ILWU Rallies
At Portland,
SF Hearings

PORTLAND — A proposed ban on log exports from the US would "dramatically worsen our already precarious foreign trade position, adversely affect American consumers, and create financial havoc for thousands of American workers."

This was the main thrust of testimony delivered at congressional hearings by International president Harry Bridges and regional director G. Johnny Parks on April 11 in Portland and April 13 in San Francisco. The hearings were held by Senators Robert Packwood (R-Ore.) and Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), the principal sponsors of the log ban legislation.

Bridges' and Parks' testimony was given added weight by a shutdown of each port for the day of the hearings. Hundreds of members turned out to picket, and packed the hearing rooms to demonstrate their opposition to the log ban bill.

The main push for the log embargo is coming from homebuilders who have argued that the exports are to blame for the skyrocketing costs of lumber, and, therefore, for the tremendous increase in US housing costs. But Bridges pointed out that increased land prices and high interest rates are really at fault. Backing up their legal reasoning is done by both the AFL-CIO and the Wall Street Journal.

And as far as lumber prices are concerned, Bridges noted that when everything was set up, the ILWU position has been that the log embargo. The bill is sponsored by Senators Packwood (R-Ore.) and Cranston (D-Calif.).

Another Year of
Wage Controls

WASHINGTON, DC—Despite all the recent noisesmaking from the Democratic side of the House and Senate, it appears now as though President Nixon is going to get something very close to the blanket authority to control wages and prices which he has requested. Although final congressional action on extending the Economic Stabilization Control Act has been put off until after the legislators return from their Easter recess, it appears as though the President will get his authority to impose controls renewed by April 30, when the present bill expires.

ILWU POSITION

The ILWU position has been that the law should be permitted to die, instead of being given another lease on life. As a Dispatcher editorial (April 6) put it, "controls of any kind under an economic system are going to operate to the detriment of workers."

However, the losses in Congressional debate has not been whether to dump or prolong the program, but what form it should take.

When Congress reeded for Easter on April 10, both houses had passed bills to extend for one year the law authorizing the President to impose controls. The House gave the President the blanket authority he had requested. Final action was stalled, however, by some Senate amendments. Democratic liberals in the Senate tacked on four controversial—although weak—amendments. These provided:

• Some mandatory rent controls.
• Payment of unions by companies with annual sales of $500 million or more of their justification for seeking price increases of 1.5 percent or more.

And as far as lumber prices are concerned, Bridges noted that when everything was set up, the ILWU position has been that the log embargo. The bill is sponsored by Senators Packwood (R-Ore.) and Cranston (D-Calif.).

Canadian
Dockers Vow
Co-operation

MONTREAL — Canada's two longshore unions, the ILWU and the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA), will set up a joint national coordinating committee to deal with common problems.

The decision was made at an historic two day conference held in Montreal March 26-27. In attendance were 40 delegates from ILWU and ILA locals, the Canadian Area ILWU and its regional director and the national representative of the ILA. The ILWU delegation was headed by Canadian Area president Don Gaunce.

The conference was sponsored by the Canadian Labor Congress, (the Canadian equivalent of the AFL-CIO), and represented at the conference by Jean Beaudry, executive vice president of the CLC.

Big Victory for
ILWU Local 26

LOS ANGELES — ILWU organizing efforts have just culminated in victory at two more plants employing more than 300 workers in the Los Angeles area.

Employees at Adams Brothers Plastics, Inc. in an NLRB election on April 19 went for the ILWU, 72 to 52. The victory will add nearly 170 workers to the rolls of Local 26.

Earlier, Investment Recovery Services signed an agreement with Local 26 as collective bargaining agent, upon a clear showing that a majority of the scrap company's 40 employees had signed up with the union.

The success of the organizing jobs, a grueling 18-month effort, was at Adams Plastics. The company makes custom molding, and repairs and overhaul work that is subject to speedup. As a result there is a large turnover in the work force, which consists mostly of women.

COMPANY TACTICS

But the turnover was only one of many obstacles for the organizing crew. The company also resorted to other anti-union devices:

• Employment of a professional anti-union consulting firms: Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker.
• Distribution of piecemeal wage increases and of promises that fringe and conditions would be improved;
• Dismissal of key personnel, threats to others, and constant espionage at union meetings.

At Investment Recovery Services, where things went more smoothly, the organizing was directed by International representative Don Wright who said he expected the company's quick signature on the Master Scrap Agreement.

The organizing campaign was directed by International Representative Chet Meske, assisted by International Representative Earle Barnett and an in-plant committee.
JUDGING FROM RECENT reports something of great importance is happening in China. Trade unions are back in style. As one interested observer of recent developments in China, I have inquired of all the people I could who had recently visited that country if they had seen any signs of trade unions in their touring of China.

None of them had, and what was significant, the few visitors who had tried to discover what had happened to unions in China and who had been allowed to exist there were quickly given the notion that they were opening up a very unpleasant subject with their hosts. The last of the matter was that Chinese trade unions had been put out of business—liquidated it's the word used to describe the process—early in the cultural revolution which swept China from 1966 onward.

One of the best and strongest unions in China was that of the Shanghai dockworkers.

When I made an official trip to Australia in 1967 at the invitation of the Australian Waterside Workers, I had corresponded with the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, which had extended the ILWU an invitation to our union a couple of years previously. After having been told everything was in order for the Chinese visit we suddenly got word—while in Australia—that the visit was off and that the Chinese Trade Union Federation had been suspended.

