Labor Unity Theme for Local 142

HONOLULU—As this issue of The Dispatcher goes to press 700 delegates, representing close to 200 units, are on hand for the week-long 13th Biennial ILWU Local 142 Convention, which is being held at the Sheraton-Waikiki Hotel from September 19-24. “Labor Unity—Key to Hawaii’s Future” is the theme.

Various key issues, embodied in the Local 142 Officers’ Biennial Report, are under consideration by the delegates. Among these issues will be collective bargaining directions, living standards, unemployment, population control, political action and land use.

SUGAR, PINE

High on the agenda will also be support to sugar and pineapple workers as negotiations for new contracts get underway shortly.

The sugar contract expired on January 31, 1977, but was extended to November 1 under a “holding” agreement consummated last spring. January 31, 1978 is the expiration date of the pineapple contract. Both groups have scheduled separate post-convention caucuses for September 26-27.

RESOLUTIONS

The delegates will act on various resolutions and policy statements, approve a 2-year budget, consider constitutional amendments, and nominate the union’s top officers to serve for the next two years—in their week-long deliberations to draw up a program which will direct the Union’s course of action for 1978-79.

Presiding over the sessions will be Local 142 President Carl Damaso with Vice-President Eddie Lapa and Secretary-Treasurer Newton Miyagi. International President James R. Herman, Vice-Presidents George Martin and Rudy Rubio, and Secretary-Treasurer Curtis McClain also will be addressing the delegates.

Southern Cal Organizing Wins

LOS ANGELES—Office clerical employees at Zim-American-Israel Shipping Co. voted 15-3 on September 16 for representation by ILWU clerks’ Local 63.

The Zim election marks an important step in the ILWU organizing program: Local 63 already represents office clerical employees at six Wilmington shipping and stevedoring firms, and is moving now to hold elections at Matson, California United Terminals and General Steamship to strengthen up its jurisdiction.

Plans are also underway to organize office clerical workers in Northern California.

PICTET LINE HELPED

The quick election at Zim about as a result of an unfair labor practice picket line established by Zim employees for a full week to express their unhappiness with the company’s stall tactics. They were particularly anxious to join Local 63 after the negotiation of an extremely good contract for ILWU office workers earlier this summer (See Dispatcher). Also on September 16, 61 workers at AAM Castings in South Gate voted 45-16 for representation by ILWU warehouse Local 26. Organizing in both cases was handled by the ILWU Southern California Regional Office.
What is the federal minimum wage? The federal minimum wage—$2.65 an hour—was established by the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. The law sets a standard of living necessary for health, efficiency and general well-being of workers.

Why do we need a federal minimum wage? The minimum wage was set to raise the income from those employees who would pay slave wages if they could get away with it.

Who are the minimum wage workers? These are the primarily unskilled workers in a variety of industries. They are often young, women, blacks and others with little or no job skills. These workers have very little power with their employers and therefore depend on the government to protect their interests.

How does a minimum wage affect business? Specifically, it protects honest, hard-working employees against unfair competition from unscrupulous employers who wish to pay less than a fair and living wage. However, all business benefits from a minimum wage, because when workers earn enough money to support their families they can consume the goods and services that business offers for sale.

What is the current federal minimum wage and how is it established? The present minimum wage is $2.30 an hour, which is below what a worker would have to earn to keep him or her out of poverty. These workers need money to support their families or to survive, and they are not able to adjust the minimum wage, but after it has been legislated. The current state minimum wage is generally equal to the minimum wage set for them and goes above in poverty.

Are there proposals to increase the minimum wage? Yes. President Carter has proposed an increase to $2.65 as of Jan. 1, 1978. On Jan. 1, 1978, the government set the minimum wage at $2.30 per hour. The Chamber of Commerce reported, minimum wage increases stimulate the economy—money these workers will spend in the marketplace.

What has happened to H.R. 3744 and S. 871, the Carter bills on minimum wage? The minimum wage bill has already passed the House. Unfortunately, the provision to increase the minimum wage automatically as the cost of living goes up—"indexation"—was removed. On the plus side, the House defeated a vote to lower the minimum wage for teenagers. Hearings continue on the Senate side, with the bill expected to hit the floor for a vote in the near future.

What should the minimum wage be? The minimum wage workers must be able to support themselves or have a husband with an annual income of at least 10 times the poverty rate. This would allow them to pay for their families.

