Labor Joins To Oppose Nixon Plan

With impressive near-unanimity and rare shared outrage, organized labor has rejected President Nixon’s “new economic strategy” of freezing wages and banning strikes.

In varied ways union spokesmen, from the national level to the local level, said essentially what ILWU President Harry Bridges did: the Nixon program “favors the rich and hurts millions of American workers and small businessmen.”

Some of the sharpest barbs at the Administration were aimed by AFL-CIO President George Meany, with the support of his Executive Council. Moreover, AFL-CIO anger was expressed after a squad of Senator Edward Kennedy aides descended on the AFL-CIO Executive Council to plead for a “moderate end of support” for the Nixon program.

AFL-CIO STAND

The Nixon squad was headed by Secretary of Labor, John D. Hodgson and George Schultz, White House director of the Office of Management and Budget. What they got for their efforts was:

• A flat “No” from Meany when he was asked by the press whether there had been a “meeting of the minds on any point” between the labor men and the Nixon men.
• A vigorous council denunciation of the President’s program as “unjust, unequal, unfair and unworkable.”
• A call to the federation’s 13 million members to “resist” Nixon’s demands for cessation of all strikes during the 90-day freeze.
• A suggestion to union members that previously negotiated wage raise be canceled be the freeze they should consider their contracts to have been modified by the President of the United States, and should feel free to act accordingly.
• A flat “no” opinion from Meany when asked if he would carry his opposition to the freeze to the International Executive Board, as the Secretary of Labor, by telegram.
• A declaration that “we have absolutely no faith in the ability of President Nixon to manage the economy. We believe the benefits of the majority of its citizens.”

SLAMS BACK

Meany became more acid when questioned by the press about personal attacks upon him by Labor Secretary Hodgson and Treasury Secretary, John D. Eisenhower. Hodgson had said that Meany “appears to be badly out of step with the needs and desires of America’s working men and women.” Asked to comment on that, Meany replied:

“I don’t pay too much attention to the Secretary of Labor. In the final analysis, you have a problem with the landlord, you don’t take it up with the janitor.”

Generally had said what Hodgson said, adding a political twist by tying Meany to Senator Edmund Muskie, President’s aspirant. Meany’s comment was:

“I think what he (Connally) is looking for is a prestige shot about personal enforcement. I think he wants the wage-hitch concession. He can sell the watermen.”

Having said all this, Meany also said: “We are not advocating defiance. We’re just not cooperating. . .”

AUTO UNION WARNS

On the national level a very strong reaction to the Nixon policy also came from the auto workers, its International Executive Board and its president, Leonard Woodcock.

What especially bothered the auto union, as it did other unions, was to consider resuming negotiations “on all of the union’s strike demands, including wages.”

They also decided that cargo on docks or transit sheds which was on site when the strike began will be released for delivery.

In referring to the delivery of cargo, the committee stated “...releasing this cargo will strengthen our strike and relieve some of the hardships on small businessmen as a result of the President’s freeze order.”

Cargos released must be handled and prepared by longshoremen and clerks in accordance with either the Pacific Coast Longshore and Clerk Document or the Container Freight Station supplement. However, no commercial cargo will be received for loading.

(Written policy is on page 5.)

Welfare Fund Keeps Paying

SAN FRANCISCO — Health Plan benefits will be continued, with longshore employees paying the premiums as in the past.

This was the ruling by Coast Arbitrator Sam Kagel on August 24, after ILWU and PMA trustees disagreed on the issue. PMA claimed no obligation to pay from the Welfare Fund; ILWU trustees said the money in the fund had to be used. It totals $2,56,374.33.

Kagel’s decision said: “It is hereby ordered that the monies in the Fund shall be used and expended for the purpose of paying the required premiums to provide the benefits agreed to in the Fund, such payments to be effective as of July 1, 1971.”
T HE ALMOST UNANIMOUS ACTION of the trade union movement against the wage freeze and the right to strike shows that, with correct and unified action, the freeze can be defeated.

One phase of the President's executive order, aimed at restricting the right to strike, has for all practical purposes already been set aside by our union's decision to continue the coastwise longshore strike on all strike demands, including wages.