I later discovered that about the first union to get the business was the Shanghai longshoremen. Well that figured! The dockers thought that the Chinese were so dedicated to go on strike for a wage increase etc., but they were declared out of order.

IT SEEMS THAT WHAT was wrong with all or most Chinese unions then part of the All-China Federation of Unions was that their union members had turned sour on the US and its procedures. The big committee on trade union activities appeared to be under the control of either the Communists or some other enemy. The present leadership in China is still corrupt.

The All-China Federation of Trade Unions, membership of 30 million. At the time of the Communist victory in 1949 Liu Shao-Chi had been a union organizer and deputy chief of the Chinese Communist Party. At the time he was purged he had been allowed to exist. The union federation then headed by one Lin Piao-ji, who was also purged and has since died, had indeed been working as capitalistic readers and accused of "revisionism" or wanting to bring back capitalism. Along with these enemies of Mao the labor movement was now under the new leadership—wherever it had gone—to be damped.

I mention some of the background for information, and not to be critical of the Chinese as a whole. They are going to run it whatever we like what they are doing or not.

The main purpose of the visit we extended to make to China in 1967 was not for us to travel the country, but to arrange for a delegation of our rank and file delegates to go there and to take their time to get a first hand look at how things were going on. We also had in mind the Chinese allowing a group of our members—volunteers of course—to go for about six months, and to find out exactly what the score was among the workers and others in China.

I also got to know an Australian newspaper correspondent, a woman who went to China in 1965 and wrote a great book on her trip. She was the first American newspaperwoman to make it to China. Her name was Lisa Hobbs, author of "I Saw Red China." Lisa's stories, including some she didn't include in the book, were fascinating, and her book is still one of the best on the spot reports that one can read.

THE NEW NATIONAL CHINESE union movement will, it seems, be headed up by union councils in Shanghai and Peking. It is expected that all trade unions formed elsewhere will be organized and function by following the pattern of the Shanghai and Peking bodies. It also appears that steps have been taken at this time to ensure that Chinese unions operate as a part of the Chinese Communist Party as reorganized by Mao Tse-Tung and that the leadership is composed of top ranking party people with long records of revolutionary struggle.

I am interested in these developments in China especially those on the trade union front because for many years now the only contacts the overseas Chinese delegations were barred from visiting—barred by the Chinese, not by our government—was China proper, the one Chinese nation. The matter of selecting a delegation to go to China is coming up at the Convention.

I hope that a good rank and file delegation is selected and that we allow it a little extra time to observe and report back. It would, in my opinion, be of extreme importance to our union for a delegation to go to China to establish an establishment of a new union movement, and how it functions and what is its role in the new Chinese world. I would like to be one of this delegation, but I still think for this trip a rank and file delegation would be best and would talk to the Chinese as people right off the job.

Correction

I was in error in the last column in saying that former vice president J. R. Robertson, whom the International selected to investigate affairs in Local 10, was not paid. He was at the same rate as International Board members, and we were going to pay only expenses but changed over to pay by day.
Local 19 Mourns Labor Veteran
Frank Jenkins

SEATTLE—ILWU Local 19 is mourning the death of Frank Jenkins, one of its labor veterans on the Seattle waterfront.

Funeral services were held April 17 at Bonnie Watson Mortuary. Jenkins had served his local for over two decades as delegate to International ILWU conventions and longshoremen's associations. He also served for many years as executive board member and on the port labor relations committee.

Arriving in Seattle as a child in 1909, Jenkins went to work on the waterfront in 1920 after attending Lawton Grammar School and Queen Anne High School.

He became involved in one highly dramatic incident in connection with the F. D. R. government's efforts to expand the Great Lakes. A 19-year-old Jenkins was arrested as a defense witness for Bridges in the fifth trial of ILWU President John L. Lewis, over the latter's use of the Internal Revenue Service to suppress labor's veterans on the Seattle waterfront.

Jenkins' many years of work on the Seattle docks, served on the port labor relations committee and at the same address.

It took four months of effort to get his Coast Guard pass restored.

He was elected delegate to seven ILWU international conventions. At the 19th convention in 1971, having retired, he was present as a guest.

The Jenkins family has asked The Dispatcher to "express their sincere thanks to Frank's many friends and members in the ILWU for their remembrances and condolences, and for their many expressions of love and kindness shown during his illness."

North Cal Council Joins Controls Protest

BRODERICK — Concern with the wage freeze and inflation produced the following resolution of the North California Longshore and Warehouse Union:

Continued from Page 1— said, "representatives of two of our highly esteemed affiliates, the ILA and the ILWU, have decided to sit down around the same table and find out what has been happening in the various ports where you work and bring up your families. More than that, you are sitting down as brother-trade unionists should and getting to know each other.

Beaudry noted that longstanding union have been able to obtain for their members "to become more active in the effort to improve the lot of the American people."

JURISDICTION

The delegates resolved to keep their local unions and seek approval for the proposal to establish a joint committee "to clarify jurisdiction and to prepare meetings with other Congress affiliates whose members are infringing on longshore jurisdiction as a result of technological change."

The delegates recommended the conference to return to their local unions and seek approval for the proposal to establish a joint committee to clarify jurisdiction and to prepare meetings with other Congress affiliates whose members are infringing on longshore jurisdiction as a result of technological change."

