Facing Some Hard Times

VANCOUVER, BC—"Welcome to Canada," he began. "A land of beautiful mountains, a beautiful sea, a beautiful climate... and bum labor legislation!"

The speaker was Canadian Area President Don Garcia, opening the ILWU Twenty-First Biennial Convention by forcefully reminding more than 300 official and fraternal delegates of the fact that legislation rushed through parliament late last month had broken a three-week old strike by BC longshoremen.

And shortly thereafter, International President Harry Bridges assured the host Canadian unions that they would have the full support of the union in their struggle to preserve their union rights and win a good contract.

"This union," Bridges said, "is not going to stand idly by and see our union in Canada lose one penny due to strike-breaking laws. We're not going to stand by and see any government kick our people around with these phony laws."

ECONOMIC QUESTIONS

Turning to more general topics, Bridges reminded the delegates that "the number one question facing the entire union is: am I going to have a job tomorrow, and can I keep up with the inflationary spiral."

And so, after a benediction by Rev. Rod Booth of the United Church of Canada, and a welcome by Vancouver Deputy Mayor Hugh Bird and BC Labor Federation Secretary Len Guy, the delegates went to work to develop a program to deal with these and other questions.

Much of the delegates' time over the four and a half days of the convention was taken up in discussion of numerous resolutions and policy statements on the current economic crisis—in committee and on the floor.

In a statement of policy on economic recovery, they called for substantial tax cuts for low and middle-income taxpayers and a meaningful tax reform: massive federal assistance to the unemployed; a national policy of full employment; essential cuts in defense spending, reduced dependence on imported oil, reduced interest rates and restrictions on the export of capital.

Conventions Charts Depression Program

The delegates also called on the International to develop a program of selective consumer boycotts, and more intensive organizing of the unorganized.

SHORTER HOURS

Convention delegates agreed that "the single most important thing the trade union movement can do," to alleviate unemployment is to fight for shorter hours of work, "with or without a cut in take home pay."

The convention resolved to promote this admittedly controversial program by encouraging the convening of local conferences of unions to discuss it.

Other resolutions reiterated previous positions on tax reform, national health insurance, welfare reform and other legislative goals. The delegates also expressed their hostility to the scapegoating of so-called illegal aliens in the struggle against unemployment.

Internal Changes

In order to strengthen the union for what the delegates agreed were hard times ahead, some important internal changes were voted.

In major policy resolutions which provoked heated and lengthy debate, the convention supported the initiation of discussions with the AFL-CIO, Teamsters, railroad and other transportation unions to weld together labor strength in the US and Canada.

At the same time, delegates went strongly on record against ILWU merger with any other union. Instead pledged to work for a program of labor unity, particularly with the unions in the longshore, transport and distributive industries.

Finally, the delegates voted to provide for compulsory retirement for full-time officers who reach age 65 prior to the expiration of a term in office, effective 1977.

It was also agreed to:

• implement a 60 cents per capita increase effective July 1, 1975;
• establish a "warehouse caucus" of all locals in this industry and to give full support to Locals 6, San Francisco; Local 17, Sacramento; and Local 26, Los Angeles; in their next round of master agreement negotiations;
• increase efforts to organize the unorganized;
• give full support to members in the pineapple industry who will begin their negotiations later this year;
• raise the salaries of the titled officers and improve their pension plan.

In the area of foreign policy, the delegates restated previous positions of opposition to any further involvement in Southeast Asia, and cold war foreign policy in general. Such policies have made Americans "allies and chief supporters of corrupt, unpopular dictators and anti-labor political forces all over the world," for which working people "have paid through taxation, inflation, unemployment, deteriorating physical and social environment and finally a deepening depression."

The convention also encouraged the improvement of relationships with the USSR, the People's Republic of China, Cuba and other socialist nations, while calling for an embargo on all goods to be sent from Chile, South Africa and Rhodesia.

Caucus Plans

Longshore Strategy

VANCOUVER, BC—As this issue of The Dispatcher goes to press, the ILWU Longshore, Clerks' and Walking Bosses' Caucus is in session here. The delegates agreed immediately after the conclusion of the Twenty-First Biennial Convention.

Caucus delegates face some important strategy decisions, in light of the failure of a proposed new longshoremen agreement to win the two-thirds vote necessary for its ratification in a ballot held March 11. The present longshore contract expires June 30.

