Canadian Convention
In Session

VANCOUVER, BC — As this issue of The Dispatcher went to press Canadian Area ILWU delegates were meeting in Convention, discussing issues ranging from international affairs and the state of the Canadian economy to longshore safety, and changes in the union’s Constitution.

At press time the delegates had heard the Officers’ reports and divided up into committees to consider reports and resolutions.

Attending from the International office were President James Herman and Vice-President Rudy Bahin.

STEADY WORK

Canadian ILWU members have for the most part been working steadily with total tonnage through the Port of Vancouver, for example, increasing 15% in 1977.

The health of the state of the economy, however, is one of severe economic recession.

Canada is experiencing the highest level of unemployment registered in the Glogo Depression, with ever one million workers without jobs. The rate of inflation at year end was 9.5%. All predictions about a decline have proven to be wrong and prices continue to rise.

What is particularly galling to union members is that in this period of high inflation, wage increases are currently limited, because of an unjust wage control program imposed by the federal government. The result has been a steady drop in living standards.

JOBS CAMPAIGN

Canadian area ILWU is throwing its weight behind the campaign for jobs launched by the Canadian Labor Congress and the BC Federation of Labor, including a mass lobby for jobs at the provincial legislature on March 30.

Delegates will also consider the threats to world peace emanating from the Middle East and the recent bomb and arson Canaan armament expenditures, as well as support for trade union and human rights in Chile and South Africa and the land claims of Canada’s Native People.

The issue of the possible separation of the Province of Quebec from Canada will also occupy the attention of delegates, as well as other political issues.

The next issue of The Dispatcher will carry a full report of the Convention.

Carter Hedges on Wage ‘Guidelines’

WASHINGTON—The Carter administration, clarifying its anti-inflation program, said it is asking unions to keep average wage increases in contracts signed this year below the average rate of their last contract.

Previously, the administration indicated it wanted wage boosts kept below the average increase for 1976 and 1977. An administration economist said the clarification “isn’t a change in our view of the matter, but a matter of emphasis.”

He added that the administration is aware that the average life of union contracts is three years, and that many contracts are “front-loaded,” with the largest rate of increase in the first year. Because of this, he said, it would be more equitable to compare wage increases signed this year with the last full contract, rather than the average of the past two years.

There’s still a lot of gold in South Africa that you don’t have to dig for

The South African economy is recognized internationally as one of the world’s soundest. And there is a lot of money to be made. Good people to show you around are the Industrial Development Corporation.

The IDC provides tailor-made financial assistance in the form of medium and long-term loans for the establishment and expansion of business in South Africa. The Officers therefore urge the ILWU members to take advantage of this opportunity.

No ILWU Funds for Apartheid!

SAN FRANCISCO—ILWU members serving as trustees of negotiated pension funds on the Pacific Coast, in Alaska and in Hawaii, have been urged by the International Officers “to have these trusts divest themselves of investments they have in US firms doing business in South Africa.” The Officers described such holdings as being “an inappropriate use of our members’ money.”

In a February 16 letter to all trustees, the officers pointed out that conditions for blacks in South Africa “are getting worse instead of better.” The repression of black people has accelerated. The torture and assassination of Steve Biko, and the subsequent government whitewash clarified once and for all the ultimate meaning of apartheid.

US firms which invest in South Africa—perhaps as many as 350 of them—“have done little or nothing to end the brutal repression of blacks in South Africa, but by their presence they have helped to support and maintain it.”

The Officers therefore urged the Union trustees to have their respective pension trusts make no new investments in any firms doing business in South Africa, and “to direct the investment advisor, money manager, or custodian of the assets to divest the trust of such investments as soon as possible, and in a manner that is financially prudent and consistent with the trusts’ legal obligations to our members.”

The implementation of this policy requires the approval of the employer trustees who also serve on the joint boards.

Such action was discussed and approved by delegates to the union trustees’ workshop in San Francisco, January 19-20.

“We have no illusions,” the officers concluded, “that the relatively small holdings our trusts have in those corporations are going to cause a major turnover in their activities in South Africa. We do think, however, that it is incumbent upon our union and other organizations sharing our point of view, to keep the pressure on.”