Why should a minimum wage increase concern anyone who earns more than the minimum wage? Because everyone's tax payments are used indirectly to subsidize employers who pay less than a fair and living wage. When minimum wage workers can't earn enough money to support their families they must turn to the federal, state or local assistance programs—sod welfare, food stamps and public aid—to supplement their income.

Would President Carter's proposal bring minimum wage workers out of poverty? It would increase the federal minimum wage to $2.65 an hour on January 1, 1978. This is still below the poverty level and would result in higher wages and a higher minimum wage annually to the average hourly earnings in manufacturing, starting in 1979 at $2.30 and going up the law. That formula would ensure that a minimum wage worker's family falls farther and farther behind.

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Hang Up on Job Security

Dock Unions Will Respect Each Other's Picket Lines at Common Employers

LOCAL 13 CLASS—Members of ILWU Longshore Local 13, who have just completed their class on the terms and conditions of the contract with the employers, have signed their first agreement on job security. The plan was negotiated by Business Agents Bill Burke, representing the ILWU, and Harlan County. The agreement, covering six North Atlantic ports, was ratified by members on October 1st.

MAJOR ISSUES

Main issue in the dispute is the hospital's refusal to go along with the employers' demand for a segmentation of its medical and non-medical operations. This demand was met with resistance from the union's medical staff, who fear it would lead to a loss of job security. In the event of job security violations, the union will initiate a grievance procedure before the contract expires on November 1st.

EMPLOYER SPLIT

The ILA therefore entered negotiations with the ILWU, and the agreement was signed by Business Agent Bill Burke, representing the ILWU, and Harlan County. The agreement, covering six North Atlantic ports, was ratified by members on October 1st.

First Local 6 Contract Pulls Wages Off Floor

SAN FRANCISCO—Newly organized Local 6 at Ingrid, Ltd., an importing house, has signed their first ILWU contract, which will raise their base wage from a low of $8.75 per hour to $12.50 per hour within the first year of the agreement. Wages are open with the right to strike if the agreement is not honored. The union also won Kaiser coverage, standard union security language, 10 paid holidays, one paid vacation, and severance pay.

Next Dispatcher Deadline—September 30

PRE-CONVENTION—ILWU Local 142 rank and file discuss the union's plan on unionization. Above, meeting of pre-convention committee on constitution and finances. Local 142's Convention took place September 19-24. See story on Page 1.
WASHINGTON, DC — The arch-enemy of a fair and equal minimum wage for teenage workers is none other than the king of the golden arches — McDonald's founder, Ray Kroc.

Kroc has devoted substantial dollars to supporters of a subminimum wage for young workers and the McDonald's empire has lobbied on behalf of such legislation.

Kroc has an obvious interest in keeping youth wages low; each McDonald's employee pays 50 to 80 young part-time shift workers, for a total exceeding 150,000. McDonald's is the largest private youth employer in the country, with teenagers and students constituting approximately 80% of its work force.

"It's 150,000 kids busting their tails out there that makes us tick," comments the personnel director at Hamburger Central, the McDonald's headquarters in the Oak Brook suburb of Chicago. However, in gratitude for their hard work, McDonald's prefers to substitute "recognition," "competition," "promotion" and "career opportunities" for adequate wages.

At Hamburger University, the training ground for McDonald's managers, aspiring supervisors are taught how to use praise, competition, and rap sessions to maintain a complacent young workforce.

And where that hasn't worked, McDonald's has not been above forcing employees to test for steroids, interviewing unions on views, or face dismissal for refusal to test.

Thus far, the McDonald's tactics have worked. Profits are in the millions each year, and Kroc boasts: "Union membership has run out of reach with us with a ten-foot pole."

BUSTING TAILS

McDonald's caused one Time Magazine investigative reporter to comment, "Basically, I suppose, McDonald's is the epitome of capitalism — a success story built on shabby business practices; McDonald's is a morally corrupt organization which has used the language and the subminimum wage to keep it that way."

In 1971, Kroc donated more than $250,000 to the Committee for Economic Opportunity (CREOP), and in 1972, Nixon staunchly supported his subminimum differential.

In 1972, the House of Representatives actually passed a bill which would have raised the minimum wage to 14- and 17-year-olds and full-time students at 80% of the minimum.