One of the major factors in making this action effective so far has been the united action of the AFL-CIO executive council, plus the very firm position of the United Auto Workers Union against the freeze and supporting the right to strike.

The decision of the AFL-CIO executive council, led by President George Meany, to "withhold our cooperation" should prove to the entire nation that no one-sided discriminatory attack against the pocketbooks of the great majority of the American people is possible as long as the working class is united and decides to fight.

The President's wage freeze faces a very rocky road so long as we can keep the labor movement united in its present position of "withholding cooperation" and maintaining the right to strike—especially if the strike action by a union is taken by a secret ballot!

For several years I have heard the hue and cry that the labor movement was dead on its feet and was no longer a fighting factor in American public life. I have always felt this was incorrect and that in some way—on some crucial national issue—the labor movement, particularly the AFL-CIO, would take command and lead the nation when its basic rights were threatened.

Other members of our society, particularly some of these members of the intellectual community who have been so critical of the labor movement, should see that their own wages, salaries and way of life are inextricably interwoven with the actions of the labor movement.

To defeat this effort to push the burden of the effort to stem inflation onto the workers requires the greatest possible unity of the majority of the American people.

With the present organized trade union movement in the lead, white collar workers, intellectuals, college professors, students and farmers and small business will find out that to defeat the freeze they will need the labor movement—not the other way around!

Hundreds of thousands of these workers have recognized that their interests are closely allied with the blue collar—so-called "hardhat workers." Already unions of teachers, municipal workers, and other unions have grown from small puny, ineffectual locals to powerful international unions. They are playing a very important part in the trade union movement. The only salvation for these workers is as a part of the working class and the trade union movement—with the right to vote for a strike, or not to strike!

Our longshore strike quite by accident has come about at an important moment in labor history in the United States.

The whole trade union movement, both nationally and in the five states primarily affected by the strike, has given us their full support. Messages of support continue to come into my office from unions throughout the country and from labor unions all over the world.

In the past few days we have taken a number of steps to strengthen our position. One phase of the President's executive order, aimed at restricting the right of workers to strike, has given us our full support. Messages of support continue to come into my office from unions throughout the country and from labor unions all over the world.

Our longshore strike quite by accident has come about at an important moment in labor history in the United States.

The hopes and aspirations of millions of working men and women are with us. We won't only not let them down—we will win our strike!

Prior to this speech in his famous Executive Order 9250, the President stated: "The Director is authorized to take the necessary action and to issue the appropriate regulations, so that insofar as practicable no salary shall be authorized under Title III, Section 4, to the extent that it exceeds $25,000 after the payment of taxes allocable to the sum in excess of $25,000."

And further, in the same executive order, "The Price Administrator in fixing, reducing or increasing prices, shall determine price ceilings in such a manner that profits are prevented which in his judgment are unreasonable or exorbitant."

If the Administration wishes to do something about the critical situation of the economy and the situation of the millions of the unemployed his predecessor Franklin D. Roosevelt showed him the way.

I realize that regulating high salaries and corporate profits is something that is very difficult to do under our present so-called "free enterprise" capitalist system.

However, if the President wants, under the powers granted to him in the Economic Stabilization Act, to make at least the same kind of effort Mr. Roosevelt did, I feel certain that such an action would have the overwhelming support of the entire organized labor movement and most of the common people of the United States.

Short of action similar to the Roosevelt orders of 1942 and his Economic Bill of Rights of 1944, the labor movement should continue to oppose the President's freeze order and continue to "withhold cooperation."

Everyone should know by now that the inflationary processes going on in this country have practically nothing to do with wage demands of the ILWU and other trade unions.

(This matter is discussed in greater detail in other sections of The Dispatcher.)

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In the past few days we have taken a number of steps to strengthen the strike—which is solid and in fine shape. We shall continue to carry on the strike for our demands.

Although we are relatively a small group of workers, our waterfront division exercises tremendous economic power.

The hopes and aspirations of millions of working men and women are with us. We won't only not let them down—we will win our strike!
To Hi-fi Beat, Strike Army Marches on Its Stomach

WILMINGTON — Under the direction of Nate DiBiast, chairman of the Local 13, 63 Welfare Committee, another “first” has been chalked up for the Wilmington locals.

