Local 6 Wins Big Pact at St. Regis Co.

UNION CITY, Ca.—The unity of the rank and file negotiating committee plus a unanimous strike vote, brought home an excellent two-year contract for 200 Local 6 members at the St. Regis Paper Co. plant here last month.

For a long time, the situation had looked pretty hopeless. Apparently acting under orders from corporate headquarters, St. Regis negotiators had offered only a small wage increase, two holidays and a pension increase. St. Regis employees, however, were demanding big wage increases, improvements in dental, medical and other fringes.

“The change really happened because they couldn’t get us to recommend this as a settlement,” says negotiating committee chairman Pete Ybarra, “They wanted us to take their offer with a positive recommendation to the membership. Instead, we went back and got a strike vote.”

COMPANY GIVES GROUND

The vote—153-0—was taken on Saturday, March 19, with the contract having expired in late February. During the following week, the company

22nd Convention Begins In Seattle April 18

SEATTLE, Wash.—More than 300 delegates representing every section of the union will meet here April 18-22 for the ILWU’s historic Twenty-Second Biennial Convention.

From Hawaii and Alaska, from Canada and the three US Pacific Coast states, they will assemble at the Washington Plaza Hotel to review and discuss the work of the union for the past two years and set policy for the future.

Most important, they will be nominating a new team of International officers to take the places of retiring President Harry Bridges, Secretary-Treasurer Louis Goldblatt and Vice-President-Assistant to the President William Chester.


Labor Gets Clobbered In Capitol

WASHINGTON, DC—The Carter Administration and the Democratic-controlled Congress handed organized labor two stunning defeats last month.

On March 23, the House of Representatives voted 217-205 to dump the building trades' union situs picketing bill—which union lobbyists had expected to sail through without opposition.

The following day, Labor Secretary Ray Marshall told a Congressional Committee that the Carter Administration preferred an increase in the minimum wage substantially less than the increase sought by labor.

LOST MOMENTUM

Perhaps more important than either of these two issues themselves is the possibility that labor's legislative drive had lost important momentum, and that other bills—repeal of Section 14(b) of Taft-Hartley, improvements in workers' compensation and national security—Continued on Page 4

Next Dispatcher Is April 29

To allow time to bring the members a full report on the Twenty-Second Biennial Convention, the next issue of The Dispatcher will not appear until April 29.
THE LAST CONVENTION of our union, when it was the Pacific Coast District of the ILA, took place in Seattle in May, 1937. That's 40 years ago. Geographically, the union covered the west coast states of the USA, the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii, and British Columbia in Canada. A big issue before the convention there was the development of the CIO and the progress being made by that body in organizing unorganized workers, especially those working in the basic US industries, such as auto, steel, electrical, manufacturing, lumber and mining, etc.

The CIO was growing by leaps and bounds, and the national AFL leadership of that time was desperately trying in every way to prevent any further growth and progress by this new movement of organized workers.

A tough decision faced the delegates to our convention—Which way to go? Should we join up with the new CIO group led by John L. Lewis and the Mine Workers, or should we stay with the ILA, an International Union covering all ports of the USA, and Canada.

Our decision at the convention was to commit our forces and strength as a union that had just come through two tough strikes; that had chalked up substantial gains for only longshore and waterfront workers, but US seamen and licensed personnel also; to bring about unity between the AFL and CIO in order to avoid two labor movements in the USA.

We argued the holding of one of the conventions of both AFL and CIO bodies, with the hope that the two organizations could resolve the differences between them and mount a going drive to organize the unorganized workers in the basic US industries along industrial lines.

We also voted in the event that the AFL leadership, at that time headed by William Green—went through with its threat to assess its membership—which included us—to raise money to fight the CIO, we, as a union, would refuse to pay, but would pledge to help all other unions who also refused.

The final outcome is history. We left the ILA and became ILWU, and received our CIO charter in the fall of 1937. Now we again are going to a convention in Seattle, and as a union we must look ahead and not backward.