Immortalized the "McDonald's bill," its Strikebreakers, Scabs

In Machinists' Dispute

If you think union-busting is dead, go to Union City, California, southeast of Oakland in the East Bay. There scores of members of IAM Local 1218 have been battling imported security guards, city police, tear gas, non-union strikebreakers and creation of a "strike area".

Their employer, Rylock Co., manufacturers of screen doors, shower doors and window guards, forced them to strike April 1 when its "final offer" was no wage increase, elimination of seniority in layoffs, a merit system and other cutbacks.

Ray Gobel, directing representative for IAM Local 1218, who has hired security guards from the notorious Richard K. Erlenborn Co., has publicly changed sides in strikes. Then it recruited strikebreakers, paying them about half the wages of union members.

Union members in the area are pressing a boycott of Rylock products and are asking union workers nationwide to refrain from buying the company's output.

Organized labor is the target of a multi-million-dollar extremist propaganda campaign, the federation of extremist to attempt to thwart enactment of labor law legislation that would prevent employers from indefinately delaying union elections, the negotiation of first contracts.

Charging that the "extremists are at it again," Grospiron said. He pointed out that studies at Magnolia, Ark., where the toxic substance is manufactured and formulated, have demonstrated that the chemical.

"After charging last week. Meany said that "the hate merchants of the 70s" are launching a bitter battle against the labor law reform bill, Meany accused them of trying "to once again manipulate public opinion in order to split apart workers, minorities, families and farmers and others who have often worked together to move this nation forward.

SLICK CAMPAIGN

"It is not little old ladies in tennis shoes who are the hate merchants of the 70s. It is slick Madison Avenue types trained in mass psychology and propagandists techniques who have computerized mailing lists, a printing press and a gov't subsidized mailing permit," he declared.

Meany said that "an estimated 100 million letters will be called seeking contributions to finance a fight of a so-called 'national' campaign to defeat the bill in the Congress."

Estimates of the cost of this propaganda effort, he said, ranged between $25 million and $50 million.

NAZI HISTORY

In likening this to the rise in Germany, Meany said:

"Conservatives and some business leaders who kid themselves into believing they can use the extreme right wing to weaken and eventually destroy organized labor are playing a dangerous game. They would do well to remember as well as they have forgotten that such a political situation has been financed Hitler's Nazi movement because it was pledged to destroy the unions.

"After turning free unions into a huge, national, compulsory company union called a Labor Front — Hitler pointed on his industrial supporters, incorporated the plants into his totalitarian system, and the American workers are playing a dangerous game."

"This is especially imperative in light of the fact that there are at present no federal or state regulations governing cancerous exposure to DBCP," Grospiron stated in a letter to Dr. Eula Bingham, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.

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"This proposal is just like a McDonald's hamburger," noted SEIU Legislative Director Richard Murphy, "not too much more than pretty greasy and bad for the diet.

"Erlenborn comes from the fiftieth-richest district in the nation, and maybe the families in his district can afford a youth subminimum."

"However, the country as a whole can't accept this concept. What it means, in reality, is that employers will be encouraged to fire adult workers in low-wage jobs and then hire young people at the subminimum."

"Firing the parent to hire the child is no solution to teenage unemployment. Rather, we must creamean jobs that go around and uphold the dignity of all workers, regardless of age, through equal pay for equal work."

From the Labor Movement

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Meneh Wary of Right-Wing Threat Behind Anti-Labor Movement

Organized labor is the target of a multi-million-dollar extremist propaganda campaign, the federation of extremists actually passed a bill which would have raised the minimum wage to 16- and 17-year-olds and full-time students at 80% of the minimum.

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Local 142 Frito-Lay Strikers Determined

HONOLULU—"Our strike is solid and the leadership is determined to win this battle."

Strike Chairman Eddie Matsumura of Frito-Lay Local 142 issued this statement as their walkout went into their fourth week Monday afternoon.

The strike started on Aug. 16 and involves 16 workers. Frito-Lay is located in the Hawaiian pineapple growing area in Honolu-

The Issues

The issues in the contract talks, which ended up in a stalemate when the com-

Derby owner racing, and strong anti-

tion, sick leave, dental plan and driver-

salesmen commissions.

Unite 4417 members, their families and other ILWU Cahu Division union mem-

volves 95 workers. Frito-Lay is located in the Pacific island area in Honolu-

union's determination to bring the picketlines since the start of the walkout.

Frito-Lay workers went on strike previ-

ously in the summer of 1960.

