Borax Local Rebuilds

Local 30
Vote Saves Union Shop

BORON, Calif. — Members of ILWU Local 30 here have decisively turned back an attempt to do away with their union voting 409 to 276 to maintain the union shop at the huge US Borax facility here about 150 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

Ray Justice and Donald Emerich headed the committee of Local 30 members working on the campaign to save the union shop. Active members assisting were Jim Keys, Roy Banks, Bill Tierney, Charlie Mattox, Danny Gilbert, Charles Thomas and Samuel Elliott.

The vote was conducted by the National Labor Relations Board March 29 at the request of some of the scabs who were hired during the long strike at US Borax last year and chose to remain in the plant when an agreement was reached.

"This is a very important vote," said ILWU Southern California Regional Director Bill Piercy. It means that by 20 at the request of some of the scabs and 385 striking union members were active members assist- ing to lead the International union for the next two years.

In shaping policies, the delegates will have to make assessments of the economic outlook in the US and Canada, the political and legislative scene, and world developments as they affect the union's membership and all labor.

Delegates will be meeting in the shadow of recent resolutions of both the ILWU-PMA Pacific Coast longshore contract and the Canadian longshore contract. Canadian dockers have been forced back to work under compulsory arbitration legislation, while the US longshoremen will have to wait for a federally-appointed arbitrator to bring down a binding report within 60 days of being appointed. In the meantime, the old agreement remains in effect. No strike or lock-out is permitted before December 31, 1974, the date on which the old agreement expires.

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The accompanying column by Harry Bridges much lays out the position of the ILWU over the years on the subject of Vietnam. As the Vietnamese people move into a new phase in their struggle for self-determination, we're proud to have been among the first in this country to have taken the position that the US had no business over there. We are equally disturbed by the role of world policemen as it tried to do in the Kennedy years. Such ambitions were dropped in 1969 with the Nixon Doctrine, which called for a reduced role in world affairs.

"But this retreat from power has gotten out of hand." Given the nature of the system they run, top-level business leaders of the US are not prepared to sit back and watch what they consider to be an abstraction of "America's role as the defender of freedom," or some such nonsense.

We wanted to share the Business Week editorial with the members of the ILWU and other readers of The Dispatcher because it seemed to sum up very clearly the thinking of a substantial section of the American corporate leadership. They are in trouble and they know it. Since 1945, American prosperity has been based largely on the fantastic profits which could be earned overseas. The editors of Business Week are intelligent enough to realize that era is coming to a rapid end--if not next week, certainly in the next few years.

Now America must develop a new foreign policy. The President and the Congress must come to a new understanding about America's role overseas. "Business has a vital interest in how President Ford and his Secretary manage this task," concludes Business Week. We don't know exactly what the editors have in mind. But we do know that the interest of working people in this country requires a clear abandonment of the whole foreign policy consensus of the last thirty years, and the development of a new policy based on peace, coexistence of varying economic and political systems, and an end to the exploitation of man by man.

On the Beam
by Harry Bridges

By the time you read this column, Saigon may have been occupied by the forces of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam and the North Vietnamese Army. In Cambodia, the so-called "Pol Pot" may also have been occupied by the insurgents, the Khmer Rouge. Thousands of American lives and billions of dollars were spent to stop this from happening over the last 20 years, and now it looks, from the point of view of the State Department, like it's all down the drain.

It looks to me like the end of a long, bloody and tragic road, which started shortly after World War II when Harry Truman announced in his State of the Union message of January 1948 that the US had to take on the role of making the world safe for US-style democracy and US-style capitalism. Truman was a tough nut—he really believed the Russians were out to conquer the world, and he committed US prestige, dollars and even men to plug up the holes in Korea, in Greece, in Iran and everywhere else.

As much as President Eisenhower is maligned by historians these days, he did what he could to stop this madness. While his own Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, had threatened massive retaliation and thermonuclear war if necessary, Eisenhower quietly dumped efforts to get the US to commit troops to back the French in Vietnam and Cambodia, the failure of Kissinger-style diplomacy in the Middle East, the growing role of the left in Portugal—Business Week concludes, correctly, that the entire structure of American domination of the post-war world is collapsing.

