In Canada

Unions Plan To Dump Controls

VANCOUVER, BC — The two million-member Canadian Labor Congress has launched a three point program to fight federal wage controls. Announced by CLC vice president Julien Major at the western regional convention of the International Woodworkers of America being held in Vancouver, the program asks CLC affiliates:

• Not to sign any collective agreement containing a clause requiring the agreement to be subject to approval or review by the anti-inflation board.
• To see to it that all collective agreements contain a provision requiring employers to support all provisions of the agreement if the employer is called before the anti-inflation board.
• To ensure that the employer agrees to implement the terms of the agreement immediately and continue to do so regardless of the rulings of the anti-inflation board. If the rulings are against labor, “Appeals—Appeals—Appeal!”

"COLD STORAGE!"

"We are being asked to cooperate in solving our economic problems while the living standards of working people are being reduced and while the process of free collective bargaining is put in cold storage.

"You cannot benefit from productivity which results from your efforts but the corporation you work for can"

The CLC has stressed that under the federal anti-inflation legislation only wages are being effectively controlled while prices continue to rise.

Local 57 Gets Big First-Time Pact at SeaPort

FRESNO — ILWU Local 57 has signed a three-year agreement with SeaPort Co., a small auto parts house, with many gains in wages and fringes.

The SeaPort workers first came into the ILWU as a result of an NLRB election held last fall. Local 57 members have now formed a rank and file committee to continue to push for the organization of auto parts house and other facilities throughout California’s central valley.

Base pay will go from $2.96 to $3.40 per hour rather than the $4.00 per hour the members had been earning. The agreement will go into effect March 1, 1976.

"The artist must elect to fight for freedom or slavery. I have made my choice. I had no alternative."

Paul Robeson Is Dead

Paul Robeson died in Philadelphia, January 23, after a long illness. He was 77 years old.

Millions of people all over the world in the ‘twenties, ‘thirties and Forties, had been moved by his artistry and by his passionate advocacy of the rights of oppressed people everywhere.

And for thousands of members of the ILWU he was almost family—an honorary member of the union. Robeson was a familiar face in local halls up and down the Coast and in Hawaii, on picket lines, and in conventions and caucuses.

Yet, for a later generation, those who grew up in the ‘fifties and ‘sixties, Paul Robeson was little more than a distant legend, a non-person, whose contributions to American life had been rubbed out of the public record by the raging anti-communist hysteria of the 1950’s.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Born in Princeton, New Jersey, in 1898, Robeson was the son of Reverend William Robeson—who had run away from a North Carolina slave plantation, at the age of 15—and Maria Louise Bullock, a Philadelphia school teacher, whose forebears had worked in the “underground railroad” to help escaped slaves find their way north.

Paul Robeson was first of all an outstanding scholar and athlete. He was the third black man ever to attend Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, from which he graduated in 1919 with a Phi Beta Kappa key, membership in the school’s own scholastic honor society, and varsity letters in football, basketball, baseball and track.

After graduation, Paul Robeson moved to Harlem, in New York City.

HEW Spending, Angola Aid

WASHINGTON, DC — President Ford vetoed the $38 billion appropriation bill for the Department of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare. However, the House voted 310 to 113 to override the veto and the Senate took similar action the same afternoon where the vote was 70 to 24. Last year the House voted to uphold the Senate measure and House opponents of aid were led by Congressman John Burton (D-Calif.) and John Tunney (D-Calif.) managed the strike, if necessary, as the January 31 expiration date neared.

UNION DEMANDS

The union negotiators were demanding a two year contract with a 75¢ wage increase each year plus adjustments for the skilled and semi-skilled classifications. ILWU negotiators maintained that pineapplewieters were part of a single bargaining unit because of inflation and that the industry, which has had several good years, must make it up.

All units had set up mobilization committees which were supervising the planting of vegetable gardens, the collection of insurance and medical-dental premiums under the principle that “the best way to avoid a strike is to prepare for one.”
SECRETARY OF STATE Henry Kissinger's Saï Francisco speech of February 3 showed us, on one hand, how far US foreign policy has come over the last five years in terms of recognizing its own limitations and, on the other hand, how traumatically and perhaps permanently limited American policy makers are by their own vision of this nation as an imperial power.

First, to his credit, Secretary Kissinger showed a certain amount of realism when he told his San Francisco audience, that the days of unravelled US preeminence in world affairs are over. Not slowly coming to an end, but over. The Soviet Union is now, as the Secretary puts it, a global power every bit as strong as the United States. The sooner American policy makers come to understand this very simple truth, the more likelihood there is that permanently limited American policy makers will never start a war with the United States, unless you give us a Pearl Harbor. We will always certainly defend ourselves, but we will not permit tensions between our two countries to destroy the world, you can count on that. Well, I believe it, and don't think I've heard or seen since then has convinced me otherwise. During a session Secretary Kissinger had with some San Francisco labor people while he was in town I want to get this straight. I did not get this straight, and I believe the Russians, there were so many other questions being asked that I didn't get the opportunity. But nowhere in his speech does he produce any evidence that the Soviets mean to do us in, militarily that is.

