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Wage increases range around 16% to 19%, and big improvements are made in pensions, severance pay, benefit plan financing and the rights of intermittent and non-regular workers.

 Ahead of Expiration

The tentative settlement was reached at a two-day meeting of the full negotiating committee, with the ILWU and the pineapple employers on Thursday and Friday, January 27 and 28. As a result of the strong showing on many problems in the existing longshore agreement, and proposals for improvement, the agreement has been recommended for ratification.

The morning session focused on job security items—pay guarantee, equalization and steady men, area travel, manning, jurisdiction, hours, registration and transfer. The afternoon and evening sessions covered economic items such as wages, pensions, welfare, vacations and holidays. The area caucuses were mandated by action of the longshore caucus which met in Seattle in April, 1977.

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Local 13 President Art Almeida chaired the area caucus. Present for the International President Jim Herman, Vice-President Rudy Rubio, Coast Committee members Will Ward, Dick Wise, and administrative assistant Evelyn Wakefield.

The core group of about 7-8 women first held a series of discussions among themselves and with a local women's organization, to find the best means to combat States Line's discrimination. Ultimately, they decided that a union contract, with a clear seniority clause and a fair grievance procedure, would be their best bet.

Women Take Lead at States Steamship Offices

SAN FRANCISCO — Back in August of 1977 a small group of women employed at the States Steamship Company's offices here decided they'd had it with their employer. They wanted to gather more information in order to take on the whole industry. "But we decided that we had a more immediate problem, and so we started to talk to various unions. Of those we contacted, the ILWU made the most sense."

It turned out that the issue of discrimination and arbitrariness struck a deep chord among the more than 100 States Line office employees. The same policies kept minority workers out of the better jobs, as well; and there were a surprising number of oldtimers who got fired or into resignations as they got into their late 50s.

As a result of their initiative, and the support and agreement they found among their colleagues, men and women, the States Line office employees voted 55-42 on January 31 to become members of ILWU ship clerks Local 34.

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US Needs Strong Unions

HERMAN SPEECH

Los Angeles—ILWU President Jim Herman, speaking January 19 in Los Angeles at a labor relations conference, argued that unions are indispensable to economic development; and that present-day capitalist anarchy, which he termed "anarchism in action," leaves the US down a one-way street to fascism and open class warfare.

"We want development which addresses the needs of organized workers but which deals with the tremendous rates of unemployment among minority group workers, which offers productive employment to the physically handicapped and disabled, and which provides a place for the aged to continue to contribute to society. We want economic development which restores the quality of life in our cities, and which does not do violence to environment."

Herman concluded that, "unions mean economic democracy consistent with economic growth. And we'll all gain because of them."

ILWU members attending the session included Local 13 President Art Almeida, Secretary-Treasurer Tony Salazar, Southern California District Council President A. Dave Arias, John Espinoza, Dave Giacoppi, and Norman Tuck, all of Local 13. Representing locals 7, 8, and 6 were President Carl Clay and Paul Marin."
ILWU Challenge
CBS Distortions
SAN FRANCISCO—ILWU attorneys have been preparing a counterattack against Columbia Broadcasting System and its affiliates concerning a recent television show dealing with the waterfront dispute.

The program concerns a longshore union in Hawaii and its methods of which, according to the television script, were engendering high corruption and graft. One of the characters in the television drama who tried to expose the corruption was murdered.

Jim Herman stated that since the only longshore union in Hawaii is the ILWU, the program had to be directed at this union.

"The ILWU was founded and continues to operate on the principle that the rights of working people can be protected and promoted by unity, solidarity, forthright and ethical trade union practices," Herman said.

Douglas A. Julian was the first of longshore Local 8's new B men to be registered on February 2, 1978. Completing the paperwork are Local 8 Secretary-Treasurer Jim Foster, left, and PMA Assistant Manager Chuck Wallace.

Local of Longshore's New B Men Registered
PORTLAND — The lofty, first-floor meeting room in the Longshore Hall was the scene of unusual activity February 2 as the final group of 300 "Class B" applicants passed before the ILWU committee.

