Pay Board Shaves ILA Contract

Union, Employer Plan to Appeal

WASHINGTON, DC — The Pay Board voted by six to one, Monday, March 28, to reduce by less than the 12.1 percent first-year boost in wages for North Atlantic dockworkers, back to 9.8 percent.

All of the so-called public members of the Pay Board voted to make the cut—only Teamster general president Frank Fitzsimmons voted in favor of the pact.

The ILA and the CONASA (Council of North Atlantic Shipping Associations) have jointly agreed to appeal the Pay Board's decision which reduced their negotiated contract increases from 70 cents per hour to 55 cents per hour.

In a joint statement both parties expressed the hope that the board would grant the 15 cents which it lopped off the settlement.

The ILA and CONASA have set a joint session of their full negotiating committees on Wednesday, May 17, 1972.

They have asked that the cuts in the Pay Board decision be restored on the basis of improvements in productivity savings anticipated during the life of the three year agreement. It is understood that an effort will be made to restore the 15 cents on the second year increment.

ILA and New York shippers had argued that the contract as proposed would actually have amounted to an 8.1 percent rise because of tighter rules on the operation of the Port of New York’s guaranteed annual income plan.

In testimony earlier this month before the Pay Board, President “Teddy” Gleason claimed that the ILA contracts were “noninflationary” and would “help the national economy.”

OTHER PORTS

Cuts were also made in contracts covering New Orleans and Texas ports. Although the percentage of cuts varies from area to area, the resulting hourly straight-time rates will remain the same. Differences will remain on pensions, vacations, welfare and other fringe.

The Board ruled on agreements covering 50,000 ILA workers.

The ILA case was the first big contract run by the Pay Board since four labor members walked off in March.

Medical Plan Choice

May 1–31, 1972

Leaflets on Health Plan choice are in the hands in Los Angeles, Portland, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, and Tacoma.

Active and retired longshore families in these ports have the opportunity to change medical plans during the choice period ending May 31.

Dock Agreement to Take Effect

Pay Board Blocks Escrow Plan

NEW YORK — An emergency meeting of leaders from 13 international unions here May 2 agreed to call a broadly based national conference to set up a new permanent labor organization aimed at ending “rift” and would “help the national economy.”

In announcing their plans for Labor for Peace, the labor leaders stated that the war in Vietnam is "an issue of our lives, women and children.

The new organization — “Labor for Peace” — will be launched at a conference of officers and delegates representing local and regional bodies, and international unions scheduled for June 23-24 in St. Louis.

Among those present were Louis Goldblatt, ILWU secretary-treasurer; Emil Mazy, secretary-treasurer of the United Automobile Workers; Frank Rosenblum, secretary-treasurer of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (AFL-CIO) and Murray Finley, vice president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers; Harry Gibson, vice president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Fred Pulford, president of the United Furniture Workers of America, (AFL-CIO).

Also among the original signers were Ralph Hoxie, Clipper Club; Marvin Goldsmith; and Aba Peinigas, vice presidents of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America; Leon Sverdlove, president of the International Jewelry Workers Union, AFL-CIO; and Myra K. Wolfgang, vice president of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees’ and Bartenders’ International Union (AFSCME).

In announcing their plans for Labor for Peace, the labor leaders stated that the war in Vietnam is a basic cause of current economic problems facing working people. Only an immediate end to the war, they stated, can:

• End the crippling inflation that keeps the labor on a constant treadmill and robs all the American people.
• Make it possible for the US to use the resources now being squandered in Vietnam to meet the needs of our cities.
• Repair the division in our society and end the alienation of our youth.
• Put an immediate end to the slaughter of tens of thousands of our youth and of millions of Vietnamese men, women and children.

The contract will be put into effect as negotiated—with the exception of the approximately 32 cents an hour sliced off by the Pay Board.

This decision climaxed a week of intense activity among longshore negotiators which began May 3 when US District Judge Albert Wolkenberg ruled that there was nothing to stop the ILWU and the PMA from negotiating an agreement placing all wages and benefits cut—only Teamster general president Frank Fitzsimmons voted in favor of the pact.

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LABOR'S NEW MOVE

NEW YORK — An emergency meeting of leaders from 13 international unions here May 2 agreed to call a broadly based national conference to set up a new permanent labor organization aimed at ending "rift," and would "help the national economy."
Story of a Woman Worker

"TWO YEARS AGO I came to this place, Brownsville, where so many of my people are, and where I have friends. I got work in a factory making undershirts... I earned $4.50 a week and lived on $2.00 a week, the same as before.

"At 7 o'clock we all sit down to our machines and the hot light and exhaustion of the work. But he or she is to finish the work by 6 o'clock in the day. The machines go like mad all day, because the faster you work the more money you get.