On August 11, between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. 1,331 longshoremen and clerks filed through Local 13’s auditorium to receive a large carton of groceries totaling in excess of $10 value each.

Happiness and brotherhood was the theme as hi-fi music drifted through the auditorium, Ladies Auxiliary workers handled grocery items assisted by the pensioners group, and a dozen hard-working welfare committee members hustled around keeping things rolling. It appeared to be the most “Super-duper super market” of all time. With a man’s union book as entrance card he was given a shopping cart (borrowed from local markets) and a large carton or two (donated by local businesses). He then proceeded up the long line of tables where the volunteer workers were stationed and by the time he reached the end of the building he was loaded down with food items and smiles. A special pick-up parking space was provided with helpers in getting the goods into the waiting autos.

This was all made possible with many donated items by local merchants, unions, and individuals. Additional items were purchased with money from Local 13’s strike fund.

To Hi-fi Beat, Strike Army Marches on Its Stomach

The Food View
From Longview

LONGVIEW, Wash. — The Local 21 Hall resembles a produce market more than it does a union headquarters these days.

Sacks of potatoes and boxes of apples and squash line the walls. One corner is fenced off with a counter equipped with a cash register and grocer’s scale.

A freezer truck (donated by Standard Dairy for the duration) loaded with perishable vegetables and fruit, and with cartons of eggs, stands at the side door.

Seven tons of spuds and 2,000 dozen eggs were distributed to local longshoremen and their families in two days’ time, according to Hank Van den Berg, chairman of the food committee.

Most of the food, except for milk which is 75¢ a gallon, is sold at cost, which is considerably under retail prices in local stores. Some of the food is free.

“Last Wednesday some of our members and six wives went to Sauvies Island to pick beans. The farmers donated the beans and cucumbers. We sent a truck to Yakima for peaches, and the eggs are from Toledo, Wash.” Van den Berg said.

One end of the auxiliary dining room has been converted into a butcher shop. The local buys whole beeves, and “some of our members have become quite adept at cutting them up.”

“Every Monday is barber shop day. Last Monday we sheared 60 heads,” Van den Berg related.

Local 6 Blast at Nixon’s Freeze Order

SAN FRANCISCO—Warehouse Union Local 6 officers, executive board and trustees have voted unanimously to recommend a dues increase for the duration of the longshore strike —in order to provide $3 per member per month as a donation to the strike fund. A secret ballot referendum will take place shortly.

In another action, Local 6 officers recommended to the local membership that they fully support the International’s position on President Nixon’s wage-price freeze order—a position of non-cooperation.

Farmer Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, arrived August 12 from various parts of California with an abundance of grapes and produce to express solidarity with longshoremen and ship clerks on strike since July 1 and to thank them for aid during the grape boycott.

Jim Herman, Local 34 president, said, “Your presence here today is indeed an exciting event and is another example of the wide support we are getting from working people everywhere.”

Approximately 750 bags of grapes arrived in a 40-foot reefer from the Lamont-Arvin area. From the Salinas area came lettuce, celery, cauliflower and strawberries in three 16-foot trucks. In addition Pie N’ Pout strawberry workers donated $600, which was presented by farm representatives Connie Muniz.

The Farm Workers arrived 11 a.m. at the new Ship Clerks Hall at 4 Berry St. where 41 members of the Local 34 Strike Committee were holding their regular meeting. The Farm Workers stayed for the rest of the meeting.

President Herman’s short welcome speech was translated into Spanish. He said, “We wish to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for your magnificent gesture of support. Local 34 has always responded to the Farm Workers’ call for support in their struggle to organize agricultural workers into a strong and effective union. We will continue to offer our full support to your union until farm workers are organized.”

At noon, the 150 farm workers and four trucks went on a long caravans along the Embarcadero to Local 10 with flags waving and horns honking. Pickets at the pier waved them on.

Speakers at the 12:30 ceremony at Local 10 included Herman, Glenn Ackerman, Local 10 secretary-treasurer; Bert Donlin of Local 10, Andy Jimutan, vice president of the United Farm Workers, and Bob Garcia of UFWOC and leader of the Salinas delegation. The grape workers delegation from the Lamont-Arvin area was headed by Marcos Munoz.

