Optimism On Labor Law Reform

WASHINGTON, DC — The senator who will be the floor leader for the labor law reform bill when it is called up for debate this spring is optimistic about the outcome and outraged at some of the tactics of groups that are fighting the legislation.

Sen. Harrison A. Williams, Jr. (D-NJ) is confident that the bill he authored through the Human Resources Committee earlier this year will be adopted in a strong majority vote from the full Senate.

He's not taking more than a simple majority to bring it to a vote, Williams is convinced. He expects opponents to mount a filibuster and, under the Senate rules, it will take the votes of 60 of the 100 senators to trigger it.

Williams believes the votes will be forthcoming when the showdown comes, particularly if the Senate campaigns for the bill continues at its present intensive level.

In a recent interview Williams was indignant—sometimes also amused—at the attempts by some of the bill's hard-core opponents to distort the legislation beyond recognition.

No Changes

The reform bill itself, he said, is repeatedly stressed, doesn't change the basic provisions of the National Labor Relations Act.

Federal law already gives groups of workers the right to choose, without intimidation, whether to be represented by a union. If workers so choose, the law requires good-faith negotiations between their employer and the union—an honest effort to reach agreement on conditions of employment through collective bargaining.

The legislation provides procedural reforms designed to reduce delays in holding representation elections and in enacting unfair labor practices. But it also imposes stronger penalties for violations of the law with the clear intent that it should no longer be more profitable for an employer to defy the law than to comply with it.

"I can't think of any problem for the law in settling management in the bill, nothing," Williams stresses.

Dock Caucus Meets April 10

SAN FRANCISCO—The ILWU longshore, clerk and walking boss caucus will convene Monday, April 10 at 9:30 am at the Jack Tar Hotel on Van Ness and Geary, in San Francisco.

A special legislative workshop—seminar on the operation of the longshore pension and welfare plans, and some of the legal problems facing the union, will also be held for the delegates Sunday, April 9.

Delegate credentials must be sent to the Coast Committee no later than April 1.

Resolutions adopted at local membership meetings should have been submitted in triplicate to the Coast Committee no later than March 27, 1978 to be processed for the Caucus. The Rules adopted by the December, 1974 Caucus provide that resolutions may be submitted by individuals or bodies other than the membership up to 5:30 p.m. on the second day of the Caucus.

No resolutions submitted after that deadline will be accepted for consideration except by unanimous vote of the delegates present.

Moral Support Key to Miners' Victory

SAN FRANCISCO — The moral support extended by American labor has been critical for the continued strength of the nearly four-month old strike of 180,000 eastern coal miners, a United Mine Workers official told the ILWU International Executive Board.

"We need moral support just as much as we need financial help, but in my opinion we need moral support just as much as we need financial help," said UMW International Representative Terry Frye.

After briefly discussing the major issues in the strike, and responding to questions from Board members, Frye concluded that the miners would not go back to work until Markey or no, "until we get our medical coverage back and until the mines are safe. We won't go back to work for the current wages either," he said.

(As this issue of The Dispatcher goes to press, the striking coal miners are preparing to vote on a new tentative agreement to end the strike. See story on page 4.)

Board Actions

The Board, as reported in The Dispatcher of March 16, donated $25,000 to the United Mine Workers' legal defense fund and requested a voluntary assessment of $1 per member per month for strikers' relief. Action on the assessment, however, was held up pending the vote on the new agreement.

The Board also instructed the International Officers "to carefully monitor this situation as it develops, and to work with the entire trade union movement to take whatever action is necessary to guarantee the survival of a strong United Mine Workers Union and to achieve the legitimate improvements sought by the rank and file of that Union."

On Friday, March 10, the Board adopted additional language which will have the effect of authorizing the Officers, if and when they see fit, to ask the Longshore Division to hold a one-day work stoppage in a demonstration of support for the Mine Workers. There is no specific date set for any such work stoppage.

DISTORTION

An unauthorized statement released by a member of the ILWU to the media, to the effect that the Board had ordered a 24-hour shut-down on West Coast docks was, according to the Board, a gross distortion of the board's action.

In other actions, the Board heard reports from the International Officers on finances, organizing, and the negotiation of a new agreement in Canadian longshore, Hawaiian pineapple and hotel, as well as preparations for West Coast longshore bargaining.

