In Canada

Dockers Aid Fight On Controls

VANCOUVER, BC—Canadian ILWU west coast longshoremen are fully behind the recently-adopted Canadian Labor Congress program of reaffirmed opposition to wage controls. The CLC is demanding full labor participation in economic decision-making, and has also passed a resolution threatening to call a nationwide general strike if and when necessary.

The support resolution was passed unanimously at a meeting of the ILWU Canadian Area Executive Board held in Vancouver June 10, 1976. The Board included representatives from each local.

UNIONS IGNORE GUIDELINES

Meanwhile strikes are breaking out among hard rock miners, coal miners, smelter workers and others against decisions of the Anti-Inflation Board (which administers wage control program) to roll back negotiated settlements.

Unions are ignoring the guidelines which limit wage increases in the first year to 8 percent, plus a possible 2 percent for productivity gains, with the added proviso that further increases are permissible in certain cases due to "historical relationships."

On the picket lines, a rash of confrontations provoked by scab-herding and police attacks on ILWU and Teamster lines, has eased off. In the East Bay, Golden Grain Macaroni has stuck to its agreement not to bring in scabs; in San Mateo County, police officials agreed at a meeting June 22 to develop liaison with a Local 6 committee, to keep their officers in line and end harassment of strikers distributing literature.

In San Francisco, Local 6 President Curtis McLean led a delegation last week to meet with Mayor George Moscone in a successful effort to develop procedures to end picket line confrontations in the city. Efforts by various companies to bring in scabs have also abated.

MASS PICKETS

In Sacramento, it took only two days of mass picketing by ILWU Local 17 members to stop Crown Zellerbach from attempting to operate on a walkcall basis.

However, nine members were arrested and another nine, including local officers Hiram Walker and Lino Martinez, were charged with contempt for violating a temporary restraining order limiting pickets at the Port of Sacramento.

The contempt citations were thrown out of court June 22, however, when a Superior Court judge ruled that its provisons, which allow Local 17 pickets to three at each of the two bulk facilities where members are employed, were "vague."

As warehouse negotiations went into high gear, Local 6 and 17 picket lines remain tight, despite company efforts to run scabs and maintain operations at several of the larger houses. Nothing is getting past these pickets at Unio...
Wages and Inflation

A RECENT ARTICLE in the San Francisco Daily Commercial News covering the ILWU-Teamster warehouse strike carried the headline "Workers Fan Inflation's Flames." The purpose of the article was to show that the strike was unpatriotic because it would drive wages up and, as everyone surely knows, good wages are the main cause of inflation.

The purpose of the article was to show that the idea that working people are the main culprits is not solely responsible for this nonsense. The government's own Council on Wage-Price Stability must be judged very small. Similar computations for the period 1973-1975 lead to similar results.

The study, prepared by Princeton University economists, shows that unionization accounted for only a 1.2% increase in the nation's aggregate (total) wage level between 1967 and 1973 over what would have otherwise been the case.

"Since the aggregate wage increased by nearly 44 percent over this 1967-1973 period," the report concludes, "the effect of unionism must be judged very small. Similar computations for the period 1973-75 lead to similar results."

The Ashenfelder report tells us that despite all their weaknesses, despite injustices, anti-labor legislation and a generally unfavorable climate of opinion, unions are continuing to do a job for their members. It also tells us that in so doing, we are not acting selfishly, without looking out for the interests of the rest of the country. We are having to do a real job in bringing that message to the public in the near future.

But the report goes further, pointing out that this increase in wages for all unionized workers has virtually nothing to do with inflation. The analysis discloses that unionism accounted for only a 1.2% increase in the nation's aggregate (total) wage level between 1967 and 1973 over what would have otherwise been the case.

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So we have a real job to do in educating ourselves and our neighbors as to what causes—and what does not cause—inflation. A recent study commissioned by the federal government's own Council on Wage-Price Stability shows conclusively that a substantial improvement which workers make in their lives by joining unions and engaging in collective bargaining have almost nothing to do with high prices.

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On the Beam
by Harry Bridges

THE RENEWED OUTBREAK of resistance to apartheid in South Africa—the US press insists on calling it rioting—which began last week, raises once again the whole issue of the radical changes which have taken place in Africa over the last few years, and particularly what the US role should be.

For years, all Americans with a shred of decency have understood that the situation—in which a tiny minority of white settlers completely control the destiny of millions of blacks, totally excluding them from power—cannot go on forever even though the whites had created what seemed to be a foolproof police state system.