The trucks were then unloaded. Various farm crew leaders throughout the valley expressed support of the ILWU strike. Local 10 and 34 members gave appreciation to the farm workers.

The Food View

From Longview

LONGSHORE striker and child at welcome to Farm Workers.

Farm Workers Bring Grapes of Solidarity

SAN FRANCISCO — A caravan of 150 members of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, arrived August 12 from various parts of California with an abundance of grapes and produce to express solidarity with longshoremen and ship clerks on strike since July 1 and to thank them for aid during the grape boycott.

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Labor Joins Against Nixon Plan

continued from Page 7—

the prospect that an extended wage freeze would cancel out interim pay raises already included in longshore contracts. About 750,000 auto workers, for example, are scheduled to receive a 3 percent wage increase on Nov. 22, ten days after the expiration of the current freeze. With this in mind the UAW Executive Board put the Nixon administration on notice that it will not permit abrogation of the wage provision—the cost of living and earnings improvement clause—of our agreements. If they are not permitted to operate as written, we will consider them terminated and will act accordingly.

This underscores its seriousness and its intention to take appropriate action to meet contingencies that may arise. At the board's special session, we discussed and expanded to include “all necessary action to protect the integrity of our contracts, the collective bargaining rights of our members, and the economic future of both the United States and Canada.”

By then the union will know if the Nixon order contributes to or spoils our members. They are left holding the bag. We will cooperate fully with the President's order. . . .

FOR JOINT ACTION

Aside from warning that it will consider its contracts null and void if the current wage freeze is canceled, the UAW also called upon “our members to mobilize immediately and take positive action to correct the injustice created by the Nixon wage freeze.”

We call upon the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union's executive board to propose to Meany and Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons joint action to mobilize Council 33's broader movement against the Nixon order. Fitzsimmons and Woodcock are experts in the art of the Alliance for Labor Action, which was formed by their predecessors.

Meany said he would be “delighted” to take up Woodcock's offer of a day's work on the Nixon order. It’s ridiculous and I think it’s illegal.

The executive committee of the San Francisco Central Labor Council also attacked the Nixon order. John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO to the board and “no Congress nor the Constitution has given the President any such breakfast privileges as those now asserted in his name."

U.S. Labor Secretary John L. tán a California Labor Federation representing more than 1,600,000 AFL-CIO workers, Henning de-emphasizes it’s movement of labor and employers support to AFL-CIO Teamster and ILWU workers now on strike in California.

Sigmund Arywitz, secretary-treasurer, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, the strike by the ILWU workers was Nixon “a strikebreaker of a magnitude never before seen in U.S. history."

KEY CRITICISMS

Emerging from the flood of labor protest were several lines of major criticism of the Nixon policy. These were:

• The Nixon policy is “patently discriminatory as far as American workers are concerned,” in Meany's words is freezing wages at lower levels.

• There are no controls over profits and interest rates, which are, in the words of the AFL-CIO Executive Council, “the two most inflationary factors in the economy.”

• Discrimination is heightened because wages, “covered by highly competitive collective bargaining contracts,” are easily frozen, whereas prices are far more elusive, especially in “the absence of effective machinery to ensure enforcement on the price front,” the AFL-CIO said.

• The President's investment tax credit is another tax bonanza to U.S. corporations, allows interest rates to run scot-free and hurts millions of American workers and small businessmen.

• The fact of the matter has been that companies have been raising their prices for the past few years whenever they can get away with it. We are with you in your desire to stop inflation in our country, but it is wrong to pick on the workers who suffer first and most from inflation. Your ornerious, innocent, and uncritical attitude of the last five years and the continuous rise in prices prevents organized labor from catching up with what has been lost through inflation, let alone improving the standard of living of the American people.

• The International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union's strike against the Pacific Maritime Association will continue in full force and effect until such time as a collective bargaining agreement is ratified by the membership.

Wire To Nixon

August 17, 1971

President Richard M. Nixon
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President: The International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union is opposed to your executive order of August 15, 1971, freezing wages. Your order, which has the potential of causing widespread strikebreaking and will result in crumbs for the working people of the United States. The executive order favors the rich, creates a new tax bonanza for U.S. corporations, allows interest rates to run scot-free and hurts millions of American workers and small businessmen.