"Often in haste I get my finger caught in the moving parts. Sometimes in my haste I get my finger caught and the needle goes right through it. It goes so quick through, that it does not hurt much. I bind the finger up with a piece of cotton and go on working. We all have accidents like that.

"All the time we are working the boss walks about, examining the finished garments and making us do them over again if they are not just right, so we have to be careful as well as swift.

When this woman garment worker went home, she took some more work with her—just as the woman shown above walked through the streets of Brooklyn at the turn of the century for protective legislation.

"IN THE WORDS of Myra K. Wolfgang, vice president of the Hotel & Restaurant Employees Union, the proposed Equal Rights Amendment would bring women only "an equality of mistrustment by employers.

"Thus, representatives of working class women have argued for the extension to women of protective legislation before any unamended ERA is passed. Failing that, women have asked for an Equal Rights Amendment which specifies the continuation of protection for women workers—only 20 percent of whom are covered by union contracts.

"We are afraid that if the amendment is passed as is, there will be many more joining the young woman in the picture—walking home carrying piece work.

THE PRIORITY of the United States has tremendous power, as Commander-in-Chief. He can use these powers and forces, to take war or to help in the making of peace.

The big question before the nation right now, and for that matter before the whole world, is whether the President's 4-point program of mining the Vietnam harbors—thus possibly attacking Soviet shipping—and stepped up bombing directed especially at cutting off supplies from China, will result in some form of peaceful settlement in Southeast Asia or move the tragic mess toward a world war.

It's a fairly safe bet the overwhelming majority of the nation's political leaders, as pumpernickel politicians they are, are not going to step up to the plate and say take away these cases indicate it probably would invalidate half-hour lunch breaks and ten-minute rest periods for office workers and a minimum wage.

The Equal Rights Amendment as long as other measures to maintain protective legislation and extend them to men are passed. Without such action the state's $1.65 minimum wage and other state laws also affording women minimal assurances and adequate working conditions would be wiped out by the amendment in its present form.

"Employers would be free to work women in many industries until they dropped dead," said John F. Henning, executive officer of the California State AFL-CIO.

For example, it could be argued, if the amendment passed, that the protective legislation had to be eliminated because the courts have held that protective laws for women discriminate against their employ- ment since employers are obliged to grant women protections that they are not obliged to grant to men—and thus they refuse to hire women.

ON AN IMPORTANT matter the whole security and future of all the Soviet people is at stake, the group that will make the decision are the workers organized and speaking through their trade unions.

And, from what trade union leaders told me, no amount of insults or provocation by the US against the Soviet Union will provoke the country into coming long or going up and away if Nixon's plan to smash North Vietnamese resistance means having to go to war with the Soviet Union and defeat that great nation too.

"Lucky for us here in the USA the decision of whether or not to go to war with the Soviets will primarily be made in and by the Soviet Union. And from what I saw myself in that country during an official visit in 1965, such a decision must have the endorsement and support of the Soviet trade unions to even get to first base.

And that's just the way things are in the Soviet Republics and don't anybody kid you or tell you otherwise.

S O, THE QUESTION as to whether President Nixon's new offensive or the war in Vietnam will push the Soviet Union into going to war even if some of its ships are attacked and sunk can only be answered by the Soviet Union, and I think we can say that it is quite possible that they might.

Neither can the Chinese, large and powerful as they are, do much to challenge the US, although that country, too, has demonstrated its ability to defend itself if attacked. For China to be effective, however, in any confrontation with the US, away from its own borders, is hardly in the cards.

The big question before the nation right now, and for that matter before the whole world, is whether the President and the generals in charge of stepping up the war in Southeast Asia are well aware of the risk to the country's own vital interests in China and in Africa and in Asia.

It can be assumed that the President and the generals in charge of stepping up the war in Southeast Asia are well aware of the risk to the country's own vital interests in China and in Africa and in Asia.

The 4-point program of stepped up attacks spelled out in his speech to the American people, followed by the 5-point program of稞posed cease fire, freeing political prisoners, withdrawal of all American forces, certainly appears to be the means of getting many of the American people. It should not take too long, the way the North Vietnamese forces have been fighting and advancing, to determine what the outcome of Mr. Nixon's stepped up attacks will be.

At this stage of the game they seem doomed to failure; but at least the President and his generals realize something that has been apparent for a long time to anyone who really thinks things through, and that is that we are faced in Vietnam with a war we wake up and get the hell out of that area of the world the better off our country and all the people of the world will be.
Compulsory Arbitration Showdown Near

by Pat Tobin
ILWU Washington Representative

WASHINGTON, DC — Senator Frank Church of Idaho is fronting for the Nixon Administration in a renewed effort to enact the Administration's pending "Transportation Crisis Prevention Act of 1972."

This bill co-sponsored by 28 senators and one representative, calls for compulsory arbitration on labor disputes in the transportation industry.

