All-Out Support for Longshoremen

Caucus Prepares For Fight

SAN FRANCISCO — A call for an action program — including preparations for a rank-and-file strike vote — was sounded by the longshore, clerk and walking bosses caucus, meeting here April 27 through May 1.

This came after it was reported the Pacific Maritime Association had twice increased the basic demands made by the ILWU negotiating committee.

The caucus met here four days after the convention adjourned in Honolulu. Delegates included longshoremen from Hawaii and visitors from Canadian locals. Cleophas Williams, Local 10, was elected caucus chairman, and Albert Perisho, Local 63, secretary.

See Bridges’ column, "On the Beam," page 2, for full explanation of caucus strategy.

After several days discussion around the negotiating committee’s progress report, the caucus determined to move into the following action program:

• No further negotiations with the PMA unless the negotiating committee determines the employers are willing to come up quickly with a settlement position that can be recommended to the rank and file.

• Locals will be ordered to enforce the Container Freight Station Agreement by not working on June 30 any container not stuffed by ILWU’s registered workforce. Exceptions to this are spelled out in the agreement.

• When deemed necessary by the negotiating committee a strike vote, effective July 1, will be taken by all locals. Traditionally, strike action is strike strategy committee if and when the men go on strike. The committee will also serve as the executive board:

Northern California: (three to be elected): Curtis McClain, Local 6; David Littleton, Local 10; James Herman, Local 34.

Southern California: (two to be elected): Assistant to the President

HONOLULU — Delegates to the Nineteenth Biennial Convention gave a full vote of confidence to the present International leadership of the union by unanimously re-naming them for another two year term.

Running unopposed for president will be Harry Bridges; vice president-assistant to the president, William Chester; vice president-director of organization, George Martin; and secretary-treasurer, Louis Goldblatt. All were greeted with standing ovations.

Perhaps the spirit of the officers was best expressed by president Bridges when he told the delegates, “for the coming period, you will have whatever I have. I will do my part, I guarantee you that.”

As delegates rose in a new ovation, the four officers met in the center of the stage and clasped hands.

EXEC BOARD

The following were nominated for positions on the International executive board:

Northern California: (three to be elected): Curtis McClain, Local 6; David Littleton, Local 10; James Herman, Local 34.

Southern California: (two to be elected): Assistant to the President

HONOLULU — It was “longshore year” at the ILWU’s Nineteenth Biennial Convention, which met here, April 19-23, to develop union policies and programs for the next two years.

Keynoting the convention with the warning that negotiations for a new longshore agreement is the most important business before this body, Bridges said bluntly:

—Continued on Page 10

"We're going to win a good contract for the longshoremen, by negotiations without a fight, if possible, and with a hell of a fight, if we must.

This set the tone for the five-day meeting at the Ilikai Hotel on Waikiki where more than 600 officials and fraternal delegates made this the largest ILWU convention ever held.

HARD WORKING

ILWU conventions are traditionally hard working and this was no exception. Every delegate was assigned to a committee and was expected to give full attention to his responsibilities.

While at times discussion on many policy statements, resolutions and constitutional changes seemed bland, and often carried with little debate, the real heart of convention activities was in the committees. They often worked deep into the night, with hot debate, to hammer out union policies.

When host Local 142 president Carl Damaso brought the convention to order, and after opening ceremonies were concluded (see pages 6 and 7), he made a few remarks before handing over the gavel to the ILWU president:

“We are proud of what this union has accomplished to liberate working people from poverty and indignity and racial discrimination and in opening the door for a better life for ourselves and our children."

Then he noted the press gossip that there were internal disagreements in the union.

“We are aware of what this union has accomplished to liberate working people from poverty and indignity and racial discrimination and in opening the door for a better life for ourselves and our children."

In his keynote, Bridges responded to this point:

—Continued on Back Page
HONOLULU—Below are the perspectives for the ILWU, as sketched in the concluding section of the International Officers’ Report and adopted by the union’s Nineteenth Biennial Convention. Signed by the titled officers—president Harry Bridges, vice-presidents William H. Chester and George Martin, and secretary-treasurer Louis Goldblatt—the text of this program summary follows:

THERE ARE a number of critical, immediate tasks facing this union:

- The longshore contract negotiations—urgency increasing fast toward the June 30 expiration date. Though talks have gone on for some time, a waterfront shutdown is possible and we must gear the entire union for full support of our longshore workers.

- Negotiations in pineapple and sugar will open later in the year. These will be crucial for our brothers and sisters in Hawaii, who also might have to hit the book and street, to depend on full backing by the entire union.

- Other major goals include:
  - Continuous policing of our contracts to guarantee that we actually achieve all we have won in negotiations;
  - To keep alive a continuous campaign to organize the unorganized;
  - To urge unified labor pressure to free James Hoffa;
  - To build our political action machinery to win progressive legislation and defeat anti-labor acts;
  - To fight for national health plan;
  - To fight racism wherever it raises its head;
  - To strengthen our alliances with others in labor, with minority groups, with those who are working for peace, to end the war in Indochina.

THE CLIMATE OF AMERICA

What is the national climate in which our negotiations and other activities take place? There are reasons for optimism in the fact that the far-reaching programs and policies espoused by the ILWU for years are now the subject of the movement—now receive a far greater degree of attention and support throughout our communities. At the same time powerful pressures pound at the American people—pressures reflected in the labor movement, on the job, at the polling places, in the homes and on the streets of our cities.

There is a shared feeling that the quality of life has deteriorated; that divisions are deepening; that economic security, personal safety and privacy are threatened; that government officials play fast and loose with the truth; that the ugliness of racism is only matched by the pollution of the air; that “Big Brother” is tabulating our every thought and action. The Pentagon has built a collection of 25 million index cards on American citizens. Millions of the names of those whom the government might consider a “threat to security and defense” have been programmed into a giant computer system.

