Season’s Greetings
From the ILWU International
officers and Dispatcher staff

HARRY BRIDGES  LOUIS GOLDBLATT
president  secretary-treasurer
WILLIAM CHESTER  GEORGE MARTIN
vice-president  vice-president
SIDNEY ROGER  editor

93.1% Vote ‘No’

New Talks
As Deadline
Approaches

SAN FRANCISCO — West Coast ILWU longshoremen and
clerks buried the employers’ “last offer” by 14 to 1 in an ava-
lanche of “NO” votes.

The tally in this election, con-
ducted by the NLRB at all Califor-
nia, Oregon and Washington ports,
told its own story: “No” — 10,072;
“Yes” — 746. There were 271 chal-
lenged votes and 24 spoiled ballots.
The score was 93.1 percent to reject!

With the vote completed and
counted on Friday, December 17, the
ILWU Coast Negotiating Committee
reconvened here Monday, Dec. 20,
and began talks with the PMA.

The committee was negotiating
against a deadline of December 26,
the day after the Taft-Hartley in-
junction expires — when the West
Coast dockers can resume the strike
that was halted by government in-
tervention.

ILWU president Bridges, chair-
man of the Negotiating Committee,
stated that if no substantial prog-
ress is made by that date “then all
bets are off.”

—Continued on Page 8
Now that the NLRB vote is behind us, with over 93 percent rejection of the employers’ last offer, the rank and file wants to know what’s next and no double-talk or stalling around.

We all know most of the rank and file would prefer to keep working and to get a good contract, better than what was just voted down. They aren’t itching to go out again, and the best, quickest and most successful way to get a new contract is the question I have been asked directly by hundreds of members. But I hope the rank and file watches the line of some of the local leaders who couldn’t wait to get them on strike July 1st.

I have this much to say to start with, and I ask the rank and file to listen carefully and check what I am saying here will happen and what really does happen in the next two or three weeks.

We went back to work under a Taft-Hartley injunction. We made a big fuss about the 80-day “cooling off” period forced on us by the injunction. The whole idea of the T-H law and the “cooling off” bit is to wear the rank and file down and tire them out. This process makes them more receptive to accept a cheaper settlement and recommendations from leadership than would otherwise be the case. The “cooling off” bit can work much better when it comes after a 100-day coastwise strike, such as we have just had.

So, if a 100-day strike doesn’t do the trick of getting the employers to come up with enough “goodies” for a settlement, and the 80-day “cooling off” bit doesn’t produce much, how about a little more of the Taft-Hartley technique or psychology?

How about some more “cooling off” or softening up until the rank and file gets so tired and frustrated at staying on the job and working without a wage increase, no improved welfare nor pensions and other fringe benefits, that they are ready to say, “Oh, the hell with it! Let’s settle for what we can get. So what if it’s just about the same agreement that we dumped with the last offer vote. It’s better to sign up and ‘know where we stand’”?

The rank and file will soon see who will be hollering for more “cooling off.” First of all, it will start with our employers, the PMA, plus Mr. Nixon and the federal government, plus all kinds of state and federal politicians, employers’ associations, shippers of freight, etc. Well, of course, that’s to be expected, but it all won’t be called extending the 80-day “cooling off” period another 80 days. It will be termed “resuming negotiations by the parties”—and for how long? They figure until the rank and file “cools off” enough to vote for another last offer not much better than the one just voted down.

In saying this, don’t get me wrong. There were many items in the PMA last offer I voted for and will again, and I have also said I would urge the rank and file to accept another 15 cents per hour to settle the money package. But, I sure don’t mean to give up on containers and some other things for 15 cents!

So, we can expect the PMA, government, etc., to holler “let’s negotiate,” and let’s negotiate for the next six months if that’s what it takes.

But, how about people in our union taking the same line? Sure, such people, just like the employers, are not going to say they favor more Taft-Hartley “cooling off” to soften up the ranks. The line will be to say, “Let’s screw them in negotiations. Let’s stay on the job and hang tough.”

Let’s us and them negotiate. It might go so far as to say let’s meet day and night and go through the holidays. It’s all a part of the same “wearing them down” technique. Now, my saying this doesn’t mean that we don’t meet with PMA two or three times to find out where we and they stand now that they see the vote on their last offer.

What I am saying, and I mean it emphatically, is that a union committee sitting around in San Francisco for weeks and months, saying they will negotiate much more from the employers than now offered will be kidding themselves and the rank and file too. They will really be waiting for the rank and file to cool off. But the place where the rank and file will get some surprises—and I hope learn how much they have been hornswoggled—is at the level of the local unions.

Local elections are now over. All the campaign promises to deliver the moon and stars have worked to get people elected. All the bad-mouthing and the sniping at some of the international leadership for a “soft approach” and “being afraid of strikes” now come up against the cold, hard facts of life.

You watch the hot shots and so-called radicals in the ranks now. The line will be: negotiate—maybe hardtime—“hang tough” on our demands until the employers cave in. Why the employers should cave in is left unsaid—because they won’t! And after two or three months of negotiations—“cooling off,” as I have said—the time will be ripe for another vote on another last offer.