As a member of the Senate Labor Committee, Senator Church has demanded that his bill or similar legislation be passed by the committee and sent to the floor of the Senate no later than May 19; otherwise, he threatened to attach his bill as an amendment to any legislation before the Senate, such as the minimum wage bill.

UNIONS COORDINATE WORK

The threat of compulsory arbitration has led to ongoing coordination between all unions in the transport industry. Legislative representatives of all the major unions are meeting weekly to coordinate their lobbying efforts against the bill. These meetings are attended by representatives of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the Maritime Transporters, the AFL-CIO, the AFL-CIO Maritime Committee, United Transport Union, the National Maritime Union, Rail Labor Executives Association, and Railways and Airports Labor Union.

For personal reasons, AFL-CIO general counsel, Martin Armstrong, and former Local 6 president, Max Kelley, have not been able to join the meetings.

Coincidentally, an organization called "Coordinated Workers Concerns," (UTC) was formed in Portland, Oregon, last month to subsidize and coordinate efforts to pass Packwood's bill.

UTC's announced aim is to publicize the demands of the workers for fair and forceful legislation that assures equitable settlement of labor-management disputes, and guarantees uninterrupted service.

Georgia-Pacific's Washington representative, John Allen, has been named temporary chairman. The group also consists of representatives of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah, Canada, Allied Chemicals, Weyerhauser, US Plywood and 10 other major corporations.

It is no coincidence that the finance chairman of Senator Packwood, who sponsored his Senate seat was also the board chairman of Georgia-Pacific.

The labor lobbyists are urging that an immediate campaign be initiated in all unions at the local level to:

• Continue extensive joint lobbying in Washington, of all senators and congressmen.
• Urge all areas and local legislative committees and lobbyists to send delegations to visit congressmen in their home districts.
• Set up immediate telegram and letter-writing campaigns to congressmen and senators, putting pressure on this vital issue.

LONGSHORE COMP

Proposals to increase benefits under the longshoremen and lc: Workers' Compensation Act were the subject of congressional hearings last month to aid a worker to receive two-thirds of his wages as weekly compensation.

The law will be amended in 2 months. The maximum benefit is frozen at $70 per week, even though the law required a worker to receive two-thirds of his wages as weekly compensation.

SOCIAL SECURITY

There is a flurry of activity in regard to increasing social security benefits and extending Medicare coverage.

Wilbur Mills, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, has introduced a bill providing for a 28 percent across the board increase based on the fact that the social security fund can accommodate such an increase.

Senator Frank Church of Idaho introduced a companion measure in the Senate last year and 31 Senators have pledged support.

The Senate finance committee hearings on the measure have been going on in executive session since mid-March. The Nixon administration is attempting to hold Republican senators to a five percent increase. The Senate is likely to vote on this legislation sometime in June.

This is another issue which I recommend locals raise with their congressmen.

PRIVATE PENSION PLANS

The Senate Labor and Education Committee recently completed an in-depth report on private pension plans such as ours. As a result of hearings and the report, Senator Harrison Williams, Chairman of the Committee, is drawing up a bill which should be introduced sometime in late May or June.

This bill would have to be held by the Senate, with an effort to vote out this legislation in this session of Congress. More on the Senate vote this month.

We have lobbied here in Washington to urge our membership to show full support (1) an adequate National Health Insurance Act; (2) raising the minimum wage to $7.50; (3) a $2.25 an hour with complete cover.

age for all workers; (3) national no-fault auto insurance, which survived an effort to kill it in this session in bill is being drawn up and will go to the National Commerce Committee. A Senate floor vote may be scheduled in the next report.

Local 6 Moves on Sex Discrimination

SAN FRANCISCO — In order to end sex discrimination in the hiring of longshoremen, the Executive Committee has ordered that men and women members be dispatched from only one terminal to any given job.

Last month, there were about 300 local 6 women working in the San Francisco, Oakland and Peninsula hiring halls.

Also, Local 6 will inform all of its members of the contemplated job opportunities for men and female seniority lists into one list.

This action will now go before membership meetings for approval.

Right to Strike

"Nobody has the power or authority to waive the right to strike. IBT president Frank Frith Simmons told delegates to a recent Canadian Teamsters conference. "Any individual who would give up such a right should be thrown out of the labor movement."

Island Dock Talks Still Stalled

HONOLULU—Negotiations for an agreement covering Hawaii’s 900 ILWU longshoremen have been suspended.

International president Harry Bridges and vice president William Chester held a weekend meeting but returned to the mainland when there was no indication they will return to the islands to resume negotiations in several days.

DEMANDS

Island longshore employees received a set of demands on April 28 but refused to cost them out and accept them. The demands are as follows:

Wages — The same as the West Coast agreement for the first year and 40 cents an hour the second year.