Here's how they see it. "The international economic structure, under which US companies have flourished since the end of World War II is in jeopardy. Fuelled initially by the dollars of the Marshall Plan, American business prospered and expanded on overseas orders despite the cold war, the end of colonialism, and the creation of militant and often anti-capitalist new countries. No matter how negative a development, there was also the umbrella of American power to contain it. With the White House and Congress in close agreement on foreign policy, the US was able to fashion increasing prosperity among Western countries, using the tools of more liberal trade, investment and political power. The rise of the multi-national corporation was the economic expression of this political framework.

"Now, this stable world order for business is falling apart."

The editors of Business Week are a little bit upset. They are annoyed with Congress for standing in the way of continued military appropriations, and for refusing to play the game in which serious discussion of foreign policy by the representatives of the people is, if not absolutely treasonous, surely extremely impolite. Because the collapse of the post-war consensus on foreign policy means, if the editorial continues a serious economic crisis for the novel ever among the First World. If this cannot continue to export a third of its products to Southeast Asia it will have to seek out other outlets, in Europe and in Western Europe. Plant investment in Southeast Asia, as well as in the Middle East and in Spain and Portugal now requires higher risk taking.

Like all sensible people, Business Week seems to accept the fact that there is not much more the US can do to save the puppet regimes in South Vietnam and Cambodia. These governments have collapsed of their own weight, and because they simply didn't serve the needs of the working people. "No one, of course, including the world business community wants the US to play the role of world policemen as it tried to do in the Kennedy years. Such ambitions were dropped in 1969 with the Nixon Doctrine, which called for a reduced role in world affairs."

"But this retreat from power has gotten out of hand." Given the nature of the system they run, top-level business leaders of the US are not prepared to sit back and watch what they consider to be an abstraction of "America's role as the defender of freedom," or some such nonsense.

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American involvement in Vietnam, which really began with the Kennedy administration in 1961, and reached its climax under Nixon and Johnson, meant that Harry Truman's ideas of America's role in the world had won out. The rest of the story should be pretty familiar by now. The failure of the Vietnamese and the Cambodian people, the destruction of their countryside, the uprooting of their whole way of life which continues, of course, as a result of the war which followed in Vietnam—were the result of America's role...
New Overseas Delegations Assigned

SAN FRANCISCO — A new batch of ILWU overseas delegations has been selected and assigned, as follows:

SEATTLE: Dieter Koch, Local 26; Eddie Lapa, Local 142; LeRoy Henson, Local 4.
PORTLAND: Walker Freitas, Local 142; Frank Patton, Local 34; Fred Mahoney, Local 14.
CAJA: Willie Walker, Local 17; Luis Carballar, Local 10; Leslie Copan, Local 9.
ITALY: Cornelio Lopez, Local 56; Donald Niehaus, Local 142; Luis Castillo, Local 8.
PHILIPPINES: Fred Paulino, Local 142; Benjamin Grete, Local 13; John Ulrich, Local 142.
CHILE: Bernabe Quiroga, Local 142; Francisco Agundez, Local 94; Paul Stephene, Local 32.
Greece: Tai Sung Yang, Local 142; Ralph Helmo, Local 18; Robert Brandt, Local 8.
WEST INDIES: Alpha Hunter, Local 6; Lawrence Thibeaux, Local 10; Eugene Pope, Local 32.

Most of the delegates will be taking off either in the late spring or in the fall to avoid the tourist crush. Their reports will be published in The Dispatcher beginning in the summer months of this year.

Early Talks Bring Big Increase at Amfac

LOS ANGELES—A union request for early negotiations paid off handsomely for Local 26 members at Amfac Drug recently. When the company agreed to the request, a new agreement with increased wages and benefits was reached several months ahead of schedule.

Amfac Drug workers will receive wage increases of 46 cents per hour effective March 1, 1975, three months ahead of the normal effective date. An additional 15 cents per hour will be paid in installments of 25 cents at six-month intervals.

The union also won vacation improvements, which will now provide three weeks after five years and another four weeks after 15 years, beginning June 1. The agreement expires May 31, 1978.

The negotiations committee consisted of Business Agent George Lee, John Markovitz, Inc. have unanimously approved a new agreement which provides for a wage increase of $1.50 over three years—be paid out in installments of 25 cents at six-month intervals.

