Dockers Near Showdown

January 17 Strike Deadline: Bridges Talks to Teamsters

SAN FRANCISCO — ILWU longshoremen and clerks may be back on the picket line Monday, January 17, unless agreement is reached settling a number of crucial issues. Stuffing and unstuffing containers is the key issue. Others include guaranteed work or pay, welfare and pensions, wages, and manning.

This was announced to all West Coast longshore and clerk locals by Harry Bridges, as chairman of the Coast Negotiating Committee. Further details are spelled out in his “On the Beam” column on page two of this issue of The Dispatcher.

As of the time The Dispatcher went to press (Wednesday night, January 12), President Bridges was flying to Washington to meet with Teamster union officers to try to resolve the issue of container stuffing and, as noted in his column, to discuss possibilities of merger.

On the same Wednesday, negotiations with the PMA were recessed and both parties were on call. However, it appeared that unless there was a break in the recession and negotiations were resumed, the January 17 extension would be ended and longshoremen and clerks would be back on the bricks.

BE PREPARED

All locals were advised to be prepared to walk out if there is no agreement the committee could recommend by January 17 to a caucus.

Bridges also noted that strike action “could well include Hawaii and even our unions in the BC area.”

All major issues in negotiations were still on the table. The negotiating committee also demanded that all wage increases and other economic issues be made retroactive to the date of the end of the Phase One wage freeze, November 14, 1971.

In its letter to all locals, the committee added that the total reserve of the welfare fund contains enough to cover welfare payments for about two weeks.

However, the committee said it would conduct negotiations directly with carriers to continue welfare coverage and guarantee full reimbursement by deductions from the strike settlement.

Here is a review of events as The Dispatcher went to press:

The Coast Negotiating Committee returned from a three-day meeting with officers of the International Longshoremen’s Association in New York, January 5-7.

They met in San Francisco, January 9 and endorsed a short report to all locals, including information on their recommendation that the strike be continued unless an agreement with PMA is reached.

The contract had been extended to January 17 before the whole committee flew to New York.

Negotiations were resumed on January 10, aimed at driving through to an agreement by January 17. In attendance was J. Curtis Counts, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

SEA-LAND ISSUE

In the report to the locals and in this column, Bridges noted that the primary purpose of the meetings with the ILA was to ask the ILA not to work Sea-Land ships, and that if the ILWU resumed its strike on January 17, Bridges wrote in his column (see page two), “Their answer was a flat ‘No’” and that if they tried in New Jersey to move against Sea-Land to support our strike they would have to shut down the whole port.

While the ILA said they would honor any ILWU picket lines, even a single picket, “they insisted that such action would only amount to a grandstand play” and that legal actions would swiftly take place.

However, the joint meetings did bring one firm resolution: Bridges and the ILA and ILWU agreed “that both coasts would be shut down if the government Pay Board didn’t approve settlements negotiated by either union.”

Concerning a merger between ILA and ILWU, Bridges reported that ILA president Gleason was “not interested in bargaining with ILWU to join ILA. His proposal was to have ILWU rejoin ILA as a completely autonomous West Coast and Hawaiian District, as we were in 1934.”

TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

These discussions were held on Wednesday. By Thursday night the ILA had reached a tentative agreement for a contract in the North Atlantic ports.

However, when the ILWU committee left on Friday, it was not more than a tentative agreement, with South Atlantic and Gulf ports still to be settled.

A full report on the ILA settlement should be ready for inclusion in the next issue of The Dispatcher.

In concluding his column, Bridges said that even though he has talked with the ILA and are now talking to the Teamsters, we are not “seeking mergers in order to be saved. Far from it. We are still plenty strong, and tough, standing by ourselves, although we recognize that we need—and must have—support of other unions.”
In this climate, corporations are more likely to pocket this tax gift. Nixon's strategy unfolded further last month with his veto of the child care bill—a $2 billion program to establish a network of federally-funded child care centers. He called it "too expensive."

On the very same day he vetoed this vitally needed social legislation to help working families and the poor, Congress passed his tax bill—loaded with giveaways for the rich, including a 15 percent cut in corporate taxes.

Now, no one can deny that saving money for taxpayers is laudable. And what better way to lower a citizen's personal tax burden than to put heavier taxes on corporations? But that would violate Nixon's strategy, which goes like this: First you help corporations increase profits and cut their taxes. Then, by some magical process, prosperity will somehow trickle down to the poor slobs which goes like this: First you help corporations whose profits are again approaching boom levels.

In short, exporting American jobs. But tax breaks to corporations whose profits are again approaching boom levels is vastly review and modify our policies and tactics.

The corporate excursion into the federal treasury—with an estimated $30 billion deficit—is going to have to be made up somewhere. Don't worry, they have plans for you, dear taxpayer—probably higher taxes. Naturally, after the 1972 election.

Rumor has it that the President is eyeing a federal sales tax which would be good for $20 billion a year. Labor has always opposed sales taxes as regressive—meaning taxation without regard to ability to pay. Meaning that a Nelson Rockefeller pays the same sales tax as Joe Worker.

Strange games. Social programs which could ease the lives of working families and give the poor a break; needed public works programs which could build roads and schools and hospitals and clear air and water—and deal directly with the problems of unemployment—all these are "too expensive."