They were registered concurrent as Class B longshoremen, February 4, and were eligible to "plug the Board" on that date, according to Jim Foster, secretary of Local 8 and Henry Lundt, chairman of the labor relations committee.

A majority of the 41 men who showed up for re-processing have been working on the waterfront as casuals. But the first man through the line, Douglas A. Julian, 36, was employed at Northwest Steel in Vancouver from January 6, 1963 to January 6, 1968.

That's when— with all but two or three workers in the plant—he was laid off.

"I am happy to be here!" he said.

A third of the original 300 were registered as Class B longshoremen in 1967, 60 others received Class B registry in 1974.

This winds up the last except for a few to be re-processed by the Joint Union-PMA committee.

Heath Ceramics Signs
SAN FRANCISCO — Warehouse Union Local 6 wrapped up three end-of-the-year contracts providing wage and other improvements. Heath Ceramics Voted 28-3 on January 15 for a 13-month agreement negotiated by a Committee consisting of Fred Andrews, Lawrence Wing, Ed Juriowski and Business Agent Al Lannin.

Unfair Labor Practice Case Won
SEATTLE — ILWU warehouse Local 9 was successful recently in getting the ILWU to defend the rights of workers even if they are not yet dues-paying members.

Workers at Arctic Alaska voted to join the ILWU after a long struggle and have been negotiating an agreement ever since.

The case illustrates not only that aggressive pursuit of the National Labor Board procedures can work, but also that the ILWU is prepared to defend the rights of workers even if they are not yet dues-paying members.

When his request that O'Conner be immediately reinstated was rejected by the company, Frith then filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board. On January 20, the board ruled that the discharge constituted an unfair labor practice, that O'Conner had been fired for his union activity, and ordered him reinstated with full back pay.

Pensioner Board Meeting
SAN FRANCISCO — The Pacific Coast Pensioners Association, ILWU, will hold its regular meeting here at International headquarters February 27-28. Meetings begin at 9:30 a.m.
Miners Mull Tentative Coal Contract

WASHINGTON, DC — As this issue of The Dispatcher goes to press, attorneys for the United Steelworkers of America, AFL-CIO, and the coal industry are seeking to hammer out a complete and final contract for review by the union's Bargaining Council.

The 30-member Council must approve the proposed agreement before it can be submitted for a rank and file referendum. Once the referendum process of ratification is expected to take about two weeks.

A major issue, reporters were expressing skepticism that the tentative agreement would be approved by the Council, largely because of controversial language limiting the right of striking in cases of job losses.

ECONOMIC DATA

Economic data released by the Mine Workers demonstrated that coal miners covered by the union's contract with the Bituminous Coal Operators Association are justified in seeking substantial wage increases because of the hazardous nature of their work, the pay increases of workers in other industries and the tremendous increase in coal company profits.

The company union had the support of the United Steelworkers of America, AFL-CIO, won a stunning victory in 1977. The process of ratification is expected to take about two weeks.

The health and welfare premiums were fully paid by the county in the past.

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So. Cal Council Urges 'Real' Tax Reform

LOS ANGELES — The ILWU Southern California District Council went on record January 13 in opposition to the so-called Jarvis Initiative, which will appear on the California June primary ballot.

The Jarvis Initiative, which would impose a flat limit on local government revenues from property taxes, would force massive cutbacks in fire, police protection, hospital care, transportation and education.

It would also impose an arbitrary ceiling on the taxing power of city and county health workers, which would inevitably mean layoffs in public employee labor relations and almost certainly a decline in quality of service.

The Council urged passage of real tax reform, a straightforward form of a progressive tax based upon ability to pay.

The only reason for the Jarvis Initiative, according to the Council delegates, was frustration of many homeowners at the inability of the County with the understanding the federal government will be conducting grain inspection in Oregon as of that date.

Grain Inspectors' New Boss

PORTLAND—Members of Local 46, Unit "B" (grain inspectors, weighers and samplers) received notice from the State Department of Agriculture that they are being terminated as state employees as of February 1, with the understanding that the federal government will be conducting grain inspection in Oregon as of that date.