Most of the delegates will be taking off either in the late spring or in the fall to avoid the tourist crush. Their reports will be published in The Dispatcher beginning in the summer months of this year.

Bull Strut Up On First Aid

SAN FRANCISCO — About 140 Bay Area walking bulls—steady, plow and supplemental—have recently taken an intensive two-day refresher course in first aid techniques.

The first-aid class, held in four separate cycles to accommodate the large number of members of longshore Local 10 and forestry's Local 91, were directed by PMA Area Safety Supervisor Lawrence F. Gallagher, Bernard O'Halloran and formal Local 34 member Charles Smith.

The two-day "supervisor's seminar" was planned to familiarize the bulls with "safety regulations under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the ILWU-CMA safety supplement and other regulations. OSHA inspectors and fire department officials were present to answer questions and brush-up the students on safety rules and techniques.

The second day was taken up with a Red Cross certification course, required of all bulls by the federal government.

The tournament, said Gallagher, "was fantastic. I want to compliment the members on their interest, enthusiasm and the questions they asked. It was a damn fine course."

The program is repeated every three years.

Maritime Safety Declines Under OSHA

BERKELEY — A steady decline in the effectiveness of federal safety programs in the maritime industry over the last three years is put into sharp focus in a report recently by the University of California Institute of Industrial Relations.

The report, entitled "Occupational Safety and Health in the Maritime Industry," charges that in some cases safety standards and inspection procedures have actually deteriorated since the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act in 1971.

"SOMETHING GLOOMY" — "Occupational safety and health and accidentfrequency rates in the already hazardous maritime industry, coupled with the present untangling of four at longshore of confusion under the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the health and safety of maritime employees looks somewhat gloomy," the UC study concludes.

The report charges that major problems have been caused by a general lack of direction and guidance from the federal government.

"This has not been done in the maritime industry, even though it could very well provide the necessary catalyst to restore the industry's safety and health program. Further, such action by the Secretary of Labor would make the implementation of the Occupational Safety and Health Act in 1971."

FOREIGN SHIPS

An evaluation and criticism of the OSHA waterfront program has been undertaken at the Labor Department's request by an expert on maritime regulations under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the ILWU-CMA safety supplement and other regulations. OSHA inspectors and fire department officials were present to answer questions and brush-up the students on safety rules and techniques.

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UC Study Finds

SAFETY AND HEALTH in the Maritime Industry has declined significantly since the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) in 1971, according to a study by the University of California Institute of Industrial Relations.

The study, titled "Occupational Safety and Health in the Maritime Industry," was conducted by researchers John C. Young and David A. Lee of the institute.

The report found that safety standards and inspection procedures have actually deteriorated since the passage of the OSHA legislation in 1971.

The researchers cited several reasons for the decline, including a lack of funding for OSHA inspections, a lack of enforcement, and a lack of cooperation between employers and workers.

The study also highlighted the importance of ongoing education and training for workers in the maritime industry to improve safety standards.

The findings of the study are significant because the maritime industry is one of the most dangerous industries in the United States, with high rates of workplace fatalities and injuries.

The study's recommendations include increased funding for OSHA inspections, stronger enforcement of safety regulations, and better training and education for workers in the maritime industry.
Editor's Note: Two years ago, Albert Fitzgerald, President of the United Electrical Workers, was one of the main speakers at the ILWU Biennial Convention. Delegates will remember that Fitzgerald brought down the house with a comment on just-breaking Watergate scandal: "I'm just tickled to death that they got caught!"

He then went on to regale the delegates with stories of how he, ILWU President Harry Bridges and three others were bugged, followed and otherwise harassed by every conceivable US intelligence agency back in the 1950s, during the red score.

But the following article, which we reprint with permission from the latest edition of UE News, is not about the 1950s. It's about FBI infiltration of the labor movement in 1972.

By FRANK J. DONNER


"I'm just tickled to death that they got caught!"

Burton was the object of an FBI investigation. But first, some background observations.

Union-Busting Tactic

Ever since the eruption of the Watergate case, Americans have been made familiar with the operations of political spies who engage in dirty tricks, frameups and similar practices. What few people realize, however, is that the entire arsenal of espionage and related practices described by employ- ers to the workers included unionism and break strikes.

