Canada Dockers Shut Down BC Ports

MONEY PROBLEMS

On major points of the plan, the contract, the ILWU is demanding an increase of $1.50 per hour in a one-year contract. The employers insist on a two-year contract and are offering 82 cents the first year and 83 cents the second.

A union compromise of an 18-month contract based on an increase of $1.75 per hour has been rejected by the BCMEA.

"NOT ACCEPTABLE"

"The employers' adamant position that they are not going to change the container clause before we can seriously discuss the question of wages," said ILWU Canadian Secretary-Treasurer Frank Kennedy. "It is just not acceptable to our members."

Other hurdles: The negotiations, along with Garcia, are Canadian area

Approximately 33 states, according to a Labor Department study, do not have the funds to face another 18 months of joblessness at the present rate.

As many as 30 states may have to draw on special federal funds to be able to keep on paying benefits through 1978. Five states, including Washington, have already run out of their own money and are borrowing from the federal reserve fund. Ten more states, including Oregon and Hawaii, are also expected to be borrowing from federal monies before the year is out.

SUNSHINE DODGER

SAN FRANCISCO—ILWU longshoremen and ship clerks up and down the Pacific Coast are in the process of voting on a second time on ratification of a new two-year contract with the Pacific Maritime Association.

The second vote, which requires a two-thirds majority to pass, was made necessary because one local, longshore Local 13 in Los Angeles, rejected the contract in the first vote by a margin of 22 votes. (See table on page 8.)

This brought into play a veto procedure adopted originally by the Longshore, Clerks and Walking Boss Caucus in 1966 but never before employed.

VEETO RIGHT

The provision is that if a major local or a group of smaller locals votes down a contract then a second vote must be taken and the coastwide vote must carry a two-thirds majority.

Even though the proposed new contract received a two-thirds majority coastwide on the first vote (60.3 percent to 33.3 percent), members of the ILWU Coast Committee decided Feb. 25 to adhere to the letter of the rules and take a second ballot.

The second round of balloting must be completed by March 10, and results must be submitted to the International by 6 p.m., March 11.

The union called a second ballot last month because one local, Local 19, that had voted against the first ballot, was 1,072 to 811.

The 23 vote margin of rejection was attributed to a number of factors. One is that Los Angeles is less distressed than other Pacific ports. Another was dissatisfaction over benefits for current pensioners. A third involved the steady man rule, naming and related issues.

Still another factor was the feeling on the part of some of the delegate members that there should be further negotiations.

The Improved Pay Guarantee Plan, which is one of the key features of the new contract, also has been the subject of considerable debate among members.

Some felt that the increased funding might not be sufficient in the face of a worsening economic climate.

In addition to Local 13, the votes in two other big locals, Local 16 in San Francisco and Local 19 in Seattle, were

Coast Longshoremen Vote Again

Board Names Overseas Delegates

SUNSHINE DODGER

SAN FRANCISCO—The ILWU International Executive Board met here February 26-27 to take care of routine business preparatory to the convening of the Twenty-first Biennial Convention on April 7 in Vancouver, BC.

The board members also completed the selection of Overseas Delegates for the coming year.

The delegates are as follows:

- Canada: Les Copan, Local 500; Fred Mahoney, Local 517; Frans Vandenbrink, Local 508 (alternate).
- Washington-Puget Sound: Ralph V. Brandt, Local 8; LeRoy V. Hanson, Local 4; Lloyd H. O'Dell, Local 21 (alternate).
- Oregon-Columbia River: Robert H. Brandt, Local 8; LeRoy V. Hanson, Local 4; Lloyd H. O'Dell, Local 21 (alternate).
- Northern California: Willie R. Walker, Local 7; Frank Paton, Local 34; Alpha L. Hunter (Baker); Local 6; Corneillo J. Lopez, Local 6; Luis B. Carbal- lar, Local 10; Lawrence Joseph Thibeaux, Local 10; Dennis Sheidler, Local 6 (alternate); Gerry Butler, Local 6 (alternate); Duane Peterson, Local 10 (alternate).
- Southern California: Ruben H. Negrete, Local 13; Arthur Jacobson, Local 13 (alternate); Frank P. Agundez, Local 13 (alternate); Dieter W. Koch, Local 26; Bob Klee, Local 26 (alternate); Eugene W. Pope, Local 30; Robert E. Long, Local 26 (alternate).
- Hawaii: Tai Sung Yung (sugar-Maui); Don Nishihira (tourism-Kauai); Fred Paulino (general-Oahu); Eddie Barbosa (sugar-Maui); Joe Lunasco (sugar-Oahu); Lapa (sugar-Oahu); Bernabe Quitevis (sugar-Oahu); Joe Lunasco (sugar-Oahu); Lapa (sugar-Oahu); Bernabe Quitevis (sugar-Oahu); Joe Lunasco (sugar-Oahu); Lapa (sugar-Oahu).