“Most important, our members have every right to insist that pension money negotiated by the union and held in trust on their behalf be used wisely, morally and in ways that are socially useful and reflect their interests.”
In the 42 years since the National Labor Relations Act became law, employers have learned to use a variety of dodges and delaying tactics—especially endless litigation—to avoid permitting employees to form an union. On this page are a few case histories.

**Bancroft Metals—6-Year Delay**

Bancroft Manufacturing, located in Mississippi, used nearly every trick in the book to frustrate for more than six years the will of the employees to have an union represent them:

Beginning in July 1971 even before a majority voted for a collective bargaining representative, Bancroft began exploring its ability to delay and draw out the process. First, it attempted to coerce employees into voting against union representation. When this failed it protested the validity of the election. Later, it took the position that the employees were professionals and therefore not entitled to vote. Yet a state court ruled that Bancroft Metals was subject to the Act.

Bancroft Metals challenged the election. Then, after the NLRB ordered the company to bargain, it asked the court to delay the proceedings long enough to call into question the election. Finally, it successfully challenged the election on the grounds that it had been improperly conducted.

**We've Got a Date Early in '78!**

Dear Senator,

Soon the Senate will be considering S. 1883, the Labor Law Reform Bill, which the House passed by a heavy margin. We ask: Please, make sure it comes up early for a vote and vote 'yes.'

Please, vote YES for S. 1883 without crippling amendments. Labor law reform will be good for business, good for working people, and good for the government. Thank you for your support.

Name
Address

**Duncan Foundry: Law Needs Clout**

The case of Duncan Foundry and Machine Works Inc., in Allston, Illinois, indicates how the election process can be used to deny workers the right to choose their bargaining agent:

In 1966, the workers at Duncan Foundry voted in favor of representation by the Steelworkers, and the union was certified by the NLRB. By raising objections to the proceedings, the company was able to delay the election for more than 10 years.

**A SECOND ELECTION**

In January 1967, a strike was called to protest the company's union election activities. The company petitioned for another election and again challenged the election. This time the board ordered a new election. The company again challenged the election.

The company then tried to delay the election by challenging the election on the grounds that the workers had voted for a union in 1966 even though they had already voted against one in 1967.

**REPORT ON UNION**

At the time I was hired as an undercover agent, the Wackenhut Corp. explained that I would be working to help the company organize the employees. I was told Mr. Flom was highly impressed with my reports and felt I made reports like in military intelligence. Mr. Flom wanted to meet me in person. The Wackenhut officer said he had explained this was not possible because of my safety.

The Labor Sky Packet Is Still With Us

Last August, the Home Education and Labor Committee held hearings on the Labor Law Reform bill. Numerous workers, retirees, and trade unionists used by employers. One of the witnesses was a Lansing, Michigan, man who called himself "as a company spy at Florida Steel. Following are excerpts from his testimony:

My name is Angel Felix, but I have worked in Tampa, Florida, under the name of Angel Felix. I have been employed at Florida Steel Corp. in the Yard Department on Orient Road.

In about February 1974 I applied for work at Wackenhut in Tampa in response to a newspaper ad seeking an agent for a security company. I filled out an application in which I put down that I had military experience. However, the detective in Puerto Rico. I was asked if I had come in concern of theft and I said yes. I made sure the ad for guards. I asked him if I was interested in a job as an undercover agent and I told him yes. It was explained to me that I would draw a regular salary check from the company I was to work for, in addition as an undercover agent I would receive $12 daily for each report I filed with the Wackenhut Corp.

I would be hired at the Florida Steel Corp. It was explained to me that a union was trying to organize Florida Steel and the company wanted a report on union activities among their workers.

My reports were usually mailed each day to Peninsula Station, Post Office Box 1922, Tampa, Florida 33609. On occasion when I would be late mailing my reports I was called to bring in my reports in person. I would then report in to the Wackenhut office. I would occasion see the secretary type two copies of my reports.