But everyone knows that it is bound to fall, as changes which began with the eviction of British, French and Belgian colonialists after World War II continue. The only question, really, was whether the white South Africans have the good sense to give up gracefully in order to minimize bloodshed and everyone knows the answer to that one.

The present situation is the most serious since similar uprisings in 1960. Some 60 black Africanans have been killed since the demonstrations broke out June 16 over the issue of the attempt by whites to force the use of their Afrikaans language on black students—an issue which is symbolic of the whole effort of the white ruling group to totally impose their values and culture on the African people.

This may or may not be the beginning of the end. I wouldn't want to make any second hand predictions just from having read the American press, and I wouldn't want to underestimate the ability of the whites to brutally and efficiently repress demonstrations. So it's possible that things will calm down for a while and the white regime will have another lease on life if they're lucky. But the new element which we can't ignore is the establishment of two socialist nations, Angola and Mozambique, on South Africa's borders. The pressure of these two nations has shifted the balance of power decisively in the direction of South African black people.

The United States is trying like mad to please everyone and cut its losses. South Africa on the one hand is a stronghold of anti-communism, an island of white rule in a black continent, a stable place for US corporations—an increasing number of them—to invest their capital and pull out vast amounts of natural resources with incredibly cheap labor.

On the other hand, the tide is clearly turning in favor of black Africa. Here in Nairobi, Kisangani no fool..."I believe the whole world will do any business at all with it; all it can hope for is an ordered and stable world looks like. It won't work. South Africa is increasingly isolated in the world. It can't sit back and simply watch the situation in South Africa. As this issue is published, the Secretary is meeting with the Prime Minister of South Africa, in what must amount to a last ditch attempt to save off the inevitable.

The situation is extremely complex and will become more so—but I still think that the delegates to the 1973 ILWU International Convention were right on the beam when they urged the US to cut off all trade and diplomatic relations with South Africa; apply strict economic sanctions against the US corporations doing business in that country and insist that the South African government free all political prisoners and end the policy of racism and the employment of slave labor;" refuse all US facilities to South Africa and to all ships carrying South African cargo; direct our UN and International Labor Organization delegations to work toward these goals in cooperation with other nations.

The issue is important because it is becoming increasingly explosive, of course. As far as I am concerned, I think that we should do whatever is possible to push for this program within the labor movement—which has generally taken a pretty good stand on this issue—and to try to make sure that all candidates for national public office are forced to come out of the woodwork and let us know how they stand on this one.
Dock Pension Payments

Go Up July 1

SAN FRANCISCO — In accordance with the 1975 Memorandum of Understanding between the parties, monthly pension payments are increased effective July 1, 1976 as follows:

Under the ILWU-PMA Longshore Pension Plan, the ILWU-PMA Watchmen’s Pension Plan and the ILWU Alaska Watchmen’s Pension Plan, increased effective July 1, 1977 will be:

- $7.20 per month per person to be distributed prior to that date.
- Those persons enrolled under Medicare.

Information about the pension rate increases effective July 1, 1977 will be distributed to pensioners and widows receiving an increase with their July pension payment.

MAXIMUM BENEFITS

New maximum benefits for 25-year men as follows:

- Coast watchmen $425
- Watchmen $270
- Alaska $300

All new grants will get increases on the new maximum.

- For the first workplan of the year, the morning of the second day of the workplan, the morning of the third day...
Nestle Strikers Say: We Still Feel Like Winners

SALINAS—The Local 6 strike against the Nestle Co. is over.

To put it bluntly, the union "lost." After 13 weeks on the picket line, the 114 strikers went back to work for what was on the table when they went out—three year pact with wage increases of 10%, 8% and 7%, plus some minor medical improvements. The company never really moved an inch.

The decision to go back to work was made by an overwhelming majority vote at a membership meeting held in Salinas June 12. Strikes have been lost before, of course. The important thing seems to be how you put it back together when it's over. Shortly after the return to work, The Dispatcher staff went down to Salinas to see how people were feeling. Here's what several committee members had to say.

Isabelle Patrick
(Chairperson, Nestle Strike Committee)

Our people showed a tremendous amount of class through the whole thing. Especially people with families, people who you would think would be the most desperate. They got out and really hustled for any kind of work they could get—picking lettuce, cauliflower, whatever was coming up, painting houses, digging ditches...I'd say at least 30 percent of the people were working a lot of the time.