MINORITIES DEMAND JUSTICE

Racism continues to be a pervasive sickness in our nation. This is not to say there has been no progress. When minorities took to the streets, the nation became more aware of the racist blight. Blacks and Chicanos and others say in no uncertain terms that they are not asking for charity, merely for compliance with the laws that forbid racial segregation. They say it’s the responsibility of the government to protect the ability of minorities to earn a decent living, to have decent housing, fair and impartial justice, and adequate health care. They point to the fact that when there is increased unemployment, racism surfaces in the most cruel fashion.

ILWU has played an important role as a force for racial progress. We have fought from the very beginning to eliminate racism within our own union; we have supported and backed mass groups for dignity and justice. We must never cease reminding the rest of the labor movement—where racism often flourishes—

- To push for a national health plan;
- To fight racism wherever it raises its head;
- Continuous policing of our contracts;
- To urge unified labor pressure to free James Hoffa;
- To build our political action machinery to win progressive legislation and defeat anti-labor acts;
- To fight for national health plan;
- To fight racism wherever it raises its head;
- To strengthen our alliances with others in labor, with minority groups, with those who are working for peace, to end the war in Indochina.
Gleason Speaks; ILA Solidarity Pledged in Coast Dock Battle

HONOLULU—A pledge of cooperation and solidarity during current negotiations—and in the event of a West Coast longshore strike—was brought to the ILWU's Nineteenth Biennial Convention by Thomas "Teddy" Gleason, president of the International Longshoremen's Association.

This was the highlight of the second day of the Convention, which voted to seat Gleason and seven other ILA visitors from the East and Gulf Coasts as fraternal delegates.

Gleason and his companions were introduced by ILWU president Bridges, who referred to the need for unity between the two unions.

Gleason touched on the many problems the two unions have in common: Technological changes that threaten jobs, such as the Nixon Administration's "Emergency Public Interest Protection Act," which he and ILA consider a threat to force compulsory arbitration on transportation unions. He touched on the necessity for guaranteed wages, a work-or-pay guarantee that has been won by the ILA, and is one of the major ILWU demands in current negotiations.

FOR COOPERATION

Although Gleason touched lightly on the possibilities of eventual merger, he said he did not want to make this an issue on the floor while he was a guest.

Gleason was his keynote: "One down, all down, we have to support you in your efforts—because our efforts depend on it.

We pledge ourselves to the goal of industry-wide unity and industry-wide solidarity. We extend to you the promise of our fraternal support in your own efforts toward a new collective bargaining climate, a sense of fraternity and cooperation that has been developing between us in the last several years.

Gleason spoke of the difficulties the ILA has had with the "waterfront commission," which has the power to deny men the right to work. And he noted that recent customs regulations could be used to determine who has the right to work on the waterfront.

In a amusing sidelight, Gleason said he had his "barrister" along with him—referring to Louis Waldman, ILA legal counsel—who told him he had to read his speech exactly as written.

Gleason brought fraternal greetings from ILA's 115,000 members in Atlantic Coast, South Atlantic and Gulf Coast Ports and the Great Lakes.

He also noted that the ILA, like the ILWU, is built around the nucleus of longshoremen, but has many related crafts—checkers, clerks, carpenters, painters, maintenance men, warehousemen, fishermen, food processors and many others.

"The greatest challenge we have faced in recent years is the same one that has confronted you," Gleason said. "These are automation, containerization, LASH, and all the other technological developments that threaten to decimate our industry and leave our members jobless."

While the ILA has not solved the problem of technological change, Gleason said it has made great progress through contractual agreements that guarantee that most of the work of stripping and stuffing containers is handled by longshoremen.

BRIDGES COMMENTS

The other main item of progress is the guaranteed annual income, "which means that every regular longshoreman who is ready, willing and able to work is guaranteed a day's pay whether he's hired or not."

Gleason called this "the union way of solving the unemployment problem. Only unions can do it."

He said that a guaranteed wage is not only what longshoremen need, but is something needed on a national scale for all industries in the country.

At the conclusion of his speech Bridges pointed out that among the common programs of the ILWU and ILA is an agreement, "that we are not going to interfere with our political prisoner who was framed is set free. His name is Jimmy Hoffa."

In answer to speculation that the two unions may develop plans for formal affiliation, Bridges said, "We are not going to do anything to diminish the ILA."

In addition to Gleason and Waldman, other fraternal delegates from the ILA included: John Bowers, executive vice president; William Murphy, vice president (New Jersey); William Hopkins, vice president (Houston); Fred Field, general organizer.

ILA FRATERNAL visitors, from left, Captain William Caldwell, vice president, Masters, Mates and Pilots; Anthony Scotto, ILA vice president (Brooklyn); John Bowen, executive vice president; Louis Waldman, ILA legal counsel; Thomas Gleason, president; William Murphy, vice president (New Jersey); Fred Field, general organizer. Missing from picture, William Hopkins, vice president (Houston). Below, Gleason gets traditional Hawaiian welcome from Jean Sampaio.

Continued from Page 2—

that this has historically been fostered by employers to keep workers divided.

While the going may be tough, there are many plus factors. The most optimistic development in our country today is the growing number of Americans who are ready to stand up and be counted on crucial issues. There is a distinct feeling that the man on the street is costing a critical eye at society and saying solutions must be found to get the country moving in a new direction. People in every walk of life are speaking more fearlessly about what must be done. Minority groups have never been so vocal about what they expect from their country.