The fact of the matter has been that companies have been raising their prices for the past few years whenever they can get away with it. We are with you in your desire to stop inflation in our country, but it is wrong to pick on the workers who suffer first and most from inflation. Your ornerious, innocent, and uncritical attitude of the last five years and the continuous rise in prices prevents organized labor from catching up with what has been lost through inflation, let alone improving the standard of living of the American people.

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Harry Bridges, President
International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union

Statement

August 17, 1971

TO MEMBERS OF THE COAST STRIKE STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Dear Sirs: Two weeks ago you were being sent to all longshore and clerk locals and they are free to reprint it in local bulletins and use it in any way they desire.

The Coast Strike Strategy Sub-Committee adopts the following position:

1) To vigorously condemn the Presidential Order freezing wages for 90 days. This action we consider to have a definite adverse effect on possible negotiations seeking to end our current longshore strike, and places the burden of fighting inflation on the workers.

2) To call the Coast Strike Strategy Committee into session on Monday, August 23rd at 10 a.m. to act upon the above position of the Sub-Committee, plus the following recommendations:

A) To make it clear to all concerned, particularly PMA, that the longshore strike continues in full force and effect on all items, including wages.

B) To consider the question of resuming negotiations with PMA depending on the circumstances after the committee is re-convoked, and with the union taking the position that all the strike demands including wages be negotiated, and if necessary, sufficient sums of money to pay wage increases be placed into escrow to be available at the end of the 90-day freeze period.

C) To reconsider the question of allowing all cargo to be cleared from docks with the distinct understanding, however, that no cargo moves on or off ships and barges other than those exempted by the federal government, and that cargoes be not the subject of any gabage, and that the cargoes be not cleared by the federal government.

D) lines of credit being extended to the West Coast by the federal government. The line of credit will be extended to the West Coast by the federal government and will serve to delay resumption of negotiations and settlement of the strike.

Patrietally yours,
Harry Bridges, Chairman
"The following message outlines our position on the President's order. I think it will suffice to cover this with the wire I received from Mr. Counts, too.

(See Test of Letter to Coast Strike Strategy)

This statement was sent to all members of our Longshore Coast Strike Strategy Committee and to all locals of our International Union, specifically, those in the longshore division and other areas and divisions of our organization. Bridges: That's all. Any questions?

Q: Was this position taken before or after the "no strike" statement from Washington?

BRIDGES: Before.

Q: What motivated you to take this stand?

BRIDGES: Because we are on strike, and the way we are on strike—the workers vote to go on strike and they are the only ones who can vote to go back.

Q: What about the President's economic plan?

BRIDGES: I haven't studied it enough to comment.

Q: About longshoremen being exempt, do you believe all Americans should be exempt?

BRIDGES: Workers should be exempt from sacrifices, unless they are necessary, and the workers proved that during World War II with wage freezes and other things.

Q: About the public sentiment, the government going to court or not, our workers will be asked to vote by secret ballot, and that is the only way they can go to work.

Q: Would you ignore a court injunction?

BRIDGES: I never said that. If the government goes to court and asks the judge for an order for the union to stop working, let's see what happens.

Q: Does the President have the authority to order you to go back to work?

BRIDGES: No, not until the settlement is signed.

Q: Will you submit to the members a return to work for a certain limited period of time?

BRIDGES: No, not until the settlement is signed.

Q: What would you be willing to risk a possible $5000 daily fine for defying the order?

BRIDGES: We notified our northshore division and other areas and divisions of our organization that during World War II with wage freezes and other things.

Q: About the economic plan?

BRIDGES: This is so far a decision of the West locals of our union. The full committee is coming to San Francisco Monday and it is up to that committee to support our recommendation. They can reject it. We have not yet gone to our membership. I don't know what their reaction will be, but I am sure the membership will support us.

Q: How do you know the rank and file don't want to go back, if you won't put it to a vote?

BRIDGES: If all the government is asking is that we take a vote of the workers whether they want to obey his order or not, I am pretty sure the answer of the workers will be "We are sorry, Mr. President, but we don't agree."

(Applause from the Audience.)