So far, reading what I have written here, it sounds like an argument against continuing to work under the old contract while the Coast Negotiating Committee tries to negotiate a new one the rank and file will accept. Well, it sure as hell means just that. What I mean is that if a solid 100-day strike didn’t force the employers to granting not all our demands but at least a good half of them, then I don’t think any committee negotiating them despite all the tough local talk and bulletins we can put out.

Further along this line, are we to look upon the last offer vote as a strike vote? A lot of local people have said to me, “Well, that shows ‘em where we stand.” Well, at least it shows that the rank and file will follow its leadership. But will the vote soften up the employers enough to offer us a contract we can accept? Not in my opinion!

Then let’s get down to the nitty gritty and say what we should do.

We get together with the East and Gulf longshoremen and their union, the ILA, that’s what. And when I say get together, as I have been urging for a long time, and I am asked do I mean affiliating our union with the ILA, therefore the AFL-CIO? I answer, “Hell, yes, if doing so means we secure our container jurisdiction and win this battle.” And I know damn well that without the ILA threat we can forget getting more on containers than we have now, plus doing a job for Hawaii. And, finally, there is the matter of getting a contract approved by the Wage/Price Boards. Standing by ourselves, it’s doubtful whether we could even have got an okay on the last offer contract.

If I am anywhere near right about the need for East Coast ties, then it’s time for the rank and file, at least the longshore part of it, to take on those elements in our union who are always blasting away at the ILA, its leadership and policies, or at the AFL-CIO and its head, George Meany.

Among other arguments you will hear against any merger with the ILA will be one that says such a move must wait until our next convention. Not so. The Negotiating Committee can ask for a special International Executive Board meeting so as to have that body take a referendum vote of the whole union.

So, to sum up: If we can have a few meetings with the PMA and talk them out of a good contract, fine. If that fails, the sooner we reach a firm understanding to get going all the way with the ILA the better. And such a program definitely does not leave out merger by any means.

On the Beam

Harry Bridges

What’s Next?
San Francisco — Coast longshoreman Sam Kagel today reversed a layoff decision at the Gulf port terminal by the Coast Labor Relations Committee agreement. The parties are bound by the coast arbitrator’s decision, as are the area arbitrators. 

With reference to the legal actions taken because of his November 22 ruling, Kagel said: "Whatever the consequences of that, maybe in terms of the parties being prohibited from carrying out the terms of an award, that of course is not a consideration which the Coast Arbiter or the Area Arbiter is or can be giving any weight with reference to their duty and to the Coast Arbiter’s duty of enforcing the agreement as it is written between the parties."

Local 12 Aids Deep South Woodcutters

North Bend — Local 12 recently voted a $300 donation to the Gulf coast Pulpwood Association, an organization of Deep South black and white woodcutters. The action was taken because of Kagel’s decision. Pursuant to the decision, the associated Deep South woodcutters are to have a $300 per month increase in pay.

Kagel added: "The two sections of the Times supplement on the Dominican Republic say: "Workers are so anxious to get the job done ... that we work six-day, 18-hour shifts, with no time out for lunch, grabbing a sandwich or a wash for fear of the police or the paramilitary who patrol while continuing to labor in the tunnels and spillways.

"Don’t forget the Dominican Republic, where in 1965, the US sent in marines to make sure there would be a government friendly to folks like Gulf and Western. A military government was established in the country. Since this day for 40 cents an hour wages paid by US industries."

By now it is obvious that making a country safe for 40 cents an hour wages is making a haven for American employers, a place to which they can flee, leaving behind unemployed American workers."

Making the World Safe for...
What Happened at the AFL-CIO Convention?

Last month, President Nixon appeared at the AFL-CIO convention to give a lecture on labor policy. He essentially told the AFL-CIO that inflation is the fault of working people, and that they had better behave themselves.

The next day, papers all over the country had been treated rudely, that he was hoisted, jeered, laughed at and otherwise shown disrespect.

We were suspicious of this reporting. The way the press picked it up had all the earmarks of a plant. Labor sources say that there is often a great deal of feeling expressed, but we don't equate this with rudeness or disrespect to a guest.

Sure enough, several days later, the Christian Science Monitor—known as one of the most accurate, objective news papers in the country, published an eye-witness account of what really happened.

Here it is, as written by correspondent Ed Townsend:

President Nixon may prove to be the most fun-seeking force for American labor in years. The union movement thrives on causes — and the White House administration and the recent AFL-CIO convention has developed into one.

Matters fed the convention in Florida are convinced by what happened there that the President and Administration need to be committed to wage war on labor.

When the convention opened Nov. 15, AFL-CIO authorities were not too unhappy with Phase 2 controls — they had won substantially what they wanted except for the retroactive payment of raises that were due but withheld during the Aug. 16-24 freeze.

EXAGGERATED

By the end of the convention, the attitude had changed. More than anything else, the result of exaggerated reports of the AFL-CIO deal was an insalubrious treatment of the President. The White House and top Administration aides apparently had encouraged such reports, in labor's view.

Debate will go on for a long time about what happened at the convention. Boos and jeers were reported, but to this reporter, who was present, there was peremptory, contemptuous treatment of the President.

