Parliament Busts Up ILA Strike

OTTAWA—Members of the Canadian parliament have proven that they have no special grudge against the ILWU. Having imposed compulsory arbitration on British Columbia longshoremen last month, the government turned around late last week and ordered 2,300 striking members of the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) in three St. Lawrence River Ports back to work, and imposed a Conciliation Board proposal on them which had sparked the walkout in the first place.

JOB SECURITY
Main issue in the strike was job security. The ILA members in Quebec, Montreal and Three Rivers had walked off their jobs March 31 after rejecting as insufficient a proposal for a pay guarantee program. They had demanded a guarantee of eight hours per day, five days per week, 52 weeks per year; the Conciliation Board proposal — under which they must now work, gave them a guarantee of 1,600 hours over 40 weeks in Montreal; 1,400 hours over 35 weeks in Quebec, and 1,200 hours over 30 weeks in the smaller port of Three Rivers.

Also joining the strike in solidarity were clerks and coopers in the same ports.

Dock Caucus Prepares for New Talks

VANCOUVER, BC — After nearly a full week of deliberations last month, delegates to the ILWU Longshore, Clerks and Walking Boss' Caucus decided to serve notice on the Pacific Maritime Association that they wish to begin negotiations for a new coast contract as soon as possible after May 1. The present agreement expires July 1.

The caucus also gave its elected negotiating committee the power to conduct a strike vote if a tentative agreement on a new contract has not been reached by June 22, 1975. Any such agreement must be approved by a new caucus before it is submitted for rank and file approval.

PREVIOUS PACT
A previously negotiated tentative agreement with the PMA was narrowly rejected earlier this year, under a complex procedure which allows any one of the large longshore locals, various groupings of smaller locals, or all clerk locals, to veto any proposed dock settlement. The proposed agreement was vetoed by members of longshore Local 13, Wilmington, in a rank and file referendum held February 27, and then failed, in another vote held March 11, to garner the necessary two-thirds vote to override the veto.

The caucus, which convened April 12 immediately after the conclusion of the Twenty-First Biennial Convention, upheld this veto procedure.

Accepting the report of a 15-man subcommittee, the caucus instructed the negotiating committee to seek improvements in the following areas: equalization of hours, jurisdiction (including LASH), manning scales and the seven hour day.
Resolutions on Vietnam

(The City of Saigon, South Vietnam, has surrendered to the forces of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and North Viet- nam. It has been renamed Ho Chi Minh City.

The combination of high and rising unemployment, continued inflation, and stumpy production output has put the economy in its worst shape since the great depression of the 1930's. There are widespread prospects of a depression that is at some point, and the world economy is suffering. We believe that the time has come to develop a program which effectively deals with our immediate economic problems, and which lays the basis for fundamental long-run changes in the US economy.

2. Stop Financing Foreign Wars

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New Contract for Bellingham Port Workers

BELLEHLEM — A contract providing substantial wage increases for workers in the Port of Bellingham's warehousing and handling plant has been negotiated by ILWU Local 15. The two-year contract takes effect April 1, 1975. All workers won an across-the-board increase of 65 cents per hour in the first year of the contract and 45 cents in the second year. Skilled rates were increased by 9.6 percent. The hourly wage in the second year of the contract will 45 cents over the basic rate for the majority of workers.

Arbitration Win Upholds Rights of Older Workers

LOS ANGELES — An employer is not free to discharge a worker with 30 years seniority simply because of age, or because of the possibility of a future injury, a state labor board has ruled.

That was the decision of a Los Angeles arbitrator in a case of Local 35 member Charlie Davies, union steward at Commercial Enameling, who was discharged several months back when the company claimed he could not pass a physical examination.

Arbitrator William Levin ruled that Davies had to be reinstated with full back pay and benefits, since such refusals have been substantially reduced, and a new holiday has been added.

The case involved a committee consisting of Dale Lindquist, president of Local 15, Maritne Bricote, financial secretary, Ed Hayes, Carl Gerner, Bob Bria-coe and International Representative George Ginnis.