RELATIVELY close. Local 10 voted for the contract by a margin of 1,092 to 811 while Local 19 favored it by a 406-344 spread. The other large local, Local 6 in Portland, was more emphatically in favor of the tentative agreement—the margin being 582 to 162.

SMALL PORTS

In minor ports the vote in favor of the agreement tended to be much higher, as the table indicates.

If the agreement is ratified on the scheduled deadline of March 11, new pay scales for workers will become effective as of March 14. Pensioners, however, would lose a month. The $25 a month that would go to current retirees will not become effective until the first of the month following ratification.
Cambodia—Instant Replay

TWO YEARS AGO, as ILWU delegates gathered in San Francisco for this union's Twentieth Biennial Convention, the world was reeling at the signing of the Vietnam Peace Accords and the withdrawal of American troops from Southeast Asia. But the delegates didn't kid themselves—they understood that military defeat in one country didn't mean that American military and corporate leaders had given up on their efforts to dominate the destinies of other peoples.

"American labor," the delegates resolved, "must use its strength to make sure that there are no more Vietnams. It would be shortsighted and naive to believe that the American military-industrial complex has suddenly given up its continuing effort to frustrate a democratic exercise of the right to self-determination on the part of many nations and peoples throughout the world..."

However, they continued, "we can hope that the experience suffered in Vietnam and the resistance of a majority of Americans to further military adventurism will exercise restraint."

Well, they're back again. The folks from the State Department, the Pentagon and, of course, the White House are singing the same old song. Whatever we do we must do in conjunction with the labor movement as a whole.

On one level, they're right. Without American assistance the Lon Nol regime would collapse—simply because it does not enjoy one iota of support from its own people. This regime came into power in 1973 as part of a military coup that ousted the legal, completely corrupt, fascistic government, run by a clique of generals and black marketers from the posh quarters of the old French colonial hotels in the capital city of Phnom Penh. It survives only because US "civilian" fliers—flown by the American military (via the CIA)—supply the Lon Nol regime with all the things it needs to preside over a military dictatorship.

It survives only because US "civilian" fliers—in planes with the military insignia washed off—shuttle between Bangkok and Phnom Penh, bringing in supplies of rice and bullets. The rice is immediately monopolized by the generals who dispose of it at whatever price the traffic will bear. The bullets are thrust into the hands of 14- and 15-year old draftees who turn them over to the guerillas as soon as they desert.

Fortunately, things have changed a bit. The American people have been through it. We are much more sophisticated in these matters than a decade ago, Vietnam, Watergate, the continued exposure of the CIA, the obvious inability of our own government to deal with our domestic problems, have made us much less willing to go along with the old anti-Communist shell game.

Within the labor movement, the ILWU no longer stands with a few other small unions as the only voices for peace and non-intervention. Even AFL-CIO President George Meany, an avid "hawk" on Vietnam, said recently that if he had known back then what he knows now he wouldn't have supported that war. That's why Congress has moved so slowly and reluctantly on the Ford-Kissinger request for special Cambodian assistance. The mood of the nation has shifted in a profound way, and Senators and Congressmen who attempt to involve the American people in another South East Asian disaster do so at the risk of their careers.

Urging, as delegates did two years ago, that there be "No More Vietnams" is one thing. Making it stick is another. The propaganda campaign for aid to Cambodia will no doubt intensify, and the same drama will be re-enacted in other parts of the world. We in the labor movement must keep the lessons of Vietnam squarely before us, and keep those lessons alive for the American people.

We in the ILWU have not always agreed with the rest of the labor movement. In many respects we have taken positions in advance of most sectors—notably in the field of foreign policy.

But we have never cut our ties with the labor movement, and we have no intention of doing so now in this hour of peril for the working people. Our basic faith is in the workers' power.

Our convention will, in the tradition of the union, take positions on many subjects.

We doubtless will view with considerable alarm the threat of US military intervention in the Middle East, and there is little doubt but what we will condemn the provision of military supplies to Cambodia—if that situation is still an issue by the time the convention meets.

This union's tradition in support of world peace is a consistent and honorable one. We can date our opposition to unjust wars back to Korea and even before to Japan's invasion of China prior to World War II. We also took our stand on Spain in 1936.

But the fundamental issue facing working people in all of the capitalist nations of the world today is the state of the economy. Whatever we do we must do in conjunction with the labor movement as a whole.

As time since the end of the great depression of the thirties has the labor movement faced as difficult an economic situation at it does now.

That will be the prime problem before our convention.

We may not agree, for example, with every solution to the economic problems proposed by the AFL-CIO, but we do know we are on the same side. And we do know that the only way out is for the labor movement to move down the same road.

I am certain our convention will view the labor movement in the same manner.

On the Beam
by Harry Bridges

Our union's Twenty-First Biennial Convention is coming up in Vancouver, B.C., on April 7.

It is entirely possible that our delegates will arrive in Vancouver to find their longshore brothers there still on strike. They were on the bricks as this was written.