**DISCHARGES FOR UNION ACTIVITY**

I was told the employees who were talking in favor of a union or helping to organize it would be fired, but after I was accepted as an undercover agent, I was told Mr. Flom was highly impressed with my reports and felt I made reports like in military intelligence. Mr. Flom wanted to meet me in person. The Wackenhut officer said he had explained this was not possible because of my safety as an undercover agent. Mr. Flom still insisted on meeting the person. It was finally arranged that Mr. Flom would meet the employees and he gave Mr. Flom the chance to meet me.

**COMPANY PASSES**

In one case the company reported two employees were talking in favor of a union. I did not know their names. I explained that, in the case of the other employee, the company pass and no name tags on the hats or badges of the employees. The leader of the Florida Steel Corp., later issued new name passes with pictures of each employee's name and picture. I worked there from late February 1974, and, as a result of new name passes, the company was enrolled in the National Labor Board order. The company was enrolled in the National Labor Board order. The company was enrolled in the National Labor Board order. The company was enrolled in the National Labor Board order. The company was enrolled in the National Labor Board order. The company was enrolled in the National Labor Board order. The company was enrolled in the National Labor Board order. The company was enrolled in the National Labor Board order. The company was enrolled in the National Labor Board order. The company was enrolled in the National Labor Board order. The company was enrolled in the National Labor Board order. The company was enrolled in the National Labor Board order. The company was enrolled in the National Labor Board order. The company was enrolled in the National Labor Board order. The company was enrolled in the National Labor Board order. The company was enrolled in the National Labor Board order. The company was enrolled in the National Labor Board order.
Big Pacts For Local 26

LOS ANGELES—Warehouse Local 26 members, negotiating for a three-year contract, have ratified a three-year contract calling for substantial wage increases in each of the three years.

In addition, the union’s health and welfare fund, the largest in the area, also made gains in health insurance. The new agreement, which will be effective immediately, calls for increases of 9% in the first year, 8% in the second year, and 7% in the third year.

The agreement was reached after several weeks of negotiation, with members of the negotiating team meeting several times a week to hammer out the details. The agreement includes provisions for increased benefits, including higher contributions to the health and welfare fund, and increased coverage for health care.

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The negotiations were led by Business Agent Ted Bugas, who has been with the union for over 30 years. Bugas is known for his strong negotiating skills and his commitment to fighting for the rights of warehouse workers.

The new agreement is the result of months of hard work and dedication by the members of Local 26. The union thanks all of its members for their hard work and commitment to achieving a fair and equitable contract.

Northwest ILWU Mini-Caucus Held

PORTLAND — Preparations for the longshore caucus and the beginning of negotiations for a new West Coast dock agreement are continuing.

Caucus delegates and officers from Columbia River Area locals met all day Friday, February 17 with the Coast Committee and International officers to informally discuss the issues, and to permit the coast committee to get some input on problems in the existing longshore agreement and proposals for improvements.

A similar session was held in Seattle for Puget Sound area locals, and delegates from the four California locals and the Portland Specialty were also present.

A meeting of the two caucuses was scheduled for February 27.

Federal Decision on Fishing Rights May Mean Jobs for Coos Bay

Several US firms have expressed interest in shore side hake processing in the Coos Bay area. Jackson estimated that “initially this could create maybe 50 jobs in an area that has been chronically depressed, and could translate into many more jobs by 1981.”

The biggest percentage of hake “manifest themselves off the central coast of Oregon,” Jackson said, which is why shore side plants would be located near Coos Bay.

Two state representatives were at the meeting. Rep. Bill Crandell (D-Coeur d’Alene) and Rep. Ted Bugas (R-Closetown) have both been vocal in their support of the project.

Bugs said he would give up plans for shore-based hake processing, if offshore processing was supported and seek a joint venture with Senet, South Korea, other factory ships.

Jackson’s office confirmed that the secretary of Local 15, San Diego, was expected at the meeting, but was unable to come because of illness, Jackson said.

PORTLAND—The Pacific Fishery Management Council voted 6 to 3 to consider an application for an offshore fishing venture between the US and foreign interests.