Originally, private detectives were used to stop the spread of unionism, and labor espionage was begun as a tactic against working people. In the 30's, a long and penetrating investigation by Senator LaFollette's committee finally exposed the infiltration network which had blan- keted the country. "Labor spy" became a dirty word. The private detective agencies folded the tent in the 40's, but the use of undercover FBI informants continued. The FBI maintained files on labor leaders and activities turned over to the FBI, and pre-dated in the Bureau's offices in the 50's. FBI maintained files on labor leaders and activities entertained by getting an infiltrator into the plant and solving the country's financial problems at the same time. Burton's job was to bring a "militant," revolutionary" presence into the plant in order to give credibility to the company's red-baiting. As Burton put it, "Now, you see, if I am in fact in the

a position to frustrate the rights of the employees to free collective bargaining. Company spies spied on the employees; union leaders were threatened and the entire work force was deluged with letters of red-baiting.

The Master Plan

There was a lot at stake for the company in the election. If UE won, Westinghouse's entire master plan of developing a chain of non-union plants in the South was threatened. According to Burton, even before he infiltrated the union and the shop, the FBI had used a number of employees as "informants", that is, on-again, off-again suppliers of information paid on a piecework basis. In addition, the FBI had used Burton himself from time to time whenever he had a spare moment to drive by the trailer where the drive by the workers' organizing headquarters, and keep an eye on it. The Bureau indicated to him the stake the company had in defeating the UE in the collective bargaining election.

After the union's victory, the FBI's interest in the plant continued. "God damned!" they told him, "we have got to get somebody into Westinghouse." The Bureau thought it would kill two birds with one stone by getting an infiltrator into the plant and solving Burton's financial problems at the same time. They said that they would have no problem placing him, that Westinghouse's security officer, William Staples, was a former FBI agent.

Burton got an application and filled it out. His application was pulled out of the file by Staples, turned over to the FBI, and pre-dated in the Bureau's files in such a way that the charge would be undetectable. This put Burton at the head of the hiring list.

At the time of Burton's infiltration, there were a number of important issues facing the newly organized workers. Shop stewards were up for election and all important local supplements to the national contract would have to be negotiated. According to Bur- ton, the FBI was intensely interested in obtaining information about the employees' attitudes on these issues. Burton's job as a sweeper gave him a great deal of mobility; he was in an ideal position to pick up information on all sides of the plant.

Special Privileges

Now we must answer the question: What was the real object of this infiltration project? Its primary purpose was to sow disruption in the plant and divide the workers. Burton's operation was so successful that the Bureau turned over to the FBI, and pre-dated in the Bureau's offices in the 50's. FBI maintained files on labor leaders and activities entertained by getting an infiltrator into the plant and solving the country's financial problems at the same time. Burton's job was to bring a "militant," revolutionary" presence into the plant in order to give credibility to the company's red-baiting. As Burton put it, "Now, you see, if I am in fact in the

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union with a signed card as a militant, open, blatant Communist, there's no question at all that there's Communists in the UE." In short, he came into the plant as a provocateur charged with manufacturing the evidence which reality could not supply.

Burton was not your run-of-the-mill labor spy who serves as a passive conduit of information and re- ports back to his agency (and the employer). -name-
and identifications of active union people. In contrast to the conventional infiltrator, Burton made no effort to reduce his profile. He came on in the plant as a "super-militant", pushing the Red Star Cadre and its influence in June of 1973, Burton stood up and read a telegram that he said he had just received from 2600 Southern Florida University. The contribution was supplied by the FBI.

Questions Raised

This entire situation cries out for an investigation. To begin with, one should not be deceived into thinking that the special agent in Tampa organized these infiltrations on his own. To make labor organizations a surveillance target required a top-level decision. Who in Washington made that decision? What legitimate purpose was served by the infiltration?

What was the role of the company? It is absurd to think that only Staples knew about Burton's activity. Certainly, the FBI could not possibly have any valid interest in whether or not the contract would be ratified, or who would be shop steward. These matters are totally unrelated to any security justification. Why did Plant Manager Weber ask Staples to get Burton out of the plant? Is it the normal plant practice to get clearance from a security man before an employee is fired? Is it the normal plant practice for an employee to be given access to confidential personnel files? What about the other informants who reported to the Bureau prior to the election? The evidence points to a clandestine collaboration between the company and the FBI.