IN FACT, JUST the opposite is true. Last year, when I visited the Soviet Union as the guest of the trade union movement there, the same idea was repeated to me by the highest trade union officials. They made it clear that the working class organisations which run that country would never permit a war to break out between the United States and the Soviet Union. As the Secretary himself admitted very publicly at this situation you can see that there is nothing in the Soviet system to make them imperialists. Sure, they want a secure sphere of influence in Europe, but that's it. They want to avoid war, as the Secretary himself said, for this country as well. We will not fall for it again. For the United States—which armed and paid for the Portuguese regime in Africa, and which began the present cycle of international tensions around Angola in the late spring with large inusions of aid to pro-western, CIA-controlled factions—to complain about Soviet "cold war" is nothing short of outrageous.

KISSINGER is also intelligent enough to understand that war between the US and the Soviet Union cannot be allowed. "In the nuclear era, when casualties in a general nuclear war will involve hundreds of millions in a matter of days, the use of force threatens utopia itself." So far, so good. But that's where, in Mr. Kissinger's mind, detente stops. The US, he believes is still a world power and must find other ways of limiting Soviet power. It must, he says, "build a pattern of relations in which western colonialism has brought in its wake and cultural exchanges, nuclear disarmament—...just a few months back, there were so many other things we suspected all along turning out to be true. We were told back in the late 40s that the Russians had broken their wartime alliance with the US, that they were the ones that schemed to maintain their monopoly on nuclear weapons, despite their rhetoric about post-war cooperation. If they were to survive, the Russians felt, they had to develop a nuclear capability of their own.

I'm going over all this ancient stuff just to counter some of the arguments that are leading us in the direction of a new cold war, and all the danger that it poses. I hear lots of people, particularly in this election year, starting the whole thing rolling again, charging that the US is taking advantage of the SALT talks to win predominance over the US in nuclear weapons and missiles and will, once this happens, be able to get whatever it wants. You can count on that.

THANKFULLY, THE Ford administration is bright enough enough not to fall for a lot of the arguments. Although I haven't heard Mr. Kissinger's problems are, I have to give him credit for his forceful defense of the SALT agreements in his San Francisco talk, and elsewhere. Charges that the Russians have violated the agreements are, he says "unsubstantial." And, based on my experiences with the Soviets, I believe it. The anti-Soviet hysteria is building. Just a few months back there were reports in the New York Times that American satellites were picking up the "beep" of Soviet spy satellites, working in secret, on a deadly laser-beam technology which would make our pre-ent nuclear weapons look like firecrackers. So the cry went up, from the Pentagon for example, that we needed to do this, too, to keep things in balance. Well, now it turns out that the so-called "beep" satellites were just picking up explosions from Soviet natural gas pipelines.

For the peace of the world, the SALT talks must continue and succeed. If we are to avoid another arms race, we must also find a rustock agreement between our two countries to limit nuclear testbeds and the production of nuclear fuels. In addition, we have said we will never cross the threshold between total, unrestrained competition and the difficult but promising beginning of long-term strategic arms limitations in the United States. If this process is to succeed, we will have to keep this from happening. On the Beam by Harry Bridges

SOMETIME I FEAR that the cold war is beginning all over again. Listening to Henry Kissinger's speech at the Fairmont Hotel the other day, I got the idea that what he was say-
Plans for Federal Jobless Benefits Face Tough Go.

WASHINGTON, DC — Federal standards for unemployment compensation benefits may face tough sledding in Congress next year. The White House and the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs has rejected such a measure in Congress. The administration would end any hope for House approval of minimal benefit increases established by federal standards. Federal standards to replace the complex, quills patterns of state requirements have been a long-term goal of organized labor.

This year, organized labor and the Ford Administration agreed on the need for federal standards. Labor Secretary John Dunlop testified in favor of a weekly benefit equal to 60 percent of a laid-off worker's weekly rate up to a maximum of two-thirds of the state's weekly average wage. The Commerce Department, acting on the states' request, has increased provisions to expand unemployment compensation coverage to some 9.4 million workers. The department also authorized a one-year grant whereby the state of 4,000 to recognize injustices and pump sorely needed purchasing power into the economy.

The bill would extend jobless pay to 0.7 million local government workers, 600,000 state employees, 710,000 farm workers and 130,000 domestic workers. "This legislation can be tremendously important to the national economy and important also in filling human needs," Karth declared. He said the proposal would also prohibit for the first time, disqualification for benefits solely on the basis of pregnancy. "Will states now have specific disqualification rules because of pregnancy, with several states declaring pregnant women as unable to work and unavailable for work.

Fair Trade?

PORTLAND — The so-called Oregon Fair Trade Act, which was anything but fair to the consumer.—cost working people percentages of dollar salaries by year by prohibiting competition on major purchases, such as appliances. The law would have wiped from the books at the last session of the legislature, and it was an ILWU member, Rep. Jim Chord, who carried the measure that would have taken the floor of the House.