We had good community support. The television stations, the local press, all gave the strike the priority. The Farm Workers, the Sugar Workers and many of our own officers are as critical as we are to help out, and we really appreciated the help. But our people also really took care of each other.

People are going back to work feeling like winners. They know they showed they can hurt this company, and that they can make it without Nestle.

Doris Sims

You have to understand that this was the first time our people had ever gone on strike. This was a very divided house. People have different ethnic, social and economic backgrounds. We voted to come into Local 6 six years ago only by a slim majority.

But I've never seen people as together as they are now. The strike really pulled them together; they had to depend on each other.

The only way to beat a company this size is by all the unions that have some connection with Nestle getting together so that when one goes out, everyone goes out. That's the only way you can really get to them.

Gary Kollman

It's going to take some time to get that kind of unity together between the Nestle plants all over the country. But he fact is, we made a tremendous amount of progress along this line. The Teamsters shut down the Roseo coffee plant for 12 days when we asked them, and they also shut down the Watsonville warehouse for 8 days. The Operating Engineers walked out too. That's progress. No one had ever hit the company the way we did.

Of course there's some griping, and some bitterness. But this unit is pretty solid. We got lots of support from Local 6 officers and members, we had Manuel Tadora down here to work with us near full-time...But I think the main thing that people like about this union is the democratic procedures, the secret ballot. We voted ourselves out on strike, and we voted ourselves back in. We're responsible.

Jerry Dent

After three months, the thing that put us back to work was the creditors. The mortgage payments, the phone bill, the utilities. It just had to be too much for the people, and the company just seemed to be digging itself in.

So we thought it would be better for us to give in, to settle the payments, to settle the unit. People maintained fantastic discipline until the very end. If there's one thing we learned about this, it's that you just have to have a union when you deal with this company.

Southern Cal Locals Plan July 4 Parade

SAN FRANCISCO—In a recent letter to San Francisco's Mayor George Moscone, ILWU Vice-President William Chester put the union on record in opposition to the razing of the International Hotel in San Francisco's Chinatown.

"Our main concern is that there has been no apparent plan for taking care of the tenants, mostly aged pensioners of Filipino, Black and Oriental descent, many of whom have never lived outside the Chinatown area and who speak very little English.

"These people would be hard pressed to find living space they could afford that would be comfortable and secure for them.

"Unless something concrete is projected for the future of these elderly tenants, it is our belief that you will find much opposition to putting these helpless people onto the street with no regard for their safety and welfare. We urge that some deep thought be given to the plight of these desperate people before the July 15 date for razing."

Drill Team Victories

SAN FRANCISCO—The ILWU Local 10 drill team took first place in the St. Patrick's Day parade in San Francisco, the Winton, Calif. parade and the Fremont, Calif. Freeport, Calif. Biennial Parade, May 2; the Latin American Fiesta in San Francisco, May 9; the May 9th's Day Parade in Oakland and the Oasis Exhibition, May 31.

The team will participate in the Sea Side Parade of Champions, July 3, the San Francisco Independence Day Parade, July 4; and the Vallejo Bicentennial, July 4.

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Local 33 Wins Damages from 1969 Oil Spill

SAN PEDRO—Back in 1969, after the famous Santa Barbara oil spill, ILWU Fishermen's Local 33, on behalf of the crew members of 20 vessels, filed a lawsuit against the oil companies which were at fault.

The union claimed, after researching bottom and mackerel catches before and after the spill, that the oil spill had seriously damaged fish resources in the Santa Barbara area and sued for damages.

The case has been settled and the court has entered judgment approving the settlement. Local 33 is now completing arrangements for payment to these crewmembers who were attached to the vessel from February, 1969 through December 1979 inclusive.

The net settlement for all boats involved was and is about $199,418.46. This breaks down to about $4,518.09 for each local boat and about $3,225.05 for each Mexican combination boat.

Understanding the settlement and by the terms of Local 33's contract, the proceeds of this settlement must be shared between the owner and the crew members of each vessel. The money being paid as damages is to be distributed as though it was the proceeds from the sale of fish. Therefore, a settlement will be made for each boat covering February, 1969 through December, 1979 inclusive.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Each man who was worked as a crew member of the boat during the above period will be included in the settlement. Payment will be based upon his share and the number of months he worked on the boat. For example, if a man was entitled to one (1) full share and he was on the boat from February, 1969 through December, 1979 (eleven months), he would be entitled to 11/23rds of a crew member's share of the settlement.