But tax breaks to corporations whose profits are again approaching boom levels are considered necessary for national well-being. Strange games!

However, ILA did say it would honor any picket lines, or even a single picket that ILWU sent East to picket Sea-Land. But they insisted that such action would only amount to a grandstand play, inasmuch as it seemed sure that legal action such as injunctions and law suits would swiftly ensue. ILA lawyers confirmed this fear.

Although action against Sea-Land was the only proposal our committee made for support in the event we struck again, the joint meetings did reach firm agreement that both coasts would be shut down if the government Pay Board didn't approve settlements negotiated by either union.

Thus, this brings the Coast Negotiating Committee back to San Francisco to decide what now?—and that it has done: Resume the strike January 17 if no agreement is reached by that time.

But the committee has done something else, too. It voted to meet with the Teamsters in order to try to resolve the problem of container staffing, and also—just as in the case of ILA—discussions of merger with the IFT are in order.

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WHAT WILL WE discuss with the Teamsters? Why, the proposal the negotiating committee made to the PMA when negotiations were resumed last Monday. Namely, that all containers not staffed by longshoremen, clerks and bosses be double-handled on the docks, or at waterfront container stations, with factory and shippers' loads carrying a tax or royalty.

In this way it cannot be said we are trying to run teamsters off the job. It boils down to ILWU asking for an agreement on containers identical to the one many of the same steamship companies have negotiated with the ILA on the East Coast.

It was in an attempt to combine our joint efforts to secure such an agreement that we went East to meet, and, if necessary, to merge with ILA. Now we sit down with the Teamsters.

But let's not have any misguided thinking that our union, facing up to another strike which could go on for another three months, is desperate or rushing around seeking mergers in order to be saved. Far from it. We are still plenty strong, and tough, standing by ourselves, although we recognize that we need—and must have—support of other unions.

The strike will resume under substantially the same guidelines as previously. However, the Committee will constantly review and modify our policies and tactics.
Canada, China
Wheat Deal
Biggest Ever

VANCOUVER, BC — Canada has just completed a record wheat sale to China that calls for 117.6 million bushels to be shipped through west coast ports in 1972. The value of the sale is estimated at between 185-200 million.

It is the largest wheat contract signed between the two countries in 11 years of negotiations. China is today Canada’s biggest single wheat customer.

Canadian Wheat Board officials said the sale will require an upgrading and fumigation of the crop.

Meanwhile experiments are also being conducted in shipping wheat from the prairies to Vancouver by unit train. One such pilot train with 60 hopper cars carrying 276,000 bushels made the trip from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, to Vancouver last month.

The grain had been cleaned and inspected in Saskatoon before being loaded. At Vancouver it was loaded on to a waiting ship and taken to the mill in Victoria.

ILWU CHEERS

FREE — Jimmy Hoffa leaves federal penitentiary after nearly five years.

LIWIBURG, Pa. — As the short man in the baggy suit walked toward the prison gate, grey-haired after nearly five years behind bars—dozens of inmates gathered at their windows to wave good-bye.

“Good luck Jimmy ... take it easy.”

He turned back, raised a clenched fist and smiled.

“Okay, fellow!” he replied.

With that, James R. Hoffa, former president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters—the largest union in the United States—left prison. “I was good to be out,” he told the crowd of newsmen who almost pushed him back inside the gate in their anxiety to have a few words with him.

Hoffa, who entered the federal penitentiary in August, 1967, had been granted executive clemency by President Nixon, on the condition that he have nothing to do with the Teamsters' Union until 1980.

ILWU CHEERS

His release was welcomed by workingmen and unions all over the country. In a telegram to Hoffa the ILWU said: “We are filled with joy and pride.”

Harry Bridges wrote:

“Fluctuating with the workers, including me and the union I represent, could not ask for and expect to get a greater Christmas gift than your release from prison.

“Knowing you are free even with the odious restrictions put on you insures that all of us who know you and the true reason that put you behind bars will face the coming new year with greater confidence and determination. Joyful and Merry Christmas greetings.

“We rejoice with Mrs. Hoffa and your family that you are all together again.”

Upon emerging from Lewisburg, Hoffa announced that he would spend a great deal of his time in the crusade for prison reform.

He also said he would go to court to try to get his 1964 jury-tampering conviction overturned and clear his name.

Still a fighter, he charged that orders from Washington had kept him confined to a maximum security cell for nearly three years. In addition, he said, he was assigned 12 guards and a staff of nurses who kept him confined in a cage for seven hours a day.

“In my opinion, they were trying to break my spirit,” he told the Detroit press.

Jimmy Hoffa Freed; Vows Fight to Clear His Name

The story of the persecution of Jimmy Hoffa is a sad tale of the federal government’s use of spies, provocateurs and wiretapping in a “Get-Hoffa” campaign.

He was first charged with investing union pension funds in a Florida real estate development. No one at that time accused him of stealing the money or making a bad investment for the teamsters pensioners.

The case was tried in Nashville after it was thrown out of court in Florida three times. But the best the Department of Justice could get was a hung jury.

In 1964, Bobby Kennedy, then US Attorney General, was back in court with a new charge—jury tampering in the first trial. Hoffa was tried and found guilty on that charge and sentenced to eight years.

