ILWU Dockers OK Three-Year Pact

SAN FRANCISCO—ILWU longshoremen, clerks and bulk sugar workers have overwhelmingly ratified a new three-year agreement, ending the long, bitter strike against the employers' association. The vote was 99 percent "yes" in a secret ballot referendum conducted by the locals July 21-23, the dock workers voted in favor of the agreement by 7181 to 2841—a 73.3% "yes" vote.

The three-year agreement, which expires July 1, 1978, provides major improvements in the areas of wages, PGP financing, equalization of work opportunity, pensions and holidays. It also provides a guarantee of no layoffs over the life of the agreement.

WAGE INCREASE

The basic six-hour straight-time wage rate for longshoremen will increase by a total of $2.15 over the life of the agreement—70 cents effective June 28, 1975 (including a 10-cent cost of living increase which was to have become effective July 5, 1975); 60 cents on July 1, 1976; and 85 cents effective July 3, 1977.

Comparable increases will be paid to longshoremen on an eight-hour straight-time basis, CFS utilymen, clerks, clerk supervisors, chief supervisors and supercargoes.

The employers have agreed to a contingent liability of $38.3 million in the first year of the contract and $9 million in each of the two succeeding years, to fund the Pay Guarantee Plan. (The PGP guarantees each "A" registered longshoreman $18 hours work or pay per week—with an adjustment up to 24 hours for "B" men under certain circumstances.)

The parties also agreed to some administrative changes in the PGP.

PENSIONS

In the area of pensions, dockers who retire on July 1, 1975 or after, with 25 years of service, will receive a maximum benefit of $469 per month with appropriate adjustments for those with fewer years in the industry; effective July 1, 1976, the benefit will go up to $455; on July 1, 1977, the maximum monthly benefit for these pensioners will increase to $460.

Pensioners (those who retired prior to July 1, 1975) with a maximum benefit will receive an increase of $25 per month effective July 1, 1976, and another $25 per month increase on July 1, 1977.

The ILWU and the PMA also agreed to a formula for equalization of work opportunity between steady skilled men (9-43 men and crane operators) and skilled hall men, as follows:

EQUALIZATION

Effective August 1, 1975, skilled steady men will be permitted to work a maximum of 176 hours per calendar month. Beginning October 1, 1975, and on the first day of each month thereafter, the average number of hours worked by skilled hall men and skilled steady men over the preceding 12-week period will be compared. Should the number of hours worked by steady men exceed the average hours worked by hall men by over five percent, the maximum hour limitation for steady men may be lowered to the lesser of—156 hours—to bring the difference back within the five percent figure.

The parties also agreed to one additional paid holiday (Columbus Day) beginning in 1976; another (Veteran's Day) beginning in 1977; and two more (Washington's Birthday and Memorial Day) in 1978. This brings the total number of paid holidays to nine.

Christmas Day and New Year's Day are established as "no-work" holidays. Other important changes and improvements include the following:

- In the area of health and welfare, a maintenance of benefits clause for participants in the Insured Plans; increases in dental and orthodontic benefits; dental coverage for dependent, full-time students between the ages of 19 and 23, and for incapacitated children above the age of 19; increased life insurance; improved medical benefits in small ports, and improvements in the insured plan in the choice ports.
- An increase in lodging allowances and the establishment of a coastwise mileage allowance.
- A requirement that LASH barge owners or agents extend a good faith effort to secure a signed award for ILWU members, and shall notify the appropriate local union before the start of operations.
- An agreement to conduct a study of the seven-hour straight-time shift and of the three-seven hour shifts.
- An agreement that dockers who work the basic six hours of straight time and two hours overtime will receive their vacation pay on the same basis, no matter how many hours they work; while those who work a straight eight hours will receive their vacation pay on the basis of hours covered and the seven-hour shift.
- A separate letter of understanding in which the ILWU and the PMA agreed to develop a plan—the costs of which are to be borne equally by both sides—to assist those widows of members retired between 1952 and 1965 who are not covered by the ILWU-PMA welfare and pension plans, have not remarried, and are experiencing financial difficulty.

Tentative Contract for ILWU Dock Foremen

SAN FRANCISCO—As this issue of The Dispatcher goes to press, Local 142 longshore, clerks and bulk sugar workers have voted overwhelmingly to authorize their negotiating committee to call a strike if necessary.

The vote was 99 percent "yes" in longshore, and 100 percent "yes" for clerks and bulk sugar workers.

The Hawaiian longshore agreement expired June 30, 1975 but was extended indefinitely while negotiations for an ILWU-PMA Pacific Coast contract continued. Either party may cancel with two weeks' notice.