Finally, the Board authorized the International Officers to ask the locals to make contributions toward the establishment of a Wayne Morris professorship at the University of Oregon (see story, page 6).
Unions Hit Inflated Military Budget

Non-Military Spending Means More Jobs

WASHINGTON, DC—President Carter's $322 million military budget for fiscal year 1979 is coming under increasing fire from labor—including a number of major unions with many members employed in defense-related industries.

In a dramatic reversal of campaign promises made in 1976, President Carter has asked Congress for an increase of well over $15 billion in the defense budget, including military assistance programs. The 1976 campaign included a promise of military spending cuts of $10 billion.

Unions like the United Auto Workers, the Chemical and Atomic Workers, the Machinists and the Steel, County and Municipal Workers—even the entire Industrial Union Department of the AFL-CIO—have opposed the Carter military budget.

President Dwight Eisenhower, 1953, recently said that "whenever there is a war lobby in the government, it represents the people who well may be the appeasers, and the appeasers may be the traitors, and the traitors may be the enemies of the nation."

"Every gun that is made, every warship that is launched, every rocket that is fired, signifies, in final analysis, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed..."

"This world in arms is not spending money alone; it is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children..."

Writers at Work

A six-session program on "Literature of the Workplace" is to be offered by the San Francisco Community College Library and Program for Unicorn, a new writer's organization in the community. The classes will be centered around poetry and fiction written about work, and the use of such material in organizing. The classes, free and open to the public, will meet for three days evenings 7-9 p.m. April 4, 13, 20, 27, May 4 and May 11 at 33 Gough Street, SF. For more information call 260-3900.

Auto Profits

A tidal wave of nearly $8 billion in profits by Ford and General Motors last year swept corporate executives' incomes skyward, with consumers and workers drowning in debt.

While the corporations distribute a record $120 million in executive bonuses, potential car buyers are facing steep increases on the 1978 models. The $2.5 billion spent on the production and testing of new weapons systems like the B-1 bomber, the $4.8 billion earmarked for production and testing of new nuclear weapons, and the $1.19 billion spent on the production and testing of new nuclear weapons, and the $1.19 billion spent on the production and testing of new nuclear weapons, and the $1.19 billion spent on the production and testing of new nuclear weapons, and the $1.19 billion spent on the production and testing of new nuclear weapons, and the $1.19 billion spent on the production and testing of new nuclear weapons, and the $2.5 billion spent on

ILWU Endorsed 'Transfer Amendment'

The following statement of policy on the "Transfer Amendment" was adopted unanimously by delegates to the ILWU's Twenty-Second International Convention held in San Francisco in August 1977. The United States spends entirely too much money on "defense"—$8.5 trillion since the end of World War II. Such excessive spending has fundamentally distorted the US economy, wasted the hard-earned tax dollars of American workers, and helped bring us to the edge of disaster.

The major portion of this "defense" is spent on military spending. Military spending could be cut back by $3.6 billion. Instead, it is spent on the "defense" budget, which is the most inflationary kind of federal outlay because it increases the purchasing power of individuals and corporations while diverting resources away from production of goods and services on which this additional purchasing power could be spent.

CONVERSION

"A program of conversion to greater emphasis on civilian production, Bannon said, "would include protection for the communities and workers involved in the production of goods and services on which this additional purchasing power could be spent."

We agree. Conversions are the key to the future. In a dramatic reversal of campaign promises made in 1976, President Carter has asked Congress for an increase of well over $15 billion in the defense budget, including military assistance programs. The 1976 campaign included a promise of military spending cuts of $10 billion.

We favor a cut-back in wasteful and dangerous military spending and the transfer of the savings to meet human needs. We support the concept of the "Transfer Res. Committee of the Coalition for a New Foreign Policy."

This $13.6 billion reduction in the military budget would eliminate some 350,000 jobs in defense. But if that money were applied to programs geared to the needs of the American people—education, child care, housing, health—it would produce an estimated 65,000 new jobs. Military spending creates fewer jobs per tax dollar than any other government program. At the same time, it is inflationary because it adds to the total demand in the economy without increasing the supply of goods available.