Currently the accountants have all the data and records necessary to make settlement.

BC Longshoremen Back CLC Program To Dump Controls

Continued from Page 1—

Many unions are negotiating contracts in excess of the guidelines. Those are then referred to the Anti-Inflation Board for decision. In almost all the cases which it has considered, the AIB has rolled back wage increases in excess of the guidelines. But the backing of the agreements still not reviewed by the AIB now exceeds 4,000 which is another cause for dissatisfaction.

SOURCE OF TROUBLE

"The source of the trouble," said Canadian Area president Don Garcia, "is that wage controls are being strictly applied but no controls have been applied to prices or profits. The result is that prices continue to rise faster than wages and living standards are going down."

"The Canadian Labor Congress has made it clear to the government that labor will never cooperate in such a program of wage controls. A confederation is building up. We have authorized the executive council of the CLC to call a general strike over this issue if and when necessary."
Unemployment Is Real Cause of US Budget Crisis

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The reason for the record budget deficits of recent years is the high level of unemployment resulting from the Administration’s “economic mismanagement,” and not a diet of the budget itself. These are the findings contained in a special report issued by the Democratic Study Group of the House of Representatives. The DSG is composed of members of the House who are members of the Senate or Representatives.

GOP POLICIES AT FAULT

The report charges that if the economic policies followed by the Republican administrations over the past eight years had produced budget surpluses instead of the billion deficit of $235 billion. The report calcu-

late the economy being operated at a full employment level for benefits.

The Democratic Study Group estimates that each one percent unemployed in the budget in the costs $14 billion in lost taxes and another $7 to $8 billion in increased expenditures. Directly or indirectly, unemployed is drained the economy in two ways: First, tax revenues decline because unemployed jobless do not pay income taxes. Second, expenditures automatically increase for unemployment compensa-

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tion, food stamps, and other income maintenance programs. As the newly unemployed workers, the DSG finds eligibility for benefits.
Puerto Rico

by FRANCISCO AGUNDEZ
Local 142, Honolulu

Walking around San Juan, the capital of Puerto Rico, one of the major "sights" is a whole lot of luxurious but nearly empty condominiums and office buildings—quite new in appearance but increasingly run-down and deteriorated.

There are many such brand new buildings—built with government subsidies—which stand empty today in the cities of America's last colony. How come?

The answer is pretty obvious even after a few days here. Puerto Rico has been hit real hard by recession, and is not showing any signs of pulling out. Unemployment is extremely high—maybe around 30%—and prices are on a par with the mainland. As far as the beautiful condominiums are concerned, there's nobody around who can afford them. They run about $20,000 with a down payment of $0,000 required.

Hundreds of thousands of people, it seems, live in shantytowns around the big cities—such as the barrio Salinas near the city of Aguadilla, where there are no sewage or water facilities, and people live in corrugated iron shacks and quickly thrown up cinderblock structures.

Unemployment is quite low to the mainland—the Puerto Rican Commonwealth government has made a whole program out of attracting US industry. But, workers here are paid the lowest wages. A worker who makes $67 per week for a 48 hour week—about $1.40 per hour without fringe benefits.

In Venezuela, one of the major "sights" is a whole lot of common occurrence in Puerto Rico these days. They appear to have a genuinely independent and competent government which plays a large role in the economy. In fact, Venezuela is basically an economy of mixed public and private enterprise.

The ship gang consists of two winchmen, 11 hold-ers, a fireboat and a reception and open-commitment aircraft. They will have about 6,000 men working steady with the ship. We also went aboard the shin Fortaleza, a new roll-on/roll-off ship. We noticed that there were no security facilities in the port here although we were told that such facilities are now being developed and expanded.

Venezuela is a country in which, in our opinion, there are many such brand new buildings—built with government subsidies—which stand empty today. This is quite new in appearance but increasingly run-down and deteriorated.

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Brother Roa told us that these men are ILA members and get longshore pay.

Beem Roberts is president and secretary-treasurer of the very powerful Federation of the American Russian Institute (ILA). Brother Roa, along with ILA Local 1575 President Manuel Ortiz, Secretary-Treasurer Juan Velez and other members took us out to the Naviera de Puerto Rico (Sealand) warehouse where we witnessed the stuffing and stripping of containers.