For the first time in a quarter of a century Americans see a possibility of putting an end to the "cold warilitary and economic containment of socialist countries. They see little sense in reliance on a continuous arms race as an answer to problems which can only be resolved by three nations. They have little confidence in allies whose "friendship" is based on how much loot we shell out or the arms we pro-
Delegates Back Union Rights; Pledge Aid to Free Hoffa

HONOLULU—Defeat of the Nixon administration’s anti-labor offensive and a stepped up campaign to secure freedom for James Hoffa were highlights of a comprehensive program adopted by ILWU’s Nineteenth Biennial Convention to defend labor’s rights.

Delegates also expressed their concern with giant jury attacks on labor, the imprisonment of farm union leader Cesar Chavez, and Pentagon stripping against agricultural workers.

In closing convention action in this general area were:

Nixon Attack: The convention urged United States senators “to issue a call to all sections of the labor movement — AFL-CIO, Teamsters, Brotherhoods and like — to publicize, organize and act to mobilize the full strength of the labor movement to defeat the Nixon anti-labor attack.”

The convention noted that this assault of attack included proposed legislation to deny “the right of union members to vote on wage and contract settlements, the right to strike and picket, and replace these hard fought rights for rights with compulsory tax commissions to dictate wages, working conditions and contract settlements.”

Said the resolution: “The workers in the communities, good for your members, good for your community.”

Hoffa: Reaffirming the union’s position that “Jim Hoffa is in jail, framed and villified, bashed in all the successful and unceiled leadership of the nation’s largest labor union, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters,” the convention approved continuing cooperation with all interested sections of labor to help Hoffa’s freedom, and particularly recommended the widest distribution of a free-Hoffa Thunderbird union label.

Grand Juries: The convention’s resolution warned that “the grudge of fighting organized crime” special federal grand juries have brought “legalized and have chosen trade unions as their first targets.

Among the target unions listed were the Seafarers International Union, whose officers have been indicted for participating in labor political activity,” and the International Typographical Union, whose leaders have been investigated in connection with its bitterly-fought strike at the San Rafael Independent-Journal.

“We serve notice now that we intend...” Goldblatt said, “to take Kohala out of industry-wide sugar negotiations. The agreement for all sugar plantations expires on January 31, 1972.”

Goldblatt and Henry Dulan, chairman of ILWU 1110, and a delegate to the Convention, spoke on Kohala Sugar, policy statement, after it was introduced on the floor for discussion.

“You have created a democracy here. You have participated in every phase of community life. Your activities have been good for your members, good for your communities, good for the nation, good for the world.”

HONOLULU—A tiny community on the Big Island of Hawaii may become a very large problem for this entire state and all of the ILWU.

The issue arose again.

The convention condemned such anti-labor use of grand juries and urged repeal of legislation “which authorizes such unwarranted attacks on the democratic rights of individuals and unions.”

Cesar Chavez: Reiterating that “the use of the courts and injunctions are not strangers to the ILWU,” the convention resolution condemned use of a court injunction and contempt citation to jail Cesar Chavez as “another attempt to prevent effective union organization of workers by helping the corporation growers to break the (lettuce) strike.”

The convention further resolved that “the working class, especially all trade unions, should see to it that Chavez be sent not to jail when the issue arises again.”

Pentagon: The convention voiced its anger at the Pentagon’s expenditure of “millions of dollars of workers’ dollars” for “tax commissions to dictate wages, working conditions and contract settlements.”

Said the resolution: “The workers in the communities, good for your members, good for your community.”

Full Support for Pine And Sugar Workers

HONOLULU—Noting that ILWU pact’s with both sugar and pineapple companies will expire Janu- ary 31, the Ninth Biennial Convention pledged full support and cooperation of the entire union to gain good contracts.

Negotiations begin at the end of November.

“This convention recognizes,” the delegates said, “that the sugar and pineapple workers have written a proud page in ILWU history by winning the highest labor standards of agricultural workers anywhere in the world and have been staunch supporters of other sections of the union in times of need.”

“...will hold the entire industry hostage until we resolve the problem satisfactorily.”

Goldblatt was echoing the feelings, voiced earlier by the union members and leaders at Kohala, and by officials of Local 142.

At a general membership meeting of ILWU Unit 1110, as the Hawi Theater in Kohala, shortly after the March 1 liquidation announcement, the union said:

“...Any attempt by the sugar industry to carve off these workers, and say that that part of our membership is to be discarded from the balance of this union—they have rocks in their heads!”

GOVERNOR BURNS of Hawaii, an old friend of the union, seen here with Bridges and Goldblatt after he was introduced to the convention. He said about the ILWU: “You have created a democracy here. You have participated in every phase of community life. Your activities have been good for your members, good for your community, good for the nation, good for the world.”

Sugar Industry Is Warned On Closing of Plantation

HONOLULU—Kohala, a tiny community on the Big Island of Hawaii, may become a very large problem for this entire state and all of the ILWU.

The town was driven home to the union’s Nineteenth Biennial Convention by secretary-treasurer Louis Goldblatt when he said the sugar industry will be held accountable for the effort of Castle & Cooke to seclude its Kohala Sugar Company plantation.

“As I see it,” Goldblatt said, “it might have to be the policy of the ILWU that we refuse to tackle Ko- hala as a single problem, but that we will hold the entire industry hostage until we resolve the problem satisfactorily.”

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At a general membership meeting of ILWU Unit 1110, as the Hawi Theater in Kohala, shortly after the March 1 liquidation announcement, the union said:

“We serve notice now that we intend...” Goldblatt said, “to take Kohala out of industry-wide sugar negotiations. The agreement for all sugar plantations expires on January 31, 1972.”