The strike illustrates in a dramatic way the tremendous challenges faced by the labor movement in the United States, in Canada and, indeed, in all the capitalist nations of the world.

We are facing a faltering economy, and every man and woman who works—or used to work—for wages knows it.

So our union is confronted with the question of what we can do about it. That is certain to be a central problem before our convention.

We are a relatively small union, although we do have the advantage, small as it may be, of standing astride a vital service industry.

But that isn't the answer. No one small union stands alone and survives against the corporate might of multi-national corporations. We knew that even before there was a phrase like multi-national corporation. We used to call them other things—like international monopolies—but the answer is the same.

When a big corporation—particularly one with roots in several nations—decides to do something, it just goes ahead and does it. Labor be damned—any labor in any country. We've been up against this kind of power play before. Sometimes we won. Sometimes we lost.

But the key to it all is that you need allies.

If the opposition is getting bigger and stronger, then we have to get bigger and in some way stronger, too.

This is one of the key questions our convention will have to face.

We in the ILWU have not always agreed with the rest of the labor movement. In many respects we have taken positions in advance of most sectors—notably in the field of foreign policy.

But we have never cut our ties with the labor movement, and we have no intention of doing so now in this hour of peril for the working people. Our basic faith is in the workers' power.

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Oil Companies Try Sidestepping Jones Act

WASHINGTON, DC—The Jones Act has been under attack by oil companies that argue that the act prevents them from paying slave wages and at the same time escaping the taxes that must be paid by American flag operators. Two companies, Phillips Petroleum and Marathon Oil Co., have charged that oil companies like Phillips are paying slave wages, and at the same time escaping the taxes that must be paid by American flag operators, and urged tight enforcement.

DELEGATES TO THE Twentieth ILWU Convention in 1972 noted that the Jones Act was “being heavily attacked by the oil industry which is attempting to escape U.S. tankers which can be accommodated by the Port of Boston, it has been claimed.”

The delegation presenting the brief, which included the executive council plus representatives from labor councils in the province, indicated that fishermen, farm and domestic workers be covered by BC labor legislation. It also pointed out that employers be permitted to cancel a collective agreement when management significantly alters conditions through technological change.

Paul Hall, President of the Seafarers’ International Union, charges that the waiver is “an outrageous attempt by the major US oil companies to bypass the Jones Act in order to gain a windfall profit through the entry of oil-dodging foreign vessels into the US domestic trade.”

The delegation argued that no American ships be allowed to trade with the UK, a demand that is usually ignored by the US government.

PETITION RESTRICTIONS The labor brief criticized restrictive sections of the labor code signing out the provision for informational and organizational restrictions. It asked that fishermen, farm and domestic workers be covered by BC labor legislation. It also pointed out that employers be permitted to cancel a collective agreement when management significantly alters conditions through technological change.

The delegation presenting the brief included the executive council plus representatives from labor councils in the province. Canadian Area ILWU president Don Garcia is a member of the executive council.

RENT CONTROL While commending the government for its 1972 rent control, the delegates expressed disappointment that the allowable increase in rents was only 10.6 percent and that many tenants were excluded from the protective control. For example, dwellings occupied by children or the elderly, as were promised by the NDP prior to the elections of 1972, were also supported by the delegates.

Other social legislation requested by the delegates included:

• Removal of the education tax from homes and family farms.
• Development of a shipping industry in the province.

BC Labor Asks Province to Play Strong Suit

VICTORIA, BC — British Columbia labor has urged the provincial New Democratic Party government to expand its labor-oriented and people-oriented policies, and to continue the campaign by big business interests aimed at defeating it.

President of the Federation of Labor, Don Garcia, is a member of the executive council during the final period of the campaign. He told the delegates last month, “it is clearly in the interest of the government.”

The BC Federation of Labor (BCLF) has long been involved in the struggle to bar exports of South African coal from South Africa and has urged the US government to impose sanctions on South Africa.

The BCFL included:

• The agency had ignored the safety and health administration (OSHA).
• The AFL-CIO had not received enough funding to stand up to OSHA standards in many areas had neither been set nor enforced.
• The 1976 budget for OSHA merely allows for enforcement solely in the hands of the federal government, permit compliance and enforcement in cases where imminent dangers existed, and other improvements.

LOCAL 8 MAN TRANSFORMS War Injury into Art

PORTLAND—Russ Wolfe, dispatch- er of Local 8, is famed in Oregon art circles as a wood carver.

Wolfe, 58, took up wood carv- ing when he was hit in the hand by a Wendel during World War II, and “gave me a dull knife and a piece of wood and told me to whittle shavings.”

He thought that was “kind of dumb,” so he started to carve statues, totem poles—and finally, ships.

It is the ship models that he has brought him recognition. Wolfe has carved ships in battle, sailing ships of the 1750’s and 1770’s, schooners, and a beauti- fully executed reality of the Brother Jonathan, a combination sailing ship and sidewinder which still gets past the US Customs.

