In Northwest

Canadians Praise US Grain Safety

PORTLAND—Three Canadian Area ILWU leaders toured grain handling facilities in Portland, Tacoma and Seattle January 19-20, examining equipment at ILWU localities and handling fumigants in stateside elevators.

Expressing their determination to avoid a replay of the recent tragic explosion at Burrard Terminals in Vancouver BC, which took the lives of five locals of ILWU Local 333, the visitors were, overall, impressed by safety measures which had been taken in the ports they observed.

Representing the Canadian grain workers were Russ Flemming, safety director for the Canadian area, Barney Chapman, President of Grain Workers Local 333, and Harvey Hancock, business agent for the same local.

The visit was arranged by Canadian Area Regional Director Craig Pritchett and Northwest Regional Director G. Johnny Parks. The Canadians were accompanied on their tour of Portland elevators by Parks and Local 8 business agent Carl Meuler; in Tacoma, Local 23 Business Agent George Ginnis took them through a nearby new Continental Grain facility; they were taken through Cargill elevators in Seattle by Local 19 President Dwayne Wadlow.

SOPOHISTICATED EQUIPMENT

The trio was first taken to the $18 million Cook Industries elevator nearing completion at Rivergate, on the Columbia River near Portland. The elevator will feature such futuristic-looking devices as the “Microcom Controller Sequence System” and monitor panel—but will employ more maintenance men than more conventional facilities, according to the Cook engineers.

The Cook elevator has what the engineers described as a totally enclosed wiring system, a zero-dust standard in the skilled and semi-skilled classifications, according to the Cook engineers.

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Canadian Area Convention

VANCOUVER, BC—The Fourteenth (Fourth Biennial) Convention of the Canadian Area of the ILWU will open in Vancouver on February 23, 1976, at the Pacific National Exhibition Grounds.

Locals are advised to send in resolutions to the Canadian Area office by February 2, 1976.
MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS in-
sisting in the unembittered pursuit of prof-
its is not conducive to the economic health
of the United States.

So writes Steelworkers' President I. W. Abel
in his introduction to the most recent issue of
Industrial Union Department -of the AFL-CIO.
The issue is devoted entirely to the problems
which threaten the economic health of the
United States, and the editors conclude that "tax loopholes and the
presence of multinational corporations are among the most
important factors pushing American corporations out of the United States."
US Loses Out, as Congress Bars Soviet Trade

WASHINGTON—Treasury Secretary William Simon told the Senate Commerce Committee that according to Soviet officials, US companies have lost $1.6 billion in Soviet orders in the last nine months because of trade restrictions imposed by the US.

The orders have gone to Western European and Japanese firms.

Two major obstacles have stood in the way of expansion of exports to the Soviet Union. One is the refusal of Congress to put trade with that country on the same basis as with other countries, the so-called most-favored-nation status. The other cause is the denial of credits for purchases.

**EXPORT LICENSES**

Another hindrance to the development of trade has been the denial of export licenses for certain equipment on the ground that it is not in the "national interest" to provide the Soviet Union with this equipment. A recent example of this was the refusal to permit IBM to sell the Soviet tourism agency a computer.

It is now learned that British, French and Japanese companies are competing for the same computer contract.

Another $70 million computer contract went to a French company when the American company approached for the job was told by Washington that it wouldn't be granted an export license.

Secretary Simon told the Senate committee that Japanese and Western European companies trading with the Soviet Union are backed by their governments for up to $10 billion in credit.

**SUGAR WORKERS BEGIN TALKS ON DISTRIBUTION OF 15c**

HONOLULU—Local 142 began negotiations here January 12 for an equitable distribution of a 15c per hour for wage adjustments in the sugar industry.

These are a follow-up of an earlier agreement to extend the sugar agreements to January 31, 1977 with 65c an hour in a wage package for February 1, 1976—$50 to be across-the-board for all employees, 15¢ to be distributed as determined by the sugar cacao, which was held in September.