Local 142 Wins Overwhelming Strike Vote on Hawaiian Docks

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"If the results of this strike vote do not convince the waterfront employers that we are serious, then it appears you will be forced to cancel the extended agreement and strike the waterfronts of the entire state," said Local 142 President, Carl Damaso.

STILL FAR APART

Damaso said that Local 142 and the Islands' maritime employers were "still far apart on most of the major issues," which include job security (no layoffs), jurisdiction, work rules and manning, pensions and the wage guarantee.

"The present pension position of the employers," Damaso said, "would widen the benefits gap" between the Hawaiian Islands and the Pacific Coast.

"If we were to agree to their pension proposal we would fail $50 per month behind future Pacific Coast pensioners and we would have to give up cash-out and repatriation benefits. We will strike before we agree to that."

Next Dispatcher Appears September 5

SAN FRANCISCO—To allow time for staff vacations, and to meet the Convention mandate of 24 issues per year, we are skipping the next issue of The Dispatcher. The next paper will appear September 5. Copy deadline is Aug. 29.

Inside

The Grain Deal

Longshore Fringes

Cuba Trade?

See pages 2, 4, 5
The Successful Conclusion of the recent conference on European Security in Helsinki, Finland, is a historic step in the direction of detente between the United States and its allies on one hand, and the nations of the socialist world on the other.

The agreements that were reached by the leaders of the 35 nations present were, of course, non-binding. Like many high sounding agreements that were signed in the 1930s to outlaw war and to reduce armaments, they can be violated by any country which feels it can get away with it. But in the context of increased cooperation between east and west in other areas, particularly in the area of increased trade, the Helsinki agreements appear as an important leap forward.

The signatories, which included the US, Canada, the USSR and every European nation except Albania, agreed to a guarantee of the inviolability of present frontiers, peaceful settlement of international disputes, non-intervention in one another's internal affairs, the right of self-determination. Other sections cover agreements on economic, scientific and environmental cooperation, the free flow of information, and the right to travel. It is also agreed that in 1977 senior officials of each nation will gather to examine the progress they have made in living up to the agreements.

We should have no illusions. There is nothing in the Helsinki documents to prevent another Vietnam; there is nothing there which deals, really, with the withdrawal of US and Soviet troops from Europe, or further progress in disarmament. These are problems which are going to have to be worked out in some way or another. There is particu- larly a great deal of work to be done on the present Strategic Arms Limitation agreements before the present pact expires in 1977.

In the period just after the conclusion of World War II, it appeared that the Germans had penetrated three times the borders of the socialist world can be pushed back. But in the post-war world, from Korea to Cuba, fortunately, things never got down to point of full-scale war, as each side realized that such a war would deva- state both sides.

By the mid-sixties, it had become clear that the US had reconstructed itself and was once again a first-class power. It was also an established fact that the USSR was entitled to a reasonably secure border on its western front, which the Germans had penetrated three times in 50 years. Some have said that the Russians were paranoid; if so, no people in history have ever had a better title to that disorder!

So, more than anything else, the Helsinki agreements constitute a formal declaration by the European and North Atlantic nations that World War II is finally over, and that the ques- tion of what post-war Europe would look like is settled. The old cold-war doctrine that the borders of the socialist world can be pushed back is finally and totally abandoned. The future of cooperation in more pressing areas—particularly in the area of a more equitable dis- tribution of the world's resources—hinged on that understanding. Now, with World War II behind us, the possibilities for cooperation are as open as we wish to make them.

The fact is that today we need this present grain deal more than the Russians need it. That is not to say that if this sale does not go through, the US will just fold up. But the Russians have other suppliers to go in search of their needed grain—Canada and Australia in particular. The US has nowhere else to go in order to sell its surplus wheat.

It is, however, a regrettable fact in our country which is trying to carry out the old anti-communist boycott program that the new US companies are not prepared to go to the Soviet Union, to West Germany, to George Meany, and our brother longshoremen on the East Coast, the ILA. Let's hope they want us in business. But if they want to petty-curry, boycott the Russian ship, then boycott them to. As President of the ILWU, I will try to have all the cargo come through the West Coast ports, or the ports of San Francisco—where our members will be delighted to do the work.

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Local 24
Boise-Cascade
Unit Wins in
Brief Strike

ABERDEEN — The Boise-Cascade Division of ILWU Local 24, after a one week strike, reached agreement with the Boise-Cascade Corporation on a new two-year contract. The fifteen members of the unit are employed in the company’s log marshalling yards.

Basic wages were increased by 75 cents an hour the first year and 55 cents the second. The old agreement expired on February 1, 1975 and all items were retroactive to that date.

A major union demand was added to the contract and the men are now guaranteed a minimum of three hours overtime for extended shifts.