‘GET HOFFA’

The key testimony leading to conviction came from one Edward Partin, a lower level teamster official from Baton Rouge, La., with a long criminal record.

In 1970, admitted to a federal court that US authorities had promised him immunity from prosecution on a long series of charges on which he was being held—if he would help “get Hoffa.”

He was sprung by the federal government, given expense money from a Justice Department shakedown fund, and set about to infiltrate the Hoffa defense and help him put on ice.

This was what prompted now retired Chief Justice Earl Warren to comment that the use of Partin was “offensive to the fair administration of justice.”

Since 1964, the ILWU has argued that the Hoffa case was a gigantic frame-up; and that Hoffa was put away because of his militant trade unionism. In 1966, Hany Bridges commented in his “On the Beam” column in The Dispatcher:

“This case is a frame-up frame-up ... The main target is not so much the leader but the union itself. The union will be severely handicapped by the jailing of one of the most determined and resourceful trade union leaders to come along in a long time ...

And in the last year, the ILWU has been at the head of those unions which have appealed for clemency of all those now in jail for Jimmy Hoffa. The Nineteenth Biennial ILWU Convention issued a statement of policy on Hoffa, endorsed a petition for pardon to President Nixon, and urged its widest possible circulation.
NINETEEN SEVENTY ONE was a year of action — a year in which the union used its economic muscle on picket lines—a year that began in conflict and ended with the major struggle in longshore still unresolved. In a manner of speaking, 1971 was a year with neither a beginning nor an end; it was a continuing link with the year before and with the year into which we are now moving. In late 1970, early longshore negotiations had begun and had already broken down as the new year began. In Hawaii a tough and often bitter hotel strike had just been won. The national economic picture saw “Nixonomics” in full force— with growing unemployment, rising prices and, as usual, with the working people picking up the tab for a war no one wanted, for a growing tax burden, for inflation.

That was the picture on the eve of New Year, 1971.

January

began with tragedy. On New Year's Day, 1971, Jack Hall, ILWU vice president and director of organization—and the man most identified with Hawaii's stormy labor history—suffered a massive stroke. On January 2, Jack Hall was dead.

On the same page of the first 1971 issue of The Dispatcher that told the story of Jack Hall's untimely death, the union paper also reported that striking ILWU hotel workers in Hawaii—after 76 days on the bricks—had ratified a new agreement which union spokesmen called the best in the industry anywhere.

MONUMENT TO DEMOCRACY

Jack Hall's leadership of the ILWU in Hawaii—where he had been re-elected director of organization and had become a vice president of the International—was recognized in the Islands as a monument to trade unionism and rank and file democracy.

On January 7, not a wheel turned on Hawaiian waterfronts, plantations and many other enterprises, as working people—from ILWU and all other unions—staged a 15-minute memorial work stoppage to dedicate themselves to the principles for which Hall worked until his death.

Along the Pacific Coast, ILWU members in the longshore industry stopped work for 15 minutes in memory of both Hall and Bill Gettings, former Northwest regional director and longtime union veteran who died on January 3, at the age of 66. Gettings was recalled by his own words, spoken at the last International Convention: "This union owes me nothing, but I got all my life out of this union—everything I have."

The work of the union went on.

ILWU Warehouse Local 6 continued its beef with the Port of Stockton. The port had been closed down twice because port authorities had leased warehouse space to an employer who was hiring non-ILWU labor, despite previous agreements. Picketing stopped only when the National Labor Relations Board entered the dispute and issued a restraining order to ban picketing. Eventually, the company left the port rather than pay ILWU wages.

In January as well, Local 6 won a contract for X-Ray technicians.

CANADIAN PROTESTS

In Canada, the British Columbia Federation of Labor, in which ILWU played a leading role, tried to prevent the government of British Columbia from passing the so-called "Public Health Act," which would have put the longshoremen and other workers into compulsory arbitration. The ILWU contributed to the movement, including letters to the provincial government and financial contributions of money, food, and services. Subsequently, the ILWU was named as a baron of the province of British Columbia.

On another front the ILWU helped the workers at Reynolds Metal Company to win their first contract. The union threatened to bring a truckload of food to San Francisco docks.

February

held the answer to that question as, on the third day of the month, talks between the ILWU Longshore Negotiating Committee and the Pacific Maritime Association began again.

Demands included a big wage hike, a work opportunity guarantee, big pension increases, extensive medical and dental improvements, no further reduction in gang sizes, all longshore work to be done by longshoremen and much more.

The membership made it clear they hoped all issues could be resolved at the bargaining table. They also made it clear that if a strike were necessary to win basic demands—they were prepared to strike. International and local officials and bulletins began warning ILWU dockers to make preparations early.

On the warehouse front, after nearly four months on the bricks, workers at Stak-N-Pak, under the leadership of Warehouse Local 26, won their first contract. The union had withdrawn its workers because port authorities had leased warehouse space to a company that was hiring non-ILWU labor, despite previous agreements. The company left the port rather than pay ILWU wages.

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Many unions united longshore strike with contributions of money, food, and services. Here, farmworkers from Salinas bring a truckload of food to San Francisco docks.