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Goldblatt noted that Castle & Cooke has many diversified interests, one of which is ILWU’s collective bargaining agent—including Bwa and Waialua sugar plantations, Puna Sandal of Oahu, and the legions of sugar negotiations coming up—and shipping, sugar buying, pineapple and truck packing, macadamia nut, and very large financial interests in other businesses.

Goldblatt further stated that Castle & Cooke would not be permitted “to simply walk away...turn their back on the problems of that (Kohala) community.

“...turn their back on the problems of that (Kohala) community.

GOVERNOR BURNS OF HAWAII, AN OLD FRIEND OF THE UNION, SEEN HERE WITH BRIDGES AND GOLDBLATT AFTER HE WAS INTRODUCED TO THE CONVENTION. HE SAID ABOUT THE ILWU: “YOU HAVE CREATED A DEMOCRACY HERE. YOU HAVE PARTICIPATED IN EVERY PHASE OF COMMUNITY LIFE. YOUR ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN GOOD FOR YOUR MEMBERS, GOOD FOR YOUR COMMUNITIES, GOOD FOR THE NATION, GOOD FOR THE WORLD.”

FACTS CITED

In support of their contention, the delegates point out that independent cane farmers in the Kohala area operate an area of which ILWU handles about 20% of the labor, that ILWU bargaining unit members and a total of about 150 men and women live in that community.

The closing of Kohala Sugar would bring economic and social catastrophe to both people and of serious detriment to the whole state.

Governor Burns has responded to this emergency by appointing a State-wide Task Force, including representation by ILWU Local 142, to conduct an investigation and make recommendations for the purpose of keeping Kohala Sugar Co. in business. The ILWU takes the position that Castle & Cooke, while making millions of dollars in other areas of Hawaii, does not have a right to unilaterally destroy an entire community which it created. The ILWU will take the lead in cooperation with the State, the County and people of Kohala to guarantee that the rights of people should supersede the rights of profit.

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HONOLULU — One of this city’s best known businessmen called on the ILWU’s Nineteenth Biennial Convention to continue the union’s traditional advocacy of free trade with China, which he said would “make a sound foundation for a durable peace.”

He was Chinn Ho, hotel developer, builder and chairman of the Honolulu Star Bulletin. His prepared speech was read by his son, Stuart Ho, a young and businesslike businessman. The elder Ho was required to go to the mainland and asked his son to deliver the address.

Mr. Ho said he fully supports the ILWU Convention Policy Statement calling for China relations with China and for a better understanding of the needs of the people of Asia.

He agreed that US Policy toward Asia had been a continuing series of “mistaken opportunities.”

**DISSECT POLICIES**

Our policies, he said, “have propped up governments instead of people,” and we “missed the grand opportunity to assist the peoples of Asia to help pull themselves out of the mire of European colonialism and warlord oppression. Along the way, we picked up Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and the bewildering problem of how to quarantine (the Chinese) from the rest of the world.”

He described the real meaning of political ideology in Asia: “Most Asians unfortunately are not saddled with the intellect’s choice between trade-offs and capitalism. Their world is one of a bowl of rice, a pair of shoes, a chance to live with a better chance for at least one child. They will give their allegiance to anyone or any government or any system of government that can deliver on this promise.”

Ho praised the ILWU for being on the front line in the struggle “to observe the rights and aspirations of the people of Asia to help pull them out of the mire of European colonialism and warlord oppression.”

“Because unions must be spokesmen for all the people who work for a living, and because we must be in advance of all social and economic programs for progress, we have no choice but to take the lead in eliminating the scourge of racism from our land.”

The statement charged that “historically, racism has been fostered by employers to keep workers divided from each other,” and that this tactic has been at least partially successful.

“Because many unions refuse to live up to their principles, many minority people are starting to seek solutions to injustices in their own way, shirk mean government intervention or other interference with legitimate unionism,” the statement said.

Thus, the convention urged all unions to “end every vestige of discrimination within our own house.” Furthermore, we have an obligation to the entire labor movement, without double-talk and no matter whose toes are stepped on to make it clear that racism inside labor could eventually destroy every advance we have achieved.

“We in the ILWU know that brothers and sisters of every race, creed and national origin built this union together. Together we organized, walked picket lines and took the beating. Once we achieve that we could never have succeeded, and now it is our obligation to apply.
First Day—Heaps of Good Aloha

HONOLULU—Leis, music, flowers, casually dressed delegates, and lots and lots of good old fashioned aloha.

That was the order of the day, as the Nineteenth Biennial ILWU Convention got off to an auspicious start—in true-blue Hawaiian style—at the Hikai Hotel in Waikiki, on April 19.

And, there was no denying it—the 500-plus delegates loved every bit of it.

The City-County of Honolulu’s crack Royal Hawaiian Band put everyone, it seemed, in the right mood, with a snappy one-half hour concert of Hawaiian songs.

This was followed by a fine rendi
tion by the Roosevelt High School Band in the convention hall.

The convention was gavled to or
der, shortly after 10 a.m., by Carl Damaso, as president of host ILWU Local 142, as is customary in all ILWU Conventions.

The opening-day program started with the Rev. Yoshiaki Futtani of the Honpa Hongwanji delivering the invocation. It was the first time in convention history that a Buddhist priest led the delegates in prayer.

The delegates were deeply moved.

The following were called to the podium to address the assemblage: Honolulu City-County Councilman Walter Heen, who officially welcomed the delegates to the city, and noted in his remarks, "Hawaii of 1971 is appreciative of the ILWU's efforts of the past and looks forward to its continued contribution to the community in the future."

Senate President David McClung and House Speaker Tadao Heppu, who read resolutions adopted by both houses of the Hawaii State Legislature, praising the ILWU and extending congratulations and best wishes to the convention.