**EARLY TALKS**

The additional 65c wage package and two bonuses (1974 and 1975) averaging $1,000 each per employee, came out of early negotiations initiated by the union when sugar prices skyrocketed.

This was shortly after the 1974 strike was ended with wage gains of 75¢ an hour as a result of the sugar cacao, which was held in September.

**SUGAR NEGOTIATIONS**

The project will ultimately cost some $15 million, and is expected to be an enormous spur to the economy of southwest Oregon, according to Local 12 President Joe Jakovce.

**COOS BAY DREDGING OKAYED**

WASHINGTON, DC.—Federal legislation authorizing the expenditure of $5.5 million to begin the widening and deepening of the ship channel at Coos Bay and the construction of a new turning basin in the harbor has been approved, and work is expected to begin on these improvements this year.

Passage of the appropriation, despite the fact that President Ford had threatened veto to veto all new expenditures by the federal government is considered something of a miracle—a miracle brought about by the hard work of labor, civic and business organizations, and the leadership of Oregon's senior Senator, Mark Hatfield.

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**DREDGING TO BEGIN**—A view of the Port of Coos Bay, Oregon where, it is hoped, federally-funded dredging operations and other improvements will soon produce more cargo, and more work for members of ILWU longshore Local 12.

**HELPED OUT**—Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield, president as witnesses from Coos Bay asked his public works subcommittee for aid in dredging their harbor.

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Tough Year Ahead for Canada Labor Predicted

OTTAWA — Canadian Labor Con- gress president Joe Morris predicted that 1976 will be a bad and bitter year for Canada's 10 million workers. According to CLI economists unem- ployment for 1976 is expected to rise from this year's 7.2 percent to 8.5 percent.

When all forms of unemployment are included, such as new entrants into the labor force looking for their first job, it is predicted by economists that Cana- da will have close to one million unem- ployed. Morris told reporters, "wage controls are going to do nothing to reduce the 1.9 percent unemployment rate in this country, for the growth rate of the economy will fall off, creating even higher unemploy- ment."

MAJOR NEGOTIATIONS

He continued, "The world is not going to pull out of this slump as quickly as a lot of optimistic people have said.

1976 will see contracts effecting 218, 855 workers or approximately 4.5 per- cent of major collective agreements coming up for renegotiation. Spokesmen for the 75,000 striking pa- per workers in the Canadian Paper- workers Union say that the federal wage-cutting program has been an im- portant factor in prolonging the monu- mental strike which began in some in- stances in 1975.

1,700 aircraft workers at DelFavilland Aircraft and 8,800 Metro Toronto high school teachers have both been called by the so-called "anti-inflation board," with offers to both groups having been rejected by the board.

Canada's 58,000 railway workers have been bogged down in negotiations in Montreal since October, due to the chaos created by the introduction of the controls. The carrier which come up for re- newal in 1976 include air traffic control- rors, who begin negotiations in the early part of the year, the Railroads, the Canadian International Union with the Canadian Line Carriers Association in March, and 6,300 Toronto Transit Commission employee will begin talks in June.

Next fall will open up a new round of talks involving the United Auto Workers and the industry's big three, General Motors, Chrysler and Ford, and before 1976 fades out, the Thunder Bay Grain-handlers will be opening talks in December.

In B.C. 200,000 workers will be in negotiations for a new contract in 1976.

Washington Report

Get America Back to Work Must Be Labor's No. 1 Goal

by Pat Tobin

ILWU Washington Representative

WASHINGTON, DC — President Ger- ald Ford is pursuing Nixon's policy of vetoing labor-supported social legisla- tion.

George Meany, AFL-CIO President, recently stated that, "it is obvious that the President is going to play ball with the right wing of his party, hoping that his vetoes of social legislation will gain him conservative votes in the primaryes."

President Ford's veto record in the House of Representatives has shown consistent support of right wing causes and he is well aware of the power of conservative Republicans at Republici- can Party Nominating Conventions.