When he entered the convention

Local 26 Wins at American Bravo

LOS ANGELES — After a four month organizing campaign led by the ILWU Southern California regional office, warehouse and office workers at American Bravo Company here voted last month to join ILWU Local 26.

The ILWU has 215 in the warehouse and 7-4 among the office workers. American Bravo is a whole sale importer of novelties and accessories.

The organizing drive was initiated and directed by ILWU Rep. Representative Earl J. Barnett, with the assistance of representative Chet Meske and Local 26.

CHARGES FILED

In another election, Local 26 lost by a 53-44 vote at Precision Parts Exchange in mid-November. However, the result of two elections in the past month on a number of unions supporting the organizing drive.

The ILWU has filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board charging 13 specific violations, in hopes of a new recognition or at least another election.

“Next time send ahead my reception committee, my band, my television cameras, and my White House guards, in full uniform, saluting me.”

hall most delegates stood and applauded him.

Others sat silently. He was lightly applauded at least eight times. He drew critical laughter on two occasions when delegates discussed his assessment of gains being made against price increases.

However, hardly half an hour after the speech ended, “disturbed” Nixon Administration spokesmen were saying newspaper wire services and radio and television network news departments that President Nixon had been “insulted” by the labor.

According to George Meany, AFL-CIO president, President Nixon was invited on Sept. 23 to address the convention. A few days later AFL-CIO was told that the President would look over his schedule, and get in touch with Mr. Meany later.

NO WORD

There was no word directly to AFL-CIO from the White House for seven weeks. Labor Secretary James D. Hodgson was reported as saying in Chicago that the President would not attend but would send his greet ings through Secretary Hodgson.

On the evening before the convention, Mr. Meany received a telephone call from the White House saying that the President would like to address the convention at noon the next day. The AFL-CIO Executive Council had an important luncheon meeting at that time.

Mr. Meany said that the time was not practical, but that the President would be welcome to speak Thursday afternoon or anytime Friday. An alternative time was then arranged. But on Friday morning, the second day of the convention.

Secret Service and other presiden tial aids took over and worked out detailed plans for the appearance. AFL-CIO cooperated except on two requests: the White House wanted the speech televised live, but to comply with the request required mov ing tables on the convention floor and displacing 100 delegates; AFL-CIO said they could not do this.

MUSIC PROBLEM

Also the White House asked to have the convention band play “Ruffles and Flourishes” as the President entered the hall. But Mr. Meany said there would be “only what you might call a chamber group,” and “you can’t play Ruffles and Flourishes on violins.”

Subsequent published reports that there have been echoes of comments by Republican leaders say AFL-CIO refused live coverage of the speech and sent its orchestra out of the hall so that it could not play a presidential greeting.

Republicans also say that Mr. Meany refused to introduce President Nixon.

AFL-CIO insists that Mr. Meany’s introduction was the trap. It did not know one for as long as it did.

“Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States”

was the address during which the President was noticeably nervous, Mr. Meany went to the microphone, to express confusion. According to security arrangements, he was to do this and then return to his platform while the Presi dent accompanied by an escort committee.

President left the platform alone, while Mr. Meany was at the microphone. As he did, security officers believed the room had been ejected at their insistence to keep delegates back, and the President went into the delegate area.

Labor sources say that a White House photographer and an assistant with floodlights appeared to take pictures of the President shaking hands with delegates.

Mr. Meany was obviously surprised. Delegates began breaking from delegations in other parts of the hall. The President left the hall, Mr. Meany said, “Well, let’s go on with the speech. These two remarks were based on later reports that Mr. Meany snubbed and insulted the President.

POLITICAL VISIT

Mr. Meany and delegates who now have gone home to their union constituencies were convinced that the one thing Nixon’s appearance was in purpose, that it was part of the strategy aimed at splitting labor’s rank-and-file.

The incidents at Bali Harbour, Fij imight have faded away quickly except for the national reaction. Treasury secretary John B. Connally, Jr., House minority leader Gerald B. Ford, and others high in the Republican party took occasion to attack Mr. Meany and labor for “insulting” the President.

Management organizations such as the National Association of Manufacturers have deployed the “arrogance” of organized labor.

The White House indicated mail and support could be expected across the country for the President.

The large question now: Can Phase 2, that depends so largely upon co operation, succeed in an atmosphere of insulting?

ILWU Board Backed Bangla Desh

The tragic year of East Pakistan is nearing its end.

With the successful Indian campaign against Pakistan, it appears as though the rebellious easterners will have their own independent nation—Bangla Desh.

The ILWU is important to ILWU members for two reasons:

• In July, in response to an appeal from the President of Bangladesh to West Coast ILWU dockers to keep on work, ILWU Board of Directors urged its members to hold the line.

The ILWU, during the summer, supported a request from the Bangla Desh government to slow down US shipments of weapons and economic aid to Pakistan.

• At the same time, despite the fact that the strike had just begun, West Coast ILWU dockers agreed to load an emergency shipment, 28,000 tons of wheat and flour for the ten million East Pakistan starving refugees who had been forced into India.