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March

saw the death of an old friend—Rockwell Kent, an artist who did much to support the union when the going was rough in the fifties, and who was one of the very few to be honored by being named an honorary member of the ILWU. Also John E. Walker of Local 10 died. Walker had been an ILWU activist since World War II, the first black man to be elected dispatcher of Local 10.

NLRB AS STRIKEBREAKER

Labor nationality was also becoming increasingly aware that the National Labor Relations Board under the Nixon Administration was clearly reflecting the growing anti-labor climate. The ILWU, particularly Local 6 of the Port of Stockton beef, saw many signs that the NLRB had been turned by the administration into a tool of management.

In an issue that brought headlines to labor papers throughout the country there was the bitter story of the NLRB’s action against the San Rafael Independent Journal. The entire labor movement, including the longshoremen and teamsters protested bitterly at the attacks on the union by police, the jailing of prominent Bay
Area labor leaders as a result, and the charge that in this case the NLRC had acted as a strikebreaker.

During March Local 6, at C&H Sugar in Crockett, after a series of negotiations, ratified a 43-month agreement, with a total wage package of $1.30 in a contract expiring June 1, 1974. In addition to the wage settlement, there was a significant cost-of-living clause, an extension of health and welfare service, and improved provisions in sick pay and pensions as well as skill differentials.

In addition to appointing George Martin as interim vice-president, the board also endorsed a broad labor drive to call on President Nixon to pardon Teanaster president Jimmy Hoffa, as well as reaffirming its support for the right of dock workers to organize. The Hojfa Petition was being prepared for wide distribution throughout the labor movement.

Southern California locals were incensed at the seizures of US tuna boats by the Peruvian navy and attacks in which ILWU members were endangered. The union called on all unions to protest to Congress and demand action. In the Los Angeles-Long Beach area, several hundred ILWU members boycotted Ecuadorian banana boats.

April at midmonth saw the beginning of the biggest international convention in ILWU history, with more than 500 official and fraternal delegates gathered at the Ilikai Hotel in Honolulu.

At a traditional with all ILWU conventions, all the delegates put in five days and plenty of nights of hard work in committees, developing union policies and programs for the next two years. They voted unanimously to deduce the 1972 Biennial Convention to the memory of Jack Hall.

Priority number one on the agenda was longshore negotiations. Delegates from all sections of the union pledged all-out support. President Bridges laid it out bluntly: "We're going to win a good contract for the longshoremen, by negotiations, without a fight, if possible, and with a hell of a lot of brains.

PROUD OF UNION

This set the theme for the convention. So did the opening remarks of host Local 142's president Carl Dunham when he told the delegates: "We are proud of what this union has accomplished to liberate the world from the hell of colonialism, indignity and racial discrimination and we are making for every member of this union the hope and the ideal of a better life for ourselves and our children."

An important event in the convention was the visit of International Longshoremen's Association president Thomas "Teddy" Gleason and seven other ILA officers from the East and Gulf Coasts, who were seated as fraternal delegates. There were also a number of voluntary cooperation from the ILA group as well as from Walter Kaiser, head of the Kaiser container terminal at the Port of Long Beach, AFL-CIO. Gleason said, "We pledge ourselves to the goal of industry-wide unity and solidarity."

ACT FOR PEACE

In its resolution on peace, the Convention called for widespread trade union action, lobbying, cooperation with citizen groups—and even organized work stoppages. The union's basic program for peace remains—"cease-fire, stop the killing, get out of Vietnam."

One of the hard working committees came resolutions to defeat anti-labor legislation of the Nixon administration; to free Jimmy Hoffa; to support Angela Davis; to support free trade with all countries, including China; to press for tax reform and economic recovery; to support a national health plan—and many other social, economic and political items.

Full support was pledged for sugar and plantation negotiations in Hawaii, with special emphasis placed on the need to maintain agriculture as the basis of Hawaii's economy.

ILWU Federated Auxiliaries' president Valerie Taylor spoke to the assembled body and described the broad range of activities by ILWU women, especially concentrating on their campaigns for peace and for pro-labor candidates in the political arena. They have worked in every campaign for equality and against race discrimination.

Above all, auxiliary delegates brought word they were preparing for total support of the longshore division in case of a strike.

The Convention also nominated all incumbent officers—president Harry Bridges; vice presidents William Chestner and George Martin; and secretary-treasurer Louis Goldblatt—to serve another two years.

CAUCUS

Immediately after the Convention, longshore, clerk and walking boss delegates returned to San Francisco for a caucus. The five-day caucus—April 27-May 1—moved "to enter into further negotiations unless the PMA shall sign an agreement of the kind which could be recommended to the rank-and-file; to also enforce the Containers Freight Station Agreement by not working, as of June 30, any container not stuffed by the ILWU's labor force; and to empower the negotiating committee to call for a strike vote effective July 1, if necessary.

Chairman Harry Heide—a 1934 veteran—who had just announced his retirement, was an early member of Local 6 and delegate to the first ILWU International Convention, held in Aberdeen, Washington.

June was the key month. In its final session, the first week the Coast Negotiating Committee reconvened and slated meetings with the PMA. Negotiations began in full swing in mid-May. Local negotiations were continuing but prospects for a settlement seemed to be receding.

Tension began to mount as the month advanced, and finally, by mid-month, with talks showing no significant progress, the Negotiating Committee called for a rank and file strike vote.