Letters To The Editor

Oregon Council Action

On Nuclear Initiative

NORTH BEND—The Columbia River District Council has voted a $5 contribution to help Oregonians for Nuclear Safety push a nuclear safeguards initiative (Proposition 9), which passed on the Oregon ballot in November.

The action was taken at a meeting at the request of speaker Steve Murdoch, former editor of The Dispatcher, indicated publicity help was needed to ensure that the utility companies are sure to mount.

The utilities and electrical manufacturing companies supported $3 to $6 million into the campaign to defeat Proposition 35 in the California primary.

Seattle is No. 2

SEATTLE—This port ranked second for container traffic—behind the long Beach - Los Angeles port complex—in the value of its domestic and foreign waterborne trade.

Local 8, Portland

Local 8 members have elected War ren Smith as mid-term dispatcher and Walt Butler as mid-term LRC member.
No Progress in Tough Rubber Strike

AKRON, O. — Some 60,000 members of the United Rubber Workers have rejected the latest contract offer from four tire companies for over two months. There has been practically no progress in negotiations since the Rubber Workers struck Goodyear, Firestone, Goodrich and Uniroyal at midnight April 29. The main issues are still unresolved, despite meetings last week between the union and its target companies, at the initiative of federal mediators.

The union is asking for a first year catch-up increase of $1.65 per hour, substantial improvements in pensions and an unlimited cost-of-living allowance that would add one penny to wages for every 0.3 point increase in the consumer price index.

Firestone's latest offer was for $1.10 per hour over three years — 5% less than its previous offer — plus a three-year pension boost of $1.50 for future service only.

COLA IS KEY ISSUE

But the key strike issue is the union's demand for an unimpacted cost-of-living clause. The company has offered a formula which the Rubber Workers say would yield the worker only 25% of the three-year COLA effect due to inflation. The union's formula would net about 9%.

The bad news from the union's point of view is that the major auto companies have announced that they will not attempt to cut out any jobs through layoffs. "We can't do that," H. Pass, secretary, the agreement also spells out a grievance procedure.

Negotiations started January 16. The contract was signed June 3, but is retroactive to March 1, 1975. (1)

COMMITTEE

The negotiating committee consisted of: Local 28 President Doug Lore, Pass, Frank Griffis, Hank Hillig, and W. T. Smith. The management committee consisted of Ross Johnston, Robert Jones, and Robert Johnson. The union committee was present at most of the sessions during the critical last six weeks of Pass negotiations.

The watchmen expressed thanks not only to the local, but also to Northwest Regional Director G. Johnny Parks and to Local 40 and its business agent, Larry Clay, for advice and assistance. Pass also thanked the Columbia River District Council for its backing and moral support.

Maritime Unions Save US Public Hospitals

WASHINGTON, DC—The fight to defeat the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare's closing of eight US Public Health Hospitals was spearheaded by the maritime unions, several local councils, and a coalition of community public health groups.

The victory marked the second time in three years that maritime labor has spearheaded opposition to HEW's attempts to close the hospitals.

Also crucial in this year's fight was the election of Dick Wise, of Locals' labor-relations councils to any curtailing of services. Approval by these councils is necessary if the federal agency says things down.

Delegates to the ILWU's 29th Biennial Convention in 1973 unanimously opposed the closing of these hospitals, one of which is located in Seattle.

Union Organizer Beaten

DAYTON, Tenn.—Two union organizers for the Furniture Workers were beaten by a company-led gang as they greeted workers at the plant of the Lane Chair Co. plant here, UWFA President CarlScarborough charges.

The men were reportedly found May 10 outside the plant gates as the two organizers, Kenneth Thrash and Charles Campbell, waited outside the plant for the first shift to get off. It was two days before a scheduled union election.

Delay on National Workmen's Comp Standards

WASHINGTON, DC—Legislation to see that a broad range of benefits standard for workmen's compensation, and raise benefits in the event of a closure or a permanent shutdown was in the committee of jurisdiction in November will clear the way for a strong-er, more liberal law, this year, says Business Week magazine.

Willard Rohrbach Dead

PORTLAND—The current issue of the Clerk's bulletin, 40-RECAP, carried the news that Willard E. Rohrbach, a charter member in the position of HEW's personnel officer for 40 years, the Clerk's paper noted, the last eight years at Cargill.