IN 1937 ALL OUR PLANS were to grow, expand, to cover new fields. By contrast, this convention it seems to me, will concentrate on spending most or all of what finances and effort we put forth for the immediate future—in a struggle to hold what we have by way of membership and independent status. Nothing really wrong with an outlook that is less than there is no other way to go. Certainly our union has a proud and honorable record. It has been an honest, labor union in the sense of this country.

But today our situation is much different than in 1937. In longshore, in warehouse, in Hawaii agriculture—it seems as if everywhere we look we face new attacks by employers, by the government, by strike-breaking and union-busting—and a host of other problems. Organizing for our union is pretty much at a standstill. Such are the facts as we begin the convention.

I am not trying to say it's all down the tube. We are still a strong, tough outfit. But things in the outside world have changed. The advent of containers on the docks, the great expansion of over-the-road transport, the great growth of corporate power—economic, financial, political and economic—not only here at home, but all over the world, quite frankly has hurt us, and will continue to hurt us.

BY CONTRAST, IN 1937, while it's true we were just coming out of the most serious depression in this country's history, we had no real idea of the meaning of long-term, never-ending structural unemployment, and how much it could hurt us.

It has never been more necessary for us to have a serious, productive convention. The problems are too urgent, and we have no time for posturing and rhetoric.

I sure hope the delegates come to the convention prepared for some hard work and hard thinking. My way of looking at the future of the union is pretty common knowledge right now. I think the problems we face today are much more difficult than when the union was going to be too tough for the union to stand independent and unaffiliated as it has for years. We have to do more, and do it better, not than effectively hold its own. And I also know that there is little support in the union right now for this outlook—and that the privilege of other officers and members besides me. Whatever convention does, I sure hope we can develop a program that not only ensures that the union goes on, but that the future also goes along with us.

If this can be done under our own steam—that's great. But above all, I don't want us all to learn the hard way that it takes a little more than we have at present, or a little more than we have planned for the immediate future.
WASHINGTON, DC — Legislation to break maritime strikes involving the State of Hawaii has been introduced, for the umpteenth time, by Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI). Similar legislation made it through the Senate in 1975, but was defeated in the House by the combined efforts of ILWU, AFL-CIO and the Teamsters.

This bill — the Essential Maritime Transportation Act (S. 1077) — is basically a measure that would break any strike involving the states of Hawaii and Alaska, and the trust territories of the Pacific.

PROCEDURES

It allows the Governors of the states mentioned and the High Commissioner of the territories to appeal to the Secretary of Commerce for relief, notwithstanding any other provision of law. The Secretary of Commerce then makes it through the Senate in 1975, but was defeated in the House by the combined efforts of ILWU, AFL-CIO and the Teamsters.

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Chief steward Pete Ybarra, plant manager Erby Dravet and Personnel Director John Beck check out some last minute details before contract is signed.

**Isle Strikebreak Bill—Once More With Feeling**

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**Strike Vote Wins Big Pact at St. Regis**

Continued from Page 1 —

gave ground. Finally, on Friday, once the dental plan improvements were sucked away, committee members had a program they could recommend.

The two-year agreement includes a general wage increase of 10% in the first year and 8% the second year, with additional adjustments for maintenance and reorganization press workers.

Most important, the parties agreed to scrap the existing company dental plan and join the ILWU Warehousesmen's Group Dental Plan. Under the old plan, members had to pay a yearly deductible of $25 for each family member; under the Local 6 plan, the yearly deductible is $39.50 for the whole family.

Another important fringe gain was the implementation of the Kaiser prescription drug plan in the second year. The union also won an increase of the current $6 per month per year of service pension benefit to $7 during the first year and $8 during the second year.

Finally the local won improvements in shift pay, two new holidays and several language changes.

The negotiating committee consisted of Ybarra, Eugene Scott, Neil Webb, Business Agent Manuel Carrera, with Northern California Regional Director LeRoy King and Vice President George Martin.