Local 8 PRAISES—Portland ILWU Local 8 Secretary Richard Wise (middle) received a $500 check from Saab automobiles distribution and traffic manager Andrew F. Lugris, at Port of Portland’s auto dock last week.

“TENDER CARE”

As a result of the “tender, loving care” Local 8 longshorehands have given to the unloading of Saab autos, damage costs in this port average less than 1.50 per car, the two report. This is more than 80 percent lower than the damage loss in any other US or Canadian port used by Saab.

Others at the presentation ceremony included Charlie Caster and marketing director for the Port of Portland; Lew Tier, PR manager, Saab of California; Representative of the Jones Stevedoring Co., Columbia Warehouse, General Store, Lesa Tenholder, administrator of Shriners Hospital, and Al Hospital, one of the hospital’s board of governors.

The cars, which are in the 60,000 to 70,000 range in Sweden on Johnson Line vessels, originated in the U.S. every six weeks, and 1,000 cars a year being unloaded annually.

Hospital officials termed the 500 contribution from Local 8 a “goodwill gesture” on the part of the longshoremen.

“We thought of Shriners because children and grandchildren of ILWU members are on the list of children patients that this facility has helped,” Olson stated.

Out of the Picture

WHILE “OFFICIAL” rates of unemployment, now at the highest point in 35 years, are approximately one million workers have become so discouraged they have given up actively looking for work. Thus, when you read that unemployment stood at nearly eight million in March or 8.7 percent of the workforce— you should understand, according to Labor Department statistics, that the figure is much closer to 9 million.

May Is Time for Longshore Medical-Dental Plan Choice

SAN FRANCISCO — Longshore families in the ports where members have a choice can consider medical-dental plans beginning the open enrollment period May 1 to May 31.

Dental plan choice in San Francisco and Los Angeles can also be made during the same period for both the children's dental plan and the adult dental plan.

An active man, a retired man or an eligible widow can change from one dental plan to another by filling out a family enrollment card and sending it to the Benefit Funds office. The enrollment card and up-to-date information about plan benefits can be obtained at the Locals.

Shipsellers Safety Class

SAN FRANCISCO — April 19 was school day for all members of ILWU Local 2, who attended a safety class sponsored by Pacific Maritime Association.

The course was under the direction of AREA SUPERVISOR FOR TRAINING AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION LARRY GALLAGHER and his assistants, BERNIE O'HALORAN and CHARLES SMITH.

Roy Bissell of OSHA was the main speaker and explained the impact of federal safety legislation. Tank and boiler cleaning were also dealt with very extensively by Local 2 President Bob Edwards.

Two films on accident prevention were also shown by Charles Smith.

A first-aid class will start for all scalers in June, 1975.

May 2, 1975
Page 3
Pineapple Industry Scours World for Cheap Labor

HONOLULU—Hawaii's Dole Pineapple Co., ever on the alert for new sources of cheap labor, has announced plans to expand its Philippine pineapple operations by some $15 million with the aim of doubling the output of its Philippine pineapple land from about 5,000 acres under cultivation in the southern area of Mindanao, will add another 5,000 acres to the total. 

"Dole Philippines employs some 5,000 people on Mindanao and its operations there are more centralized and labor-intensive than they are in Hawaii," where pineapple workers are represented by ILWU Local 142, the union's executive said.

"These workers are losing their jobs and earnings because union-made Hawaii pineapple is being displaced. . . Most of this foreign pineapple is produced overseas by the very American companies which are cutting back jobs and production in Hawaii." 

The convention delegates reaffirmed their support for the Local 142 pineapple workers, and instructed union officers to send every effort to promote legislation and administrative action to (1) enforce the transfer of American jobs overseas, (2) enforcement of barriers to foreign markets, and (3) the establishment of quotas and more equitable tariffs on foreign fruit.