The new agreement contains eleven paid holidays, all giving the unit six weeks of vacation pay after five years and four weeks of pay after seven years.

Also included is three days of pay for funeral leave and a guarantee of the regular daily job rate for jury duty. The pension agreement was modified to provide for full early retirement at age 55, with 20 years of service.

Negotiating committee members were: Chairman, Ken Jacobsen, Ed Bliss, Tom Moors, Steve Lyons, and Jack Frost. Local 24 President Bandy Vekich, Vice-President George Waskfold, and LRC member Louis Audeit assisted the committee.

COOS BAY DREDGING — In Washington recently to lobby for funds to deep-

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Singing the Night Shift Blues
Do you wake up and find yourself eating spaghetti or Irish stew for breakfast? Are you confused about what day it is? Are you confused about how you dread it when the kids are on holiday from school? Are you smoking and drinking more, and enjoying it less?

If this file were your general description, chances are you belong to the legion of night shift workers.

Many Soviet Trade

McMINNVILLE, Ore.—Oregon fruits, vegetables and other products s o m e

More Soviet Trade

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While this may seem way out to some, the damage that night shift schedules can do to a family is real. Judge Schanke will set a trial date for Cahn on August 15.

The indictment issued last December, charged that the companies had toenced to that experienced by a travelling worker who has to adjust to different time zones on long distance flights.

These poor folks are up to their cocktail hour when they land in a country where breakfast is being served. The problem is easy to solve but very difficult to solve. They land in Tokyo, Moscow or London and get a taste of what every night shift worker knows as a part of their work.

ISOLATION

When day-night sleeping habits are reversed, sleep is of shorter duration, more broken by spontaneous awakenings, and most of night shift workers never really adjust because on-off days they prefer to mix with family and friends. They are predators on sleep.

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WASHINGTON, DC—While the Organ- ization of American States last month voted to end the 11-year old embargo of Cuba from the Western Hemisphere, and while numer- ous US corporations are anxious to penetrate the increasingly prosperous Cuban market, the normalization of relations between the two so- cialist lands is apparently far still off. Meeting in Costa Rica last month, the 24-nation group of Latin American nations and the US voted to end the economic boycott. Castro's contention that a decision on diplomatic and economic relations with Cuba, thus rescinding the 11-year old boycott, would be largely symbolic—since eleven Latin American nations had already re- sumed trade and diplomatic ex- changes with Cuba in the last few years—observers believe it will set the stage for a "detente" between Cuba and the US in the foreseeable future.

MAJOR DIFFICULTIES

While the lifting of the OAS sanctions marks the start of a diplomatic normalization of relations, no future situation involving Cuba will be "long and intricate," accor- ding to Assistant Secretary of State William J. Fulbright. Many in the group point out that President Ford is certainly un- likely to lift the embargo even before Cuba before the 1976 elections—for fear of angering conservative Republicans and the business community in Florida.

In fact, the business weekly, US News and World Report, suggests that President Ford is in no particular hur- ry to lift the embargo. The administration, a recent arti- cle suggests, is not particularly interested in "normalizing relations with Cuba" because the US had been kept informed of the US embargo, suggesting that relations with Cuba will remain as main as hostile as they have been.

Investors

Perhaps most notably, Cuba's increas- ingly prosperous economy has excited the interest of American investors. A number of corporations, including Dow Chemical, Union Carbide and RCA are planning to make their willings known and even eagerness to supply the needs of the Cuban market since trade is legal- ized. More than 100 US firms, accord- ing to the State Department, have made recent inquiries on Cuban trade. "No one wants to be the last guy into the market," says one department spokesman.

Tommy George Mourned

PORTLAND—Thomas W. "Tommy" George, a veteran of the 1934 strike, died July 26 at age 62. Moving to Portland in 1937, he was active in the old Portland Industrial Union Council. He served on the execu- tive board of Local 40 and was chairman of that local during the 1948 strike. At one time he ran against President Harry Bridges for the ILWU's top post.

WALKING BOSS

In 1959 George was the Portland Bakers Local 92, serving as dispatcher, presi- dent, and in various other capacities. He remained active in labor in 1970 and 1974 on the waterfront here and in San Francisco.

In 1962 he had part of one lung re- moved for cancer, and recurrent can- cer was found in his lymph nodes in 1963 in the form of a tumor and pap- er.

Rosary was held at St. Ignatius, fol- lowed by interment at Mt. Calvary Cemetery.

Survivors include the widow, Estelle, three children, two daughters, and two grand-children, and many nieces and nephews.

Log Trade is Supported

PORTLAND—A resolution introduced at the July meeting of the Democratic National Committee of Multnomah Coun- ty, blaming Oregon unemployment on the "export of jobs to lands of cheaper labor through the export... of logs and pulp" and on the hiring of illegal aliens, was ordered re-written after several precinct committee workers and State Rep. Jim Chestor, a member of Local 40, spoke against it.

