ILA Wins Early Dock Settlement

MIAMI BEACH — Four months ahead of schedule, negotiators for the International Longshoremen's Association (AFL-CIO) and Atlantic and Gulf Coast Maritime employers have concluded a new three year master agreement which will increase the basic hourly wage of longshoremen by $1.20 in each year, raising the present hourly straight time base rate from $10.40 to $14 by 1982. The agreement is effective October 1, 1980.

This brings the ILA hourly base rate, effective October 1, 1980, to $11.80 per hour, for a daily rate of $92.80. The addition of straight time and two hours overtime to the base rate will bring $121.60 per man hour, which will increase by $2.40 in each year.

Employer contributions to ILA welfare funds will be boosted from the present $1.40 per man hour by 17¢ as of October 1, 1980, and again on October 1, 1981. At that time the contribution will be raised by an additional 16¢ in the final year of the agreement. Contributions to the union's pension program, now at $2.25 per man hour, will be increased by 25¢ in each year.

The JSP, supported by assessments from the longshoremen, is currently operating at 80¢ an hour, which will increase by 25¢ in the final year of the agreement, raising the hourly rate to $1.20 in each year, raising the present hourly straight time base rate from $10.40 to $14 by 1982. The agreement is effective October 1, 1980.

“Rededication”

We won it in 1934 and we will win it in the '80s,” says the sign held by an ILWU Local 26 warehouseman on strike against the IT Corporation in Wilmington. This same message is heard in various forms this summer up and down the coast. On page 3, for example, read how thousands of union members are planning to observe Bloody Thursday, July 5, and to reaffirm the militant spirit that day represents.

Warehouse Wage Hike in Effect

SAN FRANCISCO — Effective June 1, 1980, members of Locals 6 and 17, warehouse and production workers covered by the Master Agreement with the Industrial Employers and Distributors Association, receive a wage increase of 8¢ an hour across-the-board, an increase which is 15¢ an hour higher than any increase ever provided under this Agreement. The increase is in two parts, 4¢ of what the union commonly refers to as “hard money,” and 5¢ that was generated under a cost-of-living escalator clause which took into account the increase in prices between April, 1979, and April, 1980. This brings the base rate for freight handlers under the Master Contract to $9.65 per hour.

This is the second wage increase in a three-year agreement negotiated last year by the Northern California Warehouse Council, ILWU-AILWU, and is applicable to several thousand Teamster and ILWU members throughout the area. It comes on top of an 80¢ an hour increase and higher pension benefits effective last year, and for ILWU members, effective January 1, 1980, greatly improved medical and dental benefit coverage for all new hires.

CHAIRED

The Northern California Warehouse Council, ILWU-AILWU, is co-chaired by ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Curtis McClun and ILWU Warehouse Local 63 Secretary-Treasurer Al Costa.

Pensioners’ Convention

ILWU pensioners making summer plans should bear in mind that the annual convention of the Pacific Coast Pensioners’ Association will be held at the usual place, Shasta County Fairgrounds, Anderson, California, but a different date — September 15-16-17. The time’s been switched to accommodate those who want to attend the California Seniors convention the following week.

Vol. 38, No. 6
Published monthly at 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, Calif. 94109 Second class postage paid at San Francisco and additional mailing places Subscriptions $3.50 per year.

Published by the International Longshoremen’s and Warehousemen’s Union

June 6, 1980
60,000 Jobless Face Benefit Cutoff

WASHINGTON — About 60,000 jobless Americans, including automobile workers who are eligible for Government help because of the competition of imports, along with former servicemen and former Federal employees, may find their unemployment benefits cut off prematurely because of Congress' battle over the new Federal budget.

Officials of the Labor Department say payments will come to an immediate halt for at least two weeks, and possibly much longer, beginning next Wednesday, June 11, when a special unemployment benefit fund runs out of money. Checks can be resumed only after Congress approved a $1 billion additional to keep the fund solvent through September 30.

Democratic leaders do not expect Congress to begin taking up the matter until Wednesday at the earliest. By that time the Federal Unemployment Benefit Account count will be exhausted. And once the system shuts down, it will take a week or two after Congressional action to resume the flow of checks.

Regular state unemployment insurance benefits that go out to an estimated 3.3 million jobless Americans are not affected. Those benefits are paid from a separate fund, which has adequate money to continue payments.

Moreover, the Social Security Administration said that it planned to go ahead and mail June benefit checks for 35 mil lion Social Security recipients despite the Congressional impasse over the Federal debt ceiling.

DIRECT CHECKS TO CLEAR

“The Treasury Department tells us they expect the checks will be honored,” said Davis, “we expect the checks will be honored.”

Security. The checks should be received by recipients early next week.

He said that checks for another million recipients of Supplemental Security Income, the Federal government's monthly cash assistance for the needy blind and disabled, had already been mailed and should also be honored by banks.

The new Federal fund probably includes 354,000 workers, mostly in the auto industry, who have lost jobs because of increased foreign competition; 190,000 former Federal and postal employees and former servicemen who lost their jobs in Vietnam; and 1,000,000 workers who are eligible for Federal unemployment insurance.

Payments average nearly $100 a week and are distributed to people every other week by state unemployment offices, which receive the money from Washington.

The prospect of a depleted fund is particularly threatening to the unemployed Federation workers, one-time servicemen and former CETA workers, because the checks may be their only source of income. Auto workers are eligible for regular state and added company-paid jobless benefits.

IDLE UNDERESTIMATED

The money crunch developed because the Labor Department, in its budget request to Congress last year, underestimated by a wide mark the number of workers from the auto industry who would be eligible for benefits. At the time, the department had not expected so severe a slump in the industry.