Wages are reminiscent of Hawaiian wages, the convention also adopted a resolution urging support of ILWU International Convention, pointing out that this trend towards foreign operations is "hurting the workers, the economy, and the social welfare of the state and nation.

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**Geni-Chlor Worker Kay Titus Helped Negotiate New Contract.**

CONCORD, Calif.—A year ago when it all started, Kay Titus, 27, was making 35 cents an hour at Geni-Chlor, a small manufacturing firm owned by a major propane gas dealer in the Midwest.

At the time it didn't seem so bad—most of the young working people knew they weren't doing much better than hundreds of small plants which had located in this area in the last decade. Indeed, employees had moved over to the fringes of the San Francisco Bay Area in search of cheap labor and—there they found it.

Now Kay Titus makes $5.40 an hour—up from the 35 cents she was making at the start of negotiations began. She has a good medical plan, a dental plan, and some job security. She's getting major emphasis on raising the base rate, new hires have jumped from $2.30 to $2.90, and will go to $3.55 by October 1975—a gain of $1.25 in six months' time.

**A YEAR OF PROGRESS**

The new rates are a long way from what most ILWU members would consider adequate. But to Kay Titus and the workers at Geni-Chlor they represent a solid year of struggle and progress.

Geni-Chlor is in many ways a typical shop in this rapidly expanding area needing an influx of workers. About 20-35 of these people are young single men in their twenties and women, many of them recent high school graduates, who wanted to get a five-cent raise. Geni-Chlor workers were given a "test" on their knowledge of union rules. The men who came in first were the fringes of the San Francisco Bay Area in search of cheap labor and—there they found it.

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There is no mistake the fact that the agreement at Geni-Chlor is a far cry from union standards in the Bay Area. But for the workers at Geni-Chlor it is almost revolutionary, a tremendous improvement over pre-union conditions.

Wages: The starting rate for the new contract was $2.30. All employees on the payroll as of March 31, 1975, will go to $3.30 an hour as of October 1, 1975, a raise of $1.00 an hour in nine months.

In evening out the pay difference which had been created by the company in favoring worker over another, other increases over the six-month period range from $1.00 an hour down to 55 cents. After a series of scheduled increases, come April 1, two years after the contract's signing date, the base rate will rise to $4.05 an hour for employees with nine months on the job.

**Health and Welfare: There**

- **Unions Slowly Developing Multinational Bargaining Program**

NEW YORK—"Multinational unions" are evolving in response to the growth of multinational corporations, but the day of real multinational bargaining is far off, according to a report recently issued by a prestigious business research outfit funded by private industries.

Based on a year-long survey of 168 of the world's largest multinational firms, the report concludes that "immediate prospects for real multinational collective bargaining are remote.

"Multinational labor organizations must overcome legal barriers, nationalism, union rivalries, a tendency toward a bargaining at the plant level, and resistance by multinational companies to the very concept of multinational bargaining."

The study was conducted by David Hersfield, labor relations specialist for the Conference Board, an independent business research outfit funded by private industries.

Hersfield did find, however, that some degree of coordination had begun; that some multinational companies are already at the "threshold stage" in this area.

The unions are far advanced in infrastructure preparation. The situation is developing everywhere, he said. A spark could touch it off—but a gust of wind could ward off the trouble," he can exegetic said.

Most active in preparations for multinationals has been the International Metal Workers Federation, representing 11.5 million members in 65 countries.

There has also been some coordination among chemical and petroleum workers and among airline pilots. Main efforts to far have been in the direction of getting some with the companies on worldwide investment and labor policies.

Local 26 Wins New West Chemical Pact

LOS ANGELES — Local 26 members at West Chemical Co. have ratified a new three-year contract which provides a 12.5 percent wage increase in the first year with amounts ranging from 30 cents to 55 cents per hour.

In the second and third years come to 30 cents per year, each year, plus a cost of living increase.

Members will also be covered, for the first time, by the union's prescription drug plan, and by a hospital plan, the men worked during the second year of the agreement.