The two-thirds margin became necessary after a previous vote in which the contract was narrowly defeated by members of Local 13. Under rules adopted by the caucus in 1968, but never brought into play, any one of the large longshore locals, or various groupings of smaller locals, may veto any proposed coastwise agreement.

Full details on the caucus will be presented in the next issue of The Dispatcher.

In this Issue—

ILWU Programs and Policies

Soviet Fraternal Delegates

Officers' Economic Report

BC Dock Arbitration
ILWU Officers’ Economic Report

What’s Behind US Economic Woes?

VANCOUVER, BC — A "deepening depression has severely shaken the stabilities of capitalist economies, the United States among them," ILWU officers told delegates to the union’s Twentieth Biennial Convention last week.

The lengthy economic report, which surveyed and analyzed economic developments over the last two years, concluded that, in the case of a long-range national policy of economic development, the realization of a reasonable distribution of wealth, rational allocation of capital resources, and the end of US empire to dominate the world is impossible.

Specifically, the report charges that the "unprecedented" persistence of inflation, high and rising unemployment, a slump in output, "all combined with unprecedented corporate profits," could be explained by the major events which had taken place in the last few years:

- The political manipulation of the US economy by "Richard Nixon and the people who brought him the presidency," particularly in the imposition of wage price controls in the last two years, the officers concluded at the convention adjourned.
- Increased concentration of wealth in the hands of a smaller and smaller number of corporate owners, and the investment overseas of billions of dollars of American capital.
- The funding of United States domination of world economic affairs.

In a survey of price patterns over the last two years, the officers concluded that "dastardly government expenditures for military purposes, corporate profiteering, and profiting lies at the heart of the inflationary surge."

Other factors, such as the focusing up of interest rates, dollar devaluation, the failure of regulatory agencies to regulate "and deliberate failure on the part of the government to enact and implement a hard-hitting anti-trust program, and the collapse of levels of prices by 1973,"and the inflationary tendencies "already present in the economy in the mid-1960s" were ignored by defense spending, particularly in an attempt to save in Vietnam. "Most military spending does not add to the national wealth by creating new services for consumers to buy, or by creating capital goods which increase the productivity of the economy. It increases income for some people, but nothing for people to buy with the income."

"What is more, government expenditures for defense have forced the government to borrow money to pay its bills. This has limited the funds available for productive use in the economy and forced up interest rates which are themselves an important factor in the inflationary spiral."

PRICE RIGGING

Deliberate price rigging, particularly in the energy crisis which followed the Arab oil embargo of 1973 "was set in motion by the major oil companies in an attempt simultaneously to raise profits through price increases and to keep down their overall political power position."

Food prices have also gone up largely because of a combination of the US and other countries' attempts to maximize profits, rather than shortages, crop failures or natural disasters. Food companies are taking advantage of "an elaborate system of processing, packaging, advertising and distribution which is where the lion's share of the profit lies."

INVITATORY

Inevitably, the officer's report continues, "inflation becomes not only the major cause of prices and goods and services beyond the reach of workers and others, but also keeps profits artificially high. For example, the energy crisis which followed the Arab oil embargo of 1973 was set in motion by the major oil companies in an attempt simultaneously to raise profits through price increases and to keep down their overall political power position."

Taxes

What's Behind US Economic Woes?

Rallies to keep profits high, massive layoffs in auto lead to layoffs in steel, rubber and other related industries, the effects of price increases but to stay afloat, the working class must pay the costs of the goods and services they themselves produce.

International developments have also had a major impact on the US economy. For years, the maritime industry in the world was based on the ability of the government to regulate "the costs of corporations overseas in the industrial nations as well as in the poorer countries."

"American power and influence among western industrialized nations seems to be waning from us. As a result, we’re seeing a real change in the way we do things. Things have changed. Military defeat is in Vietnam, and the US to control the situation in the Middle East, increasing dependence in Europe and Japan, the stability and productivity which are affected by economic policies. The socialists have sharply curtailed US economic power. Raw material prices, particularly in the case of oil, are shooting up, as "underdeveloped" countries learn how to make the best deal for themselves."

NEW WAYS NEEDED

"In sum, the problem is a far more complex place in which to do business. Domestic economic conditions both here and abroad are affected by conditions in other countries. What seems to be the most important is that we can’t keep doing the same old things in the same old ways, either in our own or in our dealings with the rest of the world."