We also reject the budget-time tactic adopted by the defense lobby and its allies—including some within the labor movement—who are attempting to revive the "cold war" with arguments about the threat of Soviet military superiority. Both the US and the USSR are able to obliterates one another 20 or 30 times. To think that spending a few billion dollars more on one more weapon system would in some way give the edge back to the US is lunacy.

During the 1976 campaign, President Carter promised to cut military spending by $4.1 billion. However, in his new budget, he has made no cuts at all, but simply trimmed $2.7 billion off the increase proposed by President Ford. We remind him of the plank in the Democratic platform that reads, "the security of our nation depends first and foremost on the internal strength of the American society," and we call upon him to make this the guiding principle of his administration.
Borax Stewards Hold Workshop

WILMINGTON — ILWU Local 20-A stewards at the US Borax waterfront facility held a stewards grievance handling, contract language and related matters Saturday, March 18.

The session was particularly timely, said Local 20-A Secretary Mike Tavares. “Things have been a little too tough lately and we’ve been working the grievance machinery pretty hard.”

The instructor was an old ILWU hand—Al Perisho, formerly President of ship clerks’ Local 63, now employed with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

Perisho began the workshop with a discussion of the ways in which contract language can be manipulated and misunderstood; he turned then to a discussion of the duties of the stewards and the proper handling of grievances. Several film strips were also particularly useful, Tavares said.

Hotel Workers Happy in ILWU

HONOLULU—Employees of the Sheraton Waikena Village on the Big Island voted early this month to remain in ILWU Local 142.

The results of the election conducted by the Honolulu office of the National Labor Relations Board were ILWU; 114; the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union (AFL-CIO), 20; and no union, 5.

The ILWU originally organized the hotel when it was opened by C. Brewer & Co.

The election representation was ordered when officials of the Hotel Workers Union—the ILWU’s long-time rival on the Neighbor Islands—convinced NLRB officials that more than one third of the employees wanted to leave the ILWU and join them.

Wilkes-Bashford Pact

SAN FRANCISCO — Local 6 members at Wilkes-Bashford, a men’s clothing store, have ratified a two-year contract which provides total wage and COLA increases of $1.45 over two years. The first increase of 75c is effective immediately; another 25c increase takes effect June 1; the final $1.50 is to be paid in the second year of the agreement.

Wilkes-Bashford workers also won continuation of Local 6 health and welfare and pension plans. The contract adds a full day, an additional six days sick leave per year and other improvements. The negotiators were Local 6 Business Agent Joe figueroa and Phil Lum, Jr.

Elevator Workers Join

UMATILLA, Ore.—Elevator workers at Pendleton Grain Growers voted 3 to 1 for ILWU affiliation in an NLRB election held in this upper Columbia River port city, March 14.

In Burbank, on the Washington side of the river, employees of the Cargill Grain elevator voted 9 to 0 to accept ILWU as their bargaining agent.

The eight workers involved in the two elections will be members of the ILWU at large and be serviced by the NW Regional Office.

Local 17 Officers Attend Warehouse Conference

SAN DIEGO — Problems of runway shifts, loading and unloading conditions in the warehouse industry were discussed at February 27- March 3 workshop, sponsored by the Western Conference of Teamsters.

Attending for ILWU warehouse Local 17 were President Donald Brandon and Vice-President Al Bailey.

BOYCOTT COORS BEER

Local 20-A stewards in session March 18. At head of table is discussion leader Al Perisho, formerly of clerks Local 63 and now with the US Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

Maritime Commission Wins Authority Over Multi-Employer Labor Pacts

WASHINGTON, DC — A 5-4 majority of the Supreme Court ruled that the Federal Maritime Commission has the power to void any collective bargaining agreement it considers stifling to competition and contrary to the public interest.

The commission claimed this power under the 1916 Shipping Act in a case involving the 1972 ILWU-FMA contract.

The ILWU and the FMA had agreed to seek from municipal terminals in Washington and Oregon the same benefits provided under the contract with the employer association. The ILWU had separate contracts with the municipal terminals even though the work force came from the same hiring hall.