Trade Group Backs Log Exports

PORTLAND — The Pacific Rim Trade Association, which backs log exports, held a press conference on January 9 in Washington, DC, with the following statement:

"The President's recent decision to limit log exports for the 'environment' is a step in the wrong direction. Log exports are vital to the prosperity of the region, providing jobs and revenue for millions of people."

Lumber and chips are a major part of the US merchandise trade, and the value of exports is comparable to that of the US automotive industry. Log exports are also vital to the economies of other countries, providing jobs and revenue for millions of people."

Next Dispatcher Deadline: February 17

Japanese Study ILWU-PMA Benefits

LONG BEACH — A Japanese longshore labor-management delegation was on the West Coast late last month to investigate what sort of benefits, if any, are received by workers on the waterfront.

In a visit to the ports of Willapa and Los Angeles, January 31, the 23-man delegation, representing Japanese longshore unions and their employers, met with officials of ILWU waterfront locals and got a rundown on ILWU-PMA Benefit plans and how they work.

A major difference in welfare plans between the two countries, the delegates noted, is that while American unions, including the ILWU, have concentrated on medical and hospital care, pensions and related benefits, Japanese longshore unions have negotiated a full range of "amenities" including housing, medical clinics, dining and recreational facilities on the docks.

Japanese unions have set up a committee to study these benefits and to determine how they can be implemented in Japan.

Unundated by the elements, Japanese longshoremen and Long Beach harbor workers on ILWU waterfront locals. See story below.

Hazardous Cargo Horror Story

A recent article in the New Zealand Port News, illustrates some of the dangers involved in the shipment and storage of hazardous cargo, and shows the need for stronger regulations.

The article cites a case where a container ship off the English Coast in November 1974, as follows:

"This particular incident arose because two cylinders each containing 34 pounds of arsine gas were damaged by the moving cylinder. The container was not labelled with the appropriate hazard symbol, and was not identified as hazardous cargo."

"When the vessel encountered strong winds and was subjected to heavy rolling on passage from the US to Europe, one of the crew entered the hold with the object of carrying out a routine inspection. He was shortly joined by the other crew members. After completing their work all four left the hold at about noon.

"Only four hours later, two men were taken ill, and the following day airlifted to a hospital. Although the ship's manifest was consigned it was by no means certain at that time whether or not the men suffered. It was only after a team of experts from various UK government departments had boarded the vessel and taken samples of the air, that the substance was confirmed as arsine.

WHAT WENT WRONG

After having been cleared for sailing to Rotterdam where the offending container was opened and the following factors noted:

- The container had been partly loaded on the 12th of January and was not been lashed down securely. The two gas cylinders could move freely. The plywood inner door was damaged by the moving cylinder. The container was not labelled with the appropriate hazard symbol and was not identified as hazardous cargo.

- The container caps of the gas bottles were not set properly, and the bottle that caused the trouble was not properly capped.

- The ship's manifest was not consistent with the documents presented for loading, and the cargo was described as "general cargo, and the need for cargo to be properly marked with the appropriate hazard symbol, and the need for the container to be properly sealed with the appropriate seal.

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- The containers were sealed at Port said, "We are the only really experienced workers capable of guaranteeing safe handling of hazardous cargo."

Keep Glasses Clear

This reminder is from the safety committee of ILWU chemical workers Local 23, Long Beach.

Fogging of eye glasses is particularly troublesome at this time of year. If your glasses become fogged up, do not wear them until the fog has cleared. They are not an acceptable substitute for spectacles.

If you are not allowed to work in a steamy area without glasses and you feel it to be a safety hazard, do the work under protest if at all, and report the condition to your shop safety director and the union president. You must have a clear view of your work to perform it safely.
UNIT BULLETINS—Editors of ILWU Local 142's many unit bulletins periodically compete with one another for awards given out by the local for best service to the rank and file. Here, award winning Big Island unit editors display prizes which were distributed by division membership secretary director William Amoral, left, and Local 142 education director Dave Thompson, for right. From left are Amoral, Lei Ouye, Verna Villaverde, Fred Galdonez, Richard Baker, Adelia Bautista, Richard Salvador, Thompson.