The tragic story began a year ago when election of a majority of delegates to the Pakistani parliament from the Awami party, which favors independence, was moved by Pakistan’s West Pakistan, led by President Ayub Khan.

East Pakistan had long been the most populous section of the country and the heart of its Indochinese peoples—who felt that they had insufficient power in the national government and that they were exploited economically by the west.

The President of Pakistan, Yahya Khan, had been the leader of the Awami party, and a campaign of bloodshed and terrorTop Break Strike

Agribusiness, Gov. McCall

In Love Feast

PTOKE — Republican brass and northwest agribusiness got themselves together last week and formed an alliance for legislation which could break strikes in the transportation industry.

Meeting at the Dr. Hotel here the night of December 13 were northwest right wing Republicans and spokesmen for wheat and seed industry associations in Oregon, Washington, Montana and Idaho.

The main man at the meeting, however, was Oregon Governor Tom McCall, who urged a united agribusiness front in support of bills now in Congress to “save our west from the ravages of a renewed dock strike.”

NIXON’S BILL

After hearing the Governor’s support of Nixon’s bill which could im implicate other elements, railroads, airlines, maritime and trucking industries, the 60 or so delegates organized themselves to help speed passage of such legislation.

The Governor offered himself as an “independent” and “courageous spearhead for a threat to the public interest.”

The ILWU members backed their own President, Bangladesh.

ILWU Board of Directors were Northwest agribusiness got themselves together last week and formed an alliance for legislation which could break strikes in the transportation industry.

Meeting at the Dr. Hotel here the night of December 13 were northwest right wing Republicans and spokesmen for wheat and seed industry associations in Oregon, Washington, Montana and Idaho.

The main man at the meeting, however, was Oregon Governor Tom McCall, who urged a united agribusiness front in support of bills now in Congress to “save our west from the ravages of a renewed dock strike.”

NIXON’S BILL

After hearing the Governor’s support of Nixon’s bill which could implicate other elements, railroads, airlines, maritime and trucking industries, the 60 or so delegates organized themselves to help speed passage of such legislation.

The Governor offered himself as an “independent” and “courageous spearhead for a threat to the public interest.”

The ILWU members backed their own President, Bangladesh.
National Health Plan Remains Labor’s No. 1 Priority

Several years ago, the young daughter of a working class Virginia family contracted a serious kidney disease, which required 21 months of hospitalization.

The total bill—surgeon, hospitalization—came to $55,000. Insurance paid $14,000. The doctors and the hospital generously wrote off part of the expense; but the family was still out of pocket by $41,000.

How many horror stories—where the agony of illness and possible loss is compounded by financial worries—have you heard?

The fact is that in the United States, the most powerful, industrialized, scientifically advanced country in the world—the simplest health care system in the world—too many people go unattended because they can’t afford the cost of medical care.

WHAT IT COSTS

Americans spend nearly $70 billion a year on health care; or $342 per person. This is more than double what the burden was in 1960.

In 1969–70 alone, hospital costs jumped 14 percent; doctors’ fees jumped over nine percent—making medical care one of the single most inflationary segments of the American economy.

And yet, for all this money, what do you get?

• Twenty-two American infants die for every 1,000 births. Thirteen countries do better than us in this respect.

• For every 100,000 deliveries, 33 mothbeds are filled. Eleven countries have a lower ratio of maternal mortality.

• An American man of 40 or 45 has less chance of living until age 50 than his counterpart in Western Europe, Canada, Australia or Japan.

• Men in 17 other countries have a longer lifespan; 10 nations have a longer lifespan for women.

In the wealthiest country in the world, 3 percent of our medical schools face imminent closing because of lack of funds; 61 percent are receiving some form of emergency financial aid. The shortage of doctors is reflected in larger and larger case loads for general practitioners, and a real lack of practitioners in the inner cities.

Priorities

These are only a few of the reasons that America’s labor unions—which represent many of the people who have serious problems getting quality medical care—have made a drive for national health insurance an important priority over the last few years.

Over the years, American unions have pioneered in winning employer-financed medical insurance across the bargaining table, and winning Medicare and similar programs in the state legislatures and Congress.

In California, the ILWU led the state legislature to pass legislation which has provided pre-paid group coverage for many workers.

But the fact remains that millions of American workers have minimal protection, or no protection at all.

In 1969:

• One out of five Americans under the age of 65 had no hospital or surgical insurance.

• More than half of all Americans under 65 had no insurance for medical bills outside a hospital;

• Only four people in 100 have any dental insurance.

• After 20 years, private health insurance plans cover only about one-third of private health costs, with the rest coming out of pocket.

In many cases, the private insurance system actually works to drive up prices. For example, because most people with private health insurance only have coverage when they are hospitalized, the tendency is to hospitalize the patient—even though he or she could often be treated at home or in a doctor’s office.

This creates a tremendous rush on hospital beds, driving up hospital costs and the costs of your premiums.

PUSH FROM BELOW

For all these reasons, there has been a tremendous push from the AFL-CIO and other organized workers—AFL-CIO, Teamsters, Auto Workers and ILWU—in a coordinated lobbying and educational drive. Louis Goldblatt, ILWU secretary-treasurer, is also secretary-treasurer of the CCHPA.