But in spite of the difficulties created here by Ford's ruling-by-veto and ca- pitulation to the right wing, the ILWU will join with the labor movement in fighting for (1) the Kennedy-Corman Health Security bill, with which we dealt in the last issue, from the Washing- ton Report; and (2) Full Employment Legislation.

Washington Report

Chaos Seen in Construction As Sect'y Dunlop Resigns

WASHINGTON, DC — President Ford's veto of the common situs bill and other legislation favored by the construction unions has cost him the services of Labor Secretary John Dun- lop.

It has also opened up the possibility of real chaos in the industry as a result of the 329,000 building trades workers prepare for negotiations in the coming year.

The vetoed common situs bill, for which the building trades had been lobby- ing for years, would have prohibited the creation of new unions in a dispute with a particular employer at a job site to picket the entire project.

The bill, said the unions, would have accorded basic right to strike but as a result of a Supreme Court decision in 1951, barred. Beaver, Jess Peck, the labor liaison from Mayor George Moscone's office.

Vice-President William Chester, International Vice-President George Martin, Morris told reporters, "wage controls are going to do nothing to reduce the 1.9 percent unemployment rate in this country, for the growth rate of the economy will fall off, creating even higher unemploy- ment."

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Vice-President William Chester, International Vice-President George Martin,
NEW YORK — The legality of efforts by East Coast longshoremen to protect their jurisdiction over consolidated containers has been decided by the Federal Appeals Court in New York — perhaps clearing the deck for a settlement of the Monroe Strike.

The Court will rule on an appeal from a recent decision by the National Labor Relations Board that the International Longshoremen's Association's "50-mile limit" on such containers is illegal.

The ILA-CONASA contract language came in response to a complaint by two companies involved in the business of consolidating such loads — Consolidated Express, Inc. and Twin Express, Inc.

Under the ILR ruling, New York longshoremen load all containers, no matter who owns them, where they come from or by whom they were loaded. There could be no stripping and restuffing, and no assessment of fines on consolidated cargoes not so handled by ILA labor.

The unanimous NLRB ruling immediately affects only the trade between New York and Puerto Rico, in which Consolidated and Twin Express are heavily involved. Once a court decision is reached, however, it will affect all ports in the North Atlantic between Boston and Norfolk where similar conditions also prevail.

In deciding that the 50-mile limit is illegal, the NLRB reversed a decision by one of its administrative law judges who found in late 1974 that the practice was "a legal attempt by the ILA to assure that its members perform work historically assigned to them."

"MAKE-WORK."

Overturning this earlier recommendation, the Board argued that "the on-peak stripping and stuffing work performed by longshoremen as an incident of loading and unloading ships, does not embrace the work traditionally performed by Consolidated and Twin at their own off-peak premises."

"It does not fall within the ILA's traditional role to engage in make-work by insisting upon stripping and stuffing cargo merely because that cargo was originally containerized by one (not the ILA) personnel. Yet, ILA's demands here could only be met if the work traditionally performed off the pier by employees outside the longshore unit were taken over and performed by longshoremen represented by the ILA."

The Board argued that the ILA had given up the right to perform such off-pier work in 1959 when the first container work rules were negotiated. The ILA and the New York Shippers Association immediately appealed the NLRB to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in New York. On petition from the ILA and the NYSA, the court agreed to expedite procedures and hurry the case along in order that the confusion in the industry might be cleared up.

A DISASTER

Oral argument is expected to begin late in February, with a decision to be reached by the end of March. If the 50-mile limit is held invalid, the entire structure of labor relations in the longshore industry may be radically and significantly altered," according to NYSA President James Dickman.

In one devastating stroke, the ILA's NLRB's decision has torn asunder over a third of the work historically assigned to them."

"The union and the shippers point out that if the ILNBL is upheld, more and more stripping and stuffing work will move away from the ports to inland areas where labor costs are lower."

"The result will be a serious and irremediable diminution of the opportunities of ILA labor."

UNEMPLOYMENT TO RISE

The ILA and the shippers estimated that the loss of the container work would put another 3,000 longshoremen out of work and therefore raise the cost of the Port's fringe benefits and guarantee program from its present level of $40 million to about $80 million in 1976.