ILWU, Port of Portland Still in Negotiations

PORTLAND — As this issue of The Dis-

patch goes to press, negotiations be-

 tween the ILWU dock locals and the Port of Portland were continuing.

"We have had a recommenda-

tion for a settlement going to the next

Council vice-president.

The dispute between the ILWU and the Port of Portland has caused efforts by the Port to sell property at bargain-

base rates for a new facility at Terminal 6. The facility, which the union

claims is not necessary, would be worked-

ed by ILWU labor in violation of existing

agreements.

UFW Asks: Continue to Boycott Scab Grapes, Lettuce

FRESNO — Many American and Can-

adian workers are joining the United Farm Workers in cheering the historic gains the unions has made, but, as opined at the out-

come of the recent ratification vote in Portland, Oregon, it is far from over.

UFW President Cesar Chavez reported that the outcome of the vote to unionize 100,000 farm workers in the West was good, but helped so greatly in that effort is still in effect. The hold-out ranches and wineries need to feel the consumers' muscle before they will agree to negotiate.

One of the key issues; non-UFW grapes, non-UFW lettuce (about 40 percent now bears the UFW label, usually found on the cellophane wrapping or boxes), and all Gallo Wines (Modesto, Calif.).

The UFW has reported that 24 ranches no worse UFW contacts, that disagreements with the Teamsters have been resolved, and that as a result of UFW's efforts, minimum wages for farm-

workers have tripled over the past 15 years.

The convention-goers also hold a memo-

ral to UFW laborers of the UFW membership, Juan de la Cruz and Magi Daililah, who were killed in August, 1973 during an or-

ganizing drive.

Union Plumbers Take a Cut

SEATTLE — The Washington State plumbers have taken a 18 to 22 percent cut in their weekly wages in an agreement recently signed.

Plumbers who work only on small-scale residential projects are paid $28.98 per hour, hose workers on larger residential or commercial projects will earn $16.23, close to the standard rate.

Union officials explain that the union's share of the residential market declined to about 10 percent from about 90 percent during the building boom of the late 60's.
Local 34 Retirees
Honored at Dinner

SAN FRANCISCO—ILWU International President James R. Herman returned to his old haunts on August 25, 1977, to pay tribute to three Local 34 Dispatchers who retired from the industry.

Honored were Don Regan, San Francisco Dispatcher, with some thirty-five years to his credit.

Oakland Dispatcher, with twenty-five years to his credit.

President Herman addressed his fellow members.

“The 34 strike!”

“Couldn’t have been,” the old man said.

“There was ice in the river. It was a winner. Times was hard.”

Tommy Nelson in his prime.

One-Punch Nelson
‘On Top of World’

SAN PEDRO—Tommy Nelson Tarango, retired from ILWU longtime Local 500, spent seven years in the early years of this century, as a professional featherweight, lightweight and welterweight.

During his boxing days, Tarango, who fought under the name Tommy Nelson, acquired several world records: he was the first man to knock out five fighters with one punch.

Activities were geared to the enjoyment of old-timers, “new-timers,” parents and children, with bingo—presided over by Charley Johnson—for those over 18, two wagon serving hamburgers, hot dogs and the ice cream.

Did the union win these strikes?

“They must have, they’re still here, ain’t they?” the old man said.

Ben Dunphy—Retires—Was ILWU Canada VP

VALENCIO, BC—After 31 years as an active longshoreman, Ben Dunphy has announced his retirement.

He has been one helluva union man and Local 500 will miss him,” writes W. G. Crowe. “He was first vice-president of the Canadian area and very instrumental in winning the conditions that we enjoy today. I know personally that I will miss him as a workmate. And I think our lives change a little bit every time one of the old-timers retires.”

“We of Local 500 will wish him well in his retirement and may he and his wife Olive have many years of happiness and health.”

Local 21 Picnic
Huge Success

LONGVIEW—Local 21’s Labor Day picnic, according to Arrangement Committee co-chairman W. L. “Larry” Harris.

The food was catered, with a canteen for the kids, plus wheelbarrow and sack races.

Enjoying themselves at Local 21’s recent Labor Day picnic arc, from left, Victor Pinson, wife of Local 21 longshoreman Charles Johnson, and Susan Mawoe, daughter-in-law of Josiah and Dorothy Mawoe.

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AFL-CIO Backs Canal Treaty

WASHINGTON -- The AFL-CIO Executive Council unanimously voted full support of the Panama Canal treaties negotiated by the Carter Administration and called on the Senate to ratify the accord.