The officers call for a new report with a discussion of the economic recovery programs proposed by the Ford Administration, the Democratic Party and the labor movement. The Ford program, they charge is "better weighted in favor of business and is based on the outdated "trickle-down" theory of economics which supposes that prosperity at the top sooner or later filters down through society."

The farmers demand tax cuts for business and heavy defense spending.

Higher defense costs, in the President’s recent budget, will be offset by cuts in social programs, primarily those which serve the poor and the elderly, security, unemployment, food stamps, and health programs.

For their part, the Democrats have developed a series of initiatives, including a substantial tax cut for low and middle income families, a sharp reduction in the allocation of credit to vital industries, housing subsidies and public service pensions. These programs include many of the programs programs for renewal of wage price controls."

Delegates then proceeded to pass a motion which would call for a debate on policy on economic recovery, calling for a positive action in the President and state legislatures, and across the bargaining table. For a summary of the ILWU economic program, see pages 45.
Canadian Labor Leader

Warns of Repression

VANCOUVER, BC — "The Canadian present is facing the most difficult and the most troublesome, not only for the labor movement, but for all of the labor movement in the world."

The speaker was 56-year-old Anatoly Baranovsky, a longshore work team leader from the small Soviet port of Ilyichevsk on the Black Sea, bringing greetings from the 800,000 member Sea and River Workers Union to the Twentieth Biennial Convention of the ILWU.

HISTORIC EVENT

The appearance of the three-man Soviet delegation, on the morning of April 9 was itself something of a historic event—only the fact that the USSR this year.

"We live in a society where the manager is a rank and file member of the union, which is a part of the society of the union itself," said the union's right to demand his sacking in case he does not fulfill his duties according to the labor legislation of his country."

Oleskевич concluded that "we have much to learn from each other. And this is another reason why we should do everything possible for the friendly relations between our fraternal organizations, established as far back as 1948 to become more fruitful."

"Our organization, your organization and ILWU are the representatives of the same movement, the same ideology, the same system of production. We work at the same place, for the same profit. And we are faced with the same problem: how to deal with labor problems in our countries."

"We are an easy target in case any government or any business, even the government of our own country, try to take strike action in the first place."

"We won't stand still, as we have done everything possible for the friendly relations between our fraternal organizations, established as far back as 1948 to become more fruitful."

"And when we think about the future, we think not only about our own country but about the whole world."

"If we want to be successful in our task, we must be prepared to meet this challenge."

MULTINATIONALS

Turning back to Canada, apparently intractable economic problems has assigned the blame to the economic power of "a few large corporations, national and multi-national, which are not subject to the forces of supply and demand."

"We live in a society where the manager is a rank and file member of the union, which is a part of the society of the union itself."
1. Economic Recovery

The economy is in its worst shape since the great depressions of the 1930s. There are no immediate prospects for recovery.

We join with all of labor in support of a program which calls for: 1) substantial tax cuts for low and middle-income taxpayers and meaningful tax reform; 2) massive federal assistance to the unemployed; 3) a national policy for full employment, including a public service employment program; 4) reduced dependence on imported oil through the conservation of present resources and the development of alternatives; 5) first steps toward the nationalization of the oil industry; 6) reduced interest rates and the allocation of available credit to high priority social and economic programs; and 7) restrictions on the export of American capital and technology.

Within the union movement itself, to deal with inflation and unemployment, the labor movement can organize selective consumer boycotts. To deal with unemployment, the labor movement should develop a nationwide program for a shorter work day. We should organize and represent unemployed workers, and organize workers in rundown shops.

We approve the various unemployment demonstrations which have taken place in recent months. We endorse the national March for Jobs on April 26, and call upon our International and our locals to participate.

We also support the AFL-CIO plan for the oil industry, described as a first step toward nationalization, and urge that nationalization also be considered for all other major processing and distribution industry and all public utilities.

Ultimately, more fundamental changes are needed, in our system of planning and for producing what we need to live on as well as our participation in world financial and economic affairs which is not based on military control and exploitation.

1-A. Wage Controls

We are adamantly opposed to the reimposition of wage controls, that support for controls proceeds from false premises about how the economy operates; this is to say higher wages do not cause inflation.

Controls will always be more effective when applied to wages, but virtually impotent when applied to prices. And we believe that the administration in the White House, whether it be Democratic or Republican, is incapable of enforcing it on the oil industry.

We urge all of labor to fight against controls. We've had it!