ANTI-COMPETITIVE

At the request of the municipal employers, the Federal Maritime Commission agreed to review the contract to see whether it under the ban on certain types of anti-competitive agreements written into the Shipping Act of 1916.

The US Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled that collective bargaining agreements involve national labor policy and are not subject to review by the Maritime Commission.

But the Supreme Court majority held otherwise, in a decision written by Justice Byron R. White. His decision noted that only multi-employer contracts would be affected and that the Federal Maritime Commission has said it will establish procedures for conditional approval of collective bargaining agreements pending a final decision on their legality.

"LITTLE DANGER"

There would seem little danger, he wrote, that "the ordinary collective bargaining agreements establishing wages, hours and working conditions in a bargaining unit could or would be disapproved."

A dissenting opinion, by Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr., pointed out that the Maritime Commission for more than 60 years didn’t consider policing of labor contracts to be necessary.

"The majority of this Court," he charged, "undercuts federal labor policy, imposing undue burdens on collective bargaining without advancing significantly any Shipping Act objective."

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DISPATCHER

Dispatch Rules Upheld in Casuals’ Suit

PORTLAND—Dispatch rules which give preference to registered clerks until longshoremen in preference to clerks were upheld last month when a federal circuit court judge here dismissed a suit brought by a group of casual clerks against Local 40 and the International Longshoremen’s Association.

The casuals had charged that the local had failed to provide them adequate representation by discussion rules which allow only regular “A” and “B” clerks and longshoremen.

The issue in the case, said Judge Otto Skogel, is whether Local 40 and the International were “necessary” in giving such clerks a bargaining right under which the casuals experienced reduced work, lower wages, and employment benefits as compared to other workers.

ONE BARGAINING UNIT

The court first of all determined that longshoremen are entitled to preferential status over casual clerks because “the evidence makes clear that, at least since the late 1950’s, a single coast-wide bargaining unit of clerks and longshoremen has existed,” invalidating the casuals’ claim “that they were discriminated against in favor of workers not included in the clerks bargaining unit.”

Citing a number of precedents to the effect that unions may differentiate between various contract categories, the court said, that the local and the union had no objection to the dispatchers’ suit.

"Applying such a standard," Skogel declared, "the defendants are not guilty of unfair representation. . . . We do not find it unreasonable for defendants to take steps to insure a comfortable standard of living for a large number of regular employees (regular clerks and longshoremen) by giving such employees priority for the available work even though a minority of members of the bargaining unit (plentiful casuals) and others in the same position were being penalized during peak periods of waterfront activity."

The court concluded that “the discrepancies in benefits accorded to the different groups of workers are more than offset by efforts to distribute the available work opportunity among a majority of members in the bargaining unit."

Local 40 was represented in this litigation by Fred T. Leonard, Leonard represented the International.

Local 6 Convention

SAN FRANCISCO—ILWU warehouse Local 6 will hold its annual Contract and Constitutional Convention on Saturday, April 8 at Goodman Hall, 10 Jack London Square, Oakland. The convention will be called to order at 8:30 a.m. Free parking is available.

Mushroom Pepperoni for Local 35

TRONA, Calif. — Some 18 workers at a local restaurant—a pizza place to be specific—have joined ILWU Chemical Workers Local 35, and tentatively agreed to their first union contract. Local 35 President Glenn "Pappy" Demnan reports how it happened.

"On February 18, 1978, Don Wright and I approached Terry Hartfield, owner of John’s Pizza Parlor, with 13 of our present employees signed on pledge cards desiring the ILWU to represent them in obtaining a union shop.

"FINALLY On March 8, 1978, he offered to have an election, if I would include the five new employees he had hired after I approached him for recognition. With the consent of the employees on strike, I refused to consent to this. Hartfield then closed the restaurant.

"The restaurant was sold to Tom Chadwell, an out-of-towner who seems to see just what our demands would be.

BACK TO WORK

"I first of all informed him that he would be required to put all of his employees back to work, including the two that Hartfield had fired.

"At a meeting between the employees, myself and Chadwell the following tentative agreement was reached: the restaurant would give a one week union vacation, time and one half for work, a grievance procedure, seniority clause, uniform and per day in pay."