Pensions — Mandatory retirement at age 62 with $150 bridge, a total of $500 until age 65 with 25 years of service, retroactive to July 1, 1971.

Guarantee — 38 hours based on a 4-week period statewide — adjustment can senators to a five percent increase in social security benefits.

Disability — Adjustments to be made in the Social Security disability insurance. Extend the waiting period from the present 60 days to 90 days, to 90 days to 120 days, and then after two years and then transfer to the disability pension. Increase sick leave from 1,000 to 1,500 hours.

Holidays — One additional paid holiday — Labor Day (September 5).

Skill rates — The same skill rates as negotiated on the West Coast.

The Senate finance committee will consider the proposed medical benefits. Dental, same as mainland coverage and $15,000 life insurance.

Honor Attachment 18 and cost out the total package.

Retroactive pay to July 1, 1971.

The employers are demanding that Local 142 accept the same total money package as all the locals in the contract—which was won by West Coast longshoremen in February.

Union negotiators have rejected this demand on the grounds that the West Coast package would not buy the same benefits in Hawaii because of the extra cost of fringe benefits and the 30-hour guarantee on the islands.

Mediating the dispute are Supreme Court Justices Bork, Haynai and Reynolds of the federal mediation and conciliation service.

Canadian Dockers Demands

VANCOUVER, BC — Increased wages, pensions and weekend benefits will be some of the key demands put before the Canadian Area ILWU when discussions on a new longshore contract begin May 12.

The demands were developed by the delegates to last month’s area caucus. The present contract expires July 31, 1972.

The demands, as outlined in an issue of the Canadian Area "Waterfront News" include:

• Pensions and Welfare: Increase of weekly indemnity benefits; dental benefits for adults; continued coverage for long term disability; elimination of workmen's compensation.

• Hours of work—employment on the job: present shift schedules to be maintained; no extension of shifts; cooperation of Article 24 (dealing with placement of men on the job) to truly reflect the union’s position.

Once again, recognition and location: locals to have full control in determining methods of dispatch; scope and recognition regulation amended to gain all work for ILWU; proper implementation of apprenticeship program; integrate definition of checking contract; proper implementation of apprenticeship program; policies an agreement should be written into collective agreement.

Canadian Area Elects All Incumbents

VANCOUVER, BC — Don Garcia has been elected to serve another term as president of the ILWU Canadian Area. Garcia defeated former president Robert Peebles.

Vern Goodfellow was elected first vice president; Ken O’Grady, second vice president; and Dave Lomas, third vice president.

International president Harry Bridges was elected secretary treasurer and D. Cole was named to a four-year term as trustee.

Members of the area also elected a 16-man area Executive Board.

This is the first time in the history of the Canadian Area that all incumbents have been returned. The contract next expires July 31, 1972; preliminary steps aimed at revision of the contract, based on the demands of the April 28, 1972, agreement, have already been taken.
A Warm Welcome

The workers appeared very happy and were very warm toward us. We were received in a large room around a table where tea and coffee and cookies were served. Committee members were for the most part very young. There was music and male and female vocalists sang for us. Before it ended, everyone was singing and clapping. It was a tremendous experience.

On the narrow road a constant stream of bicyclists and people walking went by. Our three shiny black cars made quite an impression. Everyone stopped and stared. When we would wave, everyone would smile and wave back, especially the children.

The houses of the peasants were very poor, bamboo frames covered with mud and thatched roofs. We saw much road repair work. No machinery was used except a mechanical roller to pack the road bed. Every other operation was being performed by hand.

We stopped for tea at Haiphong, the big port city of North Vietnam. A big cement plant lay in ruins from our bombing; planes, artillery, supplies, command assistance and political influence. The houses of the peasants were very poor, bamboo frames covered with mud and thatched roofs. We saw much road repair work. No machinery was used except a mechanical roller to pack the road bed. Every other operation was being performed by hand.

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Between March 17 and 24, three prominent US labor leaders visited Hanoi — Harold Gibbons, International Brotherhood of Teamsters vice president; Clifton Caldwell, vice president of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen; and David Livingston, secretary-treasurer of the Distributive Workers of America.

The visitors — the first labor delegation to visit North Vietnam — had three goals in mind; to establish friendly relations with North Vietnamese unionists; to "see for ourselves" what the war had meant; and to visit American prisoners of war.

While in Hanoi, Harold Gibbons kept a diary in which he recorded his impressions of life in North Vietnam, and his discussions with the nation's leadership. Here are some selections from the diary, as published in the Missouri Teamster for April 21, 1972.

We had our first long briefing session on the morning of March 18 in a session with Mr. Luu Quoi Ky, General Secretary of Journalists Association of Vietnam.

He told us that the Vietnamese "will never agree to the US scheme to retain South Vietnam as a US colony." He told us the "struggle is for the real independence of our people. Only with independence can we have freedom."