1-B. Multi-National Corporations

Multi-national corporations have grown so fast in the last 10 years that their combined sales exceed the total output of every country except the US and the Soviet Union. Scores of US firms have found unprofitable the lures abroad of cheap labor, or union legislation and stipulated tax advantages.

This shift of US capital and technology overseas has had profound results for the domestic economy: traditional assembly-line jobs are replaced by a smaller number of skilled jobs; corporations involved in foreign operations are less responsive to US domestic needs; US plants stand idle as facilities are constructed abroad, decreasing the productivity and wages of American workers.

Also, US foreign trade problems are aggravated; the ability of corporations to open and shut plants at will, or to move abroad clearly erodes labor's bargaining position for the US; and US treasury revenues go down because of tax advantages to the corporation.

The impact on the host nations is often devastating, placing enormous power in the hands of US corporations.

We think it is necessary to place emphasis on the organization by the labor movement of a nation-wide stoppage in support of shorter hours of work.

1-H. Protect Living Standards

The rich and the powerful who dominate this country economically and politically seem bent on making the working people and poor bear the burdens of continued inflation, increasing unemployment, rising profits, slipping real wages and an increased tax burden.

President Ford's Plan and Congressional programs seem to have in mind for us higher taxes on gasoline, postponement of the Social Security retirement age, and age 65, re-imposition of the wage-freeze, re-entrance into the war in Indochina or intervention in Rhodesia.

Therefore we ask the district councils to take the initiative in calling together a conference of all unions in their area to plan actions to defend the living standards of all working people.

2. Vietnam, No More, Never Again

The Convention resolves to protest and resist in every way any attempt by our government to become involved in Vietnam again. We call upon our membership to stand by and stand ready to do such effective action as may be necessary, including but not limited to meetings, demonstrations, work stoppages and boycotts against US intervention in Southeast Asia, specifically Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

3-A. US-Soviet Relations

The great promise inherent in the allied victory over fascism 30 years ago was dispelled almost immediately following World War II by the launching of the cold war against the Soviet Union and its allies. This early victory propelled the US into the arms race and the cold war into the affairs of other nations—Greece, Guatemala, Korea, Vietnam and Chile, to name a few.

The ILWU has, over the years, favored peaceful co-existence between the US and the Soviet Union, including the most intensive period of the Cold War in the 1950s when such positions were scarcely popular with the majority of the US public.

We believe that US-Soviet detente is absolutely indispensable in the pursuit of world peace. We welcome the important steps which have been made in the last few years—including the Basic Declaration Principles of Relations and the SALT treaty, which we see as the foundation of improved relationships between the two countries.

We hail the spirit of detente and hope it will continue. For the future, we feel that acceleration of trade with the Soviet Union, including the granting of the "most favored nation" status (meaning non-discriminatory status in relation to tariffs), is of prime diplomatic and economic importance.

2-C. China

The ILWU reaffirms its stand in favor of elimination of restrictions on trade between the US and the People's Republic of China. We also urge full diplomatic recognition of the People's Republic, and a withdrawal of recognition from the "Nationalist" government on the island of Taiwan.

The Convention points out that Canadian policy has long been in advance of these in the US.

2-D South Africa, Rhodesia

The ILWU reiterates its previous position in support of sanctions against South Africa and Rhodesia, and we oppose any relations with either of the two nations—from trade to sports.

There are things we can do within our own sphere of influence—for example, members of the International Longshoremen's Association have refused to discharge shipments of chrome from Chile. We have also worked to defeat legislation in Congress which would permit the US to bypass the sanctions against Rhodesian chrome imposed by the United Nations.
2-E. Chile

On September 11, 1973, the democratically elected government of Chile was overthrown. President Allende was murdered and brutal repression was carried out against the working class and the peasant supporters of the Popular Unity government.

This convention again registers its bitter opposition to the military junta in Chile and to the suppression of democratic rights and the trade union movement there.

We reiterate the Nixon-Ford-Kissinger-CIA policies which played such a major role in bringing the junta to power.

We urge the calling of a conference of unions and labor councils for the purpose of discussing the situation of the Chilean labor movement and the possibility of sending a broad trade union delegation to Chile to investigate and report back to the unions and councils here. (Such a conference is scheduled in the San Francisco Bay Area for June 14, 1975.)

2-F. Boycott All Goods to and From Chile

The Convention calls for a complete boycott of goods to and from Chile and directs the incoming officers and executive board to work for conferences and meetings involving the labor movement to head up an active boycott of all such cargo.