However, Chrest who is running for reelection, hopes that some merchants are still invoking the dead law to maintain artificially high prices.

Chrest found this out when he went into a local store before Christmas to purchase his major appliance for the coming year. He was shocked to find the price was $21.50 per month into her own pension plan. The Commerce Department also estimated that unemployment would rise 8.5 percent in 1976 compared with 7 percent last year.

The Commerce Department figures on unemployment and prices increases are over 1.2 percent and over 11 percent overall. By the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A spokesman in San Francisco said that the U.S. Labor Department issues 'reductions on future prices increase rates.'

Recent BLS data indicated that the Consumer Price Index nationally rose 9.3 percent between November 1974 and November 1975. In the San Francisco Bay Area, however, the CPI rose 9 percent between December 1974 and November 1975, and in Los Angeles the cost of living increased amounted to 9.3 percent.

Railroad Shopcraft Pact

WASHINGTON, DC — A new contract providing for raises this year and changed work rules has been overwhelmingly accepted by the union's members. The agreement was negotiated with 70,000 members of several unions, the contract was negotiated by the chairman of the railroad strike Dec- ember 4.

Further, a pattern established earlier last year by other rail unions, the contract provides for a 15 percent re- traction in doctors' and nurses' cases and an overall rise of 49.7 percent.

Offshore Unions Settle

SAN FRANCISCO — The three union- ized West Coast seafaring unions have signed new three-year contracts with the Pacific Maritime Association, all retroactive to June 16, 1976.

Unemployment Will Stay High
In New Year

WASHINGTON, DC — Unemploy ment in the United States will average between 7.5 and 7.75 percent this year, according to an estimate issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

That would be one percent, at best, below the average annual jobless rate of 8.5 percent that prevailed in 1975.

The Commerce Department also estimated that 1976 would see the jobless rate in 1976 compared with 7 percent last year.

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Office Workers Organize:
Tired of Working for Peanuts!

SAN FRANCISCO — Last fall, the office employees at Merchants Ice and Cold Storage "got tired of working for peanuts without any benefits," and started looking for a union, remembers chief steward Barbara Dunham.

The choice wasn't hard: the office workers had witnessed the progress made by warehousemen at Merchants over the many years they had been represented by ILWU Loc al 4.

TYPICAL PROBLEMS

The office staff at Merchants is fairly small, but their problems were typical—while they enjoyed the "privilege" of wearing a white collar, wages were low and fringe ben- efits were small and not offered by substantial employee contributions. Bar- bara Dunham, for example, paid $21.50 per month into her own pension plan and could look forward only to small benefits. As a result of this re-negotiation, sugar workers won two bonus payments averaging $1,000 each, plus an addi- tional 65 cents increased effective January 1, 1976. Of that 65 cents, 50 cents was to be paid across-the-board, while 15 cents was to be paid agreed by the parties at the appropriate time.

CONTRACT EXTENDED

In exchange, Local 142 agreed to ex- tend the sugar contract for another year, to January 31, 1977. At a subse- quent sugar caucus, delegates agreed that the 150 should be used for classifi- cation adjustments, and the present negotiations followed.

Negotiations were handled by a subcommittee led by Takshmi Yagawa, chairman, and Skippy Yasutake, secretary with the assistance of International Secretary-Treasurer Lou Goldblatt. The committee concluded, in its final report, that the effect of the present negotiations would be to lower the percentage "up top and bottom."

BIG VOTE

The sugar membership voted over- whelmingly to accept the classification adjustments as negotiated. As a result of this bargaining process which began more than a year ago, the average sugar worker has now pulled in an average of over $3,900 as his or her "share of the good times" experienced by the industry in 1975-76.


SUGAR NEGOTIATORS—Among those who negotiated the classifications adjustments described above, are (standing), International Secretary-Treasurer Louis Goldblatt, and (seated, front row) subcommittee chairman Takshmi Yagawa, and Ms. Dunham. At right, front row is Local 142 President Carl Damaso.

New Benefits Approved
By Sugar Workers

HONOLULU—Local 147’s 8,500 sugar workers have overwhelmingly ratified a mid-year agreement, which will increase wages across-the-board by 9.3 percent, with additional classification ad- justments ranging from 3 to 27 percent. The full story of this agreement goes back to last July when, in consideration of the enormous profits being pulled in by the sugar companies due to sky-rocketing prices, Local 142 demanded a reopening of the contract so that its members could get "a share of the good times." As a result of this re-negotiation, sugar workers won two bonus payments averaging $1,000 each, plus an addi- tional 65 cents increased effective January 1, 1976. Of that 65 cents, 50 cents was to be paid across-the-board, while 15 cents was to be paid agreed by the parties at the appropriate time.

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Local 10 Official Attends
US Consumer Conference

SAN FRANCISCO — Local 10 trustee Muret Marshall attended the White House Regional Conference on Con- sumer Representation, held January 29 at the Stanford University campus. Muret was a member of the shipping industry panel.