"The picket signs were then taken down after Chadwell signed the contract. After the picketing, March 18, 1978—renamed Tom’s Place—will be served by the ILWU under which the casuals experienced reduced work, lower wages, and employment benefits as compared to other workers."

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Douglas Aircraft Striker Asks:

‘What Would Life Be Like Without the Union?’

WILMINGTON — Anxious to show his appreciation for five days work on the Wilming-

ton docks last month, Douglas Aircraft

striker Michael Angelo Berardini

sent longshore Local 13 a cheque for $8.75

to pay his share of union expenses. “I do not

believe in a free ride,” he wrote Local 13 Sec-

ty-Treasurer Tony Salcido.

(Berardini is a member of Local 148 of the

United Auto Workers, now in their sec-

dond month on strike at Douglas.)

Salcido returned the check with thanks,

pointing out that while the gesture was de-

sirable, he would have preferred to be paid for

helping a striker out. “That’s what unions are all about,” he said.

Berardini’s Strikers would not take no for an answer. First he wrote back to express his disappoint- ment that the local had not accepted his check, pointing out that he had wanted to help out because of “how, what and why unionists have done for fellow workers and their families, for

example, for our way of life, our standard of living, our dignity to be treated as a human being and to protect our families in case something happens. Imagine what the world would be like without the union. It would be like a living hell!”

“I do know that one day you have enough

work for your members and other days you don’t. It is normal as day by day, still the appreciation and the gratitude are the same. As a fellow UAW member, no man is an island. We will depend on each other regardless of consequences,” Berardini concluded.

Tough Strike at Douglas Aircraft

DETROIT — Battling both management, a tough army of UAW

members entered the second month of its strike against McDonnell Douglas Corp.,

picketing in torrential rains.

Western rainsstorms and snow squalls delayed some pickets, but the spirits and

determination of the 6,000 striking mem-

bers of UAW Locals 148 at Long Beach, Calif.; 1903 and 79 at Tulsa, Okla.; and 1421 at

Melbourne, Ark.

“The morale of the UAW strikers re-

mains high, and the bargaining committee

and the membership are firm in their re-

solve to achieve a fair and equitable settle-

ment,” UAW Vice-President Ken Bannon

reported in a letter to WILMINGTON aerospace

unions in the United States and Canada.

Bannon, director of the UAW Aerospace

Division, pointed out that the UAW had not

bargained in good faith and repeated-ly

had increased its demands for takeaways from the economics of the Boeing packaging.

As this Issue of The Dispatcher went to press, meetings had resumed with manage-

ment.

Puerto Rican Utility Workers in Bitter Strike

SAN JUAN, PR — Some 6,200 workers of the Electrical Industry and Irrigation

Workers Union (UTIER) have been on strike against Puerto Rico’s government-owned

electric utilities company, known as the Water Resources Administration (WRA), since December 27.

Negotiations have broken down. The union and the government agency’s man-

agement have refused to discuss any non-economic provisions for the contract, but have been unable to make progress on issues of improve-ments and benefits.

WAGES

Management explained that the workers do not need a large hike. But the union points out that while productivity has increased, real wages have been increased every year since 1973, as inflation has soared.

The union asked originally for a 5% in-

crease per hour, but management offered only 1%. When the union reduced its de-

mand to 1%, the government offered 0.5%. When the union again lowered its demand to 0.4%, the government responded by say-

ing that it had made its final offer. Then, on November 11, the WRA management broke off negotiations and met with the director of Civil Defense, to plan methods of using polygraph tests on workers.

The Adolph Coors Co. sold 721,000 fewer

barrels of beer last year than it did in 1976—the apparent result of labor’s con-

sumer boycott against the strike Colorado

brewery.

Coors disclosed in its annual report that

beer sales fell from 13.5 million barrels in

1976 to 12.3 million barrels in 1977. Meanwhile, dollar sales volume and net income for the fourth quarter showed sub-

stantial declines. Sales dropped from $128.8 million to $121.2 million for the last three months of 1977 and net earnings fell 50% to $7 million in 1976 to $4.6 million last year.

In a three-month period ended last Oc-

tober, barrel sales dropped by a half-million to 4.2 million barrels from the comparable 1976 period.