Opponents of the resolution pointed out that "exporting logs creates jobs, and the jobs are here to prove it," while bannings logs would add not only lumbermen, but truckers, port em- ployees, tugboatmen and workers em- ployed in manufacturing truck trailers. At a meeting of Local 40, John Mar- tin spoke against the resolution.

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the blame where it belonged—in the laps of the grain traders and the Department of Agriculture.

At least part of the problem was caused by what Montana Congressman John Melcher called a particularly "cozy" relationship between the Department and the traders. Most readers are aware of how retired generals shuttle back and forth between the Pentagon and the tobaccomanufacturers; fewer were aware that in July 1972, after some discussions in the early summer in Moscow with Secretary Butz on the grain deal, Undersecretary Clarence Palms moved over to a $100,000 a year job with Continental where he helped negotiate the deal, using inside information, from the other side of the table.

MUSICAL CHAIRS
And at the same time, the Department's chief grain salesman, Clifford Pulvermacher, moved over to an equally remunerative job as Bunge Corporation's Washington Representative. "The man who replaced Palmby," Malloy reported, "was on the payroll for a big grain company..."

The assistant to Pulvermacher, who is in charge of the new program with another $100,000 a year, had a position to supply the Russians with a glut which would bankrupt growers. "None of this was intended," said a Department official, "but a house, automobile, life insurance..."

Thus, the grain traders who purchased a bushel of wheat on July 28 for $1.77 to expect a subsidy of about 14 cents. In one case, orders for five million bushels of beans and speculation in subsidies was rampant. "In late July, the head of the Commodity Exchange Authority revealed that he had clear evidence that Continental had willingly filed false reports and that other traders had been manipulating prices on the exchange to collect windfall subsidy profits." His information was turned over to the Justice Department, which decided to prosecute.

ONE LAST RIP-OFF
Consumer groups and sources even within the Nixon administration were concerned that the subsidy racket was a threat to the integrity of the program. In an effort to put this out of control, on August 5, Caspar Weinberger of the Office of Management and Budget blew the whistle and demanded that the subsidy payments no longer support the low $1.64 export prices.

F o r m e r C a r g i l l e m p l o y e e s E a r l B r u n t h a v e r , a d m i t t e d l a t e r t h a t h e h a d w a r n e d t h e t r a d e r s o f t h e i m p e n d i n g c h a n g e i n p o l i c y , a n d t h a t t h e y h a d b e t t e r r e g i s t e r t h e i r s u b s i d y c l a i m s . I n t h e g r e a t p e r i o d e x t e n d e d b e t w e e n A u g u s t 5 a n d S e p t e m b e r 1 , s o m e 500 million bushels of wheat were registered for the special subsidy of 47 cents.

C o s t t o t h e t a x p a y e r s — $131.6 million for one week. In all, the grain traders pulled in windfall profits of some $300 million on subsidies alone, with an unheard impact on consumer prices.

So American consumers had been hit twice. Once by the tax man, to pay the subsidies which an investigation by the General Accounting Office showed had continued for too long and too high a rate, and again at the checkstand, where speculation and accuracy had driven the prices of bread and meat, poultry, eggs and other animal-feed derivatives out of sight. It was easy to blame the Russians. But the General Accounting Office investigation, which was completed the following spring, put the blame where it belonged—in the laps of the grain traders and the Department of Agriculture.

The Department, under a 24-year old program—had the authority to pay grain traders the difference between a stable export price and domestic prices which were increasing as news of the Soviet sale leaked out. Thus, a grain trader who purchased a bushel of wheat on July 28 for $1.77 to be sold to the Russians at $1.63 could make a profit on a bushel of wheat on July 28 for $1.77 to be sold to the Russians at $1.63 could make a profit on the difference between the stable $1.64 export price and domestic prices which were increasing as news of the Soviet sale leaked out.

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Recently relaxed Department of Agriculture rules also made it possible for grain subsidy speculators to increase the take by reporting sales for subsidy at any time after making a sale. Speculators with inside information to the effect that prices—and therefore export subsidies—were going up wisely retrained from reporting their sales until the last moment before the cargo was put aboard ship.

RAMPANT SPECULATION
Speculation in subsidies was rampant. According to one trader, "suspicious last minute purchases of September contracts occurred on several days in July. In one case, orders for five million bushels were placed within three or four minutes of closing time." Evidence of manipulation was mounting. In late July, the head of the Commodity Exchange Authority revealed that he had clear evidence that Continental had willingly filed false reports and that other traders had been manipulating prices on the exchange to collect windfall subsidy profits.