The vote halted attempts to get a turn around on the January 1977 decision against efforts of Marine Resources, Inc., Seattle (said to be half owned by a branch of the Soviet government and half by Bel- lingham Cold Storage Co., Bellingham) to obtain permission to operate a factory ship in the North Pacific for US fishermen on Soviet factory ships inside the 200 mile limit.

The decision, if not overruled by Commerce Secretary Juanita Kreps, could be the last word for the economic interests at the Sequim Harbor on the Olympic coast, according to Local 12 president Joe Jackowar, who sat in on part of the meeting.

Jackowar said at least 100 persons, including commercial and recreational processors and others, were at the fishery council’s becon. A majority of the fishermen supported the decision.

The action, which was supported by Commerce Secretary Juanita Kreps, could be the last word for the economic interests at the Sequim Harbor on the Olympic coast, according to Local 12 president Joe Jackowar, who sat in on part of the meeting. Jackowar said at least 100 persons, including commercial and recreational processors and others, were at the fishery council’s becon. A majority of the fishermen supported the decision.

Columbia River mini-caucus in session at Local 40 Hall, Longview. Local 21 delegates in forefront.

Automatic Plastic Molding

WASHINGTON, DC—The National Labor Relations Board on February 3 found that Automatic Plastic Molding Co. had, in both 1977 and 1978, engaged in unfair labor practices in failing to bargain in good faith and in violating a arbitration agreement.

The board ordered the company to pay $5,000 in back pay to the employees who were injured when police attacked the picket lines of the company in 1978. The company has indicated that it will appeal the decision.

The company has also been found guilty of unfair labor practices in the past, and has been ordered to pay back wages to employees who were injured in previous strikes.

The company has a long history of labor disputes, and has been involved in several high-profile cases in recent years. The company has been ordered to pay back wages to employees who were injured in previous strikes.

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**Solidarity Turns Seattle Auto Strike into a Winner**

Many Seattle ILWU members, pensioners and auxiliaries have been spending their Saturdays on the picket line this winter. And why not? The steel companies ripped out the middle-class by the Machinists against the King County Auto Dealers Association in the cold of winter.

**Small Steel Firms Attack Union Rules**

Since last August 1 in the biggest of the me-too walkouts, Latrobe Steel has hurt itself through the strike over the last 80 days. The company - which contains compromise and maintenance crews of one sort or another, a few union workers tike their assigned shifts on the maintenance of strict safety standards. Coke Coors' Boycott Taking Hold

Coal talks are scheduled.

A QUESTION OF DIGNITY

It's a question of life and death, former UMWA official Justin McCarthy told the Wall Street Journal. "The miners feel they've been treated like a bunch of chil- dren. They feel they don't go out on wild- cats or imposing binding arbitration, permitting the government to take over the mines while negotiations were continuing; or imposing binding arbitration.**

**ONE PERCENT CLUB**

Many workers were encouraged by the committee's appeal to join the One Percent Club, pledging contributions of $1 or $2 per paycheck monthly for the duration. That, said the Washington State Building and Constructional News reports, "is helping to assure that strike benefits can be paid legally."

In addition, local unions and women's auxiliaries took up the "Shadow Fund" appeal created to help picketing workers' families. The state labor council newsletter reported: "In mid-January, federal mediators proposed that the union secure 'an alternative method of settling this dispute.' The state labor council newsletter reported: "In mid-January, federal mediators proposed that the union secure 'an alternative method of settling this dispute.'

**Coors' boycotting California sales, according to figures re- ported last week. Since then, Coors' sales have increased by 28.2% from November, 1976 to November, 1978. For the same months, Coors' share of the market dropped by 28.2% (from 37.6% to 24.6%). Alas! Coors' November, 1977 percentage of the state beer market (24.6%) was 1.4% lower than in October, 1977 and 6.3% lower than May, 1977.**
California New Politics Conference Has Substantial Labor Support

OAKLAND, Calif.—Some 700 people—union officials and rank and file, politicians and aspiring politicians, representatives from minority, women's, environmental, consumer, community and student groups—met here after the Washington's Birthday weekend to seriously discuss the need to develop alternative public policy; to bring forth, as Congressman Ron Dellums put it, "a new movement of political ideals and human rights—a movement where la- bor, human rights, environmentalists, and human rights—such work is cleaner, different, and shake evil to its very foundation."