ISSUES

The company attributed the declines to several factors, including the strike. Mem-

bers of Directly Affiliated Local Union 366

have been on strike since last April over

seniority issues and the company’s insist-

ence on using polygraph tests on workers.

David Sicker, the AFL-CIO’s national coordinator of the Coors’ boycott, said that labor’s campaign is obviously taking its toll in Coors’ sales since the company is preparing an all-out promotion of its new “light” beer.

No Details Yet

Coal Miners Vote on New Contract

WASHINGTON, DC. — As this Issue of The Dispatcher goes to press, the soft

coal miners—on strike since December 6—are voting on a new tentative agreement negotiated between the United Mine Workers and President Carter.

This marks the third attempt by the United Mine Miners and officials of the Binghamton, N.Y., area, to negotiate a conclusion to the coal strike. The first tentative agreement, ne-

gotiated February 6, was dumped by the union’s 39-member Bargaining Council even before it was presented to the rank and file; the miners voted down a second tentative pact by a 2-1 margin earlier this month.

Details of the new agreement, approved by the Bargaining Council by 22-17, were not made public pending a vote. Accord-

ing to the Wall Street Journal, however, the coal operators made some concessions on what had become the major strike is-

sues: “labor discipline,” health benefits, and pensions.

COAL-HARTEY LESSEN

John L. Lewis’ old theory that “you can’t mine coal with bayonets” was more than

amply demonstrated in this strike on March 7, after the miners had roundser-

ingly defeated the second tentative agree-

ment. President Carter has since stated he would seek a Taft-Hartley “back-to-work” injunction.

Accordingly, several days later, a fed-

eral court issued a preliminary 10-day injunc-

tion against the miners. The action was

however was massively ignored by the strikers, and union mines have re-

mained nearly 100% down.

The preliminary injunction was allowed to lapse March 17 after the new agree-

ment was reached.

Shorter Work Hours

Conference April 11

DEARBORN, Mich. — The first national conference of the “All Unions to Shorten the Work Week” will take place here April

11.

The Committee was founded last fall when delegates from 12 international Unions met here to kick off a national move-

ment to create jobs by reducing the hours of labor. This conference will be on "bargaining and legislation.

Main speakers at the Conference will be


Chairman of the meeting will be Edward E. Hesser, chairman of the National Labor Relations Board.

On April 12, General Session, speakers will include

AFL-CIO President George Meany, AFL President George Meany, and others.

The program will be followed by a day of seminars.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 31.
Washington Report

Carter's Program a Shambles--Time
For Final Push on Labor Law Reform

By Pat Token
Washington Representative

WASHINGTON, DC—President Carter's program and the Democratic Party's platform are in total disarray, after only 14 months of administration. The program has either compromised away or suffered defeats on vital issues of labor, energy, and consumer representation.

Carter has proposed the largest peace- time and consumer representation. as much as $8 billion. His recently pro- 
posed budget at the same time cuts aid to 
the nation's unemployed back to work. The unemployment figure still re- mains over 10 million.

Carter and the Democrats must now deal with the employer and business organizations supported by the reorganized right-wing 
 frost the House and the Senate in 1975 and 
 vetoed by President Ford. The legislation 
 has been kicking around for nine years, 
 and finally, the business community has 
 had their way. The Consumer Representa- 
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The Senate Government Affairs Commit- 
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Criminal Code Act Threatens Repression of Labor, US Civic Life

WASHINGTON, DC—Without much fanfare, Senate Bill 1437, the Criminal Code Reform Act of 1977, is now ready for action by the House of Representatives.

Passage of this bill, according to a panel of distinguished law professors, would have a repressive effect on political life in this country, and would "put the federal government in the business of interfering in the conduct of labor disputes on a massive scale."

The bill is a "cleverly designed" version of Senate Bill 1—the "bill of frights" which was ditched by its sponsors in 1976 after it was greeted by widespread public protests. According to Professor John Zak (Yale), Vern Countryside (Harvard), and Carole E. Goldberg (UCLA), it "still repre-sents an attempt to give the federal government an instrument of repression and protest." The term "republican," they say, "is not safe to pass laws on the theory that only wise and benevolent government officials will enforce them. We cannot be sure not only about the obvious dangers but also to those practitioners and others informed in restrictive legislation."