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WILL IT HAPPEN AGAIN?
Will US consumers and taxpayers get socked again? Probably not. Conditions have changed substantially. Russian needs for US grain this year are substantially smaller than the US harvest is much larger. The Soviets are expected to buy substantially smaller amount of the crop. Even if they doubled their purchases, says Wes Grilely of the Oregon wheat growers association, it wouldn't be much of an effect. Canadians and Australians also are in a much better position to supply the Russians with grain than they were in 1972, according to the Wall Street Journal.

In fact, the possibility that the grain might be held up is more threatening. Rex Olson of the Kansas Wheat Commission says that unsold grain from this year's bumper crop might create a glut which would bankrupt growers and force production cutbacks.

In addition, although Earl Butz is still in charge, the Department of Agriculture now has better tools to keep track of what is going on. Big grain exporters are now required to immediately report any larger-than-usual sales, and US exporters are keeping a closer watch on their grain crop and other conditions by means of procedures established by US-Soviet agreement in 1972.

George Meany is correct. The 1972 model certainly was a rip-off in some respects. But it worked out badly because of the policies of the Agriculture Department and the grain speculators. It need not have happened that way, and it need not happen again. It need not be on the way up the road today, but it has relatively little to do with the Russian purchase. Those who are interested in keeping inflation under control would be better off to keep a close eye on Agriculture Department policies in the commodities markets and the secret-operators of the big grain merchants and speculators.
Columbia River Council Asks Aid for ’50s Deportees

PORTLAND—Jim Foster, Secretary of the Columbia River District Council, has written US Senators Packwood and Magnuson asking them to support a bill sponsored by a third Northwest Senator, Mark Hatfield, aimed at reuniting two aged deportees with their families in Oregon.

The exiles, Hamish Scott MacKay and William Mackie, were deported to Canada and Finland in 1900, “victims of the witchhunt psychology during the (Joe) McCarthy era,” the letter notes.

This year effort to save them, in which both the Council and ILWU Local 8 are active.

“ILWU was likewise falsely labeled ‘subversive’ during the same period,” the letter notes.

Mackie, now 66, was born when his parents were on a visit to their homeland, expecting to be back in the United States in time for his birthday, but his parents had to stay in Finland longer than foreseen.

When he was deported, he spoke no Finnish.

MacKay, now 70, has an aged mother in Toronto and two sons and three grandchildren in Portland.

Legislation similar to the Hatfield bill has been introduced in the Senate and House of Representatives. Through these letters, the local is taking an opportunity to right this grievous wrong.

A Sailor’s Right to Union Representation

WASHINGTON, DC—No matter what provisions were written into the new law giving a sailor’s right to union representation when he is disciplined, the NLRB made this ruling in a case arising in 1973 when a crew member was denied union representation when he was fined $400.

The NLRB ruled that the crew member had been denied adequate representation, and that the presence of a union representative when he was disciplined would not have interfered with the captain’s obligations to provide for the safety of his ship and crew.

Local 142 Moves to Protect Hotel Minimum Wages

KONA, Hawaii — ILWU Local 142 is challenging an attempt by hotel and restaurant employers to impose the inferior federal minimum wage on their unorganized employees instead of following State laws which raise the minimum to $2.40 as of July 1.

With employers trying to take advantage of high unemployment to drive cash wages down to as little as $1.85, the union is thus defense the interest of thousands of unorganized workers threatened with wage cuts. It is also defense many union members who were entitled to wage increases on July 1 under State law.

The hotel and restaurant association employers have asked circuit court judge Norio Kawakami to rule that federal law prevails over State law.

48 HOURS STRAIGHT TIME

The employers claim the federal wage-hour law gives them the right to pay as low as $2.10 and to take credit for as much as $1.05 in tips and pay only $0.35 in cash.

They also claim the right to pay straight time for the first 46 hours of work. State law requires overtime after 40 hours.

The hotel employees’ policy does not satisfy State law, however. The state law allows the employers to take credit for tips only if the employee is paid not less than $2.40 an hour. Thus, unless wages plus tips add up to $2.40, employers can pay as little as $2.10.

In order to meet the new State minimum, hotel employers must add 40 to 50 cents to worker wages. State law requires overtime must be paid at the rate of time and a half.

The clear intent of State law is that it prevails where its standards are higher than federal standards.

Illegal Unions Sweep Factory Vote in Spain

MADRID — Candidates of the illegal Spanish trade union organization known as Workers’ Committees have won over 80 percent of the factory-level votes in the election of representatives for the illegal trade unions.

The government unions were set up early in General Franco’s regime over 30 years ago as a way of stepping opposition to the fascist government. They included management and labor representatives.