The Coast Negotiating Committee recommended a "Yes" vote in support of the union's strike position. By June 25, all the ballots were in and counted.

The vote was 94.4 percent in favor of authorizing the Committee to call a strike for the union's demands. The tally was: Yes—9,517; No—443.

July brought the first coastwise longshore strike in 23 years. At 8 a.m., July 1—bolstered by the overwhelming rank and file strike vote—the wheels stopped turning and every port on the West Coast was shut tight. Picket lines quickly appeared from San Diego on the Mexican border, to Bellingham, on the Canadian border. As the well prepared strike machinery ground into action the ILWU announced that military cargo could be worked as would passenger baggage and mail. The other exception was for perishables on the docks as of July 1.

The Negotiating Committee also agreed—on response to the request by the US government—to load about 29,000 tons of grain to feed starving refugees from the war in East Pakistan. By the end of the month strike machinery was in high gear, morale was high and most longshoremen and clerks were prepared to go the distance. Local bulletins began coming out to inform the members of the day-to-day developments in the great battles that built the ILWU.

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The Nineteenth Biennial Convention in Honolulu was the biggest ever there. A large group of pensioner and fraternal delegates at the Ilikai Hotel pose before a sightseeing trip hosted by Local 142.
strike, and from these local bulletins you could get a sense of the tremendous amount of hard work and close cooperation in every port to keep the strike tight and solid.

With good humor, grace and unflinching militancy, longshoremen and clerks—aided by other unions and friends—kept the strike together.

Longshoremen found that they had tremendous reserves of friendship in their communities, among the ILWU pensioners, the auxiliaries, the nonstriking ILWU locals and the rest of the labor movement. Contributions—in the form of cash, food, services, as well as pledges of moral support, kept coming in.

The strike continued 100 percent effective. Morale remained high, boosted by the continued support of the community, the non-longshore locals of the ILWU and the rest of the labor movement.

August saw a change in tactics. President Nixon announced his wage-price freeze and asked strikers to vote on a new “cooperative” order to return to work.

In a direct wire to the President, Bridges asked the Nixon program for putting “the burden of fighting inflation...on the backs of the working people of the United States.” Bridges added: “The ILWU 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.”

At a well-attended press conference on August 16, Bridges again told the public that the ILWU membership was the only body that could vote itself back to work—despite the President’s demand for an end to all strikes.

Negotiations between the ILWU and the PMA resumed on August 25, just as the strike was moving into its ninth week. One thing was sure, the ranks were solid; the ranks were running their strike.

September came with continuing negotiations and continuing almost nonstop. This included meetings on Saturday and Sunday and over the long Labor Day weekend. Local negotiations also continued.

Throughout the month of September, intensive negotiations continued almost nonstop. This included meetings on Saturday and Sunday and over the long Labor Day weekend. Local negotiations also continued.

October brought Taft-Hartley, acting under the advice of mediator Counts, President Nixon requested and received from a San Francisco federal judge an injunction ordering the striking longshoremen and clerks back to work under the infamous Taft-Hartley, 80-day “cooling-off.”

Nixon said that the immediate cause of his invocation of Taft-Hartley was the fact that in September 45,808 members of the International Longshoremen’s Association in East and Gulf ports went out on strike after their own contract expired—thus closing down all US ports for the first time in history.

After the injunction was granted the Coast Strike Committee recommended that all striking locals return to work, to wait out the “cooling-off” period imposed by Taft-Hartley and to muster their forces for a renewal of the strike, if necessary.

The return to work, under court order, was continued under terms and provisions of the Longshore, Clerk and Container Freight Station Agreement in effect as of June 29, 1971.

In Canada, the entire labor movement was deeply agitated by the international strike. The longshore labor movement in the longshore and the union and employer committees.

Counts told both sides that the government was anxious to see the dispute negotiated quickly because of the economic impact on the country. He also implied in public statements that more severe legal or congressional intervention could be forthcoming unless settlement was reached across the table.

ILWU President Bridges again made the point that the strike could only end as it began—by a vote of the rank and file.

September also saw West Coast ILWU pensioners at their fourth annual convention, giving full and heavy financial support to the strike. Aside from this, pension convention activity focused on finding ways to fight and defeat President Nixon’s “new economic policy.”

In Hawaii, “Labor Unity for a Better Hawaii” was the theme of the 16th Biennial Convention of Local 142 in late September. Included among the 700 delegates and observers were an unprecedented number of new faces, young workers and women.

They vowed support to both West Coast and Hawaii longshoremen and promised that the muscle of the entire union would powerfully support demands of Hawaiian sugar and pineapple workers, whose contracts both expire January 31, 1972.

Immediately after the convention, negotiating committees for sugar and pineapple caucused in Honolulu to prepare demands for new contracts.

They agreed that the main emphasis would be on money and job security. This is the first time sugar and pine have the same contract expiration date.

Dock strike committee meetings were well-attended.

November brought a renewal of activity on the longshore front. The Coast Negotiating Committee met for five days of intensive discussion, including exploratory meetings with the PMA, to determine if negotiations could be resumed.

The Negotiating Committee, in a message to all dock locals, recommended to all “A” and “B” eligible registered members that they vote NO on the employers’ final offer.