Alameda County Central Labor Council Secretary John Hensley spoke of unions as an alternative to the establishment: "Never has there been and never will there be a popular labor movement in the eyes of the people. Never has there been and never will there be a mass demonstration in Washington on April 15. Bakke in San Francisco, April 8, and a call for a mass demonstration against... represent a major assault on the gains... . . . . .

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Chris Ronning's 90th Birthday Party

SAN PEDRO—Reminided at 92 because he "still felt young" Local 13 pensioner Chris Ronning celebrated his 90th birthday, January 31. His grandson, the dock worker was equally spry mate of 84.

Ronning, now residing at the Monterey resident for more than a half a century, and a longshoreman for 53 years marked his birthday at a party given by his two children—Don and Hans—and his family.

Ronning is a native of Norway, but always came back to the docks and to the waterfront. He was a longshoreman, and a waterfront legend in his own time.

In 1915. He spent two years on the coast before moving to Astoria, Oregon, to farm for six years, breaking up 200 acres of virgin soil.

In 1919, after a particularly rough year, he and his brother went to work on the Prair for a Norwegian farmer.

Chris moved to San Pedro, and spent his first Christmas in America on the job in a Minnesota lumber camp.

After completing the thrashing season one year in North Dakota, Ronning headed westward, settling for several years in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, as a lumberman. There he met and married his first wife.

Chris Ronning, left, receives service award from Local 13 President Art Almeida at his 90th birthday party. At right is his son Arne, who served as hostmaster.

The ILWU is proud to be represented by such dedicated people.

---photo by Phil Douglas

Longshoreman Serves on Development Committee

ASTORIA — Jim Platt, long active in Local 10, has been appointed to a third term as chairman of the Clatsop County Economic Development Committee.

At the committee's January 24 meeting, a resolution was passed, recommending a peanum be placed on the ballot as a plan of long-proposed Brown and Root plant at Warrenton (which would be cut into oil drilling equipment, is reservoir) as "sound answer to the area's economic woes," the resolution said.

Local 10 Drill Team Honors

OAKLAND—ILWU Local 10's Drill Team placed second in the annual Oakland's Children's New Year Parade. The parade was held Saturday, February 11. Awards were made at the Oakland Museum right after the parade.

The precision marching band also participated in the San Francisco Chinese New Year's Parade last month.

First Prize for Safety

LONGVIEW—Jim Breelove, longshoreman Local 24, walked off with the 89th first prize for safety suggestions for the last quarter of 1977.

"Put smoke detector system on all blowout line systems and in steering wheelhouse Lexington, the facility, which would sit next to the Morses of Arcadia, left, and Ronning of Arcadia, center.

Naydine Quartero’s Thanks

I would be very grateful if you would order #4600-016 for the following.

All the friends and acquaintances who have writ-

ten, phoned, or dropped in to let me know they were thinking of me. It has been good medicine. Dominic and I appreciate all the good wishes and good will you have expressed and the many gifts that were sent.

I miss the NCDC and auxiliary work very much but know this confidence the ILWU is like a home, and hearty, and maintaining our position of strength and leadership in the trade union movement of the nation. To all of you, may 1978 be good to you and our Union. Best wishes to all.

Naydine Quartero

1712 West Harding Way

Stockton, CA
US Steel, 17 Other Companies Duck Federal Income Tax Payments

WASHINGTON, DC — Seventeen major US corporations paid no federal income tax in 1976 although they had a combined working profit of $8.3 billion, Rep. Charles Vanik (D-Ohio) reported today.

In his annual study of corporate taxes, Vanik listed the 17 companies that paid no income taxes for the 168 companies in the study was 13.06%. The statutory corporate tax rate is 40%.