The committee believes the bulletin will be helpful in the development of a bulletin of labor solidarity; a publication of the ILWU, which is organizing a united labor demonstration in connection with the March meeting of the Longshoremen's Labor Union.

Anyone desiring information may write to the Publicity and Education Committee, ILWU Local 19, 60-4th Street, Broderick, Calif., 95605.

United Hawaii Teams

Hawaii Dock Caucus Drafts New Demands

HONOLULU — ILWU waterfront groups are voting on a set of contract demands drafted by a Hawaii waterfront caucus that met here April 10-12.

In addition to delegates from the local unions, clerks and bulk sugar unions, the caucus included delegates from related organizations — Young Boos, containing freight stations, maintenance and tugboat operations, and Local 108 dock security units.

The demands will not be publicized until membership ratification.

The caucus elected Robert Kanaha chairman and Lawrence Lee secretary. Each of the negotiating subcommittees elected its own officers. Regional Director Robert McNeill will be negotiating spokesman.

The present agreements expire June 31.

Another Year

Orientation Wage-Price Controls

Continued from Page 1— (At present only required to submit their requests to the Cost of Living Council, which enforces Phase III controls)

• Exemption of all workers making $3,500 or less from Phase III wage controls. (The current exemption level is $2.75 an hour.)

• Authorization for the President to allocate, use and dispose of petroleum products, some of which are presumably in short supply.

• Authorization for the President and Congress to set up a conference committee, seeking to reconcile the bills passed by the two houses, quickly to act to delete the amendments that were objectionable to them. They objected most strongly to the requirement that price increase requests by public utilities be subject to public scrutiny.

TECHNICAL MANEUVER

They resorted to a technical maneuver, exploiting the provisions of the bill, which did not mean that the bill would be killed. It would only delay the bill until the House-Senate conference, where new pressures could be exerted to delete the amendments that were objectionable to them. The Democratic majority mustered a vote of 31 to 31 not "kill" (or recom- mend) the bill and McCree (D-Wyo.) blocked a final vote on the bill. The public disclosure provision to which Republicans objected was very broad and Republicans have attained a great deal of success, the Publicity and Education Committee of the ILWU commented. It was "certainly an attempt to preserve the benefit of its experience to other locals in establishing such a bulletin of labor solidarity; a publication of the ILWU, which is organizing a united labor demonstration in connection with the March meeting of the Longshoremen's Labor Union.

Anyone desiring information may write to the Publicity and Education Committee, ILWU Local 19, 60-4th Street, Broderick, Calif., 95605.

United Hawaii Teams

Close Island Schools

HONOLULU — The Hawaii local of the American Federation of Teachers said it was hoping picket lines set up May 5 would "help in a campaign in a drive for higher salaries and improved conditions in schools.

The local, affiliated with the National Education Association, has been engaged in negotiations, including a representation election over the 2,600-member teachers union local last year. That vote was called after a technical maneuver, exploiting the provisions of the bill, which did not mean that the bill would be killed. It would only delay the bill until the House-Senate conference, where new pressures could be exerted to delete the amendments that were objectionable to them. The Democratic majority mustered a vote of 31 to 31 not "kill" (or recom- mend) the bill and McCree (D-Wyo.) blocked a final vote on the bill. The public disclosure provision to which Republicans objected was very broad and Republicans have attained a great deal of success, the Publicity and Education Committee of the ILWU commented. It was "certainly an attempt to preserve the benefit of its experience to other locals in establishing such a bulletin of labor solidarity; a publication of the ILWU, which is organizing a united labor demonstration in connection with the March meeting of the Longshoremen's Labor Union.

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Down in the mine the dust was so thick you could hardly breathe. You could barely see anything in front of you. We were practically on top of two miners before we noticed
that they had rags tied over their mouths and noses. These improvised masks can’t be very effective. The average life span of a Bolivian miner is only 46 years.

To get to the vein being worked we waded through water and mud up to 6 inches deep (the water is always dripping from the ceiling). We climbed up some wooden and steel ladders, which, to put it mildly, were very unsafe.

The miners were very friendly, happy to meet North American unionists. Many of them, they told us, chew cocaine leaves so that they can work harder and produce more. Those are men paid on a tonnage basis.

They do get 14 paid holidays a year (double time if they work them) and a vacation schedule that ranges from 15 days up to 30 days for those with 10 or more years of service. But most of them stay home because they can’t afford to go anywhere. Wages for beginners are $6.20 a month at the start.

But they don’t get that when the operation breaks down, which must happen often, because it was the most common complaint of the miners. The Mathilde mine — most modern in Bolivia, we were assured — used to be owned by a US concern, Philip Bros. It was taken over by the government that preceded the present administration of President Banzer, who put it into a military coup in 1971.

Under US ownership, miners said, the breakdowns were not too bad because replacement parts for the machinery could be gotten in two weeks. Now it takes two months. They don’t believe there is anything like unemployment insurance for them. (The former US owners have done better; the Banzer government paid them $19 million for their losses).

The mine is situated on the northern shore of Lake Titicaca, one of the natural wonders of Bolivia, nestled in the Andes Mountains at an elevation of 12,545 feet. The mine itself is 4,300 feet above the lake, or 16,000 feet above sea level. Its chief product is zinc, but it also produces tin and lead. Its labor force is 650 workers in three shifts around the clock.