The conference was called to discuss ways in which consumers and their organizations can become involved in federal policy making.

Main speakers were William Selden, Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs, and Virginia Knauss, special assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs.

New Matson Contingency

SAN FRANCISCO — Matson Naviga- tion Company will order construction of a 740-foot, 23-knot container ship for the West Coast-Hawaii freight service for the company and its ships' agents, the President has announced.

The 3,000-ton vessel will carry a maximum of 1,210 containers (1,024 20-footers and 182 40-footers). Deck stow- age will permit carriage of up to 225 20- foot containers and 105 40-foot contain- ers in lieu of 24-footers.

There will be two 740 refrigerated con- tainers and tanks for 2,600 long ton- nage. Delivery date is June 30, 1978.

British Unemployment

LONDON—By mid-January, the level of joblessness in England had soared to a new post-war high of 1,430,000—about 6.1 percent and experts have predicted that things would get substantially worse before they improved.
The GAO also charged that there has been "a general lack of attention to the provisions of the act and to the intent of Congress," including failure to impose civil penalties for non-compliance, failure to order the employers in rehabilitation training programs; failed to "establish adequate insurance coverage"; and failure to provide legal aid to claimants. The Congress "specifically directed that such assistance be provided."

Senator Williams and Javits charged that the poor enforcement of the law was "the result of a series of urgent and expeditious manner so the working men and women involved in the maintenance of our national maritime industry will be assured of the protection and assistance in the event of an occupational injury."

It is obvious that the administration of the National Right to Work Committee, the other laborers Compensation Act, as amended in 1972, "requires much to be done. With our own resources, however, we lightened the burden that was once again imposed on the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee to correct this situation."

The Senate voted 77 to 19, January 28, to extend U.S. fishing jurisdiction 200 miles out to sea. The ILWU opposed this extension because it believes it will seriously impair the existence of its fishing industry.

John Royal, Secretary of our Fish-erman members, but it was withdrawn because of a lack of majority support. The House passed a similar bill which goes into effect July 1, 1976. The Senate's version goes into effect July 1, 1977.

Senator Aljan Cranston (D-Calif.) said the amendment is "an indication that the Senate has erred the success of our tuna fishermen members, but it was withdrawn because of a lack of majority support.

Dave Jenkins to Speak
SAN FRANCISCO — ILWU Legis- lative Coordinator David Jenkins will talk on "The Changing Face of Labor" at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 11 at the Pacifica Institute, 1526 18th Street, Berkeley.

Local 6 Pact at Natural Food Co.
SAN FRANCISCO — Forty new members of Local 6 have approved a one year contract with their employer, Natural Food Company, according to the San Francisco Labor and Natural Food Company. Workers were increased across the board retroactive to January 1, with an additional $60 per week. Vacation, holiday, sick leave and retirement benefits were also won.

Jenkins was agreed upon giving employees the right to strike over threats to health and safety, with the possibility of pay for time in the event of a verified immediate hazard. The parties also agreed that time lost due to employer's actions would also be reimbursed.

The negotiating committee was com- posed of Ying Wong, Gregory Everett "of Business Agent Al Lannoo.

NDCD Protests Angola Aid
SAN FRANCISCO — The I.L.W.U Northern California District Council at its December meeting voted to send a letter to California Senators protesting US involvement in Angola, and endorsed the "Stop the War" Lobby in its efforts to struggle for the creation of jobs.

Continued From Page 1—

class, his involvement with the Eng- lish socialist movement and his visits to Africa helped him to understand and learn about the economic, social, and political development of the continent. In the late 1930s, Robeson went to Spain to sing for the beleaguered anti-Fascist forces. His career developed, Robeson made his first trip to Europe. Although the stage was one of the areas of American life where black men were permitted to exercise their abilities. Robeson refused the cringing, fawning "Steph'n Fetchit" type roles which were offered. In Europe, he later recalled, he found artistic acceptance on his own terms. He participated in the administration of the National Right to Work Committee but, unfortunately, after the bill was amended in 1972, applications were not provided that would allow the required increase in personnel in the Department of Labor. He joined the Department of Labor's administrative office, Congress' investigative committee, General Accounting Office report on the tuna fishing industry. He also made contact with British, Scotch, Welsh and Irish workers and more and more he turned away from the exclusive concert halls to perform in workingmen's pubs and dance halls, where his message could be heard by those he wanted to reach.

In 1945, Robeson made his first trip to the Soviet Union. Passing by train through Germany, he and his wife and traveling companion were attacked by a gang of Hitler's storm troopers. Once in the USSR, however, he was impressed by the lack of racist discrimination there and the tremendous material progress which had been made since the 1917 revolution.

TO SPAIN AND HOME
His closeness with the British working class, his involvement with the English socialist movement and his visits to the Soviet Union pushed him to the next logical step. In the late 1930s, Robeson went to Spain to sing for the beleaguered anti-Fascist troops in the civil war there, which had pitted the army of Germany, Italy and Franco's fascists against the anti-Fascist forces.