San Francisco — Four decades ago there was more confusion on the waterfronts of the Pacific Coast than there is today.

Given the fact the present situation isn't exactly crystal clear, still the question remains—should the ILWU—now have a machinery and a bargaining stature that in 1934 they were still trying to formulate and solidify.

As the maritime unions of the Pacific that only a few years ago prepared to go into the April 15, 1935 convention that resulted in the formation of the Maritime Federation of the Pacific, a tanker strike of suspicious origins was in progress.

PREMATURE

The settlement of the maritime strike of 1935 had left sailors with many grievances that had not been adjusted, and conditions on the oil tankers were particularly bad.

The strategy of the unionists who had led the 1935 strike was to form a Maritime Federation and then use the united strength of this federation to settle unsolved problems.

But on March 9, 1935, a little more than a month before the founding convention was to assemble in Seattle, Paul Scharenberg, secretary-treasurer of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific, called a strike of all seamen on oil tankers.

While the grievances of the men were real, pro-federation unionists felt it was premature and it was factually deemed as a tactic to disrupt formation of the federation. The irritation called arbitrariness with no rank and file preparation.

As Mike Quin in his book "The Big Strike" points out, the tanker strike "never gained anyone anything. It lasted until June 18. But it did result in eight unions not being sent to the penitentiary."

This was the Modesto Case, a repetitiveness of the chapter in California labor history.

MODesto CASE

Quin describes the Modesto Case as "a crude and incredible story that would sound like the wildest fiction were it not every fact has been confirmed by a special investigating committee of the state assembly."

Briefly, what happened was that the Standard Oil Company was holding strikebreakers at the hotel in the Stanislaus county town of Patterson. Modesto is the county seat of Stanislaus county. James Scrudder, a labor spy in the employ of the San Francisco police department, and Hal Marchant, a Standard Oil private detective, were working within the ranks of the strikers. The strikers were determined to put the hotel in Patterson. They went in two cars.

Dynamite was planted in the two cars. The cars were stopped outside of the government by Standard Oil guards. The sheriff arrived. The pickets were arrested and convicted. Mike Quin in his book points to the testimony of Scrudder and Marchant.

In later years Scrudder admitted the planting of the dynamite in the cars was a frame.
Labor College
Oregon Solons Mull Bill for Labor College

SALEM—A bill which would establish a labor college within the Oregon system of higher education has been introduced in the state legislature.

The principal sponsors are Senator Wall Brown, Senator Dick Greener, chairman of the Senate labor committee; and Representative Jim Chest, a member of the House labor and education committee.

Chest is a member of Clerks Local 40, Portland, and a delegate from that local to the Columbia River District Council.

WOODWORKERS' INITIATIVE

The bill did not just “happen.” It was born last summer when the International Woodworkers Association and its research arm, the Research Corporation, decided to find out over the fact that all states, including those in the Pacific Northwest, spend millions of dollars annually on research and education and other public services of benefit to business and industry, and little or nothing on study projects of benefit to organized labor.

Oregon needed a resolution on the subject which was adopted at the recent convention of the Woodworkers’ Region 3. The statement pointed out that “the need for labor research and workers’ educational programs now, and shows signs of becoming increasingly crucial in the future.”

This legislation was called for as a definitive action meeting the needs and issues of concern to workers, but administration grants to research projects and labor college scholarships.

One week to the day after the resolution was adopted, the Woodworkers’ annual meeting, the Oregon Labor College Bill was in the hopper here.

Japanese Workers Plan Massive Wage Drive

TOKYO—As many as ten million Japanese workers may walk off their jobs in the next few months as part of a union campaign to raise wages and better conditions.

The drive could be the next annual affair in Japan, usually characterized by militant demands, a few strikes, some impasses and a great deal of sound and fury.

JAPAN'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

But Japan’s economic crisis, fueled by a 26 percent inflation rate last year, is expected to make it even harder for workers to bring about wage increases.

Any workers as 300 unions are expected to call mass demonstrations and 24-hour work-outs involving postal workers, communications workers, printers, seamens, waterfront workers and a variety of industrial workers.

Wage leaders are demanding wage increases of 20-25 percent, the great corporations have publicly said they will increase wages by no more than 10 percent of the total.