Q: The statement says the strike will continue until a collective bargaining agreement is ratified by the membership. Will the members stay on strike until a new agreement is negotiated?

BRIDGES: Until a new agreement is negotiated.

Q: Why not go back to work for 90 days, and then go back on strike? Why stay out for three months?

BRIDGES: I don't know about that. We asked the PMA that any wage increase will not be paid but to put the money in the bank without interest—that is a good capitalist institution—we plan to collect later on.

Q: In a letter to Flynn you said very good progress was being made on the local level. In what areas?

BRIDGES: Some progress in some areas, in other areas not so well. Attempts by PMA to refer certain matters to industrywide negotiations were not successful, and they should stay in local negotiations until they are settled.

Q: About the strike running a long time and the ILA contract terminating the end of September. Will both coasts be tied up? Do you think the President's action will quickly terminate the strike?

BRIDGES: It will delay, it could have that effect. If you have to go in and negotiate with handcuffs, it is a little difficult to do.

Q: Are you saying it will be put in the bank and that there will be a retroactive increase at the end of the strike?

BRIDGES: I would not worry too much about having the money in the bank as long as they agree to increase wages and the only thing standing in the way is the prohibition of the President. We have to find a way out of that. We get an agreement in writing that they will pay providing they can go ahead according to the government.

Q: Has the President replied to your telegram?

BRIDGES: Not yet, he is a busy man.

Q: What sacrifices have the longshoremen made which makes them any different from other workers?

BRIDGES: I did not say they are different or exempt. They are like all other workers and should not be called upon as workers to make this sacrifice. Our telegram says it to the President is putting the main burden on the backs of the workers. Our workers are not exactly starving to death. I did not mean to imply they are, but they should not be bound by such an order. The wage freeze is definitely unfair. We had a convention in April in Honolulu which took a determined stand against the freeze on wages. During the war, the workers demonstrated and what sacrifices they could make.

Q: What is the name of the ILA man you talked with?

BRIDGES: President Teddy Gibson of the ILA, and we discussed our position.

Q: The position regarding the East Coast strike?

BRIDGES: No. We discussed our position regarding the West Coast strike. He was going into the executive council meeting of the AFL-CIO so he would be up to date on our position.

Q: Does "perishables" include all the vegetables?

BRIDGES: No, as far as we know we are through with perishables. The main point of the ILA request is that all cargo unloaded off the ships and on the docks should be moved off the docks. It's very clear, "no cargo on and off ships."

Q: The stuff on the docks is what was unloaded before the strike began?

BRIDGES: There is a lot of freight in the various areas unloaded before the strike.

Q: The meeting on Monday, what is that?

BRIDGES: That is the Coast Negotiating Committee.

Q: Do you think it would be appropriate for other union leaders to advocate similar courses of action on the President's program?

BRIDGES: I think what other unions will do. Many other unions are not necessarily in the same position. It seems that in our case you are talking about a small group of workers with tremendous economic power. Other unions may feel they are—but those ships will not sail.

Q: What about opening grain elevators?

BRIDGES: We notified our northwest office last Monday to let that wheat come in and fill up those grain elevators.

Q: They are overflowing, is that the problem?

BRIDGES: Yes, that is the problem. When the farmer puts his grain in a boxcar to go to those elevators, he gets paid. That takes care of the farmer. When the boxcar full of grain comes to the elevators, the elevator gets paid storage for that grain. The only one who gets hurt is the grain speculator.

Q: How will the rest of the labor movement respond to your position?

BRIDGES: It will depend on what they will respond in a similar fashion. I can't speak for them, but if they don't support our position I am sure they will be sympathetic to it.

UAW Supports Dock Strike

The United Automobile Workers sent the following wire of support for the longshore strike signed by Leonard Woodcock, UAW president, and Doug Fraser, vice president. It was addressed to Harry Bridges:

The skilled tradesmen of UAW meeting in Boston, Mass. on Aug. 18, 1971, unanimously voted to send this expression of support in your union fight to gain economic justice from the employers, but particularly to those currently on strike. We are also aware that this makes winning your strike more difficult. It is imperative that all unions in America maintain solidarity to achieve not only economic justice from the employers, but an equitable treatment from our own government as well.
by Barry Silverman

The president's action on Sunday, August 17, was his second step in a comprehensive economic program designed to stop the rise in consumer prices that has become a major economic problem for the Federal government. The program, which was announced in a press conference on Friday, August 15, includes a 10 percent surcharge on all imports, a 90-day price freeze, and a request to Congress to consider long-term controls on prices and wages.