He explained to us that in the North Vietnamese view, Vietnamization is merely a continuation of the war with puppet troops and US planes, artillery, supplies, command assistance and political influence.

He suggested that there is no civil war but that the US set up a puppet government "to make us fight each other."

After lunch on Saturday, we visited the Museum of War. On display were large photos of the war, captured tanks and guns, remains of planes shot down and types of fragmentation bombs with pictures of victims. They were horrible to look at.

On Sunday, March 19, we visited a museum of the workers and research center which was established in 1971. We were warmly welcomed by the director of the center who knew of our involvement in the anti-war movement and expressed the hope that our trip will improve relations.

Over tea, bananas, candy and cigarettes he explained to us the Democratic Republic of Vietnam's concern for the protection of workers. The constitution of the country includes specific provisions for the protection of workers.

The center has exhibits on safety equipment and safety procedures. It publishes material on safety and conducts lectures, both at the center and in factories. It also plans safety measures and sets safety standards.

On Monday, March 20, we received a briefing on the Vietnamese labor movement from Mr. Le Van, secretary of the Federation of the Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions, at the federation's headquarters.

History of Unionism

He told us that unions were founded around 1929 and 1930. Before that time they had existed mostly as mutual aid societies. Between 1930 and 1945, the French suppressed unions. Unions went underground and joined the fight against oppression. Above ground they existed only as mutual aid societies. After 1945 they came again in the open.

In 1946, unions again joined in the resistance against France. Their biggest task was to build production to support the resistance. Production facilities were moved to the countryside. During the US bombing the task became to work and fight at the same time. Factories were further decentralized and production is still dispersed. The federation sees as its task the improvement of skills of workers, mutual aid, the building of team spirit on the job and the increasing of class consciousness of workers.

Unions are responsible for the health, safety, recreation, education and character building, pensions and housing of workers. Our host showed great interest in the US labor movement, its standards and struggles and about the status of the anti-war movement in the American labor movement.

After lunch we visited a cotton yarn mill where we were received by the manager and members of the board. Our introduction by the trade union representative was greeted with loud applause. Our visit was described as a sign of friendship between American and Vietnamese workers.

Results of Bombing

Among more bomb targets we saw was a workers rest home in a beautiful setting. The big structure had been completed in 1964 only to be destroyed in 1965. It could hardly have been a military target. It made one very sad to see the destruction our country brought about in this beautiful area.

Daily our esteem for the Vietnamese people rises. They are kind to a fault, extremely friendly despite the fact that we are Americans. There has never been a hostile gesture toward us anywhere, in the stores, on the streets or at our hotel. This includes the large crowds at the circus we attended. Everyone when we go, we draw crowds but they are friendly.

We wonder how Americans can be at war with these people. Where did they receive their independence from the French and drafted a constitution, they took the Preamble to our Constitution verbatim because they admired America. As they interpreted the events, the US has struck to make South Vietnam an area of US influence.
Upon their return to the US, Gibbons, Caldwell and Livingston published a joint report to the American people on their trip. Following are some excerpts, published in "The Nation," April 24.

In the first days of the visit our hosts went to Hanoi, where we found ourselves in a place infused with a new sense of urgency. The escalation of bombing of the North will have results which just as he understood that Americans didn't want a Communist government in the United States, so he understood that the South Vietnamese at this point did not want a Communist takeover, but wanted instead a genuinely independent, neutralist government.

In reply to questions from Harold Gibbons (he was our single spokesman in talking with the prisoners) both Captain Hawley and Commander Wilber seemed alert and responsive. When he discovered that we were labor people, Wilber asked questions about the wage freeze and unemployment and other aspects of the problem in the United States. His questions could not have been more sympathetic.

We cannot believe that the massive resumption of bombing of the North will have results different from those following the bombings of 1965 to 1968. If anything, we believe, it will be counterproductive, serving to unify the North Vietnamese and to align the world against us.

We went on our mission to Hanoi convinced opponents of this immoral and senseless war. We have been deepened in our conviction and infused with a new sense of urgency. The escalation of the war, the bombing of the North, steadily removes our chances for a peace settlement and a fair major organization for peace. In the next few weeks, we will get together with other labor leaders to sponsor a meeting in St. Louis of many union officials as we can assemble. Our aim is to form a genuinely labor organization against the war. We are convinced that the sentiments of the overwhelming majority of the workers, the unions, the organized workers, is against the war, but no vehicle exists for the expression of that sentiment.

Labor for Peace

Working people suffer more from the war than does any other section of the population. Bearing our share of casualties and losses in our families, we have an additional burden in the form of higher prices and restrictions on our wages. The peace movement is somehow unable to reflect fully all our concerns. We need a specific organization to give expression to labor's special needs. It is for this reason that we establish a specific labor organization against the war. We are convinced that the sentiments of the overwhelming majority of the workers, the unions, the organized workers, is against the war, but no vehicle exists for the expression of that sentiment.