The All-Japan Seamen’s Union is demanding a short-term emergency program that would guarantee workers and their families who have been suddenly cut off from health care plans as the economy sinks, layoffs spread and unemployment tops post World War II levels, Seidman asserted.

The Administration “wants to completely ignore” the plight of millions of workers and their families who have been suddenly cut off from health care plans as the economy sinks, layoffs spread and unemployment tops post World War II levels, Seidman asserted.

SERIOUS FLAWS

He pointed out that three of five workers who have job-related health insurance lose the protection the day they go off the payroll, and only one-fifth have coverage for three months or more after a layoff hits.

Centered by reporters, Seidman said quick congressional action on emergency health care for jobless workers during the current economic crisis is necessary.

The Administration “wants to completely ignore” the plight of millions of workers and their families who have been suddenly cut off from health care plans as the economy sinks, layoffs spread and unemployment tops post World War II levels, Seidman asserted.

WASHINGTON, DC— AFL-CIO Social Security Director Bert Seidman recently scored as “irresponsible and heartless” President Ford’s attempts to stall action on emergency health care for jobless workers during the current economic crisis.

The Administration “wants to completely ignore” the plight of millions of workers and their families who have been suddenly cut off from health care plans as the economy sinks, layoffs spread and unemployment tops post World War II levels, Seidman asserted.

Serious flaws in the nation’s health care system, such as lack of cost controls, quality and efficiency incentives. The government stressed that it “simply mirrors what’s in the existing private health insurance system,” and that the long-range solution is National Health Security.

SANTIAGO, Chile—A delegation of Australian business leaders touring South America in search of customers for their products were even bothered to come to the tightly-policed capital of this military dictatorship. They may think they might make, Australian longshoremen would not touch any cargo bound for Chile.

Like many other unionists all over the world, the Australian officials are aware that the present Chilean government came to power 18 months ago in a coup against the legally-elected socialist government of the late Salvador Allende. In the first few months of pow, US-trained generals imprisoned, tortured and murdered hundreds of thousands of workers and government sympathizers, destroyed democratic rights, and smashed the people’s mass organizations.

Even CAPITALISTS

Even in the countries of Western Europe, anti-Chilean feeling is still pretty high. Last week the so-called Paris Club of creditor nations postponed a meeting set up to re-negotiate Chile’s international debts because delegates from Britain, Sweden, Belgium and the Netherlands refused to show up.

Payment of that part of the Chilean debt which comes due this year would exhaust about 40 percent of that country’s export earnings, the Netherlands’s national bank declared for 1975. Part of the problem is that Chile’s debt, now estimated at $1.1 billion, as opposed to $1.8 billion in 1974.

The Chilean government is even more concerned that the United States military junta is particularly strong in the governing Labor and Liberal coalition, a former Labor Minister told the Wall Street Journal recently that his colleagues “have the idea that Allende was running a socialist government along traditional European lines,” and therefore saw him as one of their own.

Columbia River Locals Plan Bowling Tourney

SAN FRANCISCO—The officers of ILWU warehouse Local 6 have asked the federal government to immediately ban a chemical agent known as “Phostoxin” in boxcars or in other places where workers would be exposed to its deadly fumes.

The action came after one Local 6 member had to be rushed to the hospital and others also became seriously ill after working a cargo of Mexican hickory baskets. F.W. Woolworth, March 5, which had been fumigated with Phostoxin, as required by the US Department of Agriculture.

The pigment is the bright brand name for German-produced aluminum phosphide tablets which are packaged in thin metal tubes and deposited in cargoes as a fumigating agent. They are often used in grain shipments.

By BEATRICE ECKMAN

“While we can respect the necessity for faster production as the times are coming across the border, we are aware that health is the most controlled and safer way.

The introduction of fumigants means chemicals which are stored for emergency use only in case of special conditions and the subsequent re-use and disposal of the personnel with protective equipment and measuring devices is highly dangerous.

Simply dropping phosphorus is an easy way to make workers sick. But “sickness, chronic poisoning and possible death cannot be worth whatever small savings may be effected.”

LOCAL 6: Ban Phostoxin

WASHINGTON, DC—AFL-CIO Social Security Director Bert Seidman recently scored as “irresponsible and heartless” President Ford’s attempts to stall action on emergency health care for jobless workers during the current economic crisis.