Mayor Joseph Alioto of San Francisco, a surprise visitor, offered his best wishes, and extended an invitation to hold the 1973 ILWU Convention in Honolulu for a brief weekend visit.

In his remarks, Alioto advocated trade with China, and spoke against the Vietnam War.

The remainder of the morning’s program included the opening remarks of President Damaso, the keynote speech by President Harry Bridges, and the showing of a slide show about the membership and workings of ILWU Local 142.

The temporary rules, and the credentials report, submitted by Yoshi

taka Maeda and Chick Loveridge, who served as officers of the pre-Convention Committee on rules-credentials, were approved by the delegates.

The committee assignments were read out by Secretary-Treasurer Louis Goldblatt, and the Convention Committees began holding their sessions in the afternoon.

All sessions began at 8:30 a.m. and ended at 4:30 p.m.

And always—plenty Aloha!
Local 92, Portland, Oregon: Ceci S. Ekland.

Local 94, Wilmington, California: James North.


Local 500, Vancouver, BC: A. M. "Bud" Barker.

Local 501, Seattle, ILWU Pensioners' Club: Karl E. Christensen.

Local 502: Robert A. Parkes.

Local 503, Port Alberni: Robert Dubbin.

Local 504, Victoria, BC: Arthur A. Hay.

Local 505, Prince Rupert: Ray G. Spring.

Local 506, Vancouver, BC: L. Ross Greene.

Local 507, Chemainus, BC: Kenneth Gregory and Henry O. Nichols.


Local 21 Pensioners Club: Earl J. Carpenter.

Local 92 Pensioners Club: Karl E. Christensen.

Pacific Coast Pensioners Association: Bernadin Belik.

San Francisco Bay Area ILWU Pensioners: Berardin Belik.

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**Economic Recovery Depends on Higher Wages, Lower Prices**

HONOLULU — The 19th Biennial ILWU Convention proposed fundamental changes in present national economic policies to remedy the twin ills of inflation and unemployment.

In their Statement of Policy on Unemployment, the delegates pinpointed the problem:

"The key to economic recovery and the creation of more jobs is more consumer spending. . . . Higher levels of consumer spending create a demand for goods and services not now being provided. The obvious and most immediate ways to increase consumer spending are higher wages and lower prices and taxes."

The convention suggested, specifically:

- Workers must be protected against the job-reducing effects of technological change and speed-up. "Only through its economic muscle and the power to bargain collectively can the working class protect itself against these threats."
- A shorter workweek with no cut in pay.

**FIGHT RACISM**

- "Minority groups are the first to be fired and the last to be hired." They are often denied the rights to upgrading and promotion. Racist employment practices must be fought both inside and outside the trade union movement. We demand that current laws protecting minority groups killed or injured in car accidents are workmen’s compensation.

**Tax Reform**

**Eliminate Rich Man’s Loopholes**

HONOLULU — With everybody talking about tax reform, ILWU’s Nineteenth Biennial Convention urged Congress to do something about it.

Specific suggestions were:

- **Repeal the capital gains provision whereby investors pay only a 15 percent tax on investment income from stock transactions, real estate dealings and the like.**
- **Recoup the taxes on capital gains which are lost at death . . . This loophole alone is now estimated to cost other taxpayers $3.5 billion per year.**
- **Tax the interest earned on state and local bonds. . . . Large investors may earn many hundreds of thousands of dollars from such sources and avoid paying any income taxes where they otherwise.**
- **Eliminate oil and mineral depletion allowances altogether.**
- **The action taken by President Nixon to liberalize the tax rules on business depreciation allowances . . . The President’s recent gift to business is estimated to cost taxpayers $3 billion the first year.**

"This list of tax-avoidance schemes which are part of present federal tax law could be extended at length," the convention noted.

"The items cited above are only the most glaring examples of loopholes which favor the rich. We once again urge Congress to undertake a careful review of all those provisions which provide windfalls for the few at the expense of the many."

The convention also demanded "additional relief for wage-earning taxpayers," especially through a sharp increase in the amounts allowed for personal exemptions, now scheduled to go up to $700 a head by 1973.

At the state and local levels, the convention deplored reliance on "sharply regressive sales and property taxes." It urged labor’s continued opposition to sales taxes, and advocated a progressive income tax. Also urged was a substantial shift of the property tax burden from home owners and renters to corporate property owners and land speculators.

**Working Delegates** — Every man and woman had to be a committee, and had a choice. Here they line up on the first day to state their preference.

**Consumer Protection**

**‘Marketplace Is a Jungle’**

HONOLULU — To a large extent the American marketplace has become a jungle.

Accepting this description and recognizing that what is earned on the job can be ravaged in the jungle, ILWU’s Nineteenth Biennial Convention resolved to join with other unions and consumer groups in the fight "to civilize and legalize the marketplace."

Among the critical issues listed were the following:

- Establishment of enforceable legal safety standards for consumer products.
- Creation of guidelines for clearly written, easily understood, enforceable product guarantees.
- Creation of guidelines for product labeling and pricing which clearly describe ingredients and per-
- Imposition of strong penalties for phony, deceptive advertising.
- Insistence that government agencies, by legislation with protecting the public interest, do just that. (As a specific example of deception in labeling, the delegates mandated the Reagan-appointed California Public Utilities Commission was cited.

**AUTO INSURANCE REFORM**

In a related action, the convention supported legislation, introduced by Senators Phillip Hart and Warren Magnuson, for auto insurance reform as "a long overdue first step toward making the present system one which is equitable, efficient, and less expensive."

The Hart-Magnuson proposals would provide partial no-fault insurance for everyone in which one’s own insurance company would compensate accident victims for lost wages, medical care costs, and re-

**Hot debate in Resolutions Committee.**

habilitation and death benefits immediately, and without determination of fault.