STRIKE WAVE

Tied down by Government Institute—working people in recent years formed their own organizations within the framework of the fascist state, called the Movimiento de Trabajadores y Camponeses, as the most powerful within the fascist regime, the Fascist Union, the fascist government and its puppet unions. Major strikes organized by the commissions have swept the country forcing wage increases and other benefits far beyond those already agreed upon by the government unions.

Among the employers who have felt the effect of this new movement are such multinational corporations as Westinghouse, General Electric and ITT.

The Workers’ Committees have continued to gain influence in the strikes and lockouts, and the strikes have brought together workers of varied political tendencies including monarchists, socialists and communists.

In the elections for shop stewards completed, more than 85 percent of the workers have voted for the Workers’ Committees over the government unions, and more than five employees voted. The success of the illegal unions is seen as convincing evidence that the Franco dictatorship is crumbling.

Dockers, Widows On Pension List

SAN FRANCISCO — Following is the list of 1976, 83 dockworkers retired under various ILWU-PFA plans.

Local 1: Oscar Olsen; Local 8: Cecil G. Hill; Local 10: Alvin Alve, George Capuana, Henry A. Guerrer, Frank E. Klah, Oran E. Mochulsky, Alex Pilkington, Ralph Richardson, Leslie Whitlock, Gordon Williams; Local 11: Arlene M. Kish, Nevada Johnson, Victor Valverde; Local 12: Melva C. Highland, Sam R. Jones, Harry Kritzer, Martin C. McCafliff, John D. Rogers.

Local 25: Alexander Cook; George F. Thompson, James Jones; Local 34: Dario Bobb; Local 39: Thomas C. Charles; Local 40: Raymond R. Guevara; Local 47B: Jack V. Barkow; Local 54: Joseph A. Estrada; Local 63: Walter Johnson, Regis C. Winter; Local 84: William Gillian, Arthur Kaunisto, James H. Lyon.

The widows are: Sadie Laird, (Elmer, Local 7); Anna Davis, (Frank, Local 10); Mabel Donnelly, (Roy, Local 83); Emma Estrella, (Pardee, Local 10); Grace C. Kimmel, (Hermann, Local 10); Ophelia Harper, (Norman, Local 10); Robert Holcomb, (Thomas, Local 10); Grace W. Johnson, (Albert, Local 34); Margaret Kehret, (Lawrence, Local 10); Thomas Kidder, (Charles, Local 23); Traves Kleen, (Elmer, Local 10); Nellie Kursar, (Joseph, Local 13); Effie Lorenz, (Adolph, Local 7); Ale B. Lovett, (Clarence, Local 23); Constance C. Meade, (Lloyd, Local 10); William M. Moran, (James, Local 10); June R. Polette, (Wilfred, Local 6); Agnes Price, (Los, Local 10); Mabel R. Sargent, (Harry, Local 10); Celia Velma Wagner, (William, Local 13); Norma Wolfe, (James, Local 8).

These widows are the survivors of deceased husbands.
Details on New Longshore Fringe Benefits

PMA Benefit Funds, containing detailed information on the implementation of several items in the recently approved July 1 Memorandum of Understanding. A bulletin on changes in the insured medical plans will appear in the September 2 issue.

I. Pensions

In accordance with the July 1, 1975 Memorandum of Understanding, the trustees of the Pension Fund have implemented the following changes retroactively effective July 1, 1975.

Men who retired before July 1, 1975 will receive a monthly pension increase of $1.00 per month per qualifying year up to a maximum monthly increase of $25 in their September 1, 1975 pension payments. That payment will include retroactivity from July 1, 1975. An actuarially discounted increase based on this amount will be paid to those men who have not yet completed the 60-month waiting period required under the 1972 agreement. The July 1, 1975 increase will be distributed as the increases become available.

Information about pension rate increases due in 1976 and 1977 will be distributed as the increases become payable.

A bulletin explaining the July 1, 1975 rate changes will be distributed to all pensioners and widows with their September payment.

II. Welfare Eligibility

The July 1, 1975 Memorandum of Understanding provides that welfare eligibility for all men in all ports will be determined by using the hours eligibility test of the Welfare Agreement (Section 7.2) and that the existing provision for automatic eligibility for fullyregistered men (Section 7.1) is eliminated from the Agreement. The joint trustees have determined that this change shall be effective upon receipt by the joint port labor relations committees of the July 1, 1975 rates.

Eligibility will continue to be determined by using the hours eligibility test shown in Column 1 of Table A when their 60-month waiting period is completed.

Men who retire on or after July 1, 1975 will receive a basic monthly pension of $600 or a pro rata amount based on that amount. Actuarially discounted rates based on their 60-month waiting period will be paid to early retirees. Adjustments which are due under this provision, including any retroactivity payable, will be included in September 1, 1975 payments. Widows of these men are entitled to 50% of the increases.