When the vote was taken on December 14-15, the tally was overwhelming. West Coast ILWU longshoremen and clerks buried the employers’ “last offer” by 14 to 1. The vote was “NO”—10,072; “YES”—746. The score was 93.1 percent to reject.

Meanwhile, longshoremen and clerks won a significant arbitration victory in a case brought by Clerks Local 63, Wilmington.

The Southern California arbitrator—later upheld by the Coast Arbitrator—ruled that several containors in Southern California, stuffed by other than ILWU labor, could not be directly moved to the ship. The coast arbitrator extended this ruling, in principle, to all West Coast arbitrations.

As the year came to a close, the Taft-Hartley injunction expired, the old contract was extended and negotiations continued into the New Year in hopes a settlement could be reached without renewing the strike.

‘Labor Unity for a Better Hawaii’ was theme of large Local 142 convention.
New Officers For Local 8

PORTLAND—In elections held last month, Albert E. Owen was elected president replacing John E. Olson. Ray O'Neil was elected secretary-treasurer; Phil Badalamenti was elected the wild business agent/LRC; and Howard J. Manes was named the vice-president.

Dorothy Smiley was elected dispatcher; Tom Entwistle, night dispatcher; Karl Minch, earnings clerk; Dean O. Lough, report clerk.

Trustees for 1972 will be Dick Wise, R. L. Lichtenwal and Bob Brandt; Local 8 members elected to the Columbia River District Council by John Olson, Felix Brown, Doyle Degnan and George K.

Named to the grievance board were Loren Jack Allen, Tony Goetz, Robert Sittel and John J. Probst of the labor relations council.

Local 1, Raymond

Following are the officers of longshore Local 1 for 1972: President, Leon C. Moore, (three year term); secretary-dispatcher, Charles Wallis; Norman Massie, (two year term); Lennart Asplund; alternate Local 13: Al Loomis; business agent; Gus Snelling; and second dispatcher, Mickey Chin; alternate, Knute Johnson. Also elected was a five-man executive board.

Local 5, San Francisco

In recent elections, Charlie (West Coast) Wells was elected chief dispatcher and assistant, Richard J. Snyder was elected assistant dispatcher. Also elected were, Peter Balestri, Emile Powells, Jr., Joe Mosty, Mike Samaduroff, Jack Orchard, Tony Gomes and Andrew S. Taylor.

Local 7, Bellingham

The following officers have been elected by members of longshore Local 7 for 1972: President, W. Patterson senior; secretary-dispatcher, L. Brackefeld; vice-president, H. Muggly; trustee, F. A. Blumen; W. Bailey; Puget Sound District Council delegate, J. Modene; caucus and convention delegate, J. Modene.

Local 10, San Francisco

In its annual meeting here, the executive board of Local 10, San Francisco elected the following: President, W. Patter; vice president, E. Maxweiler; business agent, Jim Schwartz; treasurer, Roy A. Ehr was elected assistant business agent/secretary-treasurer; O. L. Davis was elected assistant business agent, replacing Jess Hill, who retired.

Local 91, San Francisco

Foreman's Local 91 has elected the following officers for 1972: Chester Nelson, president; James Satter, vice-president; Manuel Lopez, secretary-treasurer; John Lewis, dispatcher and assistant secretary; Chester Nelson, convention and can- cellation committee, Joe A. Hunter, Chester Leonard and Alex Linker (Stockton), LRC and board of trustees.

Twelve members were named to the executive board.

Local 98, Seattle

J. R. Heath has been re-elected president of foreman's Local 98 for 1972, and Al Daily was re-elected vice-president. Secretary-treasurer will be Don Miniken. Ed Kampanos continues as recording secretary.

Newly elected to the Labor Relations Committee is Harold Zeigler; also elected was the alternate G. Pettie. The 1972 executive board will consist of R. R. Blood, John Morsdig, Jim Hill, George Maston and Alex Ginnis.

Southern California Pensioners

The following officers have been elected by the Southern California Pensioners' Group: Harold Bilhare, president; Al Langley, vice-president; Walt Mafhaf, recording secretary; Tom Entwisle, night dispatcher; Steve Johnson will be vice-president, Harold Brown; secretary, H. E. Irving; rapporteur, Billier; financial secretary, Eddy Contras; assistant secretary, Joe Bayer, recording secretary; Louis Sisto, assistant treasurer; Wilson Jones, Johnny Martin, Ed Lewis, Maurice Schwartz, trustees; Claude Stots, Sr., Ray Brant, E. Melville and Louis Stang; delegates to the Southern California District Council; Bill Lawrence, Joe McCabe, Ed CMitchell and John Trowbridge; president will be Don Miniken. Ed Kampanos continues as recording secretary.

SANDY, Ore.—Tragedy struck the family of Local 8 member Earl "Bud" Smith December 15 when a pre-dawn fire destroyed his home, took the life of his son, 14, and sent his wife, Louise, to the hospital with first and second degree burns.

A daughter, Teina Danette, 13, was also treated for burns.

Mayors and auxiliary members did what they could to aid the stricken family. A collection of over $2,000 was taken up at the Local 8 hall and given to Smith a few days after Christmas.