**Local 10 Sets Stewards Classes On Longshore Health and Safety**

SAN FRANCISCO — Local 10 stewards and other members are invited to sign up for three special training sessions on longshore health and safety co-sponsored by the local and the San Francisco Community College Labor Studies Program.

Focus of the program is an identification of health and safety problems and what can be done on and off the job to eliminate these hazards. Dr. Leo Sandlitz of the Labor Studies Program staff, is instructor.

Here’s the schedule.

• Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m. to 12 noon: noise and stress factors.
• Saturday, April 23, 9 a.m. to 12 noon: chemicals, fumes, dusts and monitoring the environment.
• Saturday, April 30, 9 a.m. to 12 noon: the law, what can be done to enforce and expand existing health and safety standards.

All sessions will be held at the Local 10 administrative office building, in the View Room.

**GRIEVANCE HANDLING**

The first three sessions in the Local’s stewards training program concentrated on grievance handling. Sessions have included discussions on grievances on the job and at the local LRC level, grievances on the area LRC level and grievances on the coast level.

**Local 9 Wins Pact At Paris Supply**

SEATTLE — Local 9 is celebrating the ratification of its first contract with Paris Beauty Supply.

Local Secretary Michael W. Frith recalled that the ILWU won an NLRB election for workers in the supply house last October. Following a brief strike and a month-long period of babble about a new agreement, the workers went back to work without a contract, but kept bargaining all the time. “The recently won agreement, effective April 1, is the result.

It provides for a hefty wage increase. "The basic wage before the Union got in there," says Frith, "was $3.35 an hour. Under the agreement, the hourly pay goes from $4.35 to $5.35." Other gains include an additional paid holiday, one more week of vacation and a minimal health and welfare plan.

Paris Beauty Supply was organized under the direction of the Northwest Regional Office. "We were in constant contact with the Regional Office throughout the negotiations," Frith said.

**ROLLED—Clarence Gibson, Local 19, suffered broken bones and cuts and bruises when his 40' straddler turned over March 18 at Seattle's Pier 19. Local 19 Secretary-Treasurer Del Castle says that the wreck was caused by wet and oily pavement and by bad tires on the straddler. The local is taking its own survey of the situation and will have some recommendations for the employers and state safety people in the near future. Gibson is recovering well.**
Congress OKs Extended Unemployment Benefits

WASHINGTON — Congress gave final approval to a bill extending unemployment benefits for persons out of work more than six months ago.

The measure now goes to the White House, where President Carter is expected to sign it.

The bill extends the program of emergency unemployment benefits through Jan. 31, 1978, with a maximum of 13 weeks of supplemental benefits after a person has exhausted 26 weeks of regular benefits.

The old program, which expired March 31, provided up to 26 weeks of emergency benefits after exhaustion of regular benefits.

The vote in the House was 406 to two. The Senate approved the measure by voice vote.

Hearings on Asbestos, Vinyl Chloride

SACRAMENTO — The California Occupational Safety and Health (CAL-OSHA) Standards Board will hold a public hearing May 12 on proposed reporting requirements for employers who use asbestos or vinyl chloride, known cancer-causing materials.

The hearing is at 10 a.m., Room 1194, 450 Golden Gate Avenue.

Joint Research Program

Asbestos Workers, Johns-Manville Try To Defense Cancer "Time Bomb"

The Asbestos Workers International Union and Johns-Manville Corp. have joined efforts to fund medical research seeking a way to help asbestos workers faced with a "licking time bomb" of cancer.

Dr. Irving Selikoff of the Mount Sinai Corp., a major maker of asbestos products, said was if the State of Idaho was going to permit free riders in unions. He added that farmers should also have the opportunity to be free riders, commenting that the Council of Economic Advisers warned against the future of labor legislation in this session. "You can't quite say that labor has dead up here right now," said one House Democratic leader. But you sure as hell can say their hopes of getting anything out of this legislative package ain't very bright."
Candidates Announce for International Posts

SAN FRANCISCO—Several ILWU members have announced their intention to run for international office, and have published statements describing their program. These statements will be published in the next issue of The Dispatcher, along with the names and statements of any other members nominated at the coming convention.