The Local 26 negotiating committee included Secretary-Treasurer Lou Sherr, John Delgado and Hernando Ferrer.

What Ge
People were frightened. "They would sign the pledge cards and sneak them to me, or they would come up and give them to me only after work, in the parking lot. But they still signed up. They were pretty sick of the place."

Within a few days, nearly everyone had signed a pledge card.

The company reacted quickly. "Hearing rumors that a union was being formed, Geni-Chlor fired eight of the most active members, Kay Titus included. So while ILWU regional staff began the time-consuming process of filing unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board, the company set to work in earnest.

COMPANY PROGRAM

First, some nickel and dime raises were made to ensure that some more were promised. The company threw a picnic. Tedd Horbach, who wasn't fired, remembers it: "I worked for them—even after I knew they were firing people. I work for them—for as long as they are going to have us."

Tedd Horbach, who wasn't fired, remembers that period as the truly a substantial number of people, Kay says, "still believed in the company." But she and Tedd both remember that for the first time they had some real sense of security, that "they couldn't just fire us for just any old reason."

AN EYE-OPENER

Negotiations, when they got under way, were an eye-opening experience. "I still gave them too much credit," Kay says, "and a lot of times I was wrong. I kept saying: 'I know these people. I work for them—even after they had fired me. I've got them. They can't do anything too much.' When they came with a real hard wage offer one day, I was so disappointed I was almost in tears.

But over a period of three months, Tedd, Kay, and ILWU Research Director Barry Silverman gradually hammered out an acceptable union contract. But steady progress in negotiations was reported back to the plant. One by one we picked up the eight-hour 40-day lay-offs and recalls by seniority, job stewards, and grievance procedure. People started feeling better about what was happening. They wanted to know what was happening. They felt they weren't alone. It really was an experience to sit across the table from management, and tell them what I wanted, and what I thought was wrong, without being afraid of being fired.

By March, the contract was locked up. "It's a good agreement," Tedd Horbach says. "Some people were critical because we didn't win everything. But once, for but once, out here, it means a lot. Concretely, it meant a lot more money, a dental plan, a good medical plan, and some basic union rights which other unionists have taken for granted for a generation. And it also meant some kind of security for us which we never had before."

STILL AFRAID

Even after this struggle, Geni-Chlor still has its problems. There is still a pervasive air of insecurity. There have been layoffs caused by parts shortages and manufacturing problems. The unemployment rate in the area close to 10 percent. Other jobs are hard to come by. People are still afraid, and are still nervous about trying out their new grievance machinery.

So Kay Titus remembers a conversation she had with one supervisor the day before the representation election. "He called some of us into his office and said that we were going to have to do things his way or we could just get out. Now I guess we'll see about that."
International Elections: May 19-23

Titled Officers

Harry Bridges
Local 10, San Francisco
President

William H. Chester
Local 10, San Francisco
Vice-President—Assistant to the President

Rudy Rubio
Local 13, Wilmington
vote for one

George Martin
Vice-President
Director of Organization

Louis Goldblatt
Local 6, San Francisco
Secretary-Treasurer

Northern California

vote for one

George Kaye
Local 10, San Francisco

James Herman
Local 34, San Francisco

Joe Mosley
Local 10, San Francisco

Duane Peterson
Local 18, Sacramento

vote for three

Curtis McClain
Local 6, San Francisco

Southern California

vote for two

Joe Ibarra
Local 26, Los Angeles

John J. Bukoskey
Local 9, Seattle

Puget Sound-Alaska

vote for two

John Pandora
Local 13, Wilmington

L. L. "Chick" Loveridge
Local 13, Wilmington

vote for one

Dwayne Wadlow
Local 19, Seattle

Canadian Sugar

vote for three

Viola Arcangel
Tourism

Jose Corpuz
Sugar

Antone Kahawaiolaa, Jr.
General Trades

Ballots Mailed to All Locals

SAN FRANCISCO — All ILWU locals should receive their ballots for the election of International officers, a new International Executive Board and a longshore coast committee by May 7.