"The ultimate solution to our auto insurance headaches," the convention declared, "is government-run insurance operated along the same lines as [that] of our country’s Social Security."

As for the present system, the convention cited a Department of Transportation study that found:

- Fewer than half of those persons killed or injured in car accidents receive payments from the present liability system.
-Victims with economic losses of more than $25,000 are repaid only an average of one-third of their losses.
- The major portion of auto insur-

ance premiums goes for court and lawyer costs, and other non-benefit expenses.

**WAGE PRICE CONTROLS**

The convention suggested, specifically:

- "Workers must be protected against the job-reducing effects of technological change and speed-up. "Only through its economic muscle and the power to bargain collectively can the working class protect itself against these threats."**
- A shorter workweek with no cut in pay.

The delegates also asked for a public works program such as the one vetoed in 1976 by President Nixon which would have provided 200,000 jobs over the next four years.

"As the ILWU has noted in the past, government spending for war and defense is the major reason for inflation. Looking back over the term of the present spiral, we note that prices were well on their way up before the President added new items to the list of war items. The largest price hikes have come for goods and services in industries where organized labor is not an important factor in costs."

"Wage-price controls hit the working class hardest in that they do not provide for a redistribution of income."

"Economic recovery is dependent on increased consumer spending which in turn is dependent on higher wages and full employment. Higher wages are the only way the working class can protect and improve its standard of living. We will continue to fight for higher wages and oppose those forces in the economy which would attempt to limit the gains of the working class."

**From Seattle, Jim Costa speaks up**

Hiring rights be obeyed and strengthened.

Private employers and government have the responsibility of providing job training.

The economy must lessen its dependence on defense spending as a source of employment and begin providing usable services and products for which there will be a long term public demand.

Workers ought not to have their jobs depend on wars—hot or cold—and the insecurity that results."

The government should "cull the growth of American business abroad. . . . Foreign workers, working at a fraction of the wages paid American workers on comparable jobs and under dramatically inferior conditions, are being given jobs which would otherwise be available in the US."

The delegates also asked for a public works program such as the one vetoed in 1976 by President Nixon which would have provided 200,000 jobs over the next four years.
Constitutional Amendments

HONOLULU—Pressures of inflation were reflected in several amendments to the ILWU Constitution adopted by the union's Nineteenth Biennial Convention.

These amendments provided that:
1. The annual salary of the international president be raised from $31,000 to $35,000, and that of the other titled officers from $30,000 to $32,000.
2. Daily wages of International Executive Board members, when attending board meetings, be raised from $35 to $40.
3. Maximum payment of subsistence expenses (including such items as hotels and meals) to titled officers and Executive Board members, when traveling on union business, be raised from $30 a day to $35.
4. Other adopted constitutional amendments provided that:
   - No person may be nominated for international office unless that person "has been a dues paying member of the ILWU for at least five years including having worked as a rank-and-file worker under jurisdiction of the ILWU for at least two years."
   - "This substituted for former qualifications that included five years work under an ILWU collective bargaining agreement or service as an ILWU local officer, or service as international, regional director, or international representative at the time of nomination."
   - For the purpose of identifying a candidate on the international referendum ballot, each candidate shall submit in his own handwriting the exact way he wishes his name to appear on the ballot.

HARASSMENT

Boats that venture within Ecuador's and Peru's 200-mile boundaries are subject to armed harassment and military action if the boats are boarded, the crews kept under armed guard, private property is stolen, the gates said. "There is increasing talk of crews arming to defend themselves, work stoppages on vessels in port. They are released only immediately following the five days lot count by local unions shall commence not earlier than five days of the declaration by the designated for balloting."

Curtis McClain, Local 6, chaired Constitution Committee within five days of his nomination the exact way he wishes his name to appear on the ballot.

(1) Area-wide trade union conferences, statements and actions.
(2) Organized work stoppages.
(3) Intensive lobbying of elected public officials.
(4) Cooperation where practical with citizens' groups around the country dedicated to bringing an end to the war.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Convention recommends the establishment of Peace Committees in all local union affiliates, to work with and organize the officials and rank-and-file members of all local unions to end all American involvement and further military action.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the convention recommends that ILWU locals endorse and participate in the April 24 demonstration.

Program on Automation

Aims to Curb Employers

HONOLULU — The Nineteenth Biennial Convention reaffirmed the ILWU's position on the establishment of Peace Committees in all local union affiliates, to work with and organize the officials and rank-and-file members of all local unions to end all American involvement and further military action.

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Push Mapped to Boost Dock Compensation Rates

**HONOLULU—**Noting that "the benefit structure of the Longshoremen’s & Harbor Workers’ Compensation Act has not been improved by Congress since 1961," ILWU President Harold Shin said at the union’s Nineteenth Biennial Convention that the present $70 maximum weekly benefit for a worker injured in the nation’s second most hazardous industry is far below the two-thirds of wages originally intended by law,” the convention declared.

Changes proposed were:
- An immediate increase in benefits to at least $150 a week.
- Maximum benefits to be scaled at no less than 75 percent of average weekly wages.
- Annual upward revision of the maximum benefit based on the rise in wages in the longshore industry, which would free injured workers from depending on politicians for adjustment of the benefit structure.
- No limit on total benefits payable.
- Free choice of doctor by the injured worker.
- Increased benefits for widows and dependents.

The delegates called for a “full-scale, organized effort” to obtain improvements in longshore compensation benefits.

**ILWU Effort Scuttles Weak Dock Safety Code**

WASHINGTON, DC — Responding to a challenge from the ILWU, the Department of Labor has reversed itself and will not impose The American National Standards Institute’s weak “MH-9” consensus standard as a dockside safety regulation.