He uses all kinds of wood, mostly fine pine, but also walnut and birch. Wolfe has carved elephants from rosewood and impalas from cam- phorwood.

A member of Local 8 for 22 years, Wolfe, “is one of our most active brothers,” according to secretary Dick Wise.

He used his talents during the 1971-1972 strike to turn out posters for the publicity committee.

'Slave Coal' Still Gets Past US Customs

WASHINGTON, DC — The United Mine Workers’ fight to block the importation of slave labor coal from South Africa suffered another defeat on March 7 when the US Customs Service rejected legitimate demands by the union that such coal be barred from the US.

In a response to UMW President Arn- old Miller, Commissioner Vernon D. Acres claimed that the US does not have sufficient supplies of low-sulphur coal for use by public utilities, and that therefore such imports are necessary.

LESS THAN $3

The Customs service, Acres said, ignored union evidence that South Afri- can miners, many of whom make less than $1 per day have been subjected to brutal working conditions at most of individual labor contracts that would be illegal in this country.

The UMW claimed that a number of coal operators have stated that they could not afford to buy low-sulfur coal immedi- ately and could insure long-term supplies if the utilities would agree to long-term contracts. It said the UMWA would lead to the opening of new mines and the expansion of existing ones.

LONGSHORE COOPERATION

When a shipment of South African coal arrived in Mobile, Alabama on March 24, 1974, longshoremen in co- operation with the miners, refused to unload it until ordered to do so by a federal judge.

UMW sources promise that the struggle to bar exports of South African coal into the US will continue.

Local 6 Convention Postponed Due to Office Workers’ Strike

SAN FRANCISCO—Walsh, Local 6’s annual Convention, scheduled for March 1 has been postponed due to a strike by Office and Professional Employ- ees, Local 29, representing office workers who are employed in various ILWU offices.

The Convention was scheduled to wrap up at noon, February 21, making it im- possible to prepare a report for publication.

The Convention has been re- scheduled for June 7, the earliest time at which appropriate facilities at the Del Webb Towne House, could be reserved.
The House of Representatives on Thursday, February 27, 1975, voted 248 to 163 for an amendment to end the 22 percent oil deple- tion allowance. The oil company tax loophole, which could in the next two years produce $6 billion of additional tax income for the United States Treasury.

The House then passed the amended Tax Rebate Bill, H.R. 2166, by a vote of 317 to 97 which will refund $8.1 to taxpayers for the years 1974 and 1975. This action was made possible by the re- cessional House procedural reforms. The House Democratic Caucus, chaired by Rep. Phil Burton (D.-Calif.), voted a rule allowing amendments to H.R. 2166, the Tax Rebate Act, concern- ing the oil depletion allowance. In the past the House Ways and Means Committee, whose chairman appointed its members, controlled amendments to any of its legislation and prevented any action relative to the oil depletion allowance since 1956, except once in the '60s to lower the amount from 27 percent to 22 percent.

Representative Elizabeth Holtzman (D.-N.Y.), speaking on this issue on the floor of the House, asked who was to pay for the tax rebate and other social legislation.

"Who is going to bear the cost of these measures? Is it going to be the overburdened middle-class taxpayer, the elderly, the poor? Or are we going to make the oil corporations, which have been cheating the taxpayers, pay as well?"

"I believe we must end the oil depletion allowance, so that the oil industry will bear its fair share of the cost of government, and that the burden of the social programs will not be placed on those who have already suffered most from inflation, recession, and the oil shortage."

This bill, H.R. 2166, as amended, faces an uphill fight in the Senate, which is much more susceptible to multi-national oil corp- oration pressure. The fight against the Filibuster will have a defi- nite bearing on the passage of the bill. Sen. Long and other "oil state senators" have threatened to filibuster unless the amend- ment relative to ending the oil depletion allowance is removed. The oil companies can benefit from a Presidential veto should the Senate pass the measure. Certainly President Gerald Ford's energy program establishes that he's prepared to give full support to the oil companies no matter what the cost to the American public.

H.R. 2166, should it pass the Senate and be signed by the President, would generally refund 10 percent of last year's (1974) state and federal welfare and relief programs. Under this Act state and federal welfare and relief programs

THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND FULL EMPLOYMENT ACTS

Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D.-Calif.) introduced H.R. 50, the Equal Opportunity and Full Employment Act in the 94th Congress. He was joined by 67 Congressmen. Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D.-Minn.) introduced S. 50 in the Senate and was joined by 15 Senators.

In the face of ever-rising unemployment and inflation these bills would put the right to a job at adequate wages as an inalienable right to be considered and safeguarded by law as free speech or freedom of religion. It would attempt to eliminate all forms of economic disaster through comprehensive economic planning in less ways than is it currently protecting the profits of banks, railroads, and corporate giants," said Rep. Hawkins, who along with Rep. Henry Reuss (D-Wis.), first introduced the bill.