Noting President Carter had suggested lowering the corporate rate to 35%, Vanik said, "this could possibly result in exempting almost one-third of America's major corporations from federal income tax payments.

There are numerous methods companies may legitimately use to reduce their taxes, but the one Vanik termed "the investment tax credit and the carry forward of previous years' losses to offset current year income.

SCOTT-FREE

Vanik listed these 17 companies as paying no effective US tax on their income (noted in parentheses) through use of these various tax devices:

United States Steel ($108 million); Bethlehem Steel ($102 million); LTV ($39.4 million); Armsco Steel ($100.5 million); National Steel ($81.3 million); General Dynamics ($18.8 million); Republic Steel ($90.4 million); Singer ($107.4 million); Phelps Dodge ($40.1 million); Texas Gulf Sulphur ($17.8 million); American Airlines ($1.8 million); Eastern Airlines ($46.2 million); Pan American World Airlines ($100.3 million); The Southern Company ($181.1 million); Pacific Gas Electric ($218.8 million); Philadelphia Electric Company ($227.7 million); and the Chase Manhattan Corp. ($144 million).

Vanik said an additional 41 companies paid effective tax rates of less than 10% despite combined worldwide income of $25.9 billion.

The highest effective tax rates in the study were Kennecott Copper at 26.2% (the high figure because of the minimum charge for preferred income and dividends from foreign subsidiaries), United Airlines ($86.9 million), Whitehall at 48%, and Greyhound at 68.8%.

"The 13.06% overall effective rate was achieved at least partially because even more of the large companies in the annual study were able to completely avoid paying federal income taxes," Vanik said. Eleven companies were tax-free in Vanik's 1976 study.

Next Dispatcher Deadline: March 3

Brother takes his little sister fishing at the opening of the Oregon trout season—amateur photographer.

A past report from the US Department of Interior's 'Fish and Wildlife Service' describes an angler as: "Any person who participates in hook and line fishing.

My Webster's unabridged dictionary contains no such word as "anglerette," "fish- ergall" or "fisherwoman." The word "fish- er" is defined as: "A person who or that fishes." The word "fisherman" is defined as one whose occupation or business is to catch fish and an "angler" as "one who angers."/"I'm afraid I tried to be a Claud- minded person but unless anyone can su-"/"me to the contrary, all reference to gender is hereby removed from the gener- al use of the word "angler" or "fisher- man" in these columns and, if perchance a line such as "The lady was a good fish-"/"man" is used./"I feel certain that any information of interest:

"Only male cricketeers; only male lightening bugs light up; and only female mosquitoes bite.

I hear, via the wild, outdoor grapevine, that deer, at one time, were lured by hunters with music. European sportmen would hire violonists to charm the animals to within shooting range. Who was it that said: "Music nothes the savage breath!" And who was it that said: "People who cannot find time for recreation are obliged, sooner or later, to find time to be un- happy because of the inordinate and un-controlable desire of those who angle for fish."

"I have always tried to be not a closed- minded person but unless anyone can su-"/"me to the contrary, all reference to gender is hereby removed from the gener- al use of the word "angler" or "fisher- man" in these columns and, if perchance a line such as "The lady was a good fish-"/"man" is used./"I feel certain that any information of interest:

A young man who teaches his best girl to fish is wise beyond his years.

Third, with 25 million followers, were those beach lovers who indulged in clam- ming, crabbing and shell collecting.

Fourth was hunting with 30 million fans. This group was reactivated by a special proclamation that opened the season for all. Hunting is not a sport to be enjoyed at the expense of the animals.

Darlene Hill Reappointed

Pretty Gail Spence of Alaska, an ex- treme fisherman, was reappointed by the Fish and Wildlife Service to do another term as "BOLO" fishing expert. She has the most accurate and the most up-to-date information available to the public.

What was particularly enlightening and pleasing to me is that 35% of American fishermen are women. The average age of the American angler is 34. While the most popular age bracket for men anglers was from 29 to 40 years of age (a little less than 9 million), the most popular for women was from 25 to 34 which might indicate that you should "Sugar daughter or granddaughter fishing with you this year.