Bridges Honored At Smithsonian
WASHINGTON, DC — ILWU President Emeritus Harry Bridges was honored January 16 with a reception in his honor by the prestigious Smithsonian Institution. Among the others honored were Dr. Karl Moringer, director Lee Strasberg and New York planner Robert Moses. The four were invited to talk freely about their lives as the gallery that same day their portraits may hang there. The audience was smaller than expected, because of inclement weather. But among the 100 or so stalwarts present were Labor Secretary Ray Marshall and Roy Nealrigh, sergeant-at-arms, Secretary of ILWU Chemical Auxiliary members in many causes and movements, including the Oregon Coalition for National Health Security and the J P Stevens, look over blueprints for a new addition to the building of a new oil port at Kitimat, BC, were key issues at the 3rd annual convention of the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union held in Vancouver, January 28-29.

The more than 120 delegates in attendance represented 415 fishermen, tenderers, shorworks.

The Supreme Court of Canada has declared its final rule on the constitutionality of a provision of the federal Labor Code that leaves BC fishermen without the protection of either the Canada Labor Code or the provincial Labor Code.

Opposition to certification of the fishermen came from the fishing community dominated by two multi-nationals, Weston's and New England, which have an effective monopoly control of the industry.

SAME RIGHTS AS OTHERS

"Our elected representatives in Ottawa and Victoria can give fishermen the same rights as other workers if they have the guts to face the fishing monopolies squarely on this issue," the convention resolved. "But the federal government seriously intends to extend bargaining rights to fishermen then it should immediately prepare legislation to overcome the Labor Code's deficiencies as exposed by the Supreme Court decision.

The provincial government should prepare comprehensive legislation to create an unassailable bargaining relationship at least as high an authority as the federal division of the federal court has given the province the legislative authority.

Delegates also served notice that the union will continue its fight. "If the companies attempt to take undue meaning from the judgment of the (Supreme Court) and attempt, as they did in 1974's, to post prices, they should be frightened. Fishermen will not fish without a fair chance to work.

COMBINES BRANCH ATTACKS

Following a bitter strike of salmon net fishermen, shorwokers and tendermen in August, 1975, investigators from the federal Combined Branch raised UFANU and assessed some 3000 documents. The union has not been able to ascertain now the information that was being taken by the charges against it.

When the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission scheduled hearings in Vancouver in December, 1976, union members demonstrated with placards and leaflets against these star chamber proceedings, demanding that the investigation be dropped or at least that the hearings be held in public. The union also asked several times evidence was to be used against it so that it might prepare its case.

The chairman of the commission adjourned the hearings to another location where the hearings were again pickedeted.

Textile Industry's Pals

Every wonder why JP Stevens has withstanding one injunction and one court order after another? This extract from the January issue of Consumer Reports suggests one possibility:

"The textile industry has a lot of friends in Congress. There is, for example, the Subcommittee on Trade Practices Commission, and an immediate investigation into the monopolistic nature of the BC fishing industry.

The BC Federation of Labor has also established a Combines Defense Committee to present its case and seek support from other unions like Don Garcia, Canadian Area president of the ILWU, "Thompson, and Len Guy, secretary of the BCFL.

OPPOSE KITIMAT PORT

The union actively participated, together with 22 other organizations belonging to the Kitimat Coalition, in the hearings of the federal West Coast Ports Inquiry commission appointed to look into super oil tanker traffic, an oil port at Kitimat and a pipeline from Kitimat to Edmonton. The hearings were based on the evidence, that "Canada does not need a west coast oil port" and that "it is not Canada's interest to establish an oil port at Kitimat or any other place excepting the inequality to the Canadian coast, and that the real aim was less to satisfy alleged interests in the US than it was to get rid of a massive Alaskan surplus and make super-profits in the process.

CHINESE PLAY

This is a scene from a traditional style Chinese play which San Francisco's Chinese community is invited to attend March 4 at the New Democracy on a charge of $10.50 includes the cost of the play, which is bilingual, and a traditional Chinese meal. Proceeds will benefit the Youth Education Fund of Buddha's Universal Church. For details, call 827-2802.
Child Labor Still the Rule for Migrant Farmworkers, Study Shows

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Frequently illegal child labor was found in a 13-state study of government and union studies on migrant child welfare today.