The candidates, so far, are as follows:

For President: James R. Herman, President of Ship Clerks Local 34, San Francisco, and G. Johnny Parks, a member of Local 8, Portland and Northwest Regional Director.

For Secretary-Treasurer: Curtis McClain, President of Warehouse Local 6, San Francisco. Newton Miyagi, Secretary-Treasurer of ILWU Local 142, Hawaii, has announced that he is considering running for this position and will announce his intentions at the Convention.

For Vice President-Assistant to the President: Rudy Bullo, a member and past president of Longshore Local 13, Wilmington.

For Vice-President-Organizer: Incumbent George Martin, Local 46, Seattle, to seek re-election.

RULES ON ELECTIONS

The ILWU International Constitution (Article 10) provides that the nomination and primary election of officers shall take place on the last day of the International Convention, and shall be open to all delegates.

Eligible delegates are more than two nominees for each office, a roll call vote will be taken. The ballot shall be tabulated count is sent to the International Executive Board within 60 days after adjournment; 70 days after adjournment. Ballots are to be sent out to the locals within 25 days of the Convention, within a span of five consecutive days to be designated by the titled officers; the ballots and a tabulated count are sent to the International Secretary-Treasurer and a tabulated count is sent to the International balloting committee within 60 days after adjournment. The International Executive Board receives the results by the 10th day after the conclusion of the Convention, the results are reported by the International balloting committee.

Newly elected officers and Executive Board members take office at the first International Executive Board meeting following the Convention.

Better Relations In Store at Pfizer Chemical

EMERYVILLE, Ca. — Local 6 members at Pfizer Chemical have overwhelmingly approved a new three-year agreement which will provide hefty increases in wages and fringe benefits. In the past three years by numerous disputes and salary adjustments, unit members expect that the winning of the new contract, plus two recent Local 6 arbitrations and two arbitrations, which involved the suspension of one member and the discharge of another.

PROPOSED CLIMATE

Relations between employees and management at this pigment coloring plant have been punctuated over the past three years by numerous disputes and salary adjustments. Half of these unit members expect that the winning of the new contract, plus two recent Local 6 arbitrations and two arbitrations, which involved the suspension of one member and the discharge of another.

Health Care Costs Eat Up Paychecks

Spiraling health-care costs are taking more and more of Americans' incomes each year, according to a recent article in US News and World Report.

• Hospitals raised their charges 11.8% on the average in the year ended last November, and doctors boosted their fees 16.7%, far outstripping a 4.5% increase in the other costs of living.

• Result is that hospital care in the US now costs the average patient from $144 to $175 a day, compared with $48 in 1966 and less than $16 in 1950. That is a total increase of as much as a 19.00% over a generation-seven times the rate of inflation in the rest of the nation's economy.

• ANNUAL BITE

Altogether, health care takes an annual bite that averages $600 per person, or $2,500 for a family of four. That is almost 11% of the typical American's income.

• Three fourths of the annual total is charged through taxes, insurance premiums and over-all inflation paid for by all wage earners.

• With the rapid growth of Blue Cross, Medicare and medicaid, for example, the public share of healthcare costs now stands at 42%.

• In the last four years, government outlays for health have more than doubled to $39.5 billion, almost one tenth of the federal budget.

• HIDDEN COSTS

Because such costs are mostly hidden, surveys show that Americans underestimate their family medical expenses at an average of about $48 a year—far less than half of the true figure.

• Sharpest impact, however, is on the 17% of Americans who have clearly inadequate protection under government or insurance. Half of these people have no coverage at all, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

• With the average cost of treating a disease costing well over $1,000, an estimated 2.5 million persons per year will have "catastrophic" expenses of more than $5,000 in the 12 months beginning October 1, these analysts estimate. Even after insurance reimbursements, nearly 7 million families—1 out of every 12—will pay more than 15% of their income to cover the cost of getting sick.
Medicare Costs Still Competitive With Private Health Insurance

NEW YORK—Critics of national health insurance often cite the high costs and financial abuses of Medicaid as proof that a health program for all Americans would be overly expensive and full of abuses. The facts, however, tell a somewhat different story.