The International Constitution provides that balloting by each local should be held within a span of five consecutive days, and that the vote shall be counted no earlier than the first day immediately following these five days.

The International Balloting Committee, designated by the Twenty-First Biennial Convention, has determined that the voting shall take place May 19-23 inclusive. The International office must be notified of the results by June 11, 1975.

If returns are not received by the committee by this date, the ballots will be declared null and void.

Members of the balloting committee are Willie Zenn, Local 10, chairman; Mike Henry, Local 34; George Lucero, Local 11; and Don Ruth, Local 6.

Frank Kennedy
Local 500, Vancouver, BC

Robert Peebles
Local 500, Vancouver, BC

William A. Ward
Local 8, Portland

Takeshi Yugawa
Sugar
ILWU Fights Portland Power Rate Gouge

PORTLAND — "Citizens are at the mercy of the utility companies and will be as long as they are owned without competition." This was what Local 8 president John Olson told a public utility commission examiner at an "April Fools' Day" hearing on PP&L's latest rate increase request. (The mammoth electric company, which operates a five-state system, received a 32.5 percent increase in the Portland area last September, now seeks an additional 15.75 percent.) Olson described himself as a "working guy who feels he is being ripped off." He pointed out that the company passes what it claims are "additional costs" and in fishing the coast from Gold Beach south to the border found that sea-run fish, like people, use bridges. Naturally, they're not on top of the bridge, they're underneath; leastwise that is where I found a pair of chrome-bright silver salmon.

After fishing the rocky jetty off the mouth of the Rogue, for the two hours closest to the dawn, I headed south on Highway 101. Later, while crossing over the Pistol River bridge, my wife turned to me and said: "Oid you see that fish?" I headed south to Crescent City soon after, then swung north to Grants Pass.

Later I headed north and spent the night at Gold Beach; had another fruitless try off the Rogue River jetty and headed south again down Highway 101. Passing over the Pistal River bridge, my wife turned to me and said: "Did you see what I saw?" "Yes," I replied, and pulled over to the side of the road. We fished for several hours, broke for lunch and shortly thereafter caught a lovely silver chinook or a jack-sized steelhead which was released. I headed south to Crescent City soon after, then swung northwest up Highway 39 to Grants Pass.

It was on this same meandering trip that I tasted several stretches of the Rogue, from the Galice area, upriver to Savage Rapids. After bombing out on at least half a dozen recommended "hot spots" along the Rogue, I pulled into a beautiful camping spot near Galice called "Indian Mary Park." It was highly recommended as a great place for a picnic; "not a place to fish," they said. I parked my camper as close to the water as possible and we sauntered down to the river to have our lunch atop a rocky shoreline promontory below the dam for lunching rainbow.

Cross-stream from us, along the opposite bank, the river rain fast and deep and tapered off downstream to flat patches of shimmering ripples. I finished off my lunch and while my wife was finishing off the last drop of thermos coffee, I ran back to the pickup and pitched my fishing outfit. It was on the sixth cast that I hooked a chrome-bright steelhead which swallowed a nightcrawler bait—way down deep, past its gill covers.

"Enclosed find a snapshot of Cy with Peggy. Sharpe of Seward, Alaska, wife of Cy Sharpe, a member of ILWU Local 60, tells of ice fishing and big lake trout.

A Letter from Mrs. C. R. "Peggy" Sharpe of Seward, Alaska, wife of Cy Sharpe, a member of ILWU Local 60, tells of ice fishing and big lake trout.

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ILA Strike

fused to work diverted cargo from the
Busts - up
fused to obey the order, the Maritime
the employers went into arbitration and
port of longshoremen in the Atlantic
ILWU negotiators have begun prelimi-
erver, given the return to work on the
St. Lawrence ports.