The council declared that the treaties "are a reaffirmation of our democratic tradition of payment for the Canal and the operation and defense of the Canal throughout the years. The treaties also are instruments worthy of support by US citizens and their elected representatives."

The council said "we are satisfied" that the new treaties adequately cover the questions of ownership and the rights of the workers in the Canal Zone.

AFL-CIO President George Meany told reporters that the statement means "full support" and that the federation will use "whatever influence we have to translate that support into approval" by the Senate and certain other legislation in the House.

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Dawn Rutter's Poem

DUBLIN, Calif. -- "Prejudice," a 12-line poem by Dawn Rutter, president of the Federation of Muslim Employees of the United Auto Workers, was featured in the preceding place award ribbon last August in the Poetry Contest at the Contra Costa County Fair.

It was chosen from among 256 entries from all over the world. The poem follows:

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 organized into the ILWU? If so, please write or telephone in.

G. Johnny Parks, Regional Director
451 Atkinson Dr.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Local 21 expressing thanks for workers' recent strike.

פרדיקט

He commented that "there is no particular reason for the holding onto territory thousands of miles away because 'we built the Canal' is somebody else's back in 1946. I don't think the history of American involvement in the Canal is anything that Americans can be proud of."

Dawn Rutter's Poem

ROME-Italian and Yugoslav port workers this week announced a boycott of all Chilean shipping for the week of September 14. The port workers refused to unload ships owned by Chilean shipping companies because they are members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

Solidarity with Chile

SAN FRANCISCO--Some 400 rank and file trade unionists from all segments of the San Francisco labor movement got together Saturday, September 17, to reach agreement on program and endorsements for this November's municipal elections.

The passage of Proposition T last November made the district election of supervisors — has fundamentally altered the nature of San Francisco politics, President Harry Bridges received a standing ovation, and retired International Longshore and Warehouse Union President on the platform conference September 17.

San Francisco Labor Unites to Plan Drive for November Municipal Vote

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The union delegates first established a platform emphasizing tax reform, housing, extension of city services, mass transit, improved labor relations, and revitalization of city neighborhoods. The council said "we are satisfied" that the federation will use "whatever influence we have to translate that support into approval" by the Senate and certain other legislation in the House.

Dawn Rutter's Poem

THE-poem follows:

Dawn Rutter's Poem

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 organized into the ILWU? If so, please write or telephone in.

G. Johnny Parks, Regional Director
451 Atkinson Dr.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Local 21 expressing thanks for workers' recent strike.

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Lorenzo Gonzalez, Organizer

No Union in Santa Barbara

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, has decided not to organize soldiers.

The union and the Army have for years been allies. The Army was affiliated with the largest of the affiliates and showed the membership approximately $300 in savings for the Army's armed forces. The union announces that it will concentrate on organizing civilian employees of federal agencies.

Auto Workers Head Women's Caucus

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- John Bukoskey, a veteran organizer for the United Auto Workers, was elected chairman of the National Women's Political Caucus, in its annual convention here earlier this month.

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New Portland Park Honors Francis Murnane

PORTLAND -- A section of the waterfront park, now under construction on the west bank of the Willamette in downtown Portland, will be named after the late president of longshore Local 8, Francis J. Murnane.

This was the word which Sam Galbraith, Jr., project coordinator for the Port and Development Commission brought to a meeting of the Columbia River District Council, September 13.

The CRDC began announcing a position of 25,000 people named after the dock worker who died in 1988.

Galbraith's appearance at the council session followed correspondence between the community, including the City, Rocky Brown, and a meeting between Galbreath and vice-president Jim Foster.

Copies of the correspondence were forwarded to Mildred Schwab, commission- er in charge of public parks. Galbreath reviewed clippings and other records made available by the Oregon Historical Society, which documented Murnane's monumental efforts to preserve historical landmarks, including the Skidmore Fountain and keeping it from being "moved" from the out of the area in which the Planning Commission had proposed to construct Murnane Plaza.

It will be an extension of Ankeny Street, a heavy timber pier, projecting out over the river, near the site of the Old Weyerhauser commercial dock" Galbreath said.

Essentially a viewing area, it will be constructed like a wharf, and a "variety of visual and physical contacts with the river," said Rocky Brown. "Old Portland waterfront will be provided."
First Pact for Island Hospital Clerical Workers

HONOLULU — Kuakini Hospital clerical workers’ first ILWU contract boosts their salaries 8% as of August and another 8% a year later.