With the shippers already having difficulty meeting their obligations in the New York area, the ILA's decision will lead to a further erosion of the economic viability of the Port of New York," since tonnage assessments which fund these programs will have to be increased to an intolerable level.

"This will trigger the demise of the port of New York as a maritime center and will lead to a complete deindustrialization of the industry substantially to the point where work is available to longshoremen and significant rates of unemployment will result."

C. P. Savage Dies

OLYMPIA, Wash. — State Rep. Charles Savage, a labor union Democrat from the logging community of Shelton, died of cancer last week after serving 28 years as a legislator. He was 69.

Savage began his political career as a Labor Legislator in 1948 when he organized the International Woodworkers of America's Local 1692. He was president of Celotex Corp., an organization in which he remained active until his death.

Savage was a leader in the labor movement in the years between 1944 and was almost immediately labeled as an "extreme liberal" by his political enemies because he supported the Taft-Hartley Act and his support of pro-labor bills.

Savage was also a strong supporter of Henry Wallace's progressive movement and was a strong advocate of the dangers of nuclear power in the hands of the military.

He was defeated for reelection to Congress in 1948 but was reelected to the state Legislature six times. He was reelected four times in 1956, 1960, and 1966.

NW Inland Navigation

PORTLAND—Raz Inland Navigation Co. recently completed the Inland Pipeline, a 580-mile, 36" pipeline, which will carry a billion gallon a day of water from the Columbia and Snake rivers as far inland as Yakima, Wash. (across the Snake from Lewiston, Idaho). (See Dispatch, Oct. 3.)

It's a big, big operation, fitted for roll-on/roll-off cargo. The initial voyage transported 538 tons of paper to the Orient from Port of Portland Corp. in Idaho, and 120 tons of dried peas bound for England.

The containers were driven off the barge at Terminal 6. Longshoremen had no trouble driving the rolls ashore, following the 56-hour, 374-mile voyage, according to a front page story in The Daily Shipping News. The temporary ramp, which was used, is being replaced by a permanent ramp built by the Port of Portland, the paper said.

Portland Waterfront Study

PORTLAND — The Port of Portland last week held a public meeting to take background on the impact of its marine facilities, including the 20 dockside miles of waterfront, on the tri-county port district.

The study, to be complete in draft form in late March, will include the effect on the regional economy of possible future expansion by the Port.
Local Union Elections

Local 9, Seattle
Members of Local 9 have elected the following officers for 1976:
President: Michael F. Elder, president; Eugene Hutchenson, vice-president; John Dukoukey, secretary-treasurer; business agent; George Ellenberger, recording secretary; Jack Nevinis, trustee; Edgar Shepherd, sergeant-at-arms.
Executive Board members elected were: Ronald Newstedt, John Uri by, John C. Fraley, Cletis Clagston, Charles Harris, Thomas McCray, Rob Schwartz, George Arquello, Art Moshlet, Joe Finnegan.
Officers were installed into office at the following membership meeting on January 13, 1976, by Earl George, retired member of the local.

Local 18, West Sacramento
Longshore Local 18 members have elected the following officers for 1976:
President: Duane Peterson, president; Thomas Phillips, vice-president; William J. Linker, secretary-treasurer; William R. Lamkinkin, chief dispatcher and Glenn Powell, assistant dispatcher.
Also voted in on the LRC committee was Jerry L. Miller, Billy N. McGuire, and Vic Johnson.

Local 23, Tacoma
Longshore Local 23 members have elected the following officials for 1976:
(Trustees official: Canada is president, N. Slavich vice-president, and Slavich is treasurer)
The five-man executive board consists of Johnny A. Miller, No. 2 in Lawrence DePaul and No. 3 is Robert Braden. Representing the ILWU, are: Mike Kinnis, J. H. Bouchard (Crane), D. Holman (Truck), G. T. Phillips and John G. Johnson (Lift). Ken Horin will be a representative to the Puget Sound District Council.