The 10 percent surcharge on all imports, which was announced on Friday, is estimated to cost the consumer an additional $700 to $750 per family per year. The freeze on prices and wages would be the first of its kind in the United States and would be in effect for about 90 days. The freeze is expected to reduce the rate of inflation by about 5 percent.

The request to Congress to consider long-term controls on prices and wages is a part of the president's broader economic plan for the nation. This plan includes a program to reduce the budget deficit, to control inflation, and to increase employment.

The president's economic program is designed to stop the rise in consumer prices that has become a major economic problem for the Federal government. The program, which was announced in a press conference on Friday, August 15, includes a 10 percent surcharge on all imports, a 90-day price freeze, and a request to Congress to consider long-term controls on prices and wages.
Local Bulletins Cover the Strike

Sailing, Smooth and Rough, and Fish Galore

As might have been expected the big news in all local strike bulletins was President Nixon’s freeze on wages and salaries, and the ILWU response. But there also were choice local tidbits.

PICKETS IN A BOAT: There can be no argument on sailing and there also can be a good imitation of the wreck of the Hesperus.

Dutch Duthie, in Local 13, where sailing pickets are no new thing, correspondent Alex Duthie was moved to administer his poetry in its latest form. Dutch dispatched on the 24 foot sloop, The Way Out, as he sailed the San Pedro and Long Beach harbors with a banner saying “ILWU ON STRIKE,” tied to the mast and the rigging under the mainsail.

“They (the crew) made a difficult sport look easy,” Duthie reported in the Local 13 bulletin. “...You get into car & turn the key & the motors starts — & with it noise, but to sail with no sound except the wind hitting the sail, the spray of the sea striking the body, & the surge of the sea pounding the ship is like being one with nature.”

STAYING HELM?

That’s not how it was when Charley Hansen of Local 34 made his maiden voyage as a sailing picket aboard the sloop Cat on August 24.

“Charley Hansen climbed down the iron ladder and boarded his trimaran, set off for the bulkhead between Pier 40 and 42, ready to start out on Bay patrol picket duty. Some Local 10 pickets had offered to hold the boat alongside as Charley yanked up his mainsail. 

“Aft, in line with the sail and the Cat took off with a rush that nearly pulled the linesmen into the water. The Cat quickly crashed into the pilings of Pier 42.

“After a fast inspection of the hull and piler (no damage to either) Charley headed the Cat out into the Bay and straight into the side of a pier (no damage to either) and into the pilings of Pier 42. After being one with nature, Charley yanked up his mainsail. 

“The Fight Continues,” the Local 13 bulletin reports. “The Cat quickly crashed into the water, the Cat quickly crashed into the pilings of Pier 42.

“After a fast inspection of the hull and piler (no damage to either) Charley headed the Cat out into the Bay and straight into the side of a pier (no damage to either) and into the pilings of Pier 42. After being one with nature, Charley yanked up his mainsail.

“After hearing this sad story, Miller suggested that after our strike is settled we assess 20 thousand bucks & bail the poor bastards out.”

ADVERTISING: The recent PMA ad got a riposte from several local bulletins.

•...full of half-truths and non-truths explaining to the public how unreasonable we are,” said the Local 10 bulletin about the ad. However, the bulletin pointed to a moral: “The important point is that we all must recognize the need of carrying their story to the public. The ILWU has always recognized the need to win public support and sympathy. We have done much to date, but there is more to do ...

HELP: The Local 13 bulletin has been publishing racing selections, which suggests that some of its members might put an occasional bet on a nag. This could have been bread cast upon the waters; a recent bulletin reports a $50 donation to the strike fund from the Pari-Mutuel Employees’ Guild, Local 280, Inglewood.

