and also of the three-man Mediation Commission established under Bill 33, were demanded by the BCFL. The policy of the Federation is to boycott the legislation.

Compulsory arbitration, said the Federation, is an "obstacle to improved labor-management relations."

Other demands for legislation called for by the BCFL included:

- Amendment of the Trade Union Act to remove the use of injunctions in labor disputes which "are simply and directly used to destroy the picket line" and which make the courts "appear to workers as another agent of management."
- Restoration of the right of information picketing.
- Allow unions to make political donations, a right enjoyed by corporations but denied to labor.
- Full collective bargaining rights including the right to strike for public employees.
- Provisions that technological changes proposed by the employer must be negotiated. Failure to reach agreement should force postponement of such changes until after the collective agreement or should provide for the right of the union to take economic action.

BENNETT ABSENT

"It's regrettable that Premier Ben- nett was absent when we presented our brief," said Canadian Area ILWU president Don Garcia. "Maybe this is a measure of his at-titude to organize labor. Our pro- posals were constructive and we mean to press them until we get some positive results from the pro- vincial government."

The annual session of the BC legislature opened in Victoria three days later, on January 21, the BC Federation of Labor was there again, this time with 1200 unem- ployed. Most of them were re- tained by employed unionists from the mainland, who came to the capital in buses provided by the BCFL.

After hearing addresses at the Crystal Gardens by Alderman Harry Rankin and other speakers, the unemployed paraded to the legisla-ture.

Some of the demonstrators poured into the legislation and into the reading of the "Throne Speech" by Lieutenant-Governor John Nich- olan. The demonstrators would certainly conduct further such demonstrations, because that's the only thing the government will recognize.

Hugh Mulzac, First Black Captain, Dies

NEW YORK—Capt. Hugh Mulzac, 84, the first Negro to be the cap- tain of a ship in the US Merchant Marine, died here January 31.

During World War II, as a cap- tain of the Booker T. Washington, with an integrated crew, Mulzac was responsible for transporting 18,000 US troops to Europe and the Far East.

Born in the West Indies in 1886, he held his captain's papers for 29 years before he became captain in 1942.

ILWU oldtimers will remember Mulzac because of his activity in the CIO, especially in organizing the Action Committee. Mulzac was par- ticularly active in helping A. Phillip Roosevelt in the 1941 presidential election.

Credit Union to Meet

WILMINGTON—The ILWU Local 13-03-94 Federal Credit Union will hold its annual membership meeting at 7 p.m. at the Marine Clarks Memorial Hall, 701 W. "C" Street, Wilmington. On the agenda will be the election of new officers and the reports by the officers.
Labor Launches Drive for National Health Care

SAN MATEO—The American labor movement has launched a major drive to win a national health care program that would deliver high quality medical care for every American man, woman, and child.

The foundation of this campaign is the recently proposed Health Security Act, introduced by Senator Edward Kennedy and sponsored by a bi-partisan group of senators. The legislation is described as containing the best features of the national health insurance bills introduced in Congress last year.

Some 500 men and women — a cross-section of California labor, AFL-CIO, ILWU, Teamsters, building trades, auto workers, and others — attended a two-day kickoff meeting here to launch the national health campaign in California.

The conference, at the Villa Hotel, January 26-27, was called by the California Council for Health Plan Alternatives, an organization supported by all sects of California labor. The council is headed by Einar O. Mohn, director of the Western Council of Teamsters. ILWU secretary-treasurer Louis Goldblatt is also secretary of the CCHPA.

It passed, the proposed Health Security Act would be financed 50 percent by the federal government from general tax revenues, and the other half from a 2.5 percent tax on self-employment income up to $15,000 a year. For workers earning less than $7800 a year, an additional tax on employers, workers, and self-employed individuals. For workers earning less than $7800 a year, there would be no increase in taxes. (See summary of the act, below.)

Under the new program, essentially the same amount of money now being spent for health care in the country would provide far more health services for many more people.