The Administration “wants to completely ignore” the plight of millions of workers and their families who have been suddenly cut off from health care plans as the economy sinks, layoffs spread and unemployment tops post World War II levels, Seidman asserted.

Local 6: Ban Phostoxin

SANTIAGO, Chile—A delegation of Australian business leaders touring South America in search of customers for their products were even bothered to come to the tightly-policed capital of this military dictatorship. They may think they might make, Australian longshoremen would not touch any cargo bound for Chile.

Like many other unionists all over the world, the Australian officials are aware that the present Chilean government came to power 18 months ago in a coup against the legally-elected socialist government of the late Salvador Allende. In the first few months of pow, US-trained generals imprisoned, tortured and murdered hundreds of thousands of workers and government sympathizers, destroyed democratic rights, and smashed the people’s mass organizations.

Even CAPITALISTS

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ILA Re-opens Container Negotiations

NEW YORK — The International Longshoremen's Association last week notified North Atlantic port employers of its intent to renegotiate container rules on handling ocean-going contain-

ers. The ILA's notice called for settlement of a number of issues related to the handling of containers at the North Atlantic shipping ports.

Citing rising erosion of waterfront jobs through flagrant rule violations by employers, the ILA's notice was met with a counter-notice by the North Atlantic Shipping Association (NAS) declaring a class action breach of the agreement to rewrite the rules.

Union president, Thomas W. Gleason, said the ILA wants the rules to conform with work preservation efforts that the dock worker organization has fought to maintain, and he pointed out that over 20,000 longshore jobs have disappeared over the past seven years.

RULE VIOLATIONS

The container rules are one of seven master contract items that are part of the recent agreement expired two years ago by the 50,000 member union and the CONASA organization. How-

ever, Gleason said the present action was made necessary because the loss of job opportunities to the mini-land bridge ship system has reached a point requi-

ring a change since the present rules are being misinterpreted and con-

stantly violated.

He told the employer group at a joint meeting here on the container issue that the ILA was invoking a clause in the agreement to discontinue all illegal diversion of North Atlantic port cargo.

Mr. Gleason stressed the union's in-

terest in encouraging movement of ship cargo to the American coast, and he added, moreover, that the ILA would consider dropping any action as long as the employers start working with the union in the operation of every possible valid action against mini-

landbridge operations.

EAST COAST PORTS

The container rules to be renegoti-

ated are but one of the items in the ILA-Bertachton, ConASA contract. All ports from Massachusetts to Virginia. Included are Boston, Providence, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Hampton Roads.

Mr. Gleason and CONASA president, James J. Dickman, emphasized that none of the other six conditions in the master agreement could be affected by the coming negotiations. These in-

clude: hours of the work week, length of contract, hours of the work week, weekly hours of the work week, and minimum wage renegotiations.

SECESSION CRISIS — Astoria, Oregon longshoremen, fishermen, businessmen and other citizens jammed courthouse hearing room, March 17, to push for secession of Clatsop County from the State of Oregon, in the wake of Gov. Robert Straub's announcement on log exports and the AMAX Aluminum Plant.

Clatsop County Wants Out—Protests Gov. Straub's Job Policies

ASTORIA—There was standing room only at a meeting in Clatsop County Courthouse, March 17, where county officials, longshore-

men, commercial fishermen, busi-

nessmen and other concerned citi-

zens, met to adopt a resolution expressing their county's secession to the State of Washington.

Longshoremen took half a day off work to attend the meeting, which was called when delega-

tions from Local 50 and the Clats-

op County Labor Council (see Dis-

catcher, March 11, 1975), brought word from Salem that the ILA was planning to end log exports and favor construction of the Amas,

x Aluminum plant in the brush country east of the Cas-

cadia.

Fred Rova, president of Local 50, acceded the Governor's "set-

ting his mouth in gear before his brai

n is engaged." He said Straub's stance on log exports and on the Amax plant would have a "staggering effect" on the area's already depressed econ-

omy.

Clatsop Commissioner Al Palm-

er, who did not attend the meet-

ing because of illness, said he fa-

vored the intent of the secession resolution. He charged state bu-

reauocrats of not only turning thumbs down on the aluminum plant, but of trying "to take our brains away from and with falling to help the Port of Astoria with its dredging problems."