Information about pension rate increases due in 1976 and 1977 will be distributed as the increases become payable.

A bulletin explaining the July 1, 1975 rate changes will be distributed to all pensioners and widows with their September payment.

III. Death Benefit Program

The July 1, 1975 Memorandum of Understanding provides that welfare eligibility for all men in all ports will be determined by using the hours eligibility test of the Welfare Agreement (Section 7.2) and that the existing provision for automatic eligibility for fully-registered men (Section 7.1) is eliminated from the Agreement. The joint trustees have determined that this change shall be effective upon receipt by the joint port labor relations committees of the July 1, 1975 rates.

Eligibility will continue to be determined by using the hours eligibility test shown in Column 1 of Table A when their 60-month waiting period is completed.

Men who retire on or after July 1, 1975 will receive a basic monthly pension of $600 or a pro rata amount based on that amount. Actuarially discounted rates based on their 60-month waiting period will be paid to early retirees. Adjustments which are due under this provision, including any retroactivity payable, will be included in September 1, 1975 payments. Widows of these men are entitled to 50% of the increases.

Information about pension rate increases due in 1976 and 1977 will be distributed as the increases become payable.

A bulletin explaining the July 1, 1975 rate changes will be distributed to all pensioners and widows with their September payment.

IV. Dental Program

The dental program changes listed below are effective retroactive to July 1, 1975 as provided in the July 1, 1975 Memorandum of Understanding.

ADULT DENTAL PROGRAM

The state service plan amendments increased the insurance limits of the Welfare Plan from $250 to $500. This increase is effective in the case of men eligible on account of continuous sick credits and the retirement of a dependent child. This provision is effective in the case of men who become eligible on or after July 1, 1975.

There has been no change in the provision which allows a disability pensioner to receive benefits after his pension eligibility day if the claim is retained. The contract also contains minor improvements in medical and orthodontia care received after July 1, 1975. A revised Table of Benefits will be distributed as soon as possible.

Pensioners’ (men/ widows) full-time student dependent children between the ages of 12-23 and pensioners’ incapacitated dependent children who have attained age 18 will be covered under the adult program. All pensioners will be notified of this coverage and will be asked to complete the procedures for enrolling their qualified dependents. As you are aware, these dependents of pensioners have been covered for all other Welfare Plan hospital-medical-surgical benefits.

CHILDREN’S DENTAL PROGRAM

The orthodontia benefit is increased to cover 80% of charges up to a maximum benefit of $1,000 per child. This benefit applies to new orthodontia claims incurred on or after July 1, 1975, and to previously incurred claims that are still in progress on July 1, 1975. The increased benefit does not apply to any orthodontia care received before July 1, 1975.

All retroactive adjustments necessary as a result of the changes in these programs will automatically be made by the dental plans.

V. Weekly Indemnity

In the July 1, 1975 Memorandum of Understanding the parties agreed to eliminate separate eligibility for Weekly Indemnity (Benefits A) and to provide that eligibility for that benefit will be the same as for all other Welfare Fund programs (Benefits B). The Weekly Indemnity requirement of one day of work in 31 days preceding the claim is retained.

In accordance with this change the trustees have prepared a summary of Weekly Indemnity eligibility, and the Welfare Agreement will be amended to provide the following:

All active men in Washington and Oregon ports who are eligible for Benefits B are also eligible for Weekly Indemnity. This provision is effective in the case of such men who become eligible on or after July 1, 1975.

In the event such a man qualifies for a Weekly Indemnity benefit payment, his payment will be reduced by the amount, if any, he is entitled to receive under the California State Disability (CSD) program.

Men who are eligible for Benefits B on a count of five percent or less, and who transfers from California port to a Northwest port will immediately become eligible for Week-ly Indemnity benefits.

In the event such a man qualifies for a Weekly Indemnity benefit payment, his payment will be reduced by the amount, if any, he is entitled to receive under the California State Disability (CSD) program.

The three month work requirement in the case of men eligible on account of continuous sick credits and the requirement for all eligible men of one day of work in the 31 days preceding a Weekly Indemnity claim is applied in all cases.

There has been no change in the provision which allows a disability pensioner to receive benefits after his pension eligibility day if the claim is retained. The contract also contains minor improvements in medical and orthodontia care received after July 1, 1975. A revised Table of Benefits will be distributed as soon as possible.

Pensioners’ (men/ widows) full-time student dependent children between the ages of 12-23 and pensioners’ incapacitated dependent children who have attained age 18 will be covered under the adult program. All pensioners will be notified of this coverage and will be asked to complete the procedures for enrolling their qualified dependents. As you are aware, these dependents of pensioners have been covered for all other Welfare Plan hospital-medical-surgical benefits.