The decision came after the union’s Washington representative, Al Lannon, challenged MH-9 as weak and not meeting the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, which went into effect April 28.

It is unclear whether the Labor Department will follow through, as the union has demanded, by setting up a representative advisory board to draft effective standards, utilizing existing federal shipside regulations, the Pacific Coast Maritime Safety Code, and other standards.
Anti-Scab Bill
Drive Hits
High Gear

SACRAMENTO — The battle for an anti-scab bill will go into high gear during the next two weeks as hearings are scheduled before the Assembly Labor Relations Committee on Wednesday, May 5 at 9:30 a.m. in the State Capitol Building.

Chances for passing the bill are excellent according to Assemblyman David Roberti of Los Angeles, who introduced the bill (AB 490), and unions all over the state are mobilizing to let their legislators know that labor wants this bill passed now.

Los Angeles County Federation of Labor secretary Sigmund Arywitz stressed the importance of massive labor contingents at all assemblies, urged that unions able to do so should send representatives to the hearings in support of the bill.

He recommended not only that letters go out on union stationery signed by officers but that individual members write their own legislators.

The proposed law would impose penalties on employers who hire professional strikebreakers to replace regular employees on the job during strikes and lockouts. These professional strikebreakers according to Arywitz, "are usually out-of-state transients with questionable backgrounds and, unflappingly, their presence disrupts the orderly process of collective bargaining."

Members of Typographical Union No. 31, still on the bricks in a strike against scab-operated San Rafael Independent-Journal, are especially interested in seeing the Roberti bill passed.

Red China Trade Would Aid Troubled Northwest

PORTLAND — Trade with Red China, if the thaw in trade relations between the mainland and the United States materializes, would at first be in lumber, bulk food and grain. It would give a shot in the arm to the slumping northwestern economy, George J. Gmelch, San Francisco shipping executive, told a recent meeting of the Portland Propeller Club.

It would also help the wheat growers, if it is processed as flour, and 50 percent of US wheat production is dependent on overseas sales, most of which go to Japan.

These sales are directly threatened by import quota legislation pending in Congress. Gmelch spoke to the March issue of Wheat West.

SAFETY AWARDS—Representatives of two Columbia area locals with safety plagues and trophies presented the locals at the May 4 meeting of the Local 61C, Sitka.

Three Months on Bricks

Local 6 Man Injured as United Foam Strike Toughens Up

OAKLAND — ILWU Local 6 and Teamster members, up against the United Foam Company in a three-month old strike here, were subjected to new strikebreaking pressure this week.

Local 6 member William Bill, doing picket duty April 14, suffered minor cuts and bruises when a scab driver drove his car through the picket line, smashing through the plant fence. Bill didn’t get out of the way fast enough and was carried on the hood of the car into the plant area.

He has slapped a $300,000 suit against the company, the local says.

Paul Heide May 14

Local 6 Will Honor

OAKLAND — ILWU members and friends are invited to a dinner honoring the late veteran Local 6 member Paul Heide, who has a long record of organizing and leadership in the ILWU and other unions.

The dinner will be held May 14 at the Local 6 hall, 99 Hegenberger Road, Oakland. Dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m., preceded by a no-host cocktail hour at 6:30 p.m. Admission is ten dollars including tip and tax.

Cold Storage Pact

Signed in Alaska

PETERSBURG — Five Southeastern Alaska ILWU cold storage locals have reached a new master contract with their employers with wage boosts of 7.8 percent starting April 1, 1971, and another raise of 5.21 percent on April 1, 1972.

The agreement also includes boosts in health and welfare, pensions and bonus.

The locals are: Local 61, Ketchikan; Local 85, Petersburg; Local 83, Pelican; and Local 61C, Sitka.

Seward Cold Storage employees will be joining the ILWU as work starts in preparation for the holiday season in that area, according to Local 65 secretary Max Haabe.

New Local 6

Pact Signed

At St. Regis

OAKLAND — After months of difficult negotiations, Local 6 has signed an agreement with St. Regis Paper Co., featuring a 75 cent wage boost over three years, plus classification adjustments ranging from 5 cents to 50 cents.

The pact was ratified by a 90 percent secret ballot vote April 17. Some 200 Local 6 members at St. Regis will be affected.

Pension credit was doubled from $2.50 per year of service to $5, shift premium was increased to $1.25 per hour and other improvements were made in the area of funeral leave, skill training and overtime assignments.

The committee consisted of chief stewards Eugene Scott, Katherine Cardos, Jean Ingersoll, Ken McConnell and Hugh Hutchinson, assisted by East Teamster local agents Bill Burke and Art Vignal.

May is Time for

Health Plan Choice

Longshore families in eighteen locals from Seattle to San Diego have the opportunity to change medical plans during the open enrollment period, May 1 to May 31.

An active or retired man who is eligible for ILWU-sponsored health fund plans can change to any one health plan to another by filling out a family enrollment card and getting it to his teamsteward before May 31. Eligible widows have the same choice.

1971 Choice Bulletins at the Locals contain information on the group service plans and the alternate insured plans.

The yearly choice takes place at Seattle Locals 19, 52, and 98, Tacoma Local 23, Oregon Locals 4, 8, 40 and 92, Locals 10, 18, 34, 75 and 91 in Northern California, Locals 13, 26, 29, 63 and 94 in Southern California.

Choice of dental plan for children under age 15 can be made in the Los Angeles Harbor and San Francisco Bay areas.

Local 4, Vancouver

VANCOUVER — Midyear nominations for one LRC member will be held at the stopwork meeting on May 12, 1971. Voting will be between the hours of 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

May 17 through May 26 at 1205 Ingalis Street, Vancouver, Washington.