Under this Act state and federal welfare and relief programs would be organized and the emphasis would be on getting people productive jobs at decent pay rather than giving our sub- standard doles. Welfare would be confined to those unable to work, physical or mental reasons or because of family responsibilities. Should a job not be available for anyone wishing to work, they would be placed in a Standing Job Corps. The bill states "Such corps shall be available for public service work projects as set up by the local planning councils and job boards. Corps members are not to be paid no less than the federal minimum wage and equal pay comparable to that received by workers doing the same type of work for private companies.

Near the end of World War II, President Franklin D. Roose- velt in his 1944 address to Congress, declared an "Economic Bill of Rights" was "the right for all to have a use- ful and remunerative job." Senators Murray and Wagner intro- duced a Full Employment Bill in 1945, but big business succeeded in defeating it.

We were called coolies and "wild chick- ens" by most people and dirty, filthy coolies by the bureaucratic capitalists. We carried a heavy load but we also suffered even worse—unemployment. Too many people for the jobs. Many of us were poorly fed and clothed.

"They described our hats as flower hats—the torn brims looked like petals. Our clothing was called striped, because the patches on patches looked like a design. We ate the food of dogs and pigs. Our shoes were called 'gost'-thread sandals because they were of straw."

"You look very fancy, now," I ob- served. He was wearing a beautiful color of blue and his jacket was made with sleeves buttoned tight at the wrist, in a new style I had never seen before, sort of a house-type of dress.

"Yes," he smiled. "I get 94.00 yuan a month—the average is 75.00 yuan. In four more months I will re- tire at age fifty-five and I will get 70% of my wage then. I am a kind of in- structor now. I lead the young people and teach them and do maintenance work, I talk 'bitterness' to them, so they won't forget the way we lived and worked in the old days."

"Where did you work before 1949?"

"I was at the Hui Shan Dock. It was Japanese and always had the same

THE ECONOMIC BILL OF RIGHTS

The last "right" was "the right to a full and decent life.

Shanghai Dockers Recall:

"Dirty, Filthy Coolies"

"We dockers are happy to be able to talk with an American friend," he said, showing that his teeth were very poor from malnutrition or old age or both. "In old China we had a saying—there are eighteen hells and the dockers live at the bottom one. Only we were not called dockers (ma 'kou jang jen) then."

"Oh yes, I smiled. "I get 94.00 yuan a month—the average is 75.00 yuan. In four more months I will retire at age fifty-five and I will get 70% of my wage then. I am a kind of instructor now. I lead the young people and teach them and do maintenance work, I talk 'bitterness' to them, so they won't forget the way we lived and worked in the old days."

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A "stopwork" meeting on...
name. After the Japanese it was an American military dock where weapons were landed to support Chiang Kai-shek in starting a civil war. Before Liberation dockers got no wages. We could not work at all except with a permit from the foreman. We had the 'four fears'—fear it might rain, fear of the capitalists and cursed and beat us as we work. After the Japanese it was an ed, we had a rhyme—dock, dock, there tion dockers got no wages. We could use gestures in a graphic way.

He was warning to his task of talk- ing with a foreign woman and began to use gestures in a graphic way.

"The foremen collaborated with the capitalists and cursed and beat us as they pleased. We were so badly treat- ed, we had a rhyme—dock, dock, there was no end to our miserable life. We used to say about the foremen: you eat the human body without spitting out the bones even.

"I can tell you a story to see how it was. Hang Ta was a man of forty when I was twenty. He was very strong and could carry 400 catties at a time, yet even so able-bodied a man as this could not earn a living. We got piece wages but in the end we got very little as we were exploited on one level after an- other. Hang Ta became weak during the Japanese occupation, because he was over 45 and could not longer carry 400 catties; he could not carry even 200, so the Japanese discharged him. It was winter and he was kicked and beaten by the foreman to force him away from the dock, he had no place to stay but in the latrine. Early next morning he was found frozen to death. There were many, many cases I knew of like Hung Ta."

"During the Japanese occupation we suffered the worst. We hoped for a bet- ter life after they surrendered, but then U.S. Imperialism entered at the back door and we were treated cruelly. Our living was not insured. This was in 1946- 1947 and the Ch'ing -Hung pong (gang- sters) had control. They were hand in hand the Japanese. We did not even get piece work rates—we were asked to work and they gave us only what they liked.

AMERICAN WEAPONS

When American warships came into port, we suffered even worse. One day some very heavy boxes of ammunition were being unloaded brought by the Americans for the Kuomintang reaction- naries. One person failed and it slipped into the Whanghai river. They searched for it and it was found. We were gathered together and charged with this as a crime. Some of us were beaten. They said there must be Com- munists behind this and demanded for the rest of us we were wanted also. And many others were arrested and tortured to find out who had asked us to drop the cargo. I was brought to the Police Station.