On these pages are summaries of the statements of policy and resolutions passed by the Twenty-First Biennial Convention, held in Vancouver, B.C., April 7-12, 1975. These statements and resolutions will serve as guidelines for action on a variety of subjects to the officers of the union and the International Executive Board.

They are numbered here in the same order as they were at the Convention. Where numbers are skipped or missing, it means the resolutions were either filed, referred to a committee, or consolidated into other statements.

2-H. Cuba

The news from Cambodia and Vietnam each day confirms what our union has said from the beginning—that interference, particularly military interference, in the affairs of other nations is not only morally wrong, but fraught with tragic consequences for all concerned.

Cuba is the only socialist country in the western hemisphere and thus the only country governed for and by the working people of that country.

It has survived as such for ten years despite US boycotts and other efforts to return that island to its previous colonial status. We will actively attempt to inform workers and working class organizations about Cuba and the need to pressure the US government to stop its embargo and recognize Cuba.

2-K. Stop Financing Foreign Wars

We urge Congress to refuse all further funds for the war in Indochina, and to guard against future Vietnams or Hiroshimas by taking positive steps to: 1) end the cold war; 2) promote friendships and trade with countries having different economic systems; 3) reduce the danger of nuclear war; 4) reduce the arms burden for all mankind; 5) reduce the thousands of military bases which we maintain around the world; 6) plan for the productive employment of American workers displaced by the closing of unnecessary bases and other military cutbacks.

3. Greetings to Soviet Delegation

This Convention is honored by the presence of a delegation of trade unionists representing the Soviet Union.

Since this union's inception we have favored friendly political, economic and cultural relations between our two countries, and for years we have been trying to have a Soviet delegation at one of our conventions. The US State Department never permitted this, but now, due to the fact that this Convention is held in Canada, it has come to pass.

This convention reaffirms the traditional stand of the ILWU in favor of exchanges of delegations between the US and the USSR. The US State Department must change its approach to this question.

4. Civil Liberties

Several government agencies, including the CIA, FBI, IRS and local police departments have investigated and use widely a variety of tactics to intrude on our private lives. These tactics include phone taps, buggling, opening mail, infiltration burglaries, the use of paid informants and provocateurs, as well as the maintenance of dossiers on civil rights, anti-war and trade union activists.

We deplore the use of such tactics and insist that they be stopped. They have no place in a free society.

4-A. Pardon for Hoffa

The ILWU calls for a full pardon for James Hoffa, the former President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Although released from prison on parole, he is still hobbled by conditions of that parole in his efforts to resume a normal life, including a full and active role in his union.

Our support for Hoffa through a long period of what we regard as persecution is a matter of record. We reiterate this support and declare our belief that he should be restored to full citizenship.

4-F. Amnesty

The news from Southeast Asia daily confirms that "the kids were right in opposing the war there." Yet official policy still demands that they admit they were wrong and be punished, while those in high places who designed the disastrous policies continue to enjoy full privileges.

We believe that what is fair for one side is fair for another. When the Watergate tapes made it perfectly clear that Richard Nixon had lied to the American people about Watergate, President Ford granted him a full and unconditional pardon, so that he did not have to stand trial.

Given all this, the President should grant a full and unconditional amnesty to those who can benefit from it.

4-G. Immigration

Our nation was built by immigrants. But today, with growing unemployment, there is a tremendous uproar against immigrants and non-immigrant aliens who are said to have taken jobs away from citizen workers.

Federal administration spokesmen, Congressmen and some union leaders have urged that all undocumented aliens be fired and deported so that their jobs could be filled by American workers. The Rodino Bill proposed in Congress would establish penalties for employers which would make it impossible for an undocumented alien worker to get or keep a job.

Our union will not join in any hysterical reaction which seeks to punish and terrorize them the scapegoat for the failure of employers and a big-business oriented administration to provide jobs at decent wages for all those who wish to work. Our union should help all workers, organize immigrant workers and act as a friend and brother to those workers who are most vulnerable to manipulation by their employer.

We oppose punitive action against immigrants. The federal government should protect the social and economic welfare of immigrants who have been given the legal right to entry. Congress and the administration should devise more effective means of preventing illegal entry and of regulating the work of those aliens who are not classified as immigrants.

Congress should also grandfather-in the undocumented workers presently here so that they cannot be harassed or exploited.

The guiding principle is that any immigration policy should not lower labor standards. We generally favor the ending of the older discrimination against non-white immigrants. We also favor provisions to reunite members of the immediate family. With this exception, quotas should be adjusted to current employment conditions.