It was in Spain, Robeson said, that "I saw the connection between the problems of all oppressed peoples and the necessity of the artist to participate fully." This growing understanding led him to embark on the next stage of his life—an effort to bring the resources of his art and intellect into the movement for social justice in the United States. Back home, Robeson lent himself to a series of major struggles. While his voice was heard, he also made contact with British, Scotch, Welsh and Irish workers and more and more he turned away from the exclusive concert halls to perform in workingmen's pubs and dance halls, where his message could be heard by those he wanted to reach.

In the spring of 1941, Robeson lent his support to the United Automobile Workers in their successful campaign to win an NLRB election at Ford's Rouge plant by organizing among black workers. He shook hands at factory gates, sang at union meetings, and only in the Detroit area but wherever there were unorganized black workers.

JOINS UNION BEFFS
Paul Robeson was a frequent entertainer and speaker at functions of the insurgent National Maritime Union. In the early 1940s, he campaigned with tobacco workers in North Carolina, he worked with the United Public Workers to up- grade the conditions or workers in the US Bureau of Mines, and organized the National Right to Work Committee to expand the program greatly increased the La- bor Department's claims workload and backlog. The Labor Department has not provided sufficient resources to meet the increased workload, the department is also facing the Department of Labor's ability to ef- fectively the claims to assure that all of the claims are processed and the compensation and other benefits under the law. He stated that among the organiza- tions' financial contributors are "em- ployers who have concrete interests in law suits against unions which the Na-
In Congress, January 28, 1976

Rep. John Conyers, Michigan

"Paul Robeson stands as a monument to the capacity of the human spirit to achieve excellence in the face of adversity . . . Mr. Robeson gave of himself; whether on the concert stage or the picket line. He sang, struggled, suffered, and died for the cause of human dignity. We could ask no more of him."

Rep. Ron Dellums, California

"What stands out . . . vividly to me was the integrity of Paul Robeson. Paul Robeson was not only a giant in our country's history, he was a giant among men."

Rep. Thomas P. O'Neill, Massachusetts

"I remember the tragedy that he actually had along the line. He was a great American athlete, a great American actor, possessed of one of the most beautiful voices God has ever given man, a fighter for the rights of all people, including himself. He was a victim during the years of the dull brush of political innuendo."

Rep. Charles Diggs, Michigan

"Mr. Robeson suffered from discrimination all his life — as a black man, under the blacklist of the 1950's, as a performer whose talents were ignored, being unable to find even standing room, his health has compelled my retirement."


"Paul Robeson had a heart as big as his talent. His fight for human rights, a fight which ruined his career and probably his health, is at once an example of the best and worst things about America. It is an example of the best because his commitment to freedom and equality was totally consistent with the ideals upon which this country was founded. It is an example of the worst because America could not accept and appreciate such commitment."

Rep. Andrew Young, Georgia

"Paul Robeson loved us. He loved people of all colors and of many nations. He loved justice, freedom, compassion. He hated injustice, oppression, tyranny. To the young of my generation and to those who have followed after, he was a giant among men."

Rep. Louis Stokes, Ohio

"It is most proper and fitting that in this Bicentennial Year, we join in honoring this great fallen humanitarian artist, whose presence has greatly changed America and you and I for the better."

Rep. Yvonne B. Burke, California

"I can only hope that the future we will have the courage to heed the words of the prophets and cries of the oranged. If so, we will have reared the only fitting memorial to the life of Paul Robeson."

Rep. Walter E. Fauntroy, Dist. of Columbia

"It is too late for us to thank Paul Robeson personally; it is not, however, too late to use his memory and his lessons to make us better Americans."
Special Panel Begins Investigation Of Labor Board Procedures

WASHINGTON — A task force organized to streamline rules and speed up the procedures of the National Labor Relations Board recently held its first meeting after being sworn in by NLRB Chairman Betty S. Murphy.

The nine-member panel is made up of representatives of labor, management, the academic community and NLRB officials. Labor is represented by AFL-CIO Associate General Counsel Robert Clark, and Special Counsel Law- rence Gold. All members are practicing attorneys.

During the swearing-in ceremony, Chairman Murphy described the challenge facing the task force as the most important history of the 40-year-old federal agency.

The NLRB now is burdened with a caseload which soon will swell over this agency and threaten its effectiveness, she said, noting that the number of cases filed is running at a rate of 50,000 a year and probably will reach 90,000 in 1978.

The task force, engaged in a two-year study, will carry out its principal work through three different committees. Gold was assigned to the committee considering representation proceedings while Mayer was named to the committee dealing with unfair labor practices from filing of charge through the hearing.

The third committee will study unfair practice proceedings from the close of trial through decision by the five-member NLRB, then enforcement, compliance and close of case.

The panel, which will publish a report on its recommendations by the end of 1978, will meet quarterly in Washing- ton. Its next meeting is scheduled April 5-6.