"I was tortured by being tied on a long bench with my neck fixed to the bench and my four limbs were tied to its four legs. They poured running water over my face which ran into my nose and mouth. My belly swelled and my ears were damaged. I was also bit- tered by hot pepper and kerosene in a teapot when tied to the bench. It was poured into my nose. They kept asking who wanted you to throw this box of ammunition into the water. We said we didn't know. Of course, we did not. No one had told us. I was also put into an electric chair and electric wire was used to burn my eyebrows—that is the reason for the scars there. In the elec- tric chair I shook so much when the electricity was turned on that two big teeth in the back of mouth were loos- ened and fell out.

"I was in prison 56 days. We did not know anything to tell, but even if we had we would not have told it. This was in the Ward Road prison by Choushan Road. In this prison I saw many peo- ple there, mostly laboring people—cart pullers, peddlers, etc. That arrest was in 1947."

"Before Liberation, we thought we were miserable because we had a poor fate. Afterward we came to realize that the reason is the exploitation. The Communist Party taught us to think for the first time. Who supports whom? Who supports the life of whom? We had not enough food and clothes, but the exploiting class had a happy life and after Liberation I realized the rea-

I thought I would stop to comment: I was in Shanghai during the 1989- in 1931 and 1932, and again in 1939-1940. Perhaps I saw you there on the docks as a longshoreman. He looked at me with real interest.

"You know the Ch'ing-Hung pongs controlled the longshoremen in Shanghai long before 1946—at least 1927 on. The new seances labor is Shanghai as well as the vice industry. The only way Hang Kao-shhek was able to take over the city in 1937 from the workers was by means of the pong gangsters, under Ta Yu-sheng. It was they who killed about 5,000 workers then. That is why the cause of labor was so very bad.

"Not only was it the cheapest and most mistreated in the world, but also gang- stalkers had to be paid by both the employer and labor on top of that."

"The old longshoremen nodded his head. "Of course, the Ch'ing-Hung pongs always controlled the waterfront. Unions formed only on the principle. It was one reason why we were in such a bad situation. But it was much worse after 1945 because they were given this power by the state."

"I was interested that this man did not refer to whole categories but di- vided up into "reactionary" Kuomintang and "imperialist" Americans. "The concentration camp in which I was kept," he said, "meant changing of society. A whole new psy-

PILFERAGE

"Now the dockers are determined to build better and serve the people better with more enthusiasm for work every year. One big change is in the attitude toward pilfering. Before Liberation we had this but afterward there has been very little. This behavior is very strongly opposed by the mass of the dockers. If a person steals even a lit- tle, the mass of the dockers feels it is a disgrace to all of them.

SAN FRANCISCO—The other day a black gripman on a Cali- fornia Street cable car started talking about The Dispatcher and the ILWU.

He mentioned in particular the fact the paper ran this column and said he thought it was im- portant that a workers' paper be written on its own history.

"A lot of younger people," he said, "simply don't know what happened back in the thirties— or before.

THE REASON

That, of course, is the reason this column appears.

Previously, the paper ran this colmun of the thirties didn't hesitate a min-
ute.

GERMAN CRUISER

Fifty years ago the Nazi cruisers Karlise came into San Francisco Bay, and San Francisco's longshoremen, voted to "down tools" in protest against the presence in the port of such a symbol of "ruthless German fasci- cism, dictatorship against the working class," as the Waterfront Worker, rank and file publication of San Fran-
isco longshoremen, put it.

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McDonnell-Douglas Machinists Walk Out Over Wages

ST. LOUIS—Despite six months of negotiations, McDonnell-Douglas Corporation has forced 30,000 members of the Machinists out on strike. The nationwide walkout began February 10.

The strike affects facilities in St. Louis, Los Angeles, Huntington Beach, Calif., as well as space installations at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., and Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

COMPANY OFFER

The huge aerospace company, according to the Machinists, has proposed a wage increase of 16 cents per hour, but with the expected wage levels means that now, half the wages in covered employment escape financial aid, and half the wages in the system.

The company called for an immediate boost of the taxable wage-base to the "average annual wage in covered employment." However, the Machinists say this would then be raised in steps over the next few years toward the Social Security wage-base level.

He pointed out that Congress set that parity in 1935 but then left the unemployment insurance wage-base drift without improvement for 33 years.

AFL-CIO Ask Unemployment Comp Reforms

WASHINGTON, DC — Despite the heavy strain put on by the current unemployment since the 1980s, the unemployment compensation system remains remarkably sound, according to James O’Brien, assistant director of the AFL-CIO’s Department of Research.

He warned, however, that fiscal reorganization of the unemployment compensation system, as it is now designed, is much too weak. He said it was to be a strong "first line of defense against poverty and recession that it was intended to be." State reserves, O’Brien said, stood at $3.8 billion in the beginning of the year, and President Ford had asked that another $2 billion be added to the reserves, "so that they will be made available to those states which encounter difficulties in making payments.