Local 46, Port Hueneme
The following Local 46 officers and committeemen were installed at the January 5th meeting, for the year 1976:
President: Harold G. McCray; secretary: M. Tong; vice-president, Garcia is also a delegate and LRC man.
Elected vice president is L. Gonzales, treasurer, L. Trigo, and on the executive board. Other trustees are: L. Trigo, M. Tong, E. McCray, R. Garcia and T. Esco are also on the board.
The membership also voted in an 11-man executive board.

Portland Pensioners
The new president of the Portland Pensioners' club is Fred Brown, who ran the Local 8-sponsored Babe Ruth teams for many years, and took one of the teams as far as Montana in the regional play-offs.
Reriting only last summer, he is a member of the "mile preke," as he is not affiliated with the non-union players in the "mile strikes in '36, '46, and '48."
Other officers for 1976 include Bud Hyden, vice-president; Ernest E. Baker, secretary; Pat Adrian, Louis Wygand and Charles H. Davis are trustees.
The new ten-member executive board includes Johnny Streiff, Frank Loberstein, Joe Werner, Frank Novak, Mike Sickenberg, Gay Bauman, Lloyd Ough, Duane Peterson, Gilbert Lowery and Harry Pincher.

Women Workers Still Suffering Wage, Hiring Discrimination

Women workers are "clustered in the same industries and occupations as women 35 years ago," BLS observes. In 1974, women workers represented 33 percent of all women 16 years of age and older held jobs in mid-1976. BLS reported in its magazine, Monthly Labor Review.
The report notes that despite sharp increases in the percentage of women in the labor force, they still suffer inequities.

An Employer's 'Battle Plan'

Negotiating guidelines, drawn up by a major chemical company recently, "read like a battle plan for an army," according to the Union News, official newspaper of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union.

The instructions, according to UAW, is a "clean slate" approach followed by four-page communication from the manager of labor relations in the un-ionized plant. These instructions were con-cerned with negotiation of collective bargaining agreements.

Basically, the company's program was, as one might expect: do not give up anything, don't ground on cost-of-living language, fully-paid medical coverage, drug, optical or dental care.

Women are "clustered in the same industries with 40 percent of the nation's labor force, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Only 29 percent of all women workers were employed in service industries, 20 percent in manufacturing, 20 percent in trade, and the remainder distributed throughout other industries.

Average salaries of women workers in all age groups are much lower than those of males in the same occupational categories.

But "the gap between the earnings of male and female workers," BLS reports, "particularly among the better educated males.

Last year, 25-34-year-old female college graduates earned 70 percent of the salaries of their male counterparts, whereas among 45-54-year-old the figure was 59 percent.

UNEMPLOYMENT
Women also encounter higher unemployment rates than men.
Employment rates for women between 25 and 54 averaged 4.9 percent in 1974, compared to 3.1 percent for males of the same age group. The average unemployment rate for women 45-54 was 3.3 percent compared to 2.7 percent for older men.

Next Dispatcher Deadline: Jan. 30

More Colleges Offer Labor Studies Programs
SAN FRANCISCO — Labor Studies Programs are being offered in four Bay Area community colleges, as well as at the University of California, San Francisco, Labor Research and Education this spring.

In all cases, courses are being offered for credits which may be applied toward a degree in Arts and a certificate in Labor Studies.

In San Francisco, courses have also been approved for GI benefits, and there are no course fees and tuition is funded by the Veterans Administration.

San Francisco City College is offering a course on Labor and Politics, Labor and the Law, Collective Bargaining, Economics for Labor, Labor and Community Leadership, Grievance Handling and Arbitration, Women in the Labor Force and Health and Safety in the Workplace.

Classes start the first week of February. For further information call (415) 554-3120, ext. 248.