Congress should make revisions in the present Immigration and Naturalization Act to provide more equitable treatment, define more precisely the categories of immigration processing and provide "gateway" cities with assistance to aid immigrants.

We oppose all Rodino and Arnett-type legislation and specifically those sections which violate Constitutional safeguards and which zero in on non-white workers.
5. National Health Insurance

The US, along among the major industrial nations, does not have a comprehensive national health insurance plan. Health expenditures in the US are among the highest in the world. In 1973, for example, the average person spent over $1000 on health care. This cost is expected to rise even faster in the future.

10. Warehouse Support

Major contracts, including the Master Agreement covering the majority of the members of Locals 6, 16, and 28, will expire in June, 1974. These new contracts will be subject to negotiation. We look forward to a full support of the members of these Locals.

13. The Welfare System

The US welfare system has, over the years, been made possible by the collaboration of various government agencies and the private sector.

17. Expediting NLRB Election Procedures

Various NLRB procedures which have developed over the years have substantially increased the interval of time between the filing of petitions and the election date. The ILWU has made a request to the NLRB to examine all other programs in the welfare system and make them conform to standards of eligibility.

19. Warehouse Caucus

The worsening economic crisis will mean even more difficult negotiations for locals in the warehouse and allied industries.

20. Organize the Unorganized

The membership of the ILWU has not increased much during the past years. The task of organizing work has been significant. All areas have lost membership because of a general slowdown in the economy. The ILWU has made a request to the NLRB to redouble their efforts in this area, particularly by putting the necessary staff, finances and rank and file effort into organizing, with special emphasis on areas such as Southern California, Hawaii and the outlying cities of Northern California, which show substantial potential.
24. International Unionism
The economic and political conditions facing trade unionism require the use of all the means of struggle and unity to protect workers' gains from big government and the multi-national corporations.

The International Officers and the Executive Board should consult with the AFL-CIO, the ILA, Teamsters, Railroad Unions and other transportation unions to weld to the transportation industry on this continent and government and the multi-national corporations.

countries to consolidate and unite our strength.

25. No Merger, Maintain an Autonomous ILWU
This resolution says that it would not be in the best interest of our membership, nor in the best interests of the labor movement in general, to liquidate the ILWU.

26. Unemployment
The ILWU should give top priority to economic actions, including tax reforms, to meet the crisis of the recession and to provide jobs and income to millions of unemployed workers.

Special attention should be given to unemployed black workers, unemployed workers of Spanish origin, women and all minority workers, to eliminate the imbalance in job opportunities, and to eliminate discriminatory hiring practices and up-grading procedures.

29. Support Pineapple Workers
Pineapple workers in Hawaii continue to lose their jobs as Hawaiian-grown Pineapple is being displaced by low-wage foreign-grown pineapple, most of which is produced overseas by the very American companies which are cutting back jobs and production in Hawaii—Dole and Del Monte.

We reaffirm our support for the 1972 Convention program which instructed the International officers to promote legislation and administrative action to tax, inhibit and discourage the transfer of American jobs overseas, including: 1) strict quality controls on imports, 2) negotiate away barriers to foreign markets, 3) establish quotas and 4) boycott foreign fruit.

The 1973-74 ILWU pineapple negotiations were only partially successful in an effort to negotiate agreements to protect displaced workers and make the companies pay the social costs of run-away operations. While the pineapple workers struck for 23 days and won substantial improvements in pensions and severance protection, the companies used the threat of mass layoffs and plant liquidations to minimize gains.

Negotiations for a new pineapple agreement begin later this year to build a strong base to defend our gains. This resolution is addressed to the entire union to our brothers and sisters in this industry. (This resolution is referred to the International officers, Research Department and Executive Board to be considered a high-priority item.)

30. On US Committee for a Democratic Spain
The ILWU should become a participant on the United Committee for a Democratic Spain, and should consider sending an overseas delegation to Spain to visit and observe during the first few days of the trial of shipyard workers of El Ferro, arrested in March 1972 and still held without trial.

31. In Support of UAW Strike Against Nissan
The Convention goes on record to support the strike of United Auto Workers' Local 412 against Nissan Motors in Portland, Oregon, and in support of the continuing struggle of Nissan and its subsidiary, Datsum Motors. This strike, for parity with other auto workers doing the same work for US auto firms, has been going on for twelve weeks.