Russ Wolfe Dies

AR emportland—Contrary to waterfront
union, no union brothers bore the re-
mail of James Russell (Russ) Wolfe.
Local 8 dispatcher who died recently following a stroke to his last resting
place.

At his request no funeral service was held, and Wolfe’s ashes were scattered
at sea.

But Wolfe, who hung the book for keeping the ship at sea, was a dedicated figure on the waterfront where he spent more than 25 years in service to the community, he immortalized the lives of the men who
go down to the sea in ships and the movements of the vessels men sailed and loaded be-
fore there were unions to protect their
rights. (See Dispatcher, March 7, for
lore.

A veteran of World War II, Wolfe was 58 when he died. Survivors include his wife, Miriam, two sons, and a
daughter.

Convention Endorses Wayne Morse Park

VANCOUVER, BC—The ILWU Twen-
ty-First Biennial Convention recommended the establishment of a Wayne Morse Historical State
Park, on the site of the late Senator’s
ranch near Eugene, Oregon.

Morse, the delegates said, was “a lifelong advocate of a Democratic-type
system in which a free electorate was a champion of labor’s rights to union rec-
ognition and collective bargaining.”

“During his five decades in public
life, Sen. Morse made many lasting
contributions to labor, the general wel-
fare, and world peace.”

The Committee reiterated the posi-
tion taken by the last Convention that
the recommendations submitted herein be based on the budget allocated for the
International Research & Education De-
partment for the next biennium.

The Committee further recommended that proper emphasis be placed on the development of vigorous, new and
younger leaders at all levels of the union — and every attempt be made to
reach the incoming newly organized
workers, to establish a much better un-
derstanding of ILWU history and union-
ism in general.

GM Jobless Fund Goes Belly-Up

DETROIT — General Motors has an-
pounced that it will be unable to pay
Supplemental Unemployment Benefits
(SUB) checks to laid off employees be-
ing in the first week of May.

The SUB, GM sources said, has been
under enormous strain in the last few
months, and has sunk below the point
where payments can be made. GM esti-
mates that the total number of its
workers on indefinite layoff as of April
15, 1975, Chrysler’s fund is also broken.

SUB payments, taken together with
employment insurance, GM warily noted
was officially negotiated to provide laid off
workers 85 percent of their take-home
pay for one year. But with Detroit now
suffering 25 percent unemployment, the
funds—based on production of auto-
mobiles—are becoming depleted.

Bitterness Grows in Clatsop County

ASTORIA—One category of employ-
ment is on the upswing in job-short
Columbia County. The Welfare office has
added nine people to take care of ex-
hard cases.

Some 609 families are on food stamps
in an area with a total population of
only 25,000.

These are some of the facts Tom
Brennan, feature writer for The Ore-
gonian, dredged up on a recent visit to
this once booming port city at the
mouth of the Columbia.

The fact the Portland daily would as-
sign its business editor to do a Sunday
piece on Astoria’s economic woes
is due in part to the county’s threat to se-
cede from the State of Oregon.

MEETS ILWU MEMBERS

Editor Brennan, during his stay here,
met with four members of Local 10 in the
board room at the Longshore Hall.
The quarter included president Fred
Rova, past president Bob Reiter, dis-
patcher John Kallio, and Jim Platt, head
of the Columbia River District
Council. The committee was the
Concerned Citizens of Clatsop Coun-
ty, a committee composed of busi-
nessmen, labor union leaders, port, county
and city officials, and just plain citi-
zens interested in getting the area back
on its feet.

Brennan found the longshoremen bit-
erful. Gov. Strand’s insistence that the
AMAX aluminum plant (now known as
Aluminum) be sited in eastern Ore-
gon, and over his stance against the ex-
port of logs. "Logos are all that keeps this port go-

Interviewed — Local 50 long-
shoreman, from left, Fred Rova, John
Kallio, Bob Reiter and Jim Platt were
recently interviewed for a story in the
Portland Oregonian on the economic
crisis in Astoria.

New York municipal workers led demonstration at White House April 26.