Medicaid costs taxpayers no more—and in some cases even less—than private health plans offering equal coverage for those who enroll in them. Medicaid costs $1,080 for a poor family of three, while the best Blue Cross-Blue Shield insurance for US government employees with families the same size costs $1,107. And Blue Cross has recently announced plans to raise its present rates 12 to 15 percent.

In order to make a comparison of the two plans, one must take into account the most comprehensive private insurance plans since Medicaid offers coverage for hospital and doctor services, pre-scription drugs, x-rays, laboratory tests, nursing home care and home health care at levels higher than the average private insurance policies.

So while the average private profit-making plan for a family of three is $840, these plans do not provide nearly as much coverage as Medicaid. To do so, the coverage, the comparison must be made with a plan more like the Blue Cross-Blue Shield plan which costs about $1,500 a year for a family of three or more, including the same coverage as Medicaid—and costs over $400 a year more.

Dr. Karen Davis, a widely respected economist who has studied Medicaid for years, said, "Medicaid costs are high, but they are not higher than those for everybody else."

Local 63, Wilmington

Local 63, ILWU, Wilmington, California, will hold nominations for the offices of secretary-business agent, LA Wharf Development

Vital Signs—a look at the US economy

Monopoly Pricing in US

WASHINGTON, DC—Consumers pay higher grocery prices in areas where a few large supermarket chains are dominant, according to a recent study by the Congressional Joint Economic Committee.

Consumers in 32 metropolitan areas where big chains predominate sampled by University of Wisconsin researchers paid $161 million in "monopoly overcharges" last year to the nation's four largest supermarket chains.

The study said that the supermarket barons are able to gain dominance by fewer chains as a result of a substan-

Record Trade Deficit

WASHINGTON, DC—Bitter winter weather and a sharp increase in foreign oil imports in February plunged the United States to its largest trade deficit in history, the Commerce Department reported last week.

Imports for the month totaled a record $13.67 billion, while exports notched only $8.9 billion. The resulting $4.77 billion trade gap was 4 percent higher than the previous mark of $1.67 billion in January.

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What's on Your Mind?

Delegates to the ILWU's Ninetieth Biennial Convention in 1971 instructed The Dispatcher to print letters to the editor from ILWU members. Here are excerpts of the polemics from our International Union and subject to reasonable ground rules concerning availability of space, timeliness, membership interest, and balanced interpretation from all areas of the union.

Crime and Punishment

A particular incident has hit close to the homes of longshoremen, and we are concerned over the leniency of the law that will free a criminal without a conviction. We feel that the Union must live in fear of criminals released by law after serving a minimal sentence in Correctional Institutions? Are these criminals sufficiently rehabilitated to be returned to society as responsible citizens? We would also like to see "no plea bargaining" and "no release on own recognizance" laws in effect.

We feel that criminals are not being penalized enough to fit the crimes. Our law enforcement officers work hard to apprehend these criminals, but they cannot be released by our judges. Why are the guilty protected over the victim? Also, we don't look favorably upon our local attorneys, who for the sake of publicity, will defend and take Hajimy in our laws to get acquittals of known criminals.

Since we are responsible citizens and regular voters in our community, where can we seek avenues to solve these problems?

I. L. W. U. Auxiliary 29
P. O. Box 3122
Eureka, Ca. 95501

Committee Asks More $ for Jobs, But Endorses Return to Wage Controls

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The Joint Economic Committee on Monday called for greater federal stimula
tion to the economy than that proposed by the Carter Administration. But at the same time it proposed giving the government power to raise the price of imports.

The Administration is "acting quickly and constructively" to revive the economy, its stimulative tax and return to wage controls, the committee's majority said.