C-1a. Organizing
Many small ILWU locals face problems in organizing because they do not have the staff to negotiate first-time contracts on behalf of newly organized workers or to make the know-how to do it themselves the first time around.

Therefore, the Convention that resolves that, at the discretion of the International Secretary, staff and financial assistance will be provided to small locals which are financially unable to negotiate a first-time collective bargaining agreement on behalf of new members.

C-1b. Organizing Efforts
While the ILWU has continued to put forth its best organizing efforts, the total ILWU membership has not kept pace with the increase in the potential organizing strength of large companies continues to threaten the security of ILWU members and those potential ILWU members.

Therefore, the convention resolves that, if necessary, qualified rank and file members may be recruited from their normal job, used as organizers in areas of potential and paid by the International wherever such need exists.

The International Executive Board is instructed to undertake all and any efforts to carry out this intent and goals of this resolution. The National Organizing Committee is solely responsible for implementing this resolution.

C-3. Wage Increases—Officers and Board Members
This resolution amends Section 14 of the International Constitution to provide that the salary of the ILWU International officers shall be $27,000 per year, and the salary of the other titled officers shall be $26,000 per year.

The titled officers shall receive $35 per week for expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties, and the titled officers and members of the Executive Board, when traveling, shall receive $25 per day expenses as provided above.

The fifth paragraph shall be amended to provide 15 cents mileage, and the sixth paragraph shall be amended to provide Board members with $25 per day wages when attending board meetings.

These amendments are effective May 1, 1975.

C-4. Compulsory Retirement
Any full-time elected officers who would reach the age of 60 prior to the time he would begin another term of office shall be ineligible to seek elective office.

Any full-time elected officer who shall reach age 64 during his term of office may complete that term.

This compulsory retirement program shall take effect as of the 1977 International Convention.

C-7. Per Capita Increase
The International Executive Board recommendation that a 60 cent per capita increase be instituted is concurred in, effective July 1, 1975. This amends Article 9, Section 6.

C-8. International Officers, Vacancy
In the event of a vacancy in any of the titled offices, the International Executive Board shall designate a successor to fill the unexpired term of office. In the case of a death, the Board shall order a special election to fill the vacancy. This amends Article 6, Section 2.
Convention Committee Officers

VALENCIA, BC — Everyone pitched in to make the Twenty-Fifth Biennial Convention the officers of the various committees. Here they are:

Rules: Chairman, Robert Peebles, Local 500; Secretary, Joe Mosby, Local 19.

CREDENTIALS: Chairman, Aaron Ramos, Local 142.

Publicity and Education: Chairman, Paul Puggis, Local 145; Secretary, Willie Walker, Local 17.

Officers’ Report: Chairman, James R. Shearin, Local 34; Secretary, Edward W. Anderson, Local 19.

General Assemblies: Chairmen, Eddie Lapa, Local 142; Secretary, William N. Ward, Local 8.

Resolutions: Chairman, Curtis McClain, Local 8; Secretary, Randy C. Vehik, Local 24.

Business Profits Up 17% Last Year

WASHINGTON, DC—While most US workers are struggling just to keep their heads above water, corporations have managed fairly well during the current recession—depression, according to figures recently released by the US Commerce Department.

Profits in 1974 came to a cool $53.4 billion—an improvement of 17 percent over 1973. While profits weren’t as great as between 1972 and 1973—when profits were up by 28 percent—much of the drop off was due to a change in bookkeeping practices. A drop of 17 percent in earnings in the fourth quarter of 1974 was due “almost entirely to a substantial reduction in inventory profits,” said the Commerce Department. This result resulted from bookkeeping changes instituted by many firms to reduce tax liability.

This sleight-of-hand enabled many businesses to inflate their reported cost and thus minimize their profits. This meant a reduction in taxes while cash flowed increased.

First President of Canada Labour Congress Dies

OTTAWA—Claude Jodoin, first president of the Canadian Labour Congress, died here last month at age 61 after a long illness. He had suffered a serious stroke in May, 1967 and remained hospitalized for the remainder of his life.

Jodoin began work in the garment shops of Montreal in the ‘thirties and became an organizer for the ‘Garment Workers’ Union in 1907. He was President of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council before his election to the CLC presidency in 1954.

Canada Dock Strike Arbitration is Underway

VALENCIA, BC—The dispute between the ILWU Canadian area and the British Columbia Maritime Association entered a new phase last week with the appointment of BC Supreme Court Justice Peter Donald Seaton as arbitrator.