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Job Safety: A Record of Law Enforcement

The Occupational Safety and Health Act was passed to protect workers from situations like this. Back in 1966, this Coos Bay dock had been checked out by Oregon State safety inspectors shortly before it gave out. Now the Nixon administration is seeking once again to turn over the job of occupational safety enforcement back to the states.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act went into effect almost exactly one year ago. Since then, the Nixon Administration has been guilty of "foot dragging, lax enforcement and adulteration of the provisions of the law protecting the rights of workers," according to AFL-CIO legislative director Andrew J. Biemiller.

"The goals of the law have been debased and their achievement needlessly frustrated and delayed," said Biemiller recently.

The bill passed with intensive labor pressure behind it because of the growing realization that the industrial workplace was one of the most dangerous places in America. According to a report by consumer advocate Ralph Nader, "as a form of violence, job casualties are statistically at least three times more serious than street crime and with each new discovery or more documentation of a hitherto neglected exposure to gases, chemicals, particulates, radiation or noise the epidemic looms larger and the possible genetic damage seems to be more likely to affect future generations."

At least 15,000 workers die each year in on-the-job accidents and another two million suffer disabling injuries. Other serious injuries are ten times as common which means that there are approximately 25 million serious injuries on the job every year.

This does not take into account diseases caused by the hundreds of new toxic chemicals which are developed each year. The problems caused by long term, low level exposure to chemicals, noise and other silent killers in the workplace are often neglected by industrial doctors.

A Good Beginning

The bill has several strong provisions and was greeted by labor at the time of its passage as a major step forward in protecting workers from job-induced accidents and disease.

Safety inspectors may enter any plant at any reasonable time. Employees have the right to request inspections and to accompany the inspector on his tour. The Labor Department must respond to all written requests.

But the law also has several major loopholes:

- Inspectors may not close a plant, but must go to a federal district court for a court order.
- Fines are insignificant. Procedures can be prolonged for years, quickly exhausting the resources of unions with limited funds.
- The average fine for violations during the first few months of enforcement was all of $2.

"The $62 average is an awfully cheap price tag on the lives and health of workers. Many employers will quickly determine that it is cheaper to violate the law than to correct a hazard," Biemiller pointed out.

- The law seeks to return the responsibility for inspection and enforcement to the states by January, 1976. But there has been adequate state interest and action in the past the need for federal action would have been minimal.

Section 18 provides a means for states to regain total responsibility for the Act's enforcement. States must submit their enforcement plan to OSHA by December 1972. Fifty-six percent of OSHA's budget goes to develop state plans.

According to Senator Harrison Williams, one of the authors of the Act, the Labor Department is so anxious to involve the states that it is willing to approve plans based on vague promises that a state would sometime in the future have the authority and ability to fulfill its commitments.

- In addition, Section 16 allows the Secretary of Labor to provide such "reasonable tolerances, exemptions to and from any or all provisions of this Act as he may find necessary and proper to avoid serious impairment to the national defense."

Weak Enforcement

But the major stumbling block has not been the law itself, but deliberately weak enforcement by the Nixon Administration. The big problem has been underfinancing of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The federal budget for fiscal 1973 requests $75.5 million for administration of the law—an 85 percent increase over 1972. But half of this increase is earmarked to help the states regain control over the entire program.

There are only some 315 health and safety inspectors in the US at this time—and at the present rate it will take them 176 years to inspect each of the 4.1 million workplaces covered by law.

Funding for research on safety has also been called "pitiful" by the safety director of Dupont Corporation.

No Labor Role

Labor unions have charged that the president has been unwilling to give workers or unions an important role in implementing the bill.

OSHA has hired inspectors mainly coming out of business or government backgrounds. None are unionists. For inspectors, OSHA has a one-week long training course in industrial hygiene to teach sample collection. There have been no training programs to teach workers how to identify or measure hazards in the workplace.

"Regrettably," according to Biemiller, "the Nixon Administration regards organized labor's views on the subject of job and health as those of an interloper. Our proposals and recommendations are disregarded, ignored or opposed."

In addition, although workers are entitled to accompany an inspector on a tour of a particular plant, a recent Labor Department ruling forces them to do so on their own time.

Only company employees may accompany the inspector. Therefore union-paid staff — some of whom may be experts on Industrial safety — may be excluded. Company pressure on inspectors has already caused the exclusion of worker chosen representatives of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Union from a New Jersey refinery.

At the conclusion of an inspection, the inspector must negotiate with management. Workers can ask to attend but permission can be denied.

Suggestions

A number of amendments to the bill and suggestions for improvement have been proposed. First of all, OSHA is seriously underfinanced.