Dockers, Widows on Pension List

SAN FRANCISCO — Following is the April, 1977, list of dockworkers pensioned under various ILWU-PM plans:

Local 14, Vancouver: William Carl-
sen, August Koch; Local 8, Portland:
Arden Helmer, pepper; Local 10, San Francisco: Earl Ar-
noeld, John Cruz, August Koch; Local 10, San Fran-
cisco: Early Arnold, John Cruz, August DeLucchi, Au-
stin Koch.

Local 19, Seattle: Elwood Acker-
son, Robert Balmer, Roger Balmer, Au-
stin Koch; Local 8, Portland: Arden Hel-
mer, pepper; Local 10, San Francisco: Earl Ar-
noeld, John Cruz, August Koch; Local 10, San Fran-
cisco: Early Arnold, John Cruz, August DeLucchi, Au-
stin Koch.

The widows are: Catherine Beadle, Jo-
sef (Local 10); Ella Bockes, Marshal (Local 10); Flora Ceremelio, (S. J., Sr., Local 10);
Anita Gilmartin, (Emmett, Local 3); Sandi-
tasia Gilmartin, (Emmett, Local 34); Flo-
rence Hellochak, (Arthur, Local 19); Iva Jolley, (John, Local 46); Iva Jolley, (John, Local 46);
Florence Hotchkiss, (Arthur, Local 19);
Lillian Cox, (Holmes, Local 13); Mollie
cer McDonald, (Zettie, Local 13); Teresa
ceremello, (S. J., Sr., Local 10);
Frances Posadas, (Manuel, Local 10);
Ceremello, (S. J., Sr., Local 10);
Mollie ceremello, (S. J., Sr., Local 10);
Frances Posadas, (Manuel, Local 10);
Ceremello, (S. J., Sr., Local 10);
Mollie ceremello, (S. J., Sr., Local 10);
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Ceremello, (S. J., Sr., Local 10);
Mollie ceremello, (S. J., Sr., Local 10); 
Of course, the list of names in brackets is those of the deceased husbands.

You're aIF you're a surf or rack fisherman, and losing more than your share of smaller fish, you might try setting up a small piece of light tackle with the gear your friend get snags mouth. You can try a single lure, line and spinning, and learning from a bole a shoal fishing. You can try a single lure, line and spinning, and learning from.

The following letter and photograph is from Joe Carvalho of San Pablo, Cali-
ifornia, husband of Virginia Carvalho, a member of ILWU Local 6, Oakland, California.

"Fred, I thought your hunter readers would be interested in seeing the en-
sic snapshot which depicts this writer with a Fannin ram which I downed on the last day of a 15-day hunt in 1975, in the Yukon Territory. The Fannin is a cross between a Stone and Dall sheep."

Speaker of British Columbia reminds me of a recent visit from old Portland friends — George and Teresa Cusick — who returned to homestead in British Columbia and live on the banks of Ootsa lake, about 1,000 miles from their for-
mer home. Teresa had an odd report over there; I'll give ya' half of it.

The offer is open to all members of the ILWU, the family and, of course, related persons. Please tell me what the snapshot above is and its location. Number.

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The offer is open to all members of the ILWU, the family and, of course, related persons. Please tell me what the snapshot above is and its location. Number.

In a recent column your columnist pointed out the relative clumsiness of waterfowl as opposed to the agility of waterfowl. An even sharper contrast prevails with the loon. We have exceptional diving ability and move with speed and grace in the water. On the other hand, their legs are placed so far back on their bodies that they can't quite walk entirely on land out move about by sliding on their breast.

One day, on a trip across the country, I was driving down a stretch of a sec-ondary highway in Kansas. This was a few years back, during the height of the gasoline shortage but on this particular day I was short of another vital liquid: Water. One station I pulled into had a half full bucket declared. "Water for emergency purposes only! None available for trailer storage tanks, water coolers or an unlimited number of small pieces of light tackle with the gear your friend get snags mouth. You can try a single lure, line and spinning, and learning from.