O’Brien’s comments were made in the course of Labor News Conference, a radio program sponsored by the AFL-CIO.

As to reorganization, he urged that failure to keep the taxable wage-base in line with average annual wage levels means that now, half the wages in covered employment escape financial aid, and half the wages in the system.

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In proposing a program for the current session of the California Legislature, the program expresses "high hope" for what can be accomplished in Sacramento with the departure of the administration of Republican Governor Ronald Reagan.

For example, he said "Your children are..." This time we say the legislative burden of relief from the effects of economic distress must be carried by those best able to pay—the profiteers.

Specific details of the program, which are also being re-drafted as a result of contributions made by delegates, will be printed in a subsequent edition of The Dispatcher.

Mexican Dockers Thank ILWU

SAN FRANCISCO — in a letter to ILWU Vice-President William H. Chester, Mexican longshore leaders have expressed thanks for ILWU support in their effort to negotiate a new contract.

Chester had wired President Hugo Cervantes Del Rio, Labor Department Secretary Porfirio Salazar Lede, and ILWU Sub-Secretary Arturo Llerenas, urging a fair contract for longshoremen in the Port of Vera Cruz.

"It is very comforting to know that we have a union such as ILWU to give us a guaranty of good and unambiguous recognition necessary for the work to go forward," the letter said.

Leaders of the Mexican longshore unions will be guests at the ILWU Convention in Vancouver next month and a full report on their negotiations will be delivered then.

Local 142 Sponsors Workers’ Housing Conference

SAN FRANCISCO—Eight young Bay Area residents, displaced by the coming of the waterfront workers, have received $650 scholarships from the ILWU Local 142 at their graduation from San Francisco Bay Area Penalizers.

These awards, established in memory of John Weisner, are awarded annually to relatives of Pension Club members, who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

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Teamsters Blast Ford Economy, Energy Program

WASHINGTON, DC — The International Brotherhood of Teamsters has rejected President Ford's proposals for dealing with the energy crisis as unjust, insufficient and wrong headed.

"We won't get a damned thing done in this country until well-fed and affluent decision makers adopt the same sense of urgency which springs from an empty belly," Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons told delegates to a special "call to arms" conference held earlier this month. The delegates developed a "call to arms" program for dealing with US economic woes, calling for:

- A modernization of the unemployment insurance program, and an accelerated public works program to reduce the immediate pressures on the unemployed.
- Emergency legislation to provide hospitalization insurance for the unemployed;
- A tax refund program which would contain the name of William R. Marlowe
- A permanent personal income reduction to benefit lower and middle income groups, with no benefits for the wealthy;
- A halting of the outflow of jobs and capital from the US.

Calling All ILWU Members

Do you know some workers who don't make union wages? Who are being pushed around? Have you no security on the job?

In other words, do you know workers who want to be or- gated into the ILWU? If so, please write or telephone information to one of the following:

Northwest Regional Office
G. Johnny Parks, Regional Director
405 N.W. 18th Ave.
Portland, Ore. 97209
Phone: (503) 233-1955

Washington-Alaska Offices
George Ginalis, Int'l Rep.
2330 11th Street
Tacoma, Washington 98431
Phones: 
206-380-1800

Southern California, Regional Office
William Piecy, Regional Director
5825 S. Figueroa St.
Los Angeles, California 90037

 Correction on Canadian Officers

The February 21 edition of the Dis- patch incorrectly listed three officers of the ILWU Canadian area. They are President Don Garcia, Secre- tary-Treasurer Frank Kennedy, Vice Presidents Dave Lomas James Irvine and Russ Flemming. We apologize for the error.

Offices of Workers' Strike

Our attention has been called to an article in the San Francisco Ex- press, February 27, 1975, page 3 by Jackson Rennels, relative to a dispute between the ILWU Canadian Area and Professional Work- ers and the ILWU.

"The paragraph of concern is the one dealing with the following: "The par- tage of 20 picketing office employees was also supported from the ILWU Local 123, Wednesday a statement that the ILWU pensioners and the women's auxiliary." It is our understanding that some re- tired members of Local 29 who in previ- ous years had been employed in offices authorized by the ILWU and who are also affiliated to the San Francisco Auxiliary were on the picket line, but not the pensioners or the capacity of auxiliary mem- bers. We regret the inference which might be drawn that the auxiliaries are taking a position in a strictly internal situation.

Fraternally,
Ruth Harris, President
Wenonah Drauston, Secretary

Vietnam Intervention

Congressman Leo J. Ryan (D-San Mateo, Calif.) recently reported on his visit to Southeast Asia which he believes will document his support of the $300 million supplementary appro- priation for South Vietnam sought by President Ford. (San Mateo Times, 2/11/75)

I would like to comment on this item that appeared in your newspaper. According to Herb Caen's column of 1/70/75, the members of three U.S. squadrons are traveling to Southeast Asia in civilian clothes other offices of the San Francisco Chronicle.