Local 60, Cordova

The following officers were elected to head Local 60, Cordova, Alaska, for 1972. President, Steve Ujik; vice-president, Harold Brown; secretary, Knute Johnson; dispatcher, Steve Ujik; assistant dispatcher, Francis Nestor; LRC, Larry Kittchen, William Sisk; evaution committee, William Miller, Jackisco; stewards, Peter LaPlante, Roy A. Ehr was elected assistant business agent, replacing Jess Hill, who retired.

Local 66, Cordova

The following officers were elected to head Local 66, Cordova, Alaska, for 1972. President, Steve Ujik; vice-president, Harold Brown; secretary, Knute Johnson; dispatcher, Steve Ujik; assistant dispatcher, Francis Nestor; LRC, Larry Kittchen, William Sisk; evaution committee, William Miller, Jackisco; stewards, Peter LaPlante, Roy A. Ehr was elected assistant business agent, replacing Jess Hill, who retired.

Local 75, San Francisco

Denver Davis, president, was re-elected without opposition to head Local 75, San Francisco. Robert Johnson will be vice-president, and Joseph D. McLaughlin was elected business agent/secretary-treasurer.

Canadian Local Elections

Local 506, Marine Checkers

Vancouver, B.C. — ILWU locals throughout the Canadian Area have completed their local union elections for the 1972 season with the following results.

Local 500, Vancouver

President, Frank Kennedy; vice president, Norm Lee; secretary-treasurer, Don Lanovoci, and business agents, A. H. Barker, Dave Lomas, R. E. Fleming.

Local 502, New Westminster

President, Dick Chambers; vice president, Joe Breaks; secretary-treasurer, Bruce Ferguson; business agents, Bob Prince, Fred Healy, Gerry White, Jack Dei; and dispatcher, Norm Macdonald.

Local 503, Port Alberni

President, Bob Dubbin; vice president, George Knottmank; secretary-treasurer, Dave Beaumont; and business agent, Bob Dubbin.

Local 504, Victoria

President, Stan Ball; vice president, Bill Hadding; secretary-treasurer, Gus Snelling; and second dispatcher, norm Macdonald.

Local 505, Prince Rupert

President, Bill Piffield; vice president, Ed Pipfield; secretary-treasurer, A. Maxweiller; business agent, Jim Schiller; and dispatcher, A. Maxweiller.

Agribusiness Would Bust Strikes

SALEM — State governments were urged to stand the implications of the Act, the Labor Department suggests.

The agribusiness group also ap-}

Local 40, Portland

Clerks Local 40, Portland, has elected the following officers for 1972:

President, Ed Strader; vice-president, Hartzel Siron; secretary- treasurer, Robert L. Goodin; business agent, Doug Hanson; dispatchers, J. K. Stranahan and Larry Rowe; relief dispatcher, Duane Clark; sergeant-at-arms, Walt Mykol; recording secretary, Troy Simon; vice president, Howard J. Manes won re-election as business agent.

A run-off election between Max Aragon and Frank Lopez for the vice-president position this month; there will be a run-off also between Lorenzo Gonzales and George K. Lee for one of the business agent positions.

Earle Barnett was named recording secretary, and Solomon will be sergeant-at-arms.

Also elected were: trustees, Joseph E. Cox, Robert Floyd, Billy Hudgins, Richard Newville, Dave Valle and Shaffie Giffries; Southern California Pensioners; president, Allan Wallace Adams, Robert Flood, Kenneth Gaterwood, Paul Peters, Louis Roth, Wil Solomon and James Westall.

In the community division, Richard Childschaft, vice-president, and Jean Rader was named recording secretary.

Guide to Safety Bill

All ILWU locals have received copies of the Labor Department's reference work which should be distributed to the officers and stewards who will help them understand the implications of the Act, the Labor Department suggests.

Dockers, Widows On Pension List

SAN FRANCISCO — Following is the January, 1972, list of dock workers retired under various ILWU-PMA plans:


The widows are: Bille R. Acklin, (Frank E.); Margaret A. Belluhans, (William D.); William J. Cole, (George T.); Lillian Corley, (James F.); Dolores Foster, (Loyd J.); Margaret A. Maffin, (Edward M.); Elizabeth Giesseman, (Roger); Helen McFadden, (Edward M.); Zolota Hayes, (John B.); Olive Johnson, (Albert J.); Clara Knae, (Charles St.); Wanda Johnson, (Lloyd D.); Mansanta Lenewe, (Vern); Louise Lisenby, (Allen G.); Lois Lanyon, (Charles H.); Rachel Alvey Marvin, (George); Edna R. Malo, (Harold C.); Freida Miller, (Henry W.); (German L.); Anne B. Prescott, (Robert); Amanda Ross, (Johnnie); Mary A. Underwood, (Lilian M. Smith, (Ralefe J.); Ver- vy Virdin, (Vilicon); Margaret Wilkey, (Frank W.).

Names in brackets are the first names of deceased husbands.
In January, 1971, 6 percent of all Americans in the labor force were out of work. By December, 1971 it was 6.1%.

In a nutshell that's the best way of summing up what's been going on in the American economy for the past 12 months.

1) The activity in Washington—the wage-price freeze, the import surcharge, Phase 2, devaluation of the dollar—meant that there has changed for the vast majority of American working men and women and their families.

Prices and unemployment keep going up, the level of real spendable income keeps going down.