During the swearing-in ceremony, Mrs. Murphy announced that the public has been invited to submit written sugges- tions, comments and criticism of present NLRB procedures for the task force's consideration.

Ninety per cent of the unfair labor charges being handled by the NLRB are investigated and disposed of informally and in most cases, within 50 days, he noted. Yet, in those cases requiring full board attention, the average is 314 days.

"The collective wisdom of the mem- bers of this task force has an unlimited potential," Mrs. Murphy said. "But we need to know you and the agency. We now ask you to look beyond the task force and tell us where you think we can improve the agency.

Chairman Murphy said that "both the board and the general counsel want to do a better job, an even more efficient job — without any lessening of the proc- ess or quality.

"We are looking to you to find solutions to our pernicious problems of de- lay, case-handling," she told the task-force members.

Coalition Set For Electrical Negotiations

WASHINGTON, DC—Grass roots ral- lies of General Electric and Westing- house workers took place at 15 loca- tions in all 50 states last month, as 13 national unions that represent them prepared to kick-off this year's critical negotiations with the elec- trical manufacturing industry.

Delegates from nearly 300 locals in 41 states representing about 175,000 work- ers attended the rallies, sponsored by the Coordinated Bargaining Committee of GE-Westinghouse Unions.

The CBC, a voluntary association of grade unions representing workers in the two giant corporations will open negoti- ations with its coast-to-coast last month, as 13 national unions that represent them prepared to kick-off this year's critical negotiations with the elec- trical manufacturing industry.

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Among the unions in the CBC are the independent United Electrical Workers (UE), Teamsters, Auto Workers; AFL- CIO affiliates are the Machinists, Steel Workers, Sheet Metal Workers, Allied health and various glass work- ers, Plumbers, Firemen, Carpenters, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and the International Union of Electrical Workers.

This is the fourth time that these nego- tiations have been conducted in a co- ordinated manner, under the CBC.

Coos Bay Citizens Groups Organize for Health Security

COOS BAY — The Southern Oreg- on Committee for National Health Security, organized in January with Es- tonia Bailey of Local 32, was planning its second meeting as this was written.

The initial meeting, held in the IWA hall, "drew close to 50 people, includ- ing representatives, union organizers, auxiliary, pensioner and senior citizen groups," Bailey said.

It was highlighted by a wire of sup- port from Fourth District Congressman James Weaver (D-Oregon).

The meeting elected Clarence Cess- man, business agent of the IWA local at Redmond as vice-president and LaVina Middleton, business agent of the Cali- fornia fish canners, as secretary. A seven- member executive board also was chosen.

Organize!

Do you know some workers who don't make union wages? Who have no fringe benefits? Who have no security on the job?

In other words, do you know workers who want to be or- ganized into the ILWU? If so, please write or telephone in- formation to one of the following. An ILWU staff member will be happy to help.

Southern Calif. Regional Office
Donald Wright, Regional Director
5625 South Figueroa St.
Los Angeles, CA 90037
Phone: (213) 723-5054
Chester Meske, Int'l Rep.
Northern Calif. Regional Office
LeRoy King, Regional Director
1188 Franklin Street
San Francisco, Calif. 94109
Phone: (415) 775-8332
Felix Rivera, Int'l Rep.
Karl Leipnik, Organizer
San Francisco Area:
(415) 787-5521
Sacramento Area:
(916) 371-5638
Canadian Area Office
Craig Pritchett, Regional Director
621 E. Hastings St.,
Vancouver, B.C.
Phone: (604) 254-8141
Hawaii Office
Robert McElrath, Regional Director
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Special Report Near As Auto Negotiations Start

DETOUR—After two years of devas- tating layoffs, job security is shaping up as the major issue in contract talks between the United Auto Workers and the big US auto companies, set to begin later this year.

A year ago, nearly one-third of the US auto labor force was on layoff, and the master's Environmental Unemploy- ment Benefit (SUB) funds, which pro- vide some 85 percent of a laid-off work- er's take-home pay, were depleted.

Although the situation in auto has im- proved, unemployment is still high and projections for auto sales for the rest of the decade have been scaled down substantially. Negotiations with GM, Ford and Chrysler three years ago covered 700,000 workers—this year only 500,000 are affected because of massive long-term layoffs.

GETTING READY

Although the present agreements do not expire until the fall, with negoti- ations not set to get underway until later on this year, union members and offi- cials hold a pre-bargaining conference January 21 to start developing a con- sensus on demands to be presented to the employers.

Among the major items to emerge so far has been the need to improve job security—by strengthening the solvency of the SUB funds, so that they will not be depleted by the high numbers of un- employed workers get laid-off, and by finding some way to spread the available work around.

But informal UAW suggestions for a shorter work week, or for the establish- ment of a time bank which would give time off as a reward for regular attend- ance on the job, have been met with outright hostility.