Justice Seaton was appointed by the federal government in accordance with legislation passed in Parliament in late March which forced a conclusion of a longshore strike which, beginning March 1, totally shut down all BC ports operations. The dockers and forecast were forced to return to work on March 27 (see The Dispatcher, April 4).

REJECTED PACT

Immediately prior to the passage of the strike-breaking legislation, Canadian area ILWU members had rejected a tentative agreement worked out by the union’s negotiating committee and the British Columbia maritime employers, by a referendum vote of 55 percent.

Under this legislation, Seaton must bring down a binding report on the strike within 60 days of his appointment. The meaning of the old agreement remains in effect. No strike or lockout is permitted before December 31, 1976.

Failure to obey the back-to-work legislation could have resulted in contempt of court charges against the union, its members and its officials.

As this issue of The Dispatcher went to press, Justice Seaton was choosing a panel of three arbitrators to preside over the ILWU negotiating committee. He will also meet with the employers’ representatives before making his decision.

Campaign for Coos Bay Port Dredging

COOS BAY — The Port of Coos Bay’s Economic Development Council (EDC) has launched a citizens’ campaign to insure support in Congress for the proposed new channel modification project so vital, not only for the future of the port but to the economy of this entire area.

Gene Bailey, president of Local 12, is chairman of the council.

More than 60 people turned out recently at a special EDC meeting, calling to drum up support for the channel deepening project, which was supposed to start next year.

FORD OPPOSES

Without massive popular support, fate of the project now hangs in the balance because of President Ford’s indicated opposition to new public works construction.

The EDC meeting urged letters to Congressmen, senators and other public officials prior to start of hearings to be held in Washington later this month, or in early May.

Local 6 Wins Seniority Arbitration

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif.—Local 6 members at Elmar Electronics here have won an important arbitration which strengthens their job security and returns three workers to full employment with back pay to January 17, 1975.

The employer, in laying off Local 6 members who had no service with the company other than in the warehouse covered by the Local 6 contract, contended that service both inside and outside of the bargaining unit would count for seniority purposes when it comes to layoffs.

The union instituted a grievance, and argued that for the purposes of layoff, only time worked within the bargaining unit counts for seniority. If this were not so, the employer could transfer managerial or unorganized clerical personnel into the warehouse and bump Local 6 bargaining unit employees out of the door.

“A TRUISM”

 Arbitrator James W. Arnold, Jr. agreed: “I regard it as almost a truism that: absent clear and specific language to the contrary, seniority rights under a collective bargaining agreement can inhere only as to seniority gained through length of service under such an agreement.”

Mr. Harley ruled that, “All of the employees found to be improperly laid off shall be reinstated as of the date of lay-off with full restitution for all loss of earnings and/or other benefits attributable to such lay-off.”

Local 6 was represented in the arbitration hearing by Research Director Barry Silverman and Local 6 Business Agent Roland Conley. Chief Steward Steve Ogdipas assisted.

Direct Line to Soviet Trade

SEATTLE—The first regular direct Northwest-Soviet Union shipping line is slated to begin April 17 with the arrival of the Gavril Derzhavin, a spokesman for the Far Eastern Shipping Co. (FESCO) said here.

The Derzhavin will call at both Puget Sound and Columbia River ports. Serv-

The Russian line plans two sailings a month, one from California, and one from the British Columbia and Puget Sound and Columbia River ports.

Dockers, Widows

On Pension List

SAN FRANCISCO — Following is the April, 1975 list of dockworkers retired under various ILWU-PMA plans:


*The widows are: Mela Christina (Fred, Local 13); Neva M. Conner (Elmer, Local 8); Ida Mae Connor (Jessie, Local 13); Mary Delia, (Anthony, Local 13); Evangeline Grunder (August, Local 12); Natividad Gaytan (Juan, Local 10); Maria Toves (George, Local 15); Maybelle Kiniry (Thomas, Local 19); Henri- etta Ludwig (Owaine, Local 19); Leonore Miguel, (Joseph, Local 10); Susan Moore, (William, Local 10); William P. Prow (Merton, Local 12); Ella Rubine, (Shirley, Local 10); Natalie Shvachenko, (Dimitry, Local 19); Daisy Swain (Robert, Local 10); Elba G. Tousley (Elmer, Local 12); Lenna Wimser, (Charles, Local 19).

*Names in brackets are those of deceased husbands.