WORKERS BLAMED

The basic theme of administration economic policy during the last year was that wage settlements are the main cause of inflation; and that if you control wage increases and don’t bother profits, that will somehow end unemployment.

One of the first signs that the President was prepared to do something drastic to “aid” the faltering economy came in March when it was reported that the number of areas suffering substantial unemployment was higher than at any time in the previous eight years. Clinton H. Anderson, the President suspended the 1931 Davis-Bacon Act, which required building contractors to pay union wages to workers on federally assisted projects.

President Nixon explained his action by arguing that big wage settlements in the construction industry were to blame for high construction costs. He charged that average annual wage of a construction worker is only $8,481 didn’t seem to matter.

The prediction that unemployment hitting youth and minority group members and returning veterans would be especially hard, Nixon reinstated the Davis-Bacon Act. That was only after he had set up a series of wage commissions in the construction trades to oversee all collective bargaining.

Industrial Poison

Worst Part
Of Environmental Problem

WASHINGTON, D.C.—By far, the worst problem of America’s environment is its effect on industrial workers, according to consumer advocate Ralph Nader.

Nader charged that thousands were still being killed and injured needlessly because of failure to enact the 1970 Occupational Safety and Health Act. An associate of Nader, Dr. Sidney Wolfe—pointed out that punishment for violation of the act was minimal and that inspections were superficial.

Big Negotiating Year for BC Labor

VANCOUVER, B.C.—The contracts of 200,000 organized workers in British Columbia come up for renewal this year. The ILWU longshore contract expires July 31, 1972.

Other labor unions involved in bargaining this year include the woodworkers, construction trades, stevedores, teamsters, postal workers and British Columbia government employees.

This is the Federation of Labor—to which the ILWU in Canada is affiliated—has been holding discussions with all its affiliates in order to coordinate demands and to bring the united support of all labor behind each union involved.

Speaking last month at a conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Nader said that the exposure of millions of workers to industrial poisons in factories, mines and foundries is “the most savage form of domestic violence that this country has ever been exposed to.”

Several hundred scientists were present at a panel discussion of industrial poisons at which Nader, Anthony Mazzocchi, safety director of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, and others participated.

The panelists drew particular attention to “black lung disease,” which affects coal miners, and “adverse lung disease,” which is caused by the inhalation of cotton dust by textile workers; and other diseases which damage the lung tissues of workers in glass and asbestos plants.

Nader suggested that:

• Industries must be forced to reveal the chemical content of the chemicals they use when a health hazard appears.

• Lead smelters must insist on full enforcement of all industrial safety laws, especially the National Safety and Health Act of 1970.

• The problem of health in industry be recognized by the scientific community as a major claim on the “scientific conscience,” so that new, safer industrial processes can be designed.

Also a Price Commission was set up, staffed by others with business backgrounds, which proceeded to grant wave after wave of “exemption” to corporations seeking to raise prices.

Thus in no way was the real issue of unemployment attacked.

The Pay Board, hampered by colossal inefficiency and intergroup rivalry, permitted a substantial raise for coal miners to go through in November, but at a New Year began, cracked down hard on labor by dumping a new wave of complaints in the aerospace industry.

DEVALUATION

The President capped off his economic year by devaluing the dollar by over seven percent. The effect of this devaluation was to: (1) Make imports more expensive; (2) Race down the barriers to US exports, making American goods more competitive overseas.

This was supposed to deal with the problem of unemployment, by increasing American exports. According to the Wall Street Journal and other business magazines, the actual effect on unemployment will be minimal; and it may take two years for the effect to be felt. Only then can we say for sure how much of any effect the devaluation will have on any effect on the job picture.

By encouraging American business to be more competitive, the administration opens the door to increased political intervention to protect private American property in foreign countries. In the past this has led the United States into unwanted, unjust and hugely expensive military adventures overseas.

As the year ended, the Nixon administration was claiming that 500,000 new jobs would be created by devaluation of the dollar. But labor’s unions pointed out that the multi-national corporations—US corporations enjoying huge foreign interests and holdings overseas—would profit most by devaluation.

While Nader devalue the devaluation may stimulate employment in export-related industries at least temporarily, it doesn’t at all. That will counterbalance the continuing export of US technology and jobs by US corporations and their foreign “subsidiaries” said John F. Henning, secretary-treasurer of the California State AFL-CIO.

“Devaluation,” Henning continued “of a nation’s currency is a symptom of economic disorder. It is economic disorder. And it signals the urgent need for immediate corrective surgery on the nation’s foreign trade and corporate tax laws.”

As the ILWU International Convention in April, 1971 pointed out, the surest way to develop a full and balanced recovery is to put more money into the hands of consumers—by increasing income, controlling increasing wages, and reducing taxes.

Letters to the Editor

The 19th Biennial Convention of the ILWU passed a resolution setting up a “Letters to the Editor” column as a regular Dispatcher feature.

No letters falling within the guidelines established by the Convention have as yet been received. These guidelines are:

• Letters must be “limited to the discussion of policies of the International union and subject to reasonable ground rules concerning availability of space, timeliness, membership interest and balanced interpretation from all areas of the union.”

• Letters must be a maximum of 300 words in length.

• Letters must be from a member of the ILWU signed with the individual’s name and local number.