Miners are furnished rubber boots and work clothes. They are also supplied with a lunch box, which is graded — A, B, C. For supervisory personnel, nice A homes are made of brick. Then it drops down all the way to class C adobe huts for workers. At that, there is a housing shortage, and 80 families have to live outside the village of Mathilde. Crowding also exists at the town school, a teacher told us, and there is a shortage of teachers.

A couple of days before we went to the mine, we visited Guayquil, a port on the southern shore of Lake Titicaca that handles ore, zinc and tin. At one time 800 men were employed on the docks now it’s down to 200. The work is hard. We saw 100-pound sacks of tin ore stacked in a warehouse. Men still carry these on their shoulders. Some old steam cranes and donkeys still are in use.

When a ship is in port (two ships ply the trade), longshoremen work day and night. At this altitude it’s freezing cold at night — and the men are still trying to get extra compensation for the night work.

Most of the work is belly-packing to power driven elevators running to railroad cars. The men discharge ore from tanks lifted from the holds of the vessel. Their average wage runs about $45 a month, but during slack periods, when production of ores falls off, it slumps to $30.

At the mine and at the port, as well as on the trips to these places from the capital at La Paz, we get one strong impression: They seem to have two classes of people in Bolivia — very poor and middle or upper class. Unions are all controlled by the state. There is no form of collective bargaining except when there is a housing shortage, and 80 families have to live outside of the Mathilde mine. There are very few diesels, and the construction of new roads parallels to the railroad tracks.

About 60% of the railroad workers’ sons go to work for the railroad. Of these some 40% have finished high school; only a very small percentage go on to college.

Brewery Workers

We also met with officers of the Brewery Workers, which is a division of the Transport Workers Union. In the breweries the starting wage is 50 cents for an eight hour day. After 25 or 30 years a worker works up to $3 a day. Still that’s better than the average wage of $30 per month, and far above the minimum monthly urban wage of $15.

The brewery workers, like all manufacturing workers in Bolivia, and also the miners at the Mathilde mine, get free transportation to and from work. The workers made this demand upon the new government — and they won it.

The brewery workers’ union hall is three stories high, and accommodates a nice meeting room, a dental clinic, and a recreation room with two pool tables. All this is financed by a small government tax on the gross sales of the company they work for.

The parent Transport Workers Union operates an impressive medical installation, which we were privileged to visit. It’s a really modest hospital, staffed by six doctors, which treats 200 patients per month. The services include surgery, obstetrics, maternity care. The workers have little or no ambulance service, for instance. But they have little or no ambulance service, for instance. The workers have little or no ambulance service, for instance. The workers have little or no ambulance service, for instance. The workers have little or no ambulance service, for instance. The workers have little or no ambulance service, for instance.

Getting back to the railroad union, Aguilar told us a good deal about the conditions, which are a mixed bag.

Railroad workers start work at 10 and retire in 35 years at age 41, which brought us to another question — what’s the outlook for future employment. Their monthly pension, figured at 75% of their salary after 25 years, is only $39.

One vacation and holidays they do well. They get 20 holidays a year — but if one falls on a Sunday it’s their tough luck. The vacation schedule is as follows:

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When we asked what they do on their vacations the answer was that most of them seek other employment or just rest at home with their families. (This seems odd because one of their peculiar fringe benefits is free railroad trips a year for the employee and his family).

Another fringe benefit is a cooperative store that gives credit and has low prices on four basic staples: meat, rice, sugar and milk. All other items are sold at regular prices.

They get medical coverage, but that’s nothing special because there is a national health plan. However, if sickness compels the employee to lay off the company pays his salary for a maximum of three months.

The Railroad Workers Union was launched in 1920 under the name of the Workers’ Committee. Once it had 10,000 members, but now it’s down to 5,000 due to competition from trucks, mostly gas-operated (there are very few diesels), and the construction of new roads parallel to the railroad tracks.

About 60% of the railroad workers’ sons go to work for the railroad. Of these some 40% have finished high school; only a very small percentage go on to college.

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About 60% of the railroad workers’ sons go to work for the railroad. Of these some 40% have finished high school; only a very small percentage go on to college.
Argentina was not only another country. It was another world, far more sophisticated, far more modern than Bolivia.

Two sets of comparative statistics tell the story:

Rate of literacy: Argentina, 92%; Bolivia, 35%.

Annual per capita income (in US dollars) Argentina, $1,000; Bolivia, $1,000.

The unionists we met were, in the main, pro-Peronista. (Since our return, of course, the national election returns demonstrated that their political sentiment was representative. Former President Juan Peron's candidate, Victor J. Comparo, won the presidential election.) Being pro-Peronista, they were also strongly anti-Communist.

We were impressed by union power. Unions operate large housing, medical, recreational, educational, cultural and social service facilities.

Our impression was that Peron stole lots of dough before he was forced to leave Argentina—but he also did much to create a relatively high standard of living for the people. He made good “Americans” (maybe even a little to the right of us) out of them. Very few of them are hungry and all are making a fair living for Argentina. There are three things they say they will not do: (1) go hungry, (2) go backwards in any way, (3) go Left.

As in Bolivia, here too, we were guided and helped by the labor attaché at the US Embassy, John Doer-ty, and by staff members of the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AFL-CIO). The difference was that in Argentina the people we met at the AFL-CIO offices were union leaders.