In an important address delivered last November, for example, GM chair- man Thomas Murphy said that GM saw the major problem in 1976 as in- creasing productivity of US auto work-

"The question is whether America's
In 1975 settlements outpaced inflation for the first time since 1972, according to the US Department of Labor. Wage settlements reached in 1975 averaged 10.7 percent in the first year and 7.8 percent in the second year, compared with 7.3 percent in 1974 and 5.1 percent in 1973. The 1975 settlements involved 743 agreements covering 2.8 million workers, according to the Department of Labor. Counting both wages and benefits, settlements rose 9.8 percent, as against 8.2 percent in 1974 and 6.5 percent in 1973. The rate of increase was higher in 1975 than either of the two preceding years. Wage increases averaged 8.0 percent compared with 7.3 percent in 1974 and 5.1 percent in 1973. During 1974, first-year settlements rose 8.5 percent, a gain of 8.7 percent as against 8.3 percent in 1973. Last year's settlements rose 9.8 percent but trailed the 12.2 percent increase in the price index. First year wage gains had declined 5.1 percent since 1972 when pay rates rose 7.3 percent compared with a 3.7 percent rise in the index.

UP FROM '74

Over the life of contracts reached last year—they covered an average of 27.4 months—wage increases averaged 7.8 percent compared with 7.3 percent in 1974 and 5.1 percent in 1973. The 1975 settlements involved 743 agreements covering 2.8 million workers, according to the Department of Labor. Counting both wages and benefits, settlements rose 9.8 percent, as against 8.2 percent in 1974 and 6.5 percent in 1973. The rate of increase was higher in 1975 than either of the two preceding years. Wage increases averaged 8.0 percent compared with 7.3 percent in 1974 and 5.1 percent in 1973. During 1974, first-year settlements rose 8.5 percent, a gain of 8.7 percent as against 8.3 percent in 1973. Last year's settlements rose 9.8 percent but trailed the 12.2 percent increase in the price index. First year wage gains had declined 5.1 percent since 1972 when pay rates rose 7.3 percent compared with a 3.7 percent rise in the index.

NEW YORK—Luis Figueroa, president of the now outlawed Central Union of Chilean Workers (CUT) told a group of New York trade unions recently that all the gains the Chilean workers had made in half a century of struggle have been nullified by the fascist government ruling his country.

"My country is still in a state of siege 26 months after the military seized power," the soft-spoken leader of Chile's striking people declared.

Figueroa was in New York City to seek support at the United Nations for a proposal to the Security Council condemning human rights in Chile by the military clique that overthrew the democratically-elected government of Pres. Salvador Allende in September, 1973.

Tens of thousands of his countrymen were killed and many murdered by the military clique. Figueroa succeeded in escaping this fate by hiding in the French Embassy and then getting out of the country, because of worldwide protests.

Describing conditions in Chile, the visitor stated that there are no free elections in trade unions, nor in other fields of life including sports, political and cooperative organizations.

"All officials are appointed and trade unions cannot enter into collective bargaining or raise political or economic demands on behalf of their members." While wages have been fixed by government decree, there is no control of prices, the union leader said. "Workers who have suffered a 60 percent wage cut, Unskilled workers earn $30 a month while skilled and professional workers barely earn $60 a month. Unemployment is at the 25 percent level, according to the government," he declared.

As resistance develops against these conditions, Figueroa continued, repression increases. In the last two months, he reported, an additional 10,000 political prisoners have been incarcerated. Thirty thousand workers have lost their lives, many disappearing without any clue to what happened to them.

Despite this terror, he emphasized, the underground is still functioning, Labor protests forced the government to withdraw a new labor code this year.

He charged that multinationals corporations contrived the coup which overthrew the previous government and continue to back the present rulers in Chile.

The CIA's role in these events, Figueroa said, is widely known in Chile.

Local 21, Longview

Dayle Hill, a past president of Local 21, was installed in the last spot at the last stop meeting.

Also installed were James "Mike" McDonnell, vice president; Richard Rider, Jr., secretary (relected); George Edlar, Dan van den Berg, and R. T. Holcomb, dispatchers; Keith Jacobs, marshall, Rea Mitchell, chief of shop, and Frederic Grumboski, Le Ed Lupold, Louis Kleower and Ron Moore, guards. Ron Dalgarney and Rodney Kellar were reelected to the labor relations committee, with Ken Swicker, the hold-over member. Swicker and Carl Nys went in as caucus delegates.

Also elected were 20 gang bosses and a 15-man executive board.

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Clara Gould has retired as Auxiliary 3 President after serving for three years. In her place is Helen Redley, President; Helen Nelson, 1st Vice President; Ronne Jenkins, 2nd Vice President; Marlene Engstrom, secretary; Nettie Craycraft, Corresponding Secretary; Joan Fox, Treasurer; Mabel Stenson, Marshal; Ella Lindberg, Chaplain; Executive Board for a one-year term.