In its current budget request for OSHA would receive over $147 million more than the AFL-CIO proposal that under the President's plan, a rise of over 190 percent. Part of this increase is provided for by re-channeling nearly $20 million from state programs to Federal enforcement.

While the President's budget would enable his new enforcement officers, bringing the total force up to the maximum of 500 by the end of fiscal 1972, the AFL-CIO proposal would fund a staff of 2,500 inspectors, 115 industrial hygienists.

The Nixon proposal means that there would be only one inspector for every 3,800 workplaces subject to the Act.

Others, including Ralph Nader, have suggested a much stiffer schedule of fines—which would make it so costly for companies to improve health and safety standards that they could no longer afford to overlook the law. "This is the only way we can do," Nader said recently, "is to pull such companies down to the zero profit level . . . and then they would strain to remedy accidents.

Nader has also suggested:

- The inclusion of workers and other independent critics in advisory positions with OSHA.
- Making information and reports dealing with inspections more available to the press and public.
- Opening post-inspection conferences—which are now restricted to the employer and the inspector—to worker representatives.
- Aggressive promotion of OSHA—this might involve the Labor Department sending teams of organizers to various plants to inform workers of their rights under the Act.

But all this would mean a real commitment by the President. As of this date, the Nixon Administration has treated the Occupational Health & Safety Act as a paper program according to a recent United Auto Workers Washington Report.

Only persistent lobbying efforts can improve the bill and force the Nixon Administration, congressmen and senators to make the Act work. And insistence by workers on rigorous enforcement of existing provisions of the Occupational Safety & Health Act can still accomplish the major purpose—saving lives. For a full review of your rights under the Occupational Safety & Health Act, see The Dispatcher for April 5, 1972.
From the Labor Movement

English Dockers Vow Strike

LONDON — Battle lines are being drawn between British longshoremen and management in a major struggle over containerization.

Delegates representing Britain's 55,000 dockers were last week asked to give employers 28 days' strike notice.

According to Tim O'Leary, head of the dock division of the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU), the unions had refused to accept an employers' response to their demand for improved vacations, full-half-year pay (guarantee), and cooperation in the dispute over the right to stuff and strip containers.

CONTAINERS

The container issue has become a most explosive problem in English labor relations over the last few years, with walk-outs over this issue shutting down the ports of Southampton, London, Liverpool for 24 hours on May 1.

Dockers also turned away some containers in London, Manchester and Hull.

The TGWU has already been fined $140,000 because Liverpool dock workers turned some containers away from the port because they were stuffed with low-wage, unskilled labor.

The Tory government is also threatening to seize all of the TGWU's property and assets under the new Industrial Relations Act.

The protest grew to 3,000 on April 16, when an official inquiry recommended that dockers should have the exclusive right to load and unload and that there be no interfering with unstuffing of containers in the Port of London. This report was never acted upon due to massive opposition from the transportation industry.

Head-to-Head

With Nixonomics

EDISON, NJ — More than 2,000 employees of the Pedders Air Conditioning Co. plant here have been on strike for nearly three months -- because Liverpool dock workers turned some containers away from the port because they were stuffed by low-wage, unskilled labor.

The dockers have been on strike for nearly three months, and management has been trying to break them by refusing to agree to simple grievance procedures and arbitration, an attempt to cut wages of some workers.

As many as 600 building trade members by about 50 percent by means of the special rate for "maintenance" work, and refused to sign agreement with the union.

The protest grew to 3,000 on April 20, as another 1,000 workers at the University of California's Medical Center in San Francisco, walked out.

UC Berkeley Workers Strike

BERKELEY — Nearly 3,000 University of California employees are still on strike at the University of California to hold out little hope to the average working man or woman.

The jobless rate last month was unchanged from March's seasonally adjusted 5.8 percent. The government's measure of wholesale prices increased at an adjusted 3.6 percent annual rate, triple the 1.2 percent base of March.

"All we can promise is progress—we obviously haven't gotten there yet," said chairman Herbert Stein of the Council of Economic Advisors.

Mr. Stein was only willing to say that the administration's goal of getting the jobless rate down to around five percent by the end of the year is still a "strong probability."

In a classic statement of "trickle down" economic theory -- which hasn't worked in the whole three years of Nixon's Administration -- Stein said: "The period of greater unemployment is still ahead of us."

He said that the normal process of recovery starts with an increase in profits which stimulates investments, production and employment.

"The process is working," said Mr. Stein.

Still Little Hope for the Unemployed

WASHINGTON, DC — The April figures on the economy hold out little hope to the average working man or woman.

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Oh.

Chalk Metal Talks

LOS ANGELES — Negotiations are still going on at Chalk Metal Co., where workers over a year ago voted to join Local 26.

The case was characterized for many months by fruitless and frustrating negotiations, which culminated in the ILWU filing unfair labor charges against the company.