The day after our arrival in Buenos Aires we visited the Light & Power Workers Union (Sindicato De Luz Y Fureza), which is truly the elite or show-case union.

It begins with a pretty American looking factory and a cleaners union. It is the most modern and best equipped of union buildings we have visited. Many of the choicest areas — in the mountains (complete with skiing facilities), along the sea coast, and on the lakes. Some vacation sites are available to union members, and one of them is on a one-acre spread with a large swimming pool, many ball fields, and a home for children, a savings plan, and a super market. There is a little walkway overhead where the hirings are. There are several thousand members there. It's a strictly shape-up union. There's even an enormous hall and there were several thousand men milling in it and outside. It's a strictly shapewear system, with each company doing its own choosing and hiring.

There is a little walkway overhead where the hiring foreman can survey the scene and pick the men they want. If a foreman wants the same men every day, that's it. There is no rotary system.

Men spend the whole day in the hall, and sometimes they even sleep there. At least they did until a law was passed recently forbidding the men to sleep in the hall. Work was slack when we were there.

The biggest labor organization in Argentina is the CGT, a general labor federation with 4,000,000 members in the affiliated unions. But only 2,500,000 pay dues or per capita to the CGT.

The CGT was founded in 1895. During Peron's regime its membership soared from 500,000 to 2,500,000. So the Peronista influence is very strong. We were told that some 85% of CGT members are Peronistas. Which is one reason the military government was on CGT's back.

Among the several unions we visited were the Garment Workers and the Turf Workers.

Wages for garment workers are relatively low, between $17 and $19 a month on the average. But they have beautiful apartment houses and fine vacation and weekend resorts, one of which we saw. It was a one-acre spread with a large swimming pool, many barbeque pits and tables, a basketball court and other sport facilities.

The Turf Workers Union has some very unique features, due to the nature of the work. In Argentina all the tracks are government-owned, except that the two biggest ones are controlled by the “Jockey Club.”

The track we visited in Buenos Aires is the oldest and largest, employing about 150 workers. Everything is done by hand as they do not have the electronic gadgets to operate the pari-mutuels, as in the states.

We went behind the betting windows where it all takes place. The speed and the tension were incredible. The minimum bet is 20 cents. If a worker makes a mistake in totaling up the bets or payoffs he has to make it up from his own pocket.

Still a turf worker works only nine days a month — but the monthly salaries range from $85 to $100. A great many of them have two or three other jobs. Their wage is geared to the race, not the hour.

Eight races are supposedly a standard day. For the ninth race a worker gets one eighth of his day's wage, for the tenth race it's three-eighths.

Our most pleasant two days in Argentina were spent in Mar Del Plata, a huge seaside resort that caters to hundreds of thousands of tourists. Many of the hotels and other resort facilities are owned by unions.

The Salesmen's Union, for instance, owns a hotel with 350 rooms, let to members for two weeks on a rental basis. The same union also owns apartment units that are rented to members for $32 a month.

Everywhere we went in Argentina we were warmly received. Perhaps the spirit we most often encountered was best expressed by Tolosa. He said there should be no frontiers between workers.

Tolosa, former secretary general of the Confederation of Transport Workers, did 3 ½ years in prison for his labor activities. He was imprisoned under the Law on the Right of Professional Association, which permits the government to intervene in any strike. Tolosa went to London to appeal to the International Transport Federation for a boycott of “hot” cargoes from Argentina. So the technical charge against him was going outside the country to settle Argentine problems. On October 26, 1972, Tolosa's trade union rights were restored, and he was so popular among the workers that they promptly elected him to leadership of the transport federation.

**Machine Guns on the Docks**

The imprisonment of Tolosa was only one instance of hostile government intervention. In a meeting with longshoremen and checkers we were told their union was almost destroyed in 1966. Troops occupied the ports and workers were threatened with machine guns on the docks. They stressed that they wanted this reported in our union paper.

Another example of how heavy-handed the military can be concerns pensions for port workers. In 1969, under civilian rule, a plan was introduced for retirement at 50 years of age after 25 years of service. This was changed by the military government to age 60 and 30 years of service. Since then they have been able to get it back to 52 years of age — but the 30 years service requirement remains.

Inflation is a big problem. Cargo checkers told us they received a 15% wage increase in October, 1972, which was decreed by the government for all workers to offset inflation. When we were there the checkers were negotiating for a 37% pay hike. This seemed incredible — until they told us that the cost of living had gone up 100%.

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One of the most dismal scenes we encountered was at the longshore hiring hall in Buenos Aires. It's an enormous hall and there were several thousand men milling in it and outside. It's a strictly shapewear system, with each company doing its own choosing and hiring.

There is a little walkway overhead where the hiring foreman can survey the scene and pick the men they want. If a foreman wants the same men every day, that's it. There is no rotary system.

Men spend the whole day in the hall, and sometimes they even sleep there. At least they did until a law was passed recently forbidding the men to sleep in the hall. Work was slack when we were there.

The biggest labor organization in Argentina is the CGT, a general labor federation with 4,000,000 members in the affiliated unions. But only 2,500,000 pay dues or per capita to the CGT.

The CGT was founded in 1895. During Peron's regime its membership soared from 500,000 to 2,500,000. So the Peronista influence is very strong. We were told that some 85% of CGT members are Peronistas. Which is one reason the military government was on CGT's back.

Among the several unions we visited were the Garment Workers and the Turf Workers.