One large canny moved its operations out of Astoria several weeks ago. Top executives in another canny were transferred to San Francisco and office workers and 500 plant employee laid off.

British Unionist Says Traditional Bargaining Still Better Than Force

WASHINGTON, DC — Voluntarism is a much more effective way to settle industrial disputes than compulsory action. That was the view of several hundred trade unionists and experts in the field of labor relations.

Robert Boyd, one of the biggest in Britain, is somewhat comparable to the International Association of Machinists in the US. All told, his union represents approximately 3,000,000 workers in the UK.

The previous Tory government of Britain, he recalled, put up an Indus-

tial Relations Act, somewhat equiva-

lent to the Taft-Hartley Act in the US and full of compulsory provisions, in-

cluding labor courts, designed to hold down strikes. The Tory program also embodied wage controls.

"That act was a disaster," Boyd de-

clared. Instead of reducing strikes, he said, it intensified labor-management conflict and led to a wave of strikes involving millions of employees.

After the Labor government came to power late last year, the Tory law was repealed. In its place the government and the union movement agreed on a new "settlement," under which labor would moderate its demands and dis-

putes would be settled by conciliation, persuasion and other voluntary means, Boyd explained. In exchange, the gov-

ernment agreed to lower taxes and economic reforms.

He emphatically said that the social contract has been successful," he said, but he voiced confidence that in time it will succeed in its objectives of con-

quering inflation and reducing strike.

The Labor government, he added, has learned from the Tory mistakes that "wage controls and compulsory methods "do not work."

The high court justices declined to re-

view a ruling by the Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals ruling which over-

turned a decision by the National La-

bor Relations Board giving the skilled crane work to members of the Operat-

ing Engineers.

The court ruled that any new rule or penalty on these ships generally referred to as LASH.

Also elected was a 15-man executive board.

Local 94, Wilmington

Foremen's Union Local 94 has elected the following officers for 1975: Presi-

dent, Alm North; Vice-President, Fred Van Mulligan; Secretary, Gary Plante; Trustees, Elbert Kelly, Tony Vidovich, Robert Andrews, Sergeant-at-Arms, Tony Rodin; LRC, Walter Smart; FC, Tom Van Mulligan and Edmond Mondor.

Also elected was a 15-man executive board.
WASHINGTON — American workers have been zapped once by wage price controls and don’t want to be zapped again. That’s what AFL-CIO legislative director Andrew Biemiller told members of the Senate Banking Committee on Wednesday. Legislation which would revive controls.

This legislation would require advance notice to the wage-price council of pay and price increases affecting large amounts, and would allow the council to delay any increases for 60 days.

NATIONAL TRENDS AGAIN

Biemiller told the committee that such legislation would inevitably continue the labor bias that marked the "guidelines, guidelines, jawboning and the anti-labor bias that marked the advance notice to the wage-price council to delay any increases for 60 days.

"This legislation would require advance notice to the wage-price council of pay and price increases affecting large amounts, and would allow the council to delay any increases for 60 days."

The purchasing power of their catch-up wages continues to rise. Biemiller reiterated the AFL-CIO's willingness to cooperate with controls on all sources of income, prices and profit as part of its overall plan of national recovery. Biemiller concluded, "but this policy is not built on the premises of that equity is lacking.

"This belief is strengthened by the present orientation of the Unemployment Benefits Administration," Biemiller testified, "partly because of his earlier statement during the debate. The policy is based on the idea that the government is the employer of last resort and that therefore the government is the only employer of last resort.

"Our belief is that the government should not be the only employer of last resort. We believe that the government should be the employer of last resort only in the case of an economic emergency."

"On this issue, we are not sympathetic to the needs of business and the economic plight of the people."

"The policy of wage-price controls is a legislative possibility."

"Our job now," said the Canadian Iron and Steel Institute, is "to go back to work and to do it as quickly as possible under present conditions. What is the future for us if we do not get an end to this spiraling?"

"We will continue our activities opposing importation of Swedish chrome."

"We will continue to fight for the Steel Workers' right to strike."

"The efforts of the Department of Labor and the AFL-CIO to cooperate with wage-price controls has included the most significant coalition of labor and management."

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