The local’s long-time association with the fish industry is also paying off—... fish. One bulletin recorded the following contributions: squid—... lbs.; cod fillets—... lbs. and 11 cases 450 lbs. of true cod, 50 lbs. of fceland cod, 50 lbs. of frozen cod; mackerel—1 case Spanish, 50 lbs. blue; frozen fish fillets—... cases 250 lbs. 

CLARIFICATION: The Oregon-Columbia River area bulletin contains this note: “Kelly Services is in the business of supplying ‘cheap’ non-union labor of all kinds, for handsome fees, to local employers. On what was thought to be good authority, the Area Strike Bulletin reported in the last two issues that the scabs who loaded three trucks of freight at Terminal 2 had been supplied by Kelly.

“A spokesman for Kelly Services denies this firm supplied labor for the scab operation. He categorically stated that Kelly Services does not furnish labor to area unions in any strike situation. The Area Strike Bulletin publishes this clarification in order to keep the record straight.”

The Dispatcher reproduced the original item, and adds this one for the straight record.

CONTINUITY: Under the heading "The Fight Continues," the Local 13 bulletin reports: “His brother shot to death by police in the 1934 strike, Tommy Parker, retired member of Local 94. has volunteered his services in any way that would be of help.”

POVERTY (or things are tough all around): “Frank Miller, 30523, while on the running committee in Hollywood hit 20th Century-Fox studios for a contribution & was informed that they were ‘in hock for $60,000—000,’ reports the Local 11 bulletin.

“After hearing this sad story, Miller suggested that after our strike is settled we assess 20 thousand bucks & bail the poor bastards out.”

WALKING BOSSES Local 91, with just 140 members, came through with $10,150 for the strike. This was distributed as follows: to the International—$1,000; Local 91—$100,000, Local 10—$6,780; Local 34—$1,688; Local 54—$582; Local 18—$100. (Above) Local 10 member Bob Rohatsch says thank you for the contribution; seated behind him, from left, are Local 10 vice president Jack Hogan, Local 91 president Chester Neilson, Local 91 secretary Manuel Lopez. (Below) Local 34 president James Herman accepts check from Local 94 as Nelson stands by. Seated at right are International vice president George Martin and Local 34 business agent Bob Donovan.
ILWU Testifies On Log Bills

PORTLAND — Hearings were held here recently before a US Senate public lands subcommittee on timber management bills which could have a vital impact on the main export item from many Oregon-Washington ports—logs.

Of 192 witnesses, the great majority, including ILWU international representative James S. Fants, favored the American Forestry Act (S350), sponsored by Sen. Mark Hatfield, (R-Ore.) as a more balanced approach to management of forest lands.

"The trick is to have environmentally acceptable forests and to prosper from timber harvested from those same forests," said Bert Cole, Washington state commissioner of public lands.

Fants warned that a restrictive provision in the Metcalf bill (81734), sponsored by Sen. Lee Metcalf of Montana, "actually provides for a total embargo on logs" by requiring that no logs or unfinished forest products be exported from the United States during any calendar year unless it is found that the nation's projected timber supply for each of five consecutive years thereafter can be satisfied entirely by domestic supplies.

"How can this be done," Fants asked in a brief filed with the subcommittee, "when the US has for years imported large amounts of timber products from Canada?" He also questioned why log exports should be banned any more than wheat, cotton or a score of other unprocessed materials.

The Hatfield measure drew support also from lumber industry spokesmen; from Kenneth Davis, representative of the CIO unions, as well as counsel for such unaffiliated unions as the ILWU, United Auto Workers and United Mine Workers.

Before his departure, Leonard said he expected the conference to consider the possibility of mounting legal challenges to Administration decisions that they do not conform with the Economic Stabilization Act of 1970, or they violate the Constitution. Also discussed will be defenses against legal assaults the Administration may mount.

ILWU Counsel in Big Labor Legal Huddle

SAN FRANCISCO — Norman Leonard of the law firm that represents ILWU was a participant in this week's conference of union attorneys, called by AFL-CIO President George Meany, to consider "the many legal issues" raised by President Nixon's economic program.

Invited to the emergency session in Washington Thursday were attorneys for the 120 AFL-CIO unions, as well as counsel for such unaffiliated unions as the ILWU, United Auto Workers and United Mine Workers.

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