Wages for garment workers are relatively low, between $17 and $19 a month on the average. But they have beautiful apartment houses and fine vacation and weekend resorts, one of which we saw. It was a one-acre spread with a large swimming pool, many barbeque pits and tables, a basketball court and other sport facilities.

The Turf Workers Union has some very unique features, due to the nature of the work. In Argentina all the tracks are government-owned, except that the two biggest ones are controlled by the “Jockey Club.”

The track we visited in Buenos Aires is the oldest and largest, employing about 150 workers. Everything is done by hand as they do not have the electronic gadgets to operate the pari-mutuels, as in the states.

We went behind the betting windows where it all takes place. The speed and the tension were incredible. The minimum bet is 20 cents. If a worker makes a mistake in totaling up the bets or payoffs he has to make it up from his own pocket.

Still a turf worker works only nine days a month — but the monthly salaries range from $85 to $100. A great many of them have two or three other jobs. Their wage is geared to the race, not the hour.

Eight races are supposedly a standard day. For the ninth race a worker gets one eighth of his day's wage, for the tenth race it's three-eighths.

Our most pleasant two days in Argentina were spent in Mar Del Plata, a huge seaside resort that caters to hundreds of thousands of tourists. Many of the hotels and other resort facilities are owned by unions.

The Salesmen's Union, for instance, owns a hotel with 350 rooms, let to members for two weeks on a rental basis. The same union also owns apartment units that are rented to members for $32 a month.

Everywhere we went in Argentina we were warmly received. Perhaps the spirit we most often encountered was best expressed by Tolosa. He said there should be no frontiers between workers.
Dock Pay Guarantee Revisions: March 3-June 30

In order to better realize the purposes of the Pay Guarantee Plan in accordance with the principles of the plan, and in order to resolve a number of outstanding issues, the Pacific Northwest Coast Labor Relations Committee on April 5 adopted the “Pay Guarantee Plan—Revised Rules.” They become effective 8:00 A.M. Saturday, March 3, 1973. The following dock pay guarantee revisions of the Pay Guarantee Plan in conflict with these revised rules and the preceding Acts of Congress, Bremerton and Port Hueneeme agreed to in August, 1972 are superseded by these revised rules.

Pay Guarantee Plan Revised Rules—Section 3

3.1 Payments. For each payroll week the employer shall make guarantee payments to registered A and B men as follows:

3.2 Weekly Guarantee Amount for A Men. The weekly guarantee amount payable for A men is 36 hours at the straight time rate of pay.

3.3 Weekly Guarantee Amount for B Men. The weekly guarantee amount payable for B men is 18 hours at the straight time rate of pay.

3.4 Guarantee Period Amount for A Men. The guarantee period shall be the week comprising 8 A.M., Saturday, March 3, 1973 and ending 8 A.M., Saturday, June 30, 1973. The total guarantee payment amount for A men for the full period is 17 times 36 hours at the straight time rate of pay.

3.5 Guarantee Period Amount for B Men. The guarantee period shall be the week comprising 8 A.M., Saturday, March 3, 1973 and ending 8:00 A.M., Saturday, June 30, 1973. The total guarantee payment amount for B men for the full period is 17 times 18 hours at the straight time rate of pay.

3.6 Weekly Earnings. Weekly earnings are earnings (as defined in 3.8) for the payweek for which a guarantee payment is claimed.

3.7 Period Earnings. Period earnings are earnings (as defined in 3.8) for the payweek for which a guarantee payment is claimed and for all preceding weeks of the guarantee period.

3.8 Earnings. Earnings shall be the sum of all compensation received during the week or the guarantee period, including such payments as straight time, overtime, premium, skilless pay, per diem, travel time pay, pay for vacations, and State Unemployment Benefits and Wage Guarantee Payments.

3.9 Weekly Guarantee Payment. The weekly guarantee payment is an amount equal to 17 times the earnings as a dollar and cents figure equal to the weekly guarantee amounts payable for A men for the full period and to 17 times the earnings as a dollar and cents figure equal to the weekly guarantee amount payable for B men for the full period. The amount to bring the period earnings to a dollar and cents figure equal to the guarantee payment amount is smaller, in which case the smaller amount will be paid. No weekly guarantee payment will be made if period earnings are equal to or more than the guarantee payment amount.

3.10 Eligibility. To be eligible for a weekly guarantee payment a man must meet the test, the weekly hours test and the eligibility period hours test, except as provided in Section 3.15.

3.11 Weekly Hours Test. To be eligible for a weekly guarantee payment, a man's paid hours in the payweek for which a guarantee payment is claimed must be equal to or more than 80% of the average paid hours (Section 3.13) per man in his local in his registration category (A and B) for that week; also:

3.12 Eligibility Period Hours Test. To be eligible for a weekly guarantee payment, a man's paid hours in the payweek for which a guarantee payment is claimed, plus his paid hours in the 25 weeks immediately preceding that week must be equal to or more than 80% of the average paid hours (Sec. 3.11) of men in his local in his registration category (A or B) for those 25 weeks.

3.13 Calculation of Weekly Average Hours. Average hours will be calculated separately for each registration category in each local as follows: For the payroll week in question, all men in the category who have worked any hours will be arranged in a sequence beginning with the man who has the most hours for the week in question and ending with the man who has the fewest hours for the week in question. This array will be divided into three groups of men: (1) the 50% of the men who have the most hours; (2) the 30% of the men who have the fewest hours; (3) the 20% of the men who are in groups 1 or 2—that is, the central 50%. Weekly average hours will be calculated by dividing the total hours of the central 50% group by the total number of men in that group. Any man in one of the three groups or any other man who meets the weekly hours test and the period hours test will be eligible for a weekly guarantee payment.