At one tiny, combination grocery/gas station in the middle of dry Kansas, after filling my tank with gasoline from one of its tall, skinny antiquated pumps. I asked the attendant if he'd mind checking the water level in my radiator. He dried off, "I got a bucket of water over there; I'll give ya' half of it." After viewing the murky contents of the bucket, I thanked him for his offer, left him a bucketful of water from my camper's storage tank and drove on down the road toward Colorado.

You're aIF you're a surf or rack fisherman, and losing more than your share of smaller fish, you might try setting up a small piece of light tackle with the gear your friend get snags mouth. You can try a single lure, line and spinning, and learning from.

The following letter and photograph is from Joe Carvalho of San Pablo, Cali-
ifornia, husband of Virginia Carvalho, a member of ILWU Local 6, Oakland, California.

"Fred, I thought your hunter readers would be interested in seeing the en-
sic snapshot which depicts this writer with a Fannin ram which I downed on the last day of a 15-day hunt in 1975, in the Yukon Territory. The Fannin is a cross between a Stone and Dall sheep."

"Having been taken this baby off Kailua Kona, Hawaii!"

Your outdoor columnist would like to point out the relative clumsiness of waterfowl as opposed to the agility of waterfowl. An even sharper contrast prevails with the loon. We have exceptional diving ability and move with speed and grace in the water. On the other hand, their legs are placed so far back on their bodies that they can't quite walk entirely on land out move about by sliding on their breast.

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Port of Oakland Still No. 1

OAKLAND — The Port of Oakland's handle was over one million tons more than in 1976. This marks fifth consecutive year in which the Port of Oakland leads the Nation in tonnage. Oakland outdistanced second in 1976 than in the previous rec-
Laeger Cleared—Handyman Boycott Keeps Rolling

STOCKTON, California—Leslie L. Laeger, the company supervisor who, on the morning of August 6, 1976, drove his truck through a Local 6 picket in front of a Handyman Boys warehouse, was acquitted on charges of felony manslaughter.

One member of the nine-man, three-man jury who talked to the press said that he believed that the death of picket Norman Lewis was a tragic accident.

In a separate development, it has been announced that the company has agreed to a $590 monthly payment for Lewis and the five Lewis children.

Local 6 members in the Bay Area, Sacramento and California members of other Locals up and down the coast are also ready to act when a homeowner's income declines because

Kaiser Option in Dried Fruit

WASHINGTON—Effective April 1, Local 6 members in the dried fruit industry have for the first time the option to either remain in the Improved Group Insurance plan or elect Kaiser coverage under a program provided by the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan.

The Kaiser option, negotiated in the summer of 1976 as part of the ILWU's contracts in the dried fruit industry, is available to all regular employees and their dependents, and to seasonal employees.

Each participant must complete an application and return it to their employer's Personnel Office no later than the end of March.

Those who elect Kaiser coverage will continue to be covered by the Life Insurance, Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance and Dental Benefits provided in the ILWU's benefits program by Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company.

Organizing

New Local 26 Members

LOS ANGELES—Three Southern California houses have voted to join Warehouse Local 26 in the last few weeks.

Employees at Hassel's Fibres, a wastepaper facility with a Northern California branch also under contract with the ILWU, voted to join the ILWU, voted 38-3 in favor of ILWU representation. The bargaining unit has been made.

Workers at two different waterbeds have reported joining. While at Nak-Pak, a manufacturer of waterbeds, the vote was 15-10. Organizing is being conducted by the Southern California Regional office.

Bay Area Organizing Wins

RICHMOND, Calif.—Workers at Western Plastic and Rubber Company recently voted 125-3 in favor of Local 6. The firm manufactures plastic piping.

In San Francisco, the Surplus Dried Fruit, another warehouse, said they will vote on joining the ILWU, 54 votes favoring local representation.

The Surplus Dried Fruit warehouse is one of the few Dried Fruit warehouses which have a general tax in-