The plant was originally organized by International representative Earlie Barnett, who was also active in processing the charges against Chalk Metals.

May 12, 1972 Page 7 The DISPATCHER
CRDC Asks Strong Labor Vote in Oregon Primary

PORTLAND — "I'm glad to see you are wearing Wayne Morse buttons," State Rep. John R. Murray told Burbridge told Columbia River District Council delegates at a meeting in the Longshore Hall May 7.

He noted with satisfaction that Morse, who was one of the contenders for the Democratic nomination for US senator from Oregon, according to the latest newspaper polls.

Burbridge, a former lobbyist at Salem for the railroad unions, is touring the state, rounding up support for a people's move on the polls.

Pinpointing other contests vital to the May 23 primary, he listed the nomination of a Democrat he could get Attorney-General Lee Johnstone, number two of the most important.

He referred to a recent decision of Johnstone, who virtually wiped out the state Wage & Hour Com-

Dock Contract Takes Effect

Continued from Page 1—

Oregon Primary—May 23

Here are the ILWU Columbia River District Council Recommendations for the May 23 Oregon Primary.

President

Patsy T. MINK

US Senate

Wayne MORSE

US Congress

1st District

Ralph BUNCH

3rd District

Phoebe FRIEDMAN (Write-in)

State Offices

Secretary of State

Beauchul HAND

Attorney General

Elizaheth W. BROWNE

State Senate

Coos County

Jack RIPPER

24th District

State House of Representatives

Multnomah

8th District

Bill STEVENSON

1st District (Columbia County)

Dick MAGRUDER

8th District (Portland)

Vera KATZ

15th District (Portland)

William "Bill" McCoy

21st District (Multnomah County)

Howard WILLS

City Offices

Portland

Mayor

Neil GOLDSCHMIDT

Delegate to Democratic Convention

John OLSON

Letters to the Editor

Nixonomics

(This is a letter written to the President of the United States.)

Dear Mr. President,

I feel you are being very unfair to the working people with your Pay Board and wage-price freezes.

Many of the working people are suffering from the freezing out of the public's ability to buy. I would love to be able to afford to buy even a hamburger, but meat prices I feel I can afford to buy.

Your pay board has caused us to lose the right to stop working, because after an agreement was reached by the ILWU and the PMA we were not allowed to re-

Your action regarding the ILWU is very much against our Constitution which guarantees all people the right to freedom.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Carl P. Bidstrup

#49254 (Local 13, Ret.)

Canadian Labor Suggests Ways to Speed Grain Exports

VANCOUVER, BC — Labor is not to blame for the continued supply of粮 grains that peak shipment ships through the port of Vancouver. The responsibility rests with the 12 companies which refuse to give priority to grain shipment and with the inadequate port facilities.

This was the gist of a labor brief to a Grains Policy Hearing held in Vancouver April 25, organized by the National Farmers Union. Labor's case was presented by the BC Fed-
ungation of Labor, speaking on behalf of the Canadian Area ILWU, the Grain Workers Union, the Brother-

hooad of Railway and Airline Clerks, the Vancouver and District Labor Council, and the New Westminster and District Labor Council.

The brief pointed out that labor was cooperating in efforts to increase productivity and was willing to meet the fundamental problems would remain unchanged.

"The major culprit, labor charged, is Canada's two national railways, neither of which "give any advantage of powerful private spokes-

... on to grain handling," adding that "where grain has to compete with other traffic which has another advantage of powerful private spokes-

men (e.g., coal), grain comes out second.

The record of the privately-owned Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), it said, is better, that it is aware that labor is operating at the very highest point in the country. It referred to a recent decision of the Supreme Court of Canada and said the company has not been able to give any advantage to the grain industry.

"In general, the emphasis, it was out that "must be shifted from the movement of the grain to the movement of the government," it said.

OTHER CANDIDATES

Another guest speaker at the meeting, State Senator Thelma W. Browne, said the intent of the bill was to include the workers in the public sector in legislation giving women workers a rest period every four hours.

"Johnson is 160 percent manages-

ment-oriented," Burbridge charged.

Workers subject to the Interstate Commerce Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act are affected by the decision. A bill passed by the 1971 legislature was the excuse on which the ruling was hung.

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The grain handling capacity of the Port of Vancouver could be very much increased, it said, by installing about 20 percent more grain cleaning capacity, making full use of all the facilities some of which have been lying idle for years, and building integrated grain facilitates that would include rail spurs for loading and unloading.

The general emphasis, it was out that "must be shifted from the movement of the grain to the movement of the government.

Staggering Unemployment

OTTAWA — Unemployment in Canada rose to a staggering 7.4 percent in March, highest in the western world, according to a labor congress president David McDonald said that the high jobless rate "underscores the failure of the government's economic expansion programs."