3.14 Calculation of Eligibility Period Average Hours. Eligibility period average hours for a local registration category will be the sum of the weekly average hours (as calculated in Section 3.13) for the week in question and for the 25 weeks immediately preceding.

3.15 Low Work Opportunity Situation. If a local registration category is in low work opportunity situation, the only eligibility test is the eligibility period hours test.

3.16 Low Work Opportunity Situations Defined. The A men in a local will be deemed to be in a low work opportunity situation only when the B men in the local are also in a low work opportunity situation in the same week. The A men in a local will be deemed to be in a low work opportunity situation in any week in which the “opportunity average” is less than 9 hours.

SAFETY SCHOLARSHIPS—A pause in the February “stop work” meeting of ILWU Local 19 in Seattle was taken to award $410 in scholarship money to Miss Julie Bowen, daughter of Local 19 member Ron Bowen. The Seattle Stevedore Co./Local 19 Safety Incentive Scholarship Award Program promotes safety and provides educational opportunity for children of longshoremen who have worked for the company during the last quarter. As initiated by Fred R. Smith, chairman of the company’s board, the maximum award for quarter is $500—but this is reduced each time there is “last time” injury on the job. In photo, from left, are Smith, Miss Bowen, her father, and Shaun Maloney, Local 19 president.

Local 33, San Pedro

The following officers have been elected by ILWU Fishermen and Allied Workers Local 33: president, Anthony Vidovich; vice president, Joseph Mon- drom; secretary-treasurer, Joseph Mon- drom; executive board, Joseph Mon- drom, Frank Burcina; San Diego business agent, Glenn Farrell and Jack Diell; dispatcher, Nick Lovich, Steve Setka, Domingoes Silva, Emil Voy; convention delegates, John J. Royd, Frank Burcina; San Diego business agent, Joseph F. Silva; chief patrolmen, Mike Bodlovich; auditors, Nick Love, Steve Setka, Domingoes Silva, Emil Voy; convention delegates, John J. Royd, Frank Burcina.

Also elected was a eight-man executive board.

ILWU Stops Quickie Fine Closures

KALUAPA — ILWU has secured an agreement from the Dole management on Molokai to refrain from the quick elimination of 23 plantation jobs. The quick job-shrinking proposal, made last month by Dole, was the result of the announcements by Dole and Del Monte that they would phase out their pineapple operations on Molokai in 1973. Between them the two companies account for most of the employment on the island — 280 directly employed by Dole, and 175 by Del Monte. They supply goods and services to the companies and their employees.

ILWU was just shaping a program to cope with the threatened economic doomsday for Molokai when Dole announced its intention to lay off the 23 jobs as a first instalment.

Unemployment Unchanged

WASHINGTON — While the inflation rate rose substantially in March, the unemployment rate remained "essentially unchanged," according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. BLS reported that 4.4 million workers—or 5 percent of all those officially out- cluded in the labor force—were hunting for jobs in March, but in vain.

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London Dockworkers End Walkout

LONDON — Work has been resumed at London docks after a week-long strike (April 2-9) by 7,700 longshoremen in Liverpool, Hull and Southampton did not join the walkout. Another possible influence was a vote in the miners' union, 143,000 to 82,000, against striking to force a breach in the "Phase II" pension.

The government's wage program, however, still faces a massive labor protest on May 1 in the form of a one-day strike called by the Trades Union Congress, representing 10,000,000 organized workers.

Oliver Olson Dinner

SEATTLE — Recently retired International representative Oliver Olson was feted at a banquet in his honor held March 28 at the Beach House. Olson also served Local 18 as president, business agent, LRC member and caucus and convention delegate.

Dockers, Widows
On Pension List

SAN FRANCISCO — Following is the April, 1973, list of widows and widowers receiving ILWU-PMA pension:

Local 8: Ralph R. Peterson, Charles G. Smith; Local 16: Knud Christensen, Fred J. Heikka, Harold LaSe, Albert Lilly, Joseph Miguel, Robert Philipp, Herbert Richards, David Ridley; Local 19: Arthur Chalmers, Robert Philpott, Herbert Richards, E. Brown; Local 21: Robert W. Smith.


Machinists Blast Cuts In Mechanics' Pact

WASHINGTON — The International Association of Machinists is pressing the Cost of Living Council to withdraw its challenge to a tentative two-year agreement between North Central Airlines and 400 IAM members.

North Central agreed to give its mechanics a retroactive 8.6 percent across-the-board raise for 1972, another 30 cents in two steps this year, and 30 cents more on Jan. 1, 1974.

The Cost of Living Council let the retroactive increase go through, but balked at the latter hike as exceeding the Administration's 5.5% guidelines.

Japanese Dock Strike Seems Certain

TOKYO—Japanese longshoremen and their employers broke off wage negotiations on April 25, and a walk-out was set to begin the next day, as The Dispatcher went to press. Over 80,000 dockers are involved.

Talks were suspended when the employers offered just half of what the union is demanding. The union is asking a raise of 876 a month for all longshoremen in the country, except those in Osaka and Kobe. For the men in these two ports the union wants a raise of 98 a month.