Out of all this activity, in early 1971, emerged a bi-partisan proposal in Congress called the National Health Security Act.

Introduce by Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts and Rep. James Corman of California, the Health Security Act seeks to provide adequate medical coverage at low cost to all Americans.

It would order hospital, physician, prescription, ambulance, x-ray, diagnostic, psychiatric, nursing home and virtually all other medical services, including dental care up to age 16.

The program would cost 57 billion in 1974, nearly 16 billion less than what Americans spend now on such care. It would be financed 50 percent out of general federal revenues, and 50 percent by a roll tax.

“Al long last,” says delegates to the 19th Biennial ILWU Convention, “there is reason to believe that national health care can soon be a reality. We endorse the National Health Security Act, encourage its prompt enactment, and pledge to work with groups throughout the country in seeing to it that health care becomes a right for every American citizen.”

Surplus Food Distributed to Seattle Needy

SEATTLE—Fifteen thousand hungry families will receive canned meat, peas, beans, milk, fruit, juice, cheese, and other surplus food in time for New Year’s day, according to US Sen. Warren Magnuson, D. Wash.

Magnuson noted that rice and canned meat were sent to Orient recently by her sister city of Kobe, Japan, and said he had never before felt disgraced by his government or by its policies.

This administration can see great humanitarian in providing a $550 million loan for a hungry Lockheed Cooperation plane built in Seattle to fly another dime on hungry human beings,” Magnuson said. “Today I stand on this floor and applaud this deliberative body in the world in total humiliation!"

The food distribution order also followed wide publicity given a resolution passed by the Multnomah County, Ore., commission which was suggested US Senator Henry M. Jackson, campaigning in Florida, should return at once to his home state, which has the highest unemployment rate in the nation, “to aid the starving.”
Lucero and Hart Will Head Local 11 Again

SAN JOSE—In elections held in December all major incumbent officers were re-elected by members of ILWU warehouse Local 11 here.

President for 1972 will be George Lucero; secretary-treasurer, Oscar Hart; trustees, Tony Bonifacio Ruiz, Lowell Samaro, Anthony Rondonne and Pete McAra (Healdsburg).

Joseph A. Lewis was re-elected as business agent, as was a 17-man executive board—15 from the San Jose area, and two from Healdsburg.

ILWU Spokesman Charges Workmen's Compensation Payments Keep Falling Behind

SAN FRANCISCO—Despite 60 years of workmen's compensation legislation, most workers are still meeting most of the cost of on-the-job injuries out of their own pockets.

The charge that present levels of unemployment compensation are "totally inadequate and unacceptable" was made last month by ILWU research director Barry Silverman in a statement before the National Commission on State Workmen's Compensation. The ILWU asked that workmen's compensation payments be increased to 75 percent of wages lost, with no upper limits on benefits, that injured workers have free choice of doctors, and that the federal government step in to regulate the entire system ending dramatic differences in benefits from state to state.

The 18-man commission, established under the 1971 Occupational Safety and Health Act, was in San Francisco for three days of hearings on compensation problems. After holding hearings in other cities, it will make recommendations to the President.

Other labor organizations presenting statements calling for improvements included the Steel Workers and the California and Washington State Labor Federations (AFL-CIO).

In a discussion of the history of workmen's compensation legislation, Silverman pointed out that the pressure for such legislation came not from labor, originally, but from big business.

In the nineteenth century, he pointed out, there was virtually no such legislation in the US. An injured worker could only go to court to collect damages.

EMPLOYER TACTIC

In court, employers could usually get away by citing precedents that an employee should be aware of the bad work habits of his fellow workmen; that an employee who worked at a dangerous job did so at his own risk; and that if the employee could be proven at fault in any way, the employer was free from any damages.

Thus, at the end of the nineteenth century, although as many as 70 percent of industrial accidents were the fault of the employer only about 15 percent of injured workers ever collected any damages.

According to one historian, many large corporations came to favor some form of compensation in "even if the cost of compensation might be higher than leaving responsibility with the employee it would have a striking advantage. Compensation would substitute a fixed but limited charge for a variable, potentially ruinous one."

And a spokesman for International Harvester said that the early compensation legislation was "designed to reduce the need for independent action by labor, as well as the appeal of unionism in large corporations."

LABOR RESISTANT

Labor was at first hesitant in endorsing such plans, tailored as they were to the needs of big business, and threatening to divide the worker from his union. Unions also feared that a government dominated by big business would hardly exact sympathy in such cases. Labor preferred to work within the confines of the law, at its leisure, against the injured, and pushing precedents to weaken the defenses of the employers in damage suits.

A compromise was reached in New York State in 1918, Silverman continued, which set the pattern for the rest of the country. Employers won the right of having the system insured by private insurance companies. Employers would not be liable unless their workers were injured on the job, during working hours, of two-thirds of weekly wages, up to $15 a week for injured workers. By 1920, every state had passed similar bills.

"Workers relinquished their right to sue for damages in return for a limited and weak workman's comp the exclusive remedy for occupational injury" the ILWU statement said. "Basic to labor's commitment to workmen's compensation is its recognition that the system thereby received would replace the wages lost as a result of occupational injury."