In addition to improving services for all citizens, it would expand the health care system to meet the special needs of the poor, including recruiting and training more doctors, nurses and medical students; it provides new types of health programs, research and group practice development.

The program includes a full range of provisions for prevention and early detection of disease, and rehabilitation as well as immediate care and treatment.

LABOR LEADS

A high point of the San Mateo meeting was a speech to a packed house by Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D-Me.), who applauded labor's leadership in seeking health care for all.

"I applaud your entry into the field," he said. You are right. You can be effective. You have the know-how in this cause which can bring meaning to the least of our citizens.

Muskie was introduced by Tony Ramos, secretary of the State Council of Carpenters. When his speech was completed, chairman Mohr pointed out that this is one issue where "labor leaves its differences behind and the American people in the minority communities will be asked many questions about the need for national health insurance.

"The Lying-Hearted" who will try to kill an issue which is of immediate interest to every man, woman and child. We can go into the campaign with a realist approach, in contrast with the minority communities on this. We can reach the church and organize the community."

"We have to organize a lobbying campaign which is virtually a replica of the anti-labor Proposition 18 on the California ballot.

"In a land as rich as ours, as medically knowledgeable as ours, as democratic as ours is supposed to be — these facts are a disgrace." He called the drive to bring quality medical care within the reach of every American our great domestic challenge this year, and added that "no American should ever again be forced to choose between physical health and economic privation." (A state AFL-CIO health care conference is scheduled for Fresno, March 11-12, with Senator Kennedy as principal speaker.)

The senator emphasized that "high quality medical care is a right, to which all Americans are entitled. It should not be treated as a privilege, available only to those who can pay the price."

Warming up to his subject, he noted some facts about the youngest citizens of this country. "In 1968 alone, more than 75,000 infants died in America. Children from poor families are twice as likely as other children to be included in that total. The overall rate of infant mortality in the United States was worse than in twelve other major nations.

"In a land as rich as ours, as medically knowledgeable as ours, as democratic as ours is supposed to be — these facts are a disgrace."

Summary of Proposed Health Act

The following is a summary of the major provisions of the proposed Health Security Act of 1971:

1. Eligible Persons—Every individual residing in the United States will be eligible to receive benefits. There will be no requirement of prior individual contributions. Coverage is provided for all nationalities.

2. Benefits—With certain modest limitations, the benefits available under the program will cover the entire range of personal health care services, including preventive care, treatment of disease, the care and treatment of illness, and medical rehabilitation. There are no cutoff dates, no coinsurance, no deductibles, and no waiting periods. The principal limitations are:

- Dental care, which is restricted to 10 visits per year.
- The beneficiary is limited to 45 consecutive days of active treatment during a benefit period; and psychiatric consultations, which are limited to 20 visits during a benefit period.
- Prescription drugs, which are limited to the following amounts unless they are provided through a hospital or organized patient care program, or are required for the treatment of chronic or long-term illness.

In other respects, the program provides full coverage for physicians' services, inpatient and outpatient hospital services and home health services, and coverage for optometry services, podiatry services, devices and appliances, and certain other services under specified conditions.

3. Compensation of Doctors and Hospitals—Providers of health care will be paid directly by the program. Individuals will not be charged for covered services.

4. Financing the Program—The program will be financed out of a Health Security Trust Fund, acquired as follows:

- 50 percent from general tax revenues.
- 36 percent from a tax of 3.5 percent on employers' payrolls.
- 12 percent from a tax of 1 percent on employees' wages and unearned individual income up to $15,000 a year.
- 2 percent from a 2.5 percent tax on self-employment income up to $15,000 a year.

5. Cost of the Program—In fiscal year 1970, the benefits provided under the program would cost $41 billion in the United States. None of the $41 billion in expenditures under the Health Security Program represents "new" money. Rather, this amount of money is already being spent instead of spent by private insurance programs. His program will establish policy, standards and regulations for the program.

6. Administration—The program will be administered by a five-member Health Security Board in the Dept. of Health, Education & Welfare. The board will establish policy, standards and regulations for the program.