The newly organized group is on its way to catching up with other hospital workers who have long been represented by the ILWU.

Before they joined ILWU some were paid as little as $5.00 per month. Although the rate will be $400, a gain of 17.6%, increases in the top classification total $1,280.

Red circle employees, whose wages are above the classified rate, will receive the same dollar amount increase in 1977, and 75% of the dollar amount in 1978.

OTHER GAINS

Other gains, effective August 29, the date settlement was reached after protracted negotiations, are:

• Temporary transfer pay. Previously there was no extra pay for taking the place of a higher classified worker.
• $30 per month premium for eight PEO operators who are sometimes the only ones on hand to handle night additions.
• Standard ILWU rights and protections, such as the right to present grievances without reprisal or discrimination, and grievance procedure, seniority rights, hours, and overtime.

GOOD OLD DAYS PROTECTED

All benefits, except for unemployment, will continue, but are now spelled out in the agreement.

International representative Tommy Trask was ILWU negotiating spokesman, while Granger, chairman, Monica Caldera, Marilyn Oka- da, Sharon Akaka and BA Fred Paulino.

Retired International President Harry Bridges was a featured guest, for the first time as a retired longshoreman, at the 10th Annual Convention of the ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners’ Association.

He reported on efforts to get a national organization of senior citizens started.

Largest Ever

Coast Pensioner Meeting

Flexes Political Muscle

ANDERSON, Calif. — Nearly 300 dele- gates from all over the West Coast attended the three-day tenth annual Convention of the ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners Asso- ciation here in the northern end of the Sacramento Valley September 19-23, and expressed growing confidence that the or- ganized pension muscle of the nation’s senior citizens can become a force for positive social change.

"Older people have tremendous political power, and its growing," said retired Int- ernational President Harry Bridges.

"There is a tremendous need for all of us to get into organization. If we don’t or- ganize the older people there may be a tendency for them to assume anti-labor attitudes.

This sense of growing power and organ- ized political know-how dominated the debates on the floor and inside the hard-working convention committees.

THANKS TO BAKER

The ILWU Coast pensioners group passed a special resolution expressing sin- cers thanks to outgoing PCPA President Ernie Baker for a job well done after he announced that he would not seek re-elec-

The new PCPA President is Gordon Gilpin, Local 13, Whidbey Island; Vice-President is Roy “Casey” Stegner, Local 22, Everett; Al “Baggy” Bertani, Local 30, San Fran-

The pensioners also denounced the neu- trality-bondage concept of retirement at age 65.

Members of the newly elected executive board are Octave Cracraft, Local 30, Seat- tle; Norman Mattson, Local 34, Aberdeen;

Black Unemployment Nearly 15%

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A sharp jump in minority unemployment ignited the nation’s jobless rate from 6.9% to 7.1% in August, as high unemployment continues.

The report on unemployment, which the Bureau of Labor Statistics issues monthly, was devoid of any bright spots. Worst hit was the over-the-month increase in jobless- ness among blacks, whose rate rose from 12.3 to 14.5%.

Labor officials repeatedly warned the Carter Administration and Congress of the growing problem unemployment poses for black and other minority groups in the inner cities. The 14.5% jobless rate for blacks last month matched a post-World War II high recorded in September 1975.

The report on August employment and unemployment also revealed other weak- nesses in the economy:

• The average workweek, a yardstick of economic output, declined for the third straight month. Workers on nonfarm pay- rolls averaged 36 hours a week, compared to 36.1 hours in July.

• The unemployment rate among blacks rose 2.1% to 14.5% in August for the second consecutive month, BLS said. There were only small increases in unemployment due to work-

The pensioners also denounced the neu-

He urged support for tax reform and national health.

PCPA President Ernie Baker, formerly of Local 10, Portland, received the warm thanks of the pensioners for his "outstanding service" after he an-

"The civil rights struggle has not been won," reported Local 10 President Cleophus Williams, who discussed im-

Specifically, the ILWU pensioners call for:

• permit Social Security financing from federal general revenues;
• provide for mandatory coverage of all workers;
• offer the administration’s efforts to reduce benefits for dependents 18-22 who remain in school.

The pensioners also denounced the neu- trality-bondage concept of retirement at age 65.

Vital Signs

a look at the US economy

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