With all the talk of non-polluting control of insects around, I found the following bit of information of interest:

"Only male cricketeers; only male lightening bugs light up; and only female mosquitoes bite."

Be sure to send Fred Goetz a picture for inclusion in the next issue. You outdoor columnist would like to illustrate a BOLO fishing lures for a clear snapshot of a fishing or hunting scene. Only requirement is that you be a member of the ILWU, a member of the family or, of course, a retired member. One of the thousands of cases involving juvenile offenders is that not one of the boys or girls that came up before him had followed a consistent pattern of regu- lar, wholesome, outdoor activities.

Darlene Hill Reappointed

A good way to get your news items appearing the Local 21 Bulletin is to send them to Fred Goetz.
US corporations have made no significant impact in either relaxing apartheid or establishing company policies which would offer small but nevertheless important models of multilateral nonviolence.

...The net effect of American investment has been to strengthen the economic and military self-sufficiency of South Africa's apartheid regime.

Echoing a theme sounded by virtually every company that does business in South Africa, GE said it has no plans to do so. But many black employees in that country by remaining than by leaving. Jobs for blacks mean more than job security and standards of living that they would otherwise enjoy, according to the corporate spokesperson.

In March 1977, under the guidance of Leon Sullivan, a black minister who sits on the board of the General Motors Corporation, 12 major American companies agreed to support a set of six principles aimed at promoting fair employment practices at their plants in South Africa. Today the list of companies has grown to 56.

Delegates Charged US Collaboration in Apartheid

The following statement of policy was adopted unanimously by the ILWU's 20th International Convention, held in San Francisco on Saturday.

While many peoples on the African continent have fought for and won independence and the right to self-determination in the recent years, the possibility of such aspirations continues in South Africa.

The United States government and giant US corporations através investments in trade, military and economic aid, has supported black diplomacy jobs, wages and salaries, in and fact collaborate, in the brutal oppression of millions of black Africans.

In South Africa, four million whites totally dominate the lives of 15 million blacks and three million "coloreds" (people with African and European ancestry). Apartheid, the complete subjugation of blacks and "coloreds" to white supremacist rule, is the law of the land. The most elemental civil liberties do not move about freely, the right to a job with fair wages and working conditions and to education, the right to live where one wants to live, and more—are officially denied.

The anti-apartheid freedom movement has been ruthlessly outlawed and subjected to fascist terror. Its leaders have been imprisoned with maximum sentences, brutalized and slain, driven into exile.

From this reservoir of misery and terror, about 300 US corporations extracted annual profits averaging about 19 percent (after taxes) from an investment of $900 million in varied subsidiaries and affiliates. Among the largest investors in South Africa are:

IBM

International Harvester

Union Oil

Gillette

General Motors

Ford

Chrysler

General Electric

US Steel

The companies and their stockholders benefit from slave labor conditions in South Africa.

For black workers the average wage in manufacturing is $69 a month. For white workers it's $419. The black wage is below the poverty line, even as set by white officialism in life in the ghetto townships where blacks must reside. Black workers are excluded from skilled jobs, qualified or not, in manufacturing and mining, in construction, in management and public service. Strike protests or even the threat of protests about these conditions have traditionally been met with discharge, imprisonment or worse.

The US government shares responsibility for these conditions by encouraging corporate investments in South Africa, and by repeatedly lining up with South Africa against its critics in the United Nations.

We can lend support to the oppressed African peoples fighting for freedom by demanding that the US government and US corporations cease supporting their oppressors.

• Immediately terminate all trade relations with South Africa

• Apply strict economic sanctions against US firms doing business in these countries as a way of eroding the profit out of racism and employment of slave labor

• Refuse the use of all US facilities to all South African planes and ships; and, to all planes and ships carrying South African cargoes

• End all sales of arms and ammunition, and the granting of military and economic aid, to South Africa

• Direct our United Nations and International Labor Organization delegations to fight for enactment of similar sanctions by other nations; and that wherever appropriate, in negotiating new contracts, we work toward these goals.