"This tacit agreement has ended in the passing of time."

UPPER LIMIT

The courts took too great a responsibility when the upper limit on compensation payments did not advance at the same pace with wages. Workers found that they were getting much less than two-thirds of their lost wages.

"In 1969," Silverman said, "only nine states and the federal system provided benefits to the average worker equal to 60 percent of his wage, although a percentage at least this high is called for in most state laws."

"In most states, the average worker is being compensated by benefits considerably less than one-half of wage loss."

The ILWU spokesman also noted that 16 percent of all the workers are now not even covered by workmen's compensation. An overwhelming percentage of the workers are members of industries which work irregularly or work in industries—such as agricul- ture and domestic service—not covered by compensation laws.

"Any figure less than 75 percent of weekly wages is an exercise in the indifference of employers to the claims of those injured on the job who have no choice but to work."

Workers were being compensated for a relatively small amount of the wages they lose. Workers also pointed out that benefits would then automatically increase as wages rose, and workers would not be dependent upon year-to-year success at lobbying in the state legislatures, as they are now.

The ILWU statement also charged that low levels of compensation do nothing to force employers to provide safe places of work.

The statement also demanded free choice of physicians for injured workers. Most injured workers must now be examined by an employer selected insurance doctor.

"HERDED LIKE CATTLE"

"Time and again we hear from our members about the abuses they are forced to endure at the hands of many compensation doctors. They complain of being hemmed about like animals, not the injuries they have suffered, and receiving ineffective treatment for their ailments while being prematurely returned to work," Silverman said.

Finally, the statement called for the federal government to step in and standardize the entire system. The way it stands now, there are dramatic variations in coverage and benefits from state to state. Two workers employed by the same company in different states will often receive drastically different benefits.

It is clear, the ILWU spokesman continued, that workmen's compensation workers suffer a much greater wage loss when injured on the job than early lawmakers intended. Labor made a deal with the employer community some sixty years ago, and we now find that the employers have reneged.

"Workmen's compensation is specifically directed at meeting a critical public need. We believe that its original goals have been frustrated, and that it is now the responsibility of this commission to make recommendations which will fulfill its original objectives."
### Dockers, Widows On Pension List

**SAN FRANCISCO** — This is the latest information from the Benefit Fund office of dock workers retired under various ILWU-PMA plans since October 1, 1971.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>John Schuberger</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Webster Alexander</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>John E. Johnson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Claude M. Miller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Edward Freedman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>William Siessmann</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Claudia M. Miller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>John W. H. H.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The widows are: Vivian Arwood, (Jess); Charlotte L. Allen, (Melville); Daisy M. Babbitt, (John E.); Sylvia Mary Bray, William F.; Alice D. Caraway, (Harold); Lydia Carruth, (Chas.); Edna Christensen, (William); Ruth M. Chapman, (Joseph V.); Grace Crawford, (William D.); Johnnie M. Crowell, (Robert M.).

### Auxiliary Christmas — Mono Gerling (left) and Julie Huff, members of ILWU Auxiliary 25 in Port Angeles, Washington, wrap packages for the auxiliary’s “Christmas in Vietnam” project.

### Big Shots and Little Fishes by Fred Goetz

In 1891, after the great English writer Rudyard Kipling returned to England after a long visit to the United States, he wrote of his experiences here. Some of his impressions were good, some not so good, and some of his right insulting—for a so-called English gentleman. Coming through the Golden Gate, before he even set foot on California shores, he noted—with glee—that the blockhouse which guarded the mouth of “the finest harbor in the world, could be forever silenced by two enemy gunboats.”

Ashore, he dealt out a glowing compliment to the “sea-lions of the Cliff House” dubbing them the “great show of San Francisco,” then took a literary poke at “City Fathers” for allowing the scene to be delta with waterfront advertisements. “Some day,” he noted, “the government may make a restoration of the place and produce the sovereign people from advertising ‘Little Bile Beans’ all over it.”

Unlike Kipling and his fishing buddies—who he dub California and “Portland”—who used files, George and I used hardware spinners, and we were determined to hit the river when it was full of Coho. On two successive weekends, we eased a limit (two each) of salmon to boat. When I flopped the last of the catch on the kitchen drainboard, Mrs. Goetz quipped, “I don’t know how good a fisherman George is, but if YOU catch a limit of salmon two trips in a row, the river must be loaded.”

“If Kipling can do it, so can I,” I snapped back.

England’s Rudyard Kipling praised seals of California and salmon of Oregon on western visit.

From California, Kipling tripped to Oregon and from what I gather from his notes, it was here that he had his most memorable day. After catching a 12-pound salmon first, and probably a Coho—from the Clackamas River, close to Portland, he let loose with such a thrilling accolade that even the stalwart members of his Punjab Fishing Club—who had a later account—were drooling at the mouth. How about this:

“I have lived! The American Continent may sink under the sea, for I have taken the best that it yields, and the best was neither dollars, nor the not a lover, nor real estate.” It took him 30 minutes to land the salmon—which, of course, was taken on a fly and as he planted his peppers on the Coho’s shimmering sides catching rays from the sun, he further recorded: On the beauty, the darling, the daisy, my Salmon Bahadur. This hour I have at last of the catch on the kitchen drainboard, Mrs. Goetz quipped, “I don’t know how good a fisherman George is, but if YOU catch a limit of salmon two trips in a row, the river must be loaded.”