EFFECT ON LABOR

Sections of the bill, which would particularly affect labor union activity, demonstrate this danger:

One section of S 1437, for example, would make it a crime to disobey or "re-sist" a court order or "resist" the enforcement of a court order as such as a "tort" by a union. The term "resist" could include any form of opposition, including an article in a union newsletter or a speech before a union meeting, according to the professors.

A section on extortion provides that any person who "obtains the property of another by threats or by such person in fear of bodily injury or "dam-age to property" is guilty of a federal of-fense subject to a maximum of 12 years in prison or a $100,000 fine.

Labor unions to protest higher wages or more favorable working conditions frequently threaten an employer or place him in fear that his property will be damaged by a strike. Similarly, labor unions at-tempt to gain an employer's cooperation in the form of higher wages. Hence, labor unions are placed in a very vulnerable position by S 1437. The current law provides that S 1437 would also permit wide-spread use of the federal charge of sabotage in labor disputes. A new, broad defini-tion of sabotage would include damage to property or a public facility "used in, or particularly suited to, national defense." Staff federal penalties therefore could be applied to most government workers, not just the 15 percent of the federal workforce designated as the "protected sector of American private industry."

FORUM ON SB 1437

"Scattered throughout this bill," according to a recent editorial in the Los Angeles Times, "are provisions that would have wide effects on all forms of political expres-sion and protest." The Times particularly cites sections impinging on the confi-dentiality of press sources, sections broadening the definition of "interference with the power of the courts to issue gag orders," as well as a provision on "obstructing a government function by physi-cal interference," which could apply to virtually every mass demonstration which has taken place in the last 15 years.

This bill like its predecessor, reaches a fateful crossroads with future generations of the source of a nation's strength," says the Times. "Running through the legislation is the pervasive feeling that the govern-ment, in order to insure our security must have the authority to closely monitor and control the political freedom of American citizens. To the contrary, security ultimately rests on the robust vitality of our democratic institu-tions that inspire the strongest kind of loyalty and reconstructed allegiance of a free people."

FORUM ON SB 1437

This month's meeting of the Northwest Criminal Code Reform Act Threatens Repression of Labor, US Civic Life
Local 8 Member Takes on US
Lack of Planning on Nuclear Waste

SALEM — Oregon, this month, became the first state to protest the US Department of Energy’s lack of a plan for the safe disposal of nuclear waste.

This came about when the state Energy Facility Siting Council on March 14 voted to inform the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that it opposes the storage of more spent fuel than is presently authorized at Portland General Electric’s Trojan Nuclear plant at Rainier.

The motion, passed by a 4 to 3 vote, was made by William “Bill” Luch, a Portland longshoreman, and a certified CPR instructor for both the Heart Association and the Red Cross, will be the fisherman for the council, which will meet at the Red Cross in Long Beach.

Running for four consecutive Wednesday evenings — April 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th — the course will instruct participants in proper first-aid, resuscitation, external, con- duction compression, and other emergency life-support techniques.

Of course, a CPR technique that can help to keep a heart attack victim, or a severely injured or traumatized individual alive until professional assistance is available.

Those interested in signing up for the course may call the Local 13 Welfare office.

Members who belong to other Locals are encouraged to attend at their local Heart Association or Red Cross office for information about classes offered in their own areas.

Improvements at Matson

LOS ANGELES—An innovative container handling system, including the latest computer and electronic technology, will be installed at Matson Navigation Company’s Los Angeles harbor terminal, it was announced by J. R. Pfeiffer, president.

Matson will spend more than $18 million to convert its Terminal Island facility at the Port of Los Angeles to an automated system, which will substitute overhead cranes for straddle-carryers in moving containers to and from the ships, Pfeiffer said.

The system also will be installed on a modern seven-story building on the Port of Richmond by Matson Terminals, scheduled for completion in the late spring of 1979. It will be operated for the San Francisco Bay, scheduled for completion in the late spring of 1979. It will be operated for the San Francisco Bay, as part of the 300-foot gantry crane installation at Port of Richmond by Matson Terminals.

The terminal, named after a four to vote, was made by William “Bill” Luch, a Portland longshoreman, and a certified CPR instructor for both the Heart Association and the Red Cross, will be the fisherman for the council, which will meet at the Red Cross in Long Beach.