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New Ruling Lets Employers Buy More Candidates

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A recent ruling by the Federal Elections Commission that corporations may use their own funds to establish political committees and make the final decision as to where the money goes, may have serious implications for the 1976 election. Dow Chemical, seven political committees have been set up. Potentially, they could appeal the FEC based its ruling, has already put up $100,000 seed money for its political committee. At Dow Chemical, corporate managers to contribute to the party or causes that management deems important. An employee is expected to go along with management decisions that means that one is part of the team, and this is a major factor when the company considers salary increases and promotions, they could. His words probably were meant to include mainly management people, but include workers, as well.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Quick to grab at opportunity, the Chamber of Commerce has run seminars on corporate political committees coast to coast. In case anyone wondered about who would call the shots for these corporate operations, the answer was given with great clarity at one such seminar. A participant asked whether it wouldn't create a problem if a committee gave money to a candidate not sympathetic to the company's problems, "I appoint the committee," responded the seminar leader, "appoints the committee." Management also has been let free by the FEC to set "guidelines" for employee contributions. John Perkins Inc. of Saginaw, Mich., one of the Big Three who if counted as being employed. John Deere Co. said, in order to cut the "official" unemployment rate to 5 percent from an estimated 7.7 million, 37 million jobs are needed, he declared—8 million for the present. John Deere, 15 million for the agricultural population growth, and 12 million to make up for those jobs lost through technological change.

US Rig's Unemployment Data to Hide the Terrible Truth, Congressman Charges

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. government's method for computing unemployment figures to conceal, to almost the half the real number of unemployed, it was charged by Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich.

If the true facts were known by the people they would make such a furor that the government would be forced to make jobs, at livable wages, he said. He added that the un-employe's real freedom would be his and he noted, does nothing, so that the vast numbers of workless, part-time and full time, forced to do "a huge supply of cheap labor when the business cycle.

He pointed out that the report of 7.7 million (8.3 percent) unemployment for November is not the facts. Quoting a National Urban League report, an unemployed who said the number of unemployed is 25 percent, but the 13.5 percent claimed by the U.S. Department of Labor.

GOVERNMENT TRICKS
The government, he said, hides the truth by narrowing the definition as to who is unemployed while widening who is counted as being employed. He quoted a statement that 5.3 million workers were no longer considered unemployed according to the government because they had been employed so long that they became "discouraged" and dropped out of the labor force in the four weeks just preceding the survey. He added that there was no way of telling as to when, if ever, they would be forced to work full-time, according to the government.

By adding the 5.3 million unemployed and just 1.8 million (half) part-time workers, he said the number of unemployed is 7.7 million, unemployed, the number of unemployment jumps to 14.8 million, Conyers said.

FARM WORKERS
"For some of these changes range from 1.5 to 3.1 million," he added. In addition to padding the employed figure, the government also counts unpaid family workers on family farms; and those millions who work for wages beneath the official poverty line ($4,400). He explained, pointing out that 25 percent of Black workers get poverty wages.

He accused the Ford administration of viewing high unemployment as being "an economic necessity" for big business "to extract its profits.

Government spokespersons see 7 percent unemployment as acceptable, Conyers said, but in order to cut the "official" unemployment rate to 5 percent from the present 7.7 million, 37 million jobs are needed, he declared—8 million for the present. John Deere, 15 million for the agricultural population growth, and 12 million to make up for those jobs lost through technological change.

Social Security Taxes
If it's Congress, lacking the intestinal fortitude to tax those most able to pay for Social Health programs, it has taken the easy way out and added the cost to the Social Security deductions, placing an increasing burden on the workers.

Who cares if Social Security with this added cost takes $185 cents out of every dollar earned of the workers. Limit of $5,000 in 1976, the present limit, is cut in half, the 1976 Social Security will be $3,500. A pair of very nice lures, $650; 10 lesser VPs $400 each.

Hiring the Terrace Truth, Congressman Charges
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PORTLAND—An agreement, subject to ratification by the membership, has been negotiated between representatives of the ILWU Pacific Northwest Longshoremen and the Pacific Northwest Grain Elevator Operators.

The agreement is retroactive to July 1 and will run concurrently with the 1975-1978 Pacific Coast Longshore Contract. The agreement provides wages and fringe benefits equal to the existing contract.