“IF Kipling can do it, so can I.” I snapped back.

England’s Rudyard Kipling praised seals of California and salmon of Oregon on western visit.

From California, Kipling tripped to Oregon and from what I gather from his notes, it was here that he had his most memorable day. After catching a 12-pound salmon first, and probably a Coho—from the Clackamas River, close to Portland, he let loose with such a thrilling accolade that even the stalwart members of his Punjab Fishing Club—who had a later account—were drooling at the mouth. How about this:

“I have lived! The American Continent may sink under the sea, for I have taken the best that it yields, and the best was neither dollars, nor the not a lover, nor real estate.” It took him 30 minutes to land the salmon—which, of course, was taken on a fly and as he planted his peppers on the Coho’s shimmering sides catching rays from the sun, he further recorded: On the beauty, the darling, the daisy, my Salmon Bahadur. This hour I have at last of the catch on the kitchen drainboard, Mrs. Goetz quipped, “I don’t know how good a fisherman George is, but if YOU catch a limit of salmon two trips in a row, the river must be loaded.”

“IF Kipling can do it, so can I.” I snapped back.

England’s Rudyard Kipling praised seals of California and salmon of Oregon on western visit.

From California, Kipling tripped to Oregon and from what I gather from his notes, it was here that he had his most memorable day. After catching a 12-pound salmon first, and probably a Coho—from the Clackamas River, close to Portland, he let loose with such a thrilling accolade that even the stalwart members of his Punjab Fishing Club—who had a later account—were drooling at the mouth. How about this:

“I have lived! The American Continent may sink under the sea, for I have taken the best that it yields, and the best was neither dollars, nor the not a lover, nor real estate.” It took him 30 minutes to land the salmon—which, of course, was taken on a fly and as he planted his peppers on the Coho’s shimmering sides catching rays from the sun, he further recorded: On the beauty, the darling, the daisy, my Salmon Bahadur. This hour I have at last of the catch on the kitchen drainboard, Mrs. Goetz quipped, “I don’t know how good a fisherman George is, but if YOU catch a limit of salmon two trips in a row, the river must be loaded.”

“IF Kipling can do it, so can I.” I snapped back.

England’s Rudyard Kipling praised seals of California and salmon of Oregon on western visit.

From California, Kipling tripped to Oregon and from what I gather from his notes, it was here that he had his most memorable day. After catching a 12-pound salmon first, and probably a Coho—from the Clackamas River, close to Portland, he let loose with such a thrilling accolade that even the stalwart members of his Punjab Fishing Club—who had a later account—were drooling at the mouth. How about this:

“I have lived! The American Continent may sink under the sea, for I have taken the best that it yields, and the best was neither dollars, nor the not a lover, nor real estate.” It took him 30 minutes to land the salmon—which, of course, was taken on a fly and as he planted his peppers on the Coho’s shimmering sides catching rays from the sun, he further recorded: On the beauty, the darling, the daisy, my Salmon Bahadur. This hour I have at last of the catch on the kitchen drainboard, Mrs. Goetz quipped, “I don’t know how good a fisherman George is, but if YOU catch a limit of salmon two trips in a row, the river must be loaded.”

“IF Kipling can do it, so can I.” I snapped back.

England’s Rudyard Kipling praised seals of California and salmon of Oregon on western visit.

From California, Kipling tripped to Oregon and from what I gather from his notes, it was here that he had his most memorable day. After catching a 12-pound salmon first, and probably a Coho—from the Clackamas River, close to Portland, he let loose with such a thrilling accolade that even the stalwart members of his Punjab Fishing Club—who had a later account—were drooling at the mouth. How about this:

“I have lived! The American Continent may sink under the sea, for I have taken the best that it yields, and the best was neither dollars, nor the not a lover, nor real estate.” It took him 30 minutes to land the salmon—which, of course, was taken on a fly and as he planted his peppers on the Coho’s shimmering sides catching rays from the sun, he further recorded: On the beauty, the darling, the daisy, my Salmon Bahadur. This hour I have at last of the catch on the kitchen drainboard, Mrs. Goetz quipped, “I don’t know how good a fisherman George is, but if YOU catch a limit of salmon two trips in a row, the river must be loaded.”

“IF Kipling can do it, so can I.” I snapped back.

From California, Kipling tripped to Oregon and from what I gather from his notes, it was here that he had his most memorable day. After catching a 12-pound salmon first, and probably a Coho—from the Clackamas River, close to Portland, he let loose with such a thrilling accolade that even the stalwart members of his Punjab Fishing Club—who had a later account—were drooling at the mouth. How about this:

“I have lived! The American Continent may sink under the sea, for I have taken the best that it yields, and the best was neither dollars, nor the not a lover, nor real estate.” It took him 30 minutes to land the salmon—which, of course, was taken on a fly and as he planted his peppers on the Coho’s shimmering sides catching rays from the sun, he further recorded: On the beauty, the darling, the daisy, my Salmon Bahadur. This hour I have at last of the catch on the kitchen drainboard, Mrs. Goetz quipped, “I don’t know how good a fisherman George is, but if YOU catch a limit of salmon two trips in a row, the river must be loaded.”