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In Los Angeles, containers will move to and from ships via 300-foot gantry bridge cranes, which will move on rails parallel to the vessel to give full access. The pier is being lengthened to enable three ships to be loaded at the same time.

The movement of all cargo containers in the terminal will be tracked by computer.

"Clean Up Their Act!"

Local 13 Offers Life-Saving Class

WILMINGTON — A Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) class offered free of charge to all Local 13 and 63 members and their families throughout the month of April.

Bob Agalsoff, a member of Local 13, and a certified CPR instructor for both the Heart Association and the Red Cross, will be the instructor for the classes, which will meet at the Red Cross in Long Beach.

Running for four consecutive Wednesday evenings — April 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th — the course will instruct participants in proper first-aid, resuscitation, external, con- duction compression, and other emergency life-support techniques.

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Members who belong to other Locals are encouraged to attend at their local Heart Association or Red Cross office for information about classes offered in their own areas.

Organize!

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

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Regional Director
Karl Leipnik, Organizer
B. Mc E Ilrath, Regional Director
Regional Director
Karl Leipnik, Organizer

SAN FRANCISCO — Appearing before a Board of Supervisors’ subcommittee March 3, Local 6 General Executive Board member Ellen Baughman tried to rid the city’s of its image on South America.

Could Baughman, who is also chairman of the Local 6 South America Liberation Support Committee, noted that “Our government has a responsibility to human rights in South America,” since so many US corporations have invested in taking advantage of the cheap labor there.

White Collar Workers

Now Turn to Unions

White collar workers, once the least-unionized segment of the work force, are now organizing in fast-growing numbers to trade unions and collective bargaining to build more solid careers and economic futures.

That report was made recently by Jack Golodner, director of the newly created AFL-CIO Department of Professional Em- ployees, on a recent network radio interview show. Golodner pointed out that nearly half of the 7.8 million members of AFL-CIO affiliated unions now work at white collar and service jobs in profes- sional, technical, sales and clerical fields.

Citing a “fantastic growth” of white col- labor workers over the last few years, Golod- ner said that professionals are now join- ing unions at a rapid rate because “the collective bargaining procedures and tech- niques that the blue collar unions have pioneered are now regarded as equally suitable for the professional employee.”

He said that most professionals are now employees, rather than “self-employed entrepreneurs,” and they see “collective bargaining as a more effective way of enhancing professionalism.”

Local 26 Pensioners

At a regular February meeting, Local 26 ILWU Pensioners’ Club installed the following Officers and Executive Board members elected for 1978: President—Chuck Meske; First Vice-President, James At- kins; Second Vice-President, Morris Arbore- man; Secretary-Treasurer, Joe Moore; Re- cording Secretary, Rayfield Johnson; As- sistant Secretary-Treasurer, Karl Leipnik. The elected Officers were also elected as Club Delegates to the ILWU District Council.

Sports Tour

LONGVIEW—Three longshoreman’s sons are among 18 high school students selected to represent Southwest Washington in the National Educational tour of Australia and Tasmania.

The three are Clint Van Fleet, Jr. Jim Zdilar and Mike St. Onge.
Behind the High Cost of U.S. Health Care

The average earnings per hospital worker did rise 23% between 1969 and 1973. The increase was not enough to blunt the rise in hospital costs; in fact, hospital costs increased at a rate of 15% to 16% annually in recent years, more than twice the rate of increase in the national economy. The increases in hospital costs reflected the increases in the price of health services. The price of medical devices and supplies, for example, has increased by more than 20% per year since 1969.

Inflation Surge Has Administration Worried

A renewed inflationary surge has the Carter administration worried, and the air is thick with predictions about a renewal of double-digit inflation, recession, and the need for restraint particularly by — you guessed it — working people.

Two leading Carter Administration economists, Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal and Council of Economic Advisors Chairman Charles Schultze, suggested that prices should replace unemployment as the administration's domestic priority.

INDEXES UP

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Are Hospital Workers Paid Too Much?

One of the hospital workers' favorite ploys to defend their right to bigger wages is to blame higher hospital costs on their workers who are "demanding more for less."

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