June 1, 1971 is

M & M Vesting Benefit Deadline

Qualified men who wish to retire no later than July 1, 1971, should go to their Locals before June 1 to file for the M & M vesting benefit.

Qualifications for Class A men who are between 62 and 68 years of age by July 1, 1971 include prior service in the ILWU for 10 years and Class A registration for the 9 years preceding retirement.

Reminder To Early Retirees

If you intend to retire at age 62, remember . . .

• Your ILWU-PMA pension payment will not start until the first day of the month following your 63rd birthday, even though you are age 62.

• Your M & M vesting payments start when you retire at age 62.

Your deregistration statement must have a postmarked date prior to June 1, 1971, or the benefit will be forfeited.
Convention Pledges Support to Dockers

The place of the ILWU in the life of Hawaii was never more clear than when Honolulu City Councilman Walter Heen, in welcoming remarks, committed the union “for being the force, more than any other, for democratizing Hawaii.”

A high point of the convention, demonstrating how this democracy works, was a visual presentation, "This is the ILWU in Hawaii," which brought to mainland delegates a clearer understanding of what their brothers in Hawaii have done to create a better life for the entire community. (See page 1.)

From San Francisco, Mayor Alioto also brought praise for the union, and issued a call to the ILWU to keep pressing for China trade.

"If we can trade ping pong balls across a table, don’t you think we can also trade commodities across the sea?" he asked.

Alioto invited the delegates to choose San Francisco as the convention city in 1973. At the final session, they chose the city by the Golden Gate.

"WE WANT THE WAR TO END" Bridges, in his keynote, spanned the whole spectrum of union interests. We have only one labor movement in the United States, he said, and it has the task of fighting the evils of unemployment and inflation, and to lift the urgent problems facing the young people, the people who are rising in importance in our union.

"As for the war," he said, "our position is simple. We want the war to end in the interest of peace through- out the world."

His emphasis, however, was repeatedly to underline the longshore contract, which expires June 30, and the "crucial test facing the ILWU in the days following the convention."

The first day was concluded with secretary Goldblatt reading sections of the Officers’ Report, including the resolution on ‘Perspectives’ (See page 2).

The job of chairing the convention was divided: Owen Bridges, and Vice presidents William Chester and George Martin.

ILA PLEDGE GIVEN

Other convention highlights, either covered in this issue of The Dispatcher, or planned to be covered in subsequent issues, included:

- Seating of a fraternal delegation of top officers of the International Longshoremen’s Association and an address by ILA president Thomas Gleason, who described the workings of his East and Gulf Coast and Great Lakes union, and brought a pledge of solidarity and mutual aid between the two longshore unions. (See page 3)

- Bridges, after Gleason spoke, reminded delegates that there is something else the ILWU and IALA agree on: “We’re not going to rest until a political prisoner is out of jail — Jimmy Hoffa. Both unions are pledged to get Hoffa out.”

Concerning often-heard talk about affiliation, Bridges said:

Caucus Gets
Set for Fight

Attention Los Angeles Voters

The ILWU Southern California District Council has endorsed the following candidates in the final elections to be held May 25:

CITY COUNCIL

District 2 — Joel Wash

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Office 1 — Janice Bernstein
Office 5 — Georgianna Hardy
Office 7 — Arnett Hartsfield

JUNIOR COLLEGE BOARD

Office 1 — Mrs. Rosalind Wyman
Office 2 — Arthur Bronson
Office 3 — Kenneth Washington
Office 5 — David Lopez Lee
Office 7 — Peter W. Taft

(local 142 president Carl Damo hands over gavel to president Bridges

"We can have close cooperation without affiliation. The rank and file members of this union will decide what to do."

The delegates heard Walter Ku-pai, president of the Hawaii State Federation of Labor, who told of the "Aloha" that had developed between his organisation and the ILWU.

He pointed with pride to the peace resolution recently signed by the organisations and about the progressive pro-labor legislation passed under the prodding of the two unions, "including the finest collective bargaining laws for government employees anywhere in the nation.”

DEFINES HIS CREED

He spoke of the close cooperation given by the AFL-CIO to the recent ILWU hotel strike on the Outer Islands, and about his pride in Hawaii.

"I am an Hawaiian," he said. “To me that means I belong to the family of man, and you are my brother. Do you black, white, yellow, red..." . . .

Another high point was the statement by Chinn Ho, Honolulu business executive, calling for a new look at Asia, and congratulating the ILWU for its policy on China trade (See page 5).

Officers of convention committees included: L. L. (Chick) Loveridge and Yoshitaka Maeda, credentials; Dave Littleton, Ed Anderson, Carl Damaso and James Herman resolutions; Bob Peebles and Lelan Nishik, officers’ reports; Curtiss Mann, Thomas Yagi and Wes Johnson, constitution; Paul Perlin, George Quinn and Fred Paulino, publicity and education.

A large sergeant-at-arms team, led by Tony Gardea, did a remarkable job of keeping material flowing to delegates, and keeping good order.

Coast Pact Backed
For Hawaii Docks

HONOLULU — The long struggle of Hawaiian longshoremen to be covered by the Pacific Coast Longshore Agreement was voted full support by the ILWU’s Ninth Biennial Convention.

The resolution observed that "the only changes that occur when a ship sails from Hawaii for the Pacific Coast is the weather, the scenery and longshore wages and working conditions... There is no acceptable reason why the Hawaiian longshoremen should be denied equal treatment."

The same resolution pledged "the full support of the entire union to the Longshore Division of the ILWU in its struggle to improve wages and conditions on all ILWU waterfronts."