“IF Kipling can do it, so can I.” I snapped back.
isle Dock Parleys Stalled

HONOLULU — The longshore situation here is still touch-and-go as negotiations toward a new contract which broke off December 10 — are not expected to resume until after the first of the year.

However, both sides have agreed to be subject to mediation. Meanwhile, longshoremen continue to work on a day-to-day basis, subject to giving 72 hours notice to strike. The island contract, like the dock contract on the West Coast — except for so-called "Teamster" wage scales — expired Christmas Day. The Coast Negotiating Committee was still meeting with the PMA at the time The Dispatcher went to press. Nixon is again trying to goad Congress into passing legislation aimed at stopping President Nixon's Emergency Public Interest Protection Act aimed at breaking strikes in the transportation industry.

Continued from Page 1 —

He added, however, that PMA employers have been told longshoremen will work to the 35th, and negotiators will keep trying to reach an agreement that can be recommended to the rank and file. Bridges also said there is no guaranty work can be extended without a contract. The PMA proposed to extend the contract for 55 days, but no retroactivity was guaranteed.

The Coast Negotiating Committee was still meeting with the PMA at the time The Dispatcher went to press. Nixon is again trying to goad Congress into passing legislation aimed at breaking strikes in the transportation industry.

The letter is the result of discussion on the union-busting measure, at the CRDC's December meeting which heard Local 12 praised for initating a postcard drive against the two bills.

Nixon Presses Congress to Cripple Transport Unions

WASHINGTON, DC — President Nixon is again trying to goad Congress into passing legislation aimed at crippling collective bargaining in transportation industries.

He asked for "emergency" legislation in his State of the Union message on Wednesday, December 15, Nixon called for "emergency action" to pass "emergency strike legislation.

He was referring to his "Emergency Public Interest Protection Act"—legislation which the ILWU International Executive Board branded as "a major attack on organized labor, free collective bargaining, and rank and file democracy.

Nixon told the congress that all longshoremen at work today are on the job only because of the Taft-Hartley 'cooling-off' injunction.

They include:

• An additional 30-day injunction, after the 80 days are completed. This, according to labor, would merely compound the situation that has already proven in every case to be an unfair advantage to the employers.

• A second procedure would authorize the President to appoint a board to study the issues and grant permission for a partial strike and lockout.

• The third alternative is the stickey — the one that leads to compulsory arbitration.

This, the administration refers to as "the final offer selection" alternative. In this case each side, employer and union, could make a "final offer" and then one "alternative final offer."

Then an arbitration board, appointed by the President, would choose one or the other of these four alternatives, without any changes or modifications!

This, as former ILWU Washington representative Al Lannon pointed out in testimony before a congressional committee hearing early in the year, "would destroy free collective bargaining . . . and, in fact is the exact opposite of negotiating across the table."

Most important, as the labor movement sees it, it would take away the right to the rank and file to vote to either accept or reject a contract.

Putting it bluntly, Lannon told the congressional committee, this legislation is nothing more than "straight strike-breaking."

New Talks As Deadline Nears

An additional problem is getting some guarantee that the Wage Board will not settle any agreement reached.

COUNTS APPEARS

On Tuesday, J. Curtis Counts, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation service, came to San Francisco to urge both sides to try to negotiate an agreement before the injunction runs out.

He is the same man who spent 19 days with both sides last September, and finally, on October 4, said the impasse could not be broken and he would recommend application of the Taft-Hartley injunction.

Last Tuesday at ILWU headquarters he spoke to the union negotiating committee. He urged the parties to negotiate and indicated that the government has other options—including action by the Nixon administration that could push for a legislative settlement aimed at forcing men back to work under penalty of law.

Later the same day he spoke to PMA officials.

The rejection of the PMA's last offer was considered a foregone conclusion. The Coast Negotiating Committee had recommended a "no" vote. The size of the vote and the number of people who turned out to vote, under those circumstances, is considered a great victory.

The National Labor Relations Board set the ground rules of the election. The employers' list of eligible voters included all "A" and "B"-registered men who were eligible, and that no pensioners or canals could vote. They set the time and place of voting—always making sure it was on what they called "neutral" ground.

The NLRB lumped all ballots together, so it was impossible to determine how each local or area voted.

DRAMATIC SCENE

At the Federal Building there was quite a dramatic scene as the ballots were tallied. NLRB officials at ten different tables read each ballot, and ILWU and PMA observers sat at each table.

The room was packed; newsmen and TV cameras were everywhere.

Voters droned.

There was a hifany of "no, no, no," punctuated by an occasional "yes."

Within a matter of minutes it was clear to all that rejection of the employers' offer was overwhelming.

The final steps will be a report by the NLRB to Washington, and the US Attorney-General will go to Federal court to get the Taft-Hartley injunction be discharged after the 80-day "cooling-off."

Then the union will be free again to resume its strike, or take whatever measures it sees fit.