**Protection of ILWU jurisdiction over ocean-going shipments from coastal facilities**

- Protection of ILWU jurisdiction over ocean-going shipments from coastal facilities and ocean-going barge or vessel from a new or existing facility constructed for that purpose.
- The ILWU will ratify the agreement if the membership approves it.

**Compensation for injured workers**

- Compensation for injured workers will be increased by 50% for all workers.
- All units, the agreement states, will have the opportunity to ratify the compensation plan.

Negotiators included Dick Wise, Ray O’Neil, all of Local 8; Dick Cundari and Rocky Brown, Bud Condart and Vern Strand of Local 4; John Holmer and Vern Strand of Local 10; Pat Dwig and Kenny Swinder and Red Relloff of Local 21; Neil Slavich and Dave Skillman of Local 25; and Tom Beneke of Local 90.

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**Not Much Hope Seen in Washington**

Continued from Page 4—

now without benefits. Labor is asking Congress to enact minimum benefit and financing standards for the state plans, but the unemployable insurance system.

**TAX JUSTICE??**

Tax law says that income tax on large corporations is to be 48% of their profits. In 1974, however, the average income tax rate actually paid by 142 major US corporations was only 22.6%, less than half of the rate set by the law. Eight of those companies paid no tax at all and another eighteen paid at a rate of less than 10%.

Ray, Charles A. Vanik (D-Ohio), member of the House Ways and Means Committee, questioned these figures in a speech on the House floor. The companies, whose combined income was $56 billion in 1974, escaped payment of taxes through the use of deductions or loopholes that are written into the law. The Federal Administration’s answer to the recession—to reduce corporate taxes even further—Vanik said “If the US corporations are already paying little or nothing in federal taxes, then it makes no sense to give them tax relief in an effort to stimulate their investment.”

The House Ways and Means Committee has produced a tax reform bill which will be acted on in the coming session of Congress. Amendments will be introduced by liberal Democrats to strengthen the bill which is short on reform and long on the kind of corporate loopholes indicated above.

**NATURAL GAS PRICE CONTROLS**

The Senate passed S. 2310, a bill that would gradually remove natural gas price controls over the next 5 years. The bill, if passed by the House and signed by the President, will mean that natural gas prices will increase over the 5-year period by at least 8%.

The action followed findings that eight lung cancer deaths among workers at the Nohab Machine Works in Trollhattan between 1959 and 1969 was attributable to the use of asbestos in insulating material for locomotive exhaust pipes. The Metal Workers Union has expressed disappointment that the Swedish government did not call for a ban on all uses of asbestos in the country.

**Rubber Workers’ Safety Suit**

ASHLAND, OHIO — The United Rubber Workers have filed a $2.5 million suit against Olin Corp. and General Tire Co. on behalf of URW Local 966 in Ashland.

The suit seeks damages for injuries allegedly resulting from the “reappraisal and frequent spills or escapes of phenoxy and/or other gases” which have “brought employees to their knees” at the nearby General Tire plant.

**PENSIONERS—More than 80 old-timers and guests turned out last month for the annual Local 40 pensions’ banquet. The gala affair, held on the Queen, Queen moved on the West Shore Beach and Dock Terminal One. Main speaker was Regional Director G. Johnny Parks who listed some of the gains “made through your effort and dedication” and sounded a note of confidence for the future. Other banquet speakers included Ernest Bakor, secretary of the Columbia River Pensioners Memorial association and head of the PCPA (standing) and Area Welfare Director Art Ronne.**

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**PINE WORKERS—Mechanical harvesting conveyors working in a field of winter wheat. Harvesting begins with an electric drill which, when loaded, removes drifting straw. Berry carriers move the harvested grain to an elevator at the nearby General Tire Co. on behalf of URW Local 966 in Ashland.**

**Swedes Ban Asbestos Use**

Sweden’s industrial health board has banned the use of asbestos in building insulation, soundproofing and in other purposes except fireproofing effective October 1, 1976.

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