"The other side evidently did think there would be at least a period of peace and war preparation was greatly discouraged by—by the aggressiveness of Thieu's military operations."

"The call for peace by intervene- tion once before. It did not mor."

New Two Senators Ask for Normal US-Cuba Relations

WASHINGTON, DC — A resolution urging the President to seek normal relations with Cuba was introduced this week by Senators Bill Rowling (D-IN) and Clairborne Poll (D-RI).

The two Senators, who visited Cuba last week, said that continued hos- tility toward the government of Fidel Castro was incommensurate with US policy of reducing tensions.

Letters to the Editor

Nikki Bridges Heads Job Study Project

SAN FRANCISCO—The Institute for Scientific Analysis announces the for- mation of its Center for Employment Studies, to be headed by Nikki Bridges, wife of ILWU International President Harry Bridges.

The Institute is an independent, non-profit corporation with four California offices where scientists conduct research in areas including but not lim- ited to human behavior, education, mental health, administration of justice, women's issues and the environment.

ILWU Clerical Workers

End 8-Day Strike

SAN FRANCISCO—After eight days on the picket line, clerical staff of ILWU San Francisco Bay Area offices have returned to work, having reached a promising settlement of their differ- ences with a committee of International and local officials.

Bargaining covered 45 workers employed at the ILWU International headquarters, Locals 6, 10, 11 and 34; ILWU - PMA Benefit Funds and the Women's Welfare Fund. The office workers are represented by Local 29, Office and Professional Employees, AFL-CIO.

Office Workers' Strike

On William Marlowe

One day, 50 odd years ago, a big shadow was cast on the West Coast waterfront. An era, if you will, began. The era of William R. Marlowe.

Today, from Seattle to San Diego, from the office of Harry Bridges to the dispatch hall in San Pedro, his name is all but a household word. The time space between yesterday and today is history, but if one would take the time to turn these pages, very few, if any, would not contain the name of William R. Marlowe.

Revered, respected and honored by all with whom he came in contact, accolades are many. Both sides of the bargaining table have often listened with a smile. Big in stature yes, but even bigger in the things which caused him to be held in such high esteem.

Today, this era is drawing to a close. Last Tuesday William R. Marlowe died in his sleep and spent eight weeks in the Memorial Hospital in his home port, Long Beach. He was now and con- fined to his bed, surrounded by some of the testimonials he received over the years, which are framed on his bedroom wall, he awaits the final tie up, the final bargaining session.

Though cast many years ago, the shadow remains today. As long as there is a waterfront, William R. Marlowe will be.

WILLIAM R. MARLOWE
Long Beach

San Francisco Chronicle
**NY Hard Hats Demonstrate For Jobs**

NEW YORK — About 10,000 construction workers protesting massive unemployment surrounded the New York City Hall for five hours on February 27, blocking traffic on the Brooklyn Bridge and intermittently clashing with 600 police officers called out to keep them in line. Traffic was backed up to a standstill because of the city hall demonstration, as many workers, carrying American flags and signs with banners, pleaded with themselves to shoulder to shoulder across Broadway, the traffic route to and from the financial district.

The demonstrators said they were protesting against conditions in planning city buildings projects and what they described as the increased use of non-union labor.

Edward Cleary, secretary-treasurer of the NY Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO, said that 21,000 of the building trades’ 56,000 members were unemployed, compared to 8,000 last April. The protest was aimed at city budget hearings in which cuts in city building projects have been made.

New York City has experienced widespread unemployment in other areas recently. The garment trades, once the heart of New York’s industrial center, now report 20 percent unemployed, while the city-wide figure is 10.3 percent.

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It concluded in March, 1974 after Farah admitted that the labor boycott of Farah pants had closed four plants and slashed profits.

**Bridges: Drafting a Must for Coast Ports**

SAN FRANCISCO--The importance of continued dredging on the West Coast and the economic life of West Coast ports was underlined in a recent speech by ILWU President Harry Bridges to the Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference.

"The whole port complex is involved with shipping and port related activity," Bridges said. "It cannot be treated in any simple way. We have to remember that we are coastwise ports."

**Isle Dockers Present Their Demands**

HAWAII—The Longshore division of ILWU Local 142 presented its demands February 27 to Bernard T. Eilarts, President of the Hawaii Employers Council and chief negotiator for the industry.

ILWU Regional Director Robert McElrath said that in keeping with long-standing ILWU policy, the demands would not be made public.

Aside from longshoremen, the union negotiates for container freight station workers, Metropolitan area maintenance crews, shipping clerks, bulk sugar workers and port-security personnel.

The demands were established at a special meeting of dock workers which convened January 15.

**Hard Times Hit Farah; 1,200 Fired**

SAN ANTONIO—The Farah Manufacturing Company set off a target of a two-year strike and boycott by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, has closed its two San Antonio plants, laying off 1,300 workers.

The company’s five plants in El Paso will be reopening.

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