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Dusty" Miller Retires

WASHINGTON, D.C.— "Dusty" Miller, secretary-treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, has announced his retirement. Miller has retired as International Secretary-Treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Miller has retired as International Secretary-Treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Miller has retired as International Secretary-Treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

*The widows are: Dell Baker, Robert, Local 36; Arvilla Beachler, Melvin (Local 13); Evelyn Bemis, John, Local 64; Margaret Bowen, E. Ernest, Local 94; Anna Burcaway, John, Local 64; Sam Sam Clayton, Fred, (Local 8); Minnie Oma Gurzi, Frank, (Local 94); Avil Jessee, William, (Local 36); Dorothy Jessop, John, Local 94; Audrey McCarty, Charlie, Local 35; Josephine Johnson, Harold (Local 94); Judy Moore, John, Local 94; Richard Murphy, John, Local 113; Wanda McWhirter, Carl, Local 35; F. V. Wilson, John, Local 94; Lewis Warren, Russell, Local 19.

"Names in brackets are those of deceased husbands.

February 6, 1976
**Congress Blamed For Closing Door On Soviet Trade**

WASHINGTON, DC — Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said last week that the Trade Act passed by Congress in 1974 was so restrictive it "closed the door" on using trade to improve US relations with Communist countries.

Kissinger appeared before the Senate Finance Committee and indicated President Ford may press Congress to soften restrictions on trade with the Soviet Union and other countries.

In a 35-page statement to the Finance Committee, he said the administration will be consulting with Congress and this committee on a continuing basis.

"These provisions in establishing a single issue in East-West relations as the governing condition for normalizing trade, has closed the door on the use of the trade relationship over a wider range of issues and interests," Kissinger said.

The committee this week will take up a legislative package introduced by Congressman Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) that would increase US trade with Communist countries.

"Unfortunately, the ability of this concept to the use of normalizing trade with the Communist countries as a flexible and constructive element in East-West relationship is reduced by the provisions of Title VI of the Trade Act," Kissinger said.

Shortcuts and Safety Don't Mix

(THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE ON SAFETY IS TAKEN FROM THE "VALLEY BEACON", OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF ILWU CHEMICAL AND PROCESSING WORKERS LOCAL 35, TRONA, CALIFORNIA.)

Most managers are looking at the quickest, easiest, cheapest methods of getting a given task accomplished. However, from the safety standpoint these shortcuts may not be the easiest in the long run. In fact, shortcuts and safety don’t always mix.

As an example, workers who stray from designated walkways, scaffolding, stairways and ladders in search of a quicker way may wind up doing time in the hospital.

**HAZARD TO SLINGMEN**

**Clamping** superstructures, pipes, guards, rails instead of using a ladder or erecting a scaffold can prove to be disastrous. The Power Tool Institute is concerned about the misuse of power tools by over-reaching. Extending the body to reach an awkward area is inviting trouble.

The Institute advises that one should get into a safe, comfortable position to reduce fatigue and the possibility of a serious accident.

**The odds are definitely against the person who is careless. Besides settling a bad example for others he can also cause persons nearby to be injured. Gambling should be done in Las Vegas where the odds might be more in our favor.**

George Ariva, Chairman Local 25, Workman’s Safety Committee

**Dock Safety Tips From Local 21**

Even in this relatively mild winter, these longshore safety tips from the ILWU Local 21 safety committee, published in a recent issue of “Local 21 Reports,” seemed like they would be helpful to some.

**Slips, trips, and falls are the major source of injury on the waterfront. Old man winter magnifies the problem, and creates additional problems. Below are some reminders that may keep you from suffering an injury.**

**HOUSEKEEPING**

- Extra precaution should be taken to see that housekeeping on the weather deck is at its best.
- Slippery decks due to rain and icy conditions should be eliminated. Sand or sawdust should be available on all jobs.
- Don’t wait for someone else to clear the walkway — do something about it yourself, and enroll others to help. Remember it may be you and your co-workers who are stepped on.

**HAZARD TO SLINGMEN**

- Slinging conditions on the dock are just as much a hazard to the slinger as to the men on the weather deck.
- The practice of backing a lift truck up to a slinger’s shelter and using the exhaust to warm the slinger standing inside could very easily lead to overexposure of carbon monoxide.

New Pact For Dress Makers

NEW YORK—The International Ladies’ Garment Workers Union has signed an agreement with dress manufacturers which will bring substantial wage and benefit increases over the next 40 months.

The agreement, according to the Wall Street Journal, includes a 23% wage increase for piece workers and a 25% increase for hourly workers, in four installments over the life of the agreement, plus other benefits.

Under the old agreement, wages ranged from $3.10 to $4 per hour.

The 40 month contract will be the dress contract expiration date in line with other contracts in the industry, and is paid for in order to guarantee a contract for the entire women’s outerwear industry.

The pact covers about 55,000 workers in New York and other east coast states.

Local 6 Aids Puerto Rican, Chilean Workers

SAN FRANCISCO—Local 6 General Ken Burns has recently approved two donation requests from the Board of Trustees—$50 for Christmas gifts to children of Chilean trade unionists imprisoned or killed by the military dictatorship, and $50 to striking Puerto Rican cement workers.

The cement workers, part of a growing drive to build independent unions in Puerto Rico, have been on strike for almost a year.