The employers' best offer averaged out to 836 a month.

A spokesman for the Japan Council of Port and Harbor Transport Workers Union held out the hope of compromise when and if talks were resumed late in the month.

Little Chance

But an official of the Japan Port Terminal Operators Association said there was little chance that the employers would revise their position. "We feel the union is asking much too much this year," he said, "and our concessions have been, if anything, too generous for our own good.

The reference to concessions, according to industry sources, included more than the wage offer. The union had demanded Sunday holidays and no work on the docks after 9:30 p.m. on weekdays.

US maritime interests have been pressing their Japanese counterparts to hold fast on night work, complaining of port congestion and the higher costs in the long run.

SEAMEN

Meanwhile, talks between the All Japan Seamen's Union and the country's two major shippers' associations hit some shoals.

The union is asking monthly wage increases that go as high as 836 for the top ratings. The offer from the employers was 836 a month.

Union spokesmen were optimistic, however, that the shippers will come to an agreement with an acceptable compromise.

Teamster-Farmworker Beef

COACHELLA, Calif. — The International Brotherhood of Teamsters has signed contracts with most of the grape growers in this area, with the exception of contracts signed by the United Farm Workers Union (AFL-CIO) in 1970. The Teamsters have signed contracts with growers producing about 85 percent of the table grape crop in the Coachella Valley.

A spokesman for the National United Farm Workers Association has struck and picketed ranches which have signed with the Teamsters. Approximately 200 were arrested by sheriff's deputies, but freed after a compromise on the method of picketing had been reached.

Decision on Welfare Aid for Strikers Expected Soon

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Nixon administration officials are mulling what to do about welfare payments to strikers, and the outlook is bad for strikers under "Phase II" rules. "Federal welfare officials," according to the Wall Street Journal, "are reviewing" their rules to shift men from job to job. The government's wage program, however, still faces a massive labor protest on May 1 in the form of a one-day strike called by the Trades Union Congress, representing 10,000,000 organized workers.

The dockers voted to return to work after a strike (April 2-9) by 7,700 longshoremen in Liverpool, Hull and Southampton did not join the walkout. Another possible influence was a vote in the miners' union, 143,000 to 82,000, against striking to force a breach in the "Phase II" pension.

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Log Export Ban Denounced

In front of US Federal Building in San Francisco, Local 14 president Charles Oliff—who led a substantial delegation of Eureka dockers coming down for the hearings April 12—tells Senator Cranston how his members feel about the ban.

—photo by Jim Santana

SF Labor Plans Nixonomics Protest

SAN FRANCISCO—As this issue of The Dispatcher went to press all sections of organized labor in the San Francisco Bay Area were preparing to rally at the Civic Center Plaza at 1 p.m., April 28, to protest against the Nixon Administration's economic program. Speakers at the rally will include ILWU President Harry Bridges; Phil Scheidt, general secretary of the National Association of Machinists; Jerry Warf, president, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees; George Hardy, president, Service Employees International Union, and William Kircher, AFL-CIO director of organization.

Mobilized, Inc., a group of workers, led by Marcelino Camacho, member of Parliament, announced he will be high prices, wage controls, and, more important, invite Japanese workers to the domestic market. "American consumers and workers will get left holding the bag for the gross distortions in trade caused by a ban on the export of logs. Prices would go up on hundreds of thousands of products, and jobs are threatened in a wide variety of industries involved in both the import and export trades. . . . We should be talking today about how we increase our exports to Japan instead of limiting them."

The ILWU, Bridges concluded, "has long argued that every single American has the right to adequate housing, regardless of income. We have continually supported every step taken to provide housing in America."

But "we are convinced that S. 183 will not serve the best interests of the people. It could well reward a handful of mill owners and homeowners at the expense of the American consumers. We are convinced that America can meet its housing needs and supply export markets if only we can get a handle on the machinations of the financial manipulators who dominate the housing industry. That is the problem, not the export of logs."

DEMONSTRATIONS

The main ILWU testimony in Portland was delivered by Parks, who joined Bridges afterwards for an informal press conference. Bridges was the main ILWU spokesman in San Francisco.

Between 400 and 500 ILWU members came to Portland to support the ILWU position. Eight buses were hired by ILWU locals in Oregon and Washington, bringing in members from all over the northwest. Delegations came from Portland, Vancouver, Eureka, Coos Bay, Newport, Astoria, Seattle, Portland, Eugene, Port Gamble, Everett, Tumwater, Olympia, Tacoma, Aberdeen, Anacortes and Tacoma.

Another demonstration was held in front of the San Francisco federal building when testimony was taken April 12—with a large delegation from Local 14 in Eureka coming down for the day.

TEAMSTER TESTIMONY

The embargo was also opposed by numerous other witnesses. A statement submitted at the Portland hearing by Teamsters Joint Council 37, representing 21 locals, charged the Nixon administration was contributing to a lumber shortage by slashing appropriations for access roads to timber stands.

"President Nixon," the Teamsters said, "has impounded well over $18 million this year and is asking for a $28,000 increase for next year. They can't, the brass found out.

"In addition, the maximum weekly benefit for a temporarily injured worker is $105. Thus a clear majority of California's temporarily injured workers receive less than two-thirds of the average weekly wage of those whose work injuries and 711 workers were killed on the job in 1972. The cost of injuries and deaths was $375,000,000.

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