In a survey of 1,500 farms in 13 states, farm workers were found to work in the fields by age 4, and by the time they were 10, they were earning the minimum wage. Some workers were as young as age 12.

"Child labor is the rule, not the exception," said a spokesmen for the AFL-CIO.

"The problem of child labor has been eliminated by government regulations and the threat of fines." said a spokesmen for the USDA.

"We do not have any enforcement mechanisms in place to ensure the safety of the children," said a spokesmen for OSHA.

"The problem is not with the children," said a spokesmen for the Department of Labor.

"The problem is with the employers," said a spokesmen for the Department of Justice.

"The problem is with the government," said a spokesmen for the Department of Agriculture.

"The problem is with the society," said a spokesmen for the Department of Interior.

"The problem is with the schools," said a spokesmen for the Department of Education.

"The problem is with the parents," said a spokesmen for the Department of Health and Human Services.

"The problem is with the community," said a spokesmen for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"The problem is with the economy," said a spokesmen for the Department of Commerce.

"The problem is with the malaise," said a spokesmen for the Department of Labor.

"The problem is with the depression," said a spokesmen for the Department of Agriculture.

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Is Carter Dumping National Health?

“It is now evident that the Carter administration is searching for a way out of the commitment made by candidate Carter to fight for a strong national health insurance program,” according to a recent Nation article by Prof. Leonard Robinson.

“The current tactic is to delay the introduction of national health insurance legislation until late in 1978 with the explicit wish that it not be considered during the current Congressional session. If these views prevail, the net result will be to abandon the last great unfinished piece of welfare legislation envisioned in Roosevelt’s New Deal.

“If these views prevail, the net result may well be to abandon the last great unfinished piece of welfare legislation envisioned in Roosevelt’s New Deal. Carter’s people do not, of course, use these terms to describe the retreat. Instead, emphasis is being given to the argument that medical-care costs must be controlled before national health insurance.

“But that argument ignores one of the most compelling arguments for the comprehensive approach favored by the Committee for National Health Insurance and embodied in which is that basic changes in the organization and public financing of medical care are the prerequisites for controlling the costs of medical care.”

Pension, Welfare Trustees Sharpen Up

Research director Barry Silverman moderated the workshop. Also participating were International Vice-President Rudy Robio and President Jim Herman.

International Secretary-Treasurer Curtis McClain, actuarial consultant Sid Abrams and investment advisor Stan Bernhard.

US Workers' Buying Power Slides in 1977

WASHINGTON, DC — The cost of living in America rose 6.6% in 1977, largely because of a sharp gain in food prices, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported.

Meanwhile, workers’ ability to keep up with the higher prices for goods and services allowed to half that rate—and then only because of the more liberal standard of tax deduction that went into effect last June.

The 1977 inflation rate compared with 4.6% in 1976—the smallest rise since 1972—and 7% in 1975. At the worst of the 1973 and 1974, prices rose 12.2%.

Strong Profit Bulge

NEW YORK—Corporate profits strengthened in the fourth quarter of 1977, reflecting such factors as brisk retail sales and the acceleration of the construction industry.

On a year-to-year basis, according to a Wall Street Journal survey of 466 major companies, fourth quarter after-tax profits showed a 4.6% rise, compared with a 5.7% gain recorded in a similar survey of the third quarter.

Canada Labor Blasts Budget

OTTAWA — The Canadian Labor Congress is calling for immediate introduction of a new federal budget “as the first step in putting the country back on its feet.”

In a statement issued following the release of Statistics Canada figures showing the December seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate had soared to 8.5 percent, CLC secretary-treasurer Donald Montgomery stated:

“A new budget is required immediately to turn the economy around. And a new budget must reflect a shift in the government’s economic thinking because their present policies just don’t work.”

“It should be obvious by now that tax concessions to industry have done nothing to create jobs,” he said. “In fact, an analysis of government taxation policy prepared as part of the CLC’s full employment strategy clearly illustrates that these concessions have gone primarily to capital-intensive industries and that only a very small percentage wound up with labor-intensive industries to create jobs.

He called for the direction of tax relief in a new budget to low and middle-income earners.