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The orthodontia benefit is increased to cover 80% of charges up to a maximum benefit of $1,000 per child. This benefit applies to new orthodontia claims incurred on or after July 1, 1975, and to previously incurred claims that are still in progress on July 1, 1975. The increased benefit does not apply to any orthodontia care received before July 1, 1975.

All retroactive adjustments necessary as a result of the changes in these programs will automatically be made by the dental plans.

Postal Contract

WASHINGTON, DC—Members of the National Association of Letter Carriers have approved a new three-year agreement which contains a first-year wage increase of under five percent. Under this pact, which is scheduled to take effect on August 8, 1975, the NALC’s triennial agreement with the Postal Service provides that workers covered by the agreement, bringing his annual salary to $15,000.

The contract also contains minor improvements in health and welfare, a new Dental Plan, a pay guarantee plan, a new pension plan, increased manning flexibility for management.
SEWARD, Alaska—When a huge tidal wave slammed into this southwest Alaska port in the wake of the Good Friday, 1964 earthquake, it destroyed the basis of the town’s prosperity.

What had once been a thriving port of entry, handling 62 percent of the cargo coming into Alaska by sea, was reduced to rubble and ashes, as the town’s docks and railroad yards literally slipped into the ironically-named Resurrection Bay.

These citizens who chose to stay on, naturally, rolled up their sleeves and poured to their own towns together. Among these were the members of ILWU longshore Local 60. Once 300 members strong, by the time many of its members had transferred to Oregon and Washington ports, reduced to a group of 25 stalwarts sharing their unemployment.

MAJORITY SUPPLY POINT

But they had faith in the future of Seward, one of the two ice-free ports in western Alaska and the salt water terminus of the government railroad running north to Fairbanks. Its good position on the Alaska highway was another plus.

Today, 11 years after the earthquake, tidal wave and fire which destroyed 85 percent of its economy, Seward has risen.

LONG PROCESS

It did not happen overnight. The railroad dock was rebuilt two years after the quake, a steel and concrete pier almost 400 feet long, 100 feet wide and 700 feet long, “the only earthquake-proof dock in the world.”

Mainland shipped in 1965, and six years later Seward was getting only 4 percent of the tonnage coming into Alaska by water.

But the waterfront was idle until time for another load a barge in half the time it takes now. Today, Seward boasts the largest fish cannery on the North American West Coast.

FUTURE ACTION

But the waterfront is idle until timber destined for Japan and 48-inch pipe for the Trans-Alaska pipeline to bring oil from the North Slope begins to move. In order to accommodate traffic generated by the pipeline, Northern Stevedores had to acquire new equipment, ten 9-ton fork lifts, four trucks, and a 16-ton, rubber-tired crane. Today there are 50- “A” longshoremen registered here.

Because of the pipeline, as many as 100 men, including casuals, frequently are dispatched from the Local 60 Hall in the back of the Seward Palace Bar and Cafe. Dockers in Seward work 12-hour shifts.

Vaelde, the other ice-free port in western Alaska, gets some cargo for Trans-Alaska, but Seward is getting most of it, says Huhn. “Our labor productivity is second to none.” Local 60 members have from 15 to 29 years experience in the industry, and can unload a barge in half the time it takes less experienced men.”

Northland Marine Lines began a constant operation on June 1, 1975, confident on weekly barge service to bring in equipment for the pipeline. This is trucked to a backup area, north of the “pipeline pier,” with longshoremen operating the trucks. They unload it and store it in the ten-acre backup area until it can be reloaded for Fairbanks at the railroad spur.

Pipeline trade is key to the recovery of Seward’s waterfront.

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MAJORITY SUPPLY POINT

Huhn predicts Seward will continue to get most of the pipeline freight, and sees the port once again becoming a major supply point for the 59th state.

Hope for more jobs reached new heights when Richfield Oil started exploratory work in the Gulf of Alaska, preparatory to Outer Continental Shelf leasing scheduled for December. Seward is the most favorably situated port to supply six of the nine exploration sites.

Huhn predicts that gasline traffic and freight will come through the port, and sees eventual development of the Navy’s Petroleum Reserves 4, an area of 56,000 square miles, as a source of potential added cargo traffic through Seward.

He speaks of a $2 million bond issue to finance construction of a municipal-owned pier the city wants to build east of the breakwater.

He waxes lyrical as he talks about his favorite subject, Alaska, “the sleeping giant who is waking up.” Seward, an ice-free port “on one of the best harbors in the world,” is destined to play a key role in the bright future of the Big Land.