The department initially sought, and received, $450 million for the fund for 1980, with 30,000 workers estimated to be eligible to collect benefits, the total is expected to exceed $1.5 billion in the current fiscal year.

The Carter Administration also underestimated the money it will need for the benefit account. The request for $450 million, which begins Oct. 1, and has asked Congress to nearly double the appropriation, from $450 million to $850 million.

Congress is expected to approve the $850 million request. Under the law, because the increased spending is required by the Trade Act, it is past due. But approval is being delayed by a Congressional dispute over the 1981 budget, which Congress had planned to finish taking up before taking requests for increased 1980 spending.

Benefits to auto workers are paid under the Trade Act of 1974, which aids people who lose their jobs because of increased sales of imports in this country. Under the law, workers are entitled to pay at the same rate of pay as they were receiving, for up to 26 weeks. After 26 weeks, they must prove they are seeking work, starting with 12 weeks to provide 50 percent of their weekly pay.

The unemployment fund request is part of a $4.4 billion supplemental spending bill pending before Congress. The package includes more money for defense programs, black-lung benefits, flood relief, disaster relief, refugee aid and a variety of other services.

ILWU Urges Asylum For Haitian Refugees

SAN FRANCISCO — On behalf of the ILWU, I respectfully request once again that you take action to grant parole/asylum to the Haitian citizens who have sought refuge in the United States from the illegal policies of the Haitian government, and from economic exploitation in Haiti,” said International President Jim Herman in a May 8 letter to President Jimmy Carter.

“Since last year we see fit to allow in emigrants from Southeast Asia and Cuba, see no legal or moral basis for the US not to grant sanctuary to the beleaguered and desperate Haitians,” said Herman.

Corporate Heads Enjoy Slump

Business Week magazine's regular "Outlook" column in the June 2 issue says it all.

"The economy's downward slope is gain ing momentum. Industrial production, which began to stall in February is now on a toboggan ride. Homebuilding, declining steadily since autumn, slid only slightly in April. In May it is evidently again on the skids. The sharp decline in auto sales has yet to tail and no other consumer hedges are falling rapidly.

"Gains in personal income have ended. And consumer adjustment for inflation incomes are decreasing swiftly. This sug gests that consumer retrenchment is continuing, adding further downward spin to retail sales, factory output and employment."

"The slowdown in activity is so widespread that the economic statistics for May will make even deeper prices than the dismal April data."

"A HAND OF POLICY"

And what's quite clear is that it is the policy of both business and of the Carter administration to cut back production, to make money for "it's going to be extremely painful as we go through this long period of world economic adjustment," Charles Olney, a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, told a recent meeting of business economists.

"When we say we will reduce inflation it is the equivalent of saying that we must reduce income," he continued. "That is not broadly under stood and it is likely to cause difficulty as the recession deepens. Higher wage rates will reduce it is the equivalent of dampening inflation, be added."

"The kidney! Massive unemployment. One out of every three auto workers is idle. Joblessness in the forest products and construction industry is out of sight. The May figure of unemployment figure of 7% is the highest in nearly three years, and economist Howard Zachar, writing in Business Week, predicts a jobless rate of as high as 8% by the end of 1980."

Figures Show Steep Slides

WASHINGTON, DC — The Government index which predicts trends in its 32-year history last month providing further evidence of a steep recession, Paramount. The Commerce Department reported a 3.7% dip in the series in the month of April, which follows the previous record fall of 3.3%, registered in September 1974, when the economy was in the midst of the 1973-1975 recession. Since the Depression.

This is one more piece of evidence that the economy is in and still faces a steep decline, a recession that is cer tainly not going to be on the mild side," said A. Gilbert Heebner, chief economist at the Philadelphia National Bank, who noted that the biggest obstacle to study is that you take action to grant parole/
Local 9 Takes Seattle University Brass to School

SEATTLE — In an ILWU first, warehouse Local 9 recently finalized negotiations with Seattle University, the employer of 35 newly-organized custodial and maintenance workers.

The contract, which also covers carpenters, painters and grounds keepers, is the only agreement the union has with a school.

The workers were hungry for a union and when we asked around we were told that the ILWU was "one of the best in the area," said Richard Adrianne-Exner, a member of the negotiating team. "We got a copy of The Dispatcher and liked what we saw, so we called the number listed in the Organizational" box on the back page. We contacted the school, they had no idea the ILWU responded to our inquiries."

Several of the newly-organized members met with the workers early last year, and by August 24 the union had won a representation election by a vote of 46-36.

The victory required a level of solidarity which had not previously existed between the higher paid, predominantly white male maintenance workers and a custodial staff dominated by young minorities and women, who averaged about $30 an hour.

"NOW WE'RE TIGHT."

"We were always in conflict," said Tom Wright, a custodian who served on the negotiating committee. "But now we're tight. Most of the workers had never belonged to a union before, and at first it was a struggle to persuade them that organizing would bring better pay, said Exner. "Many went from thinking they'd be fired to thinking they'd be making longshoreman's wages."

The actual result was a two-year pact guaranteeing an average pay increase of 13%. This figure should be boosted even higher next year through a wage-reopener clause. Workers maintained the university's health, welfare and pension plans. They also secured seven paid holidays a year, and the union's grievance procedure.

The pact was ratified March 26, and retroactive to February 1. The union negotiating committee included Exner, Wright, ILWU organizer John Bukoskey, John Olson, Anthony Kinkaid and Local 9 President Leonard Benard.

The more than 4,000 students at the Catholic university showed little interest in the negotiations; however, the cooks, switchboard operators, office workers and professors followed the collective bargaining process closely. Many of them were deeply dissatisfied with the measly 6% pay hike that the trustees had recently deemed satisfactory.

The university hired a labor relations consultant and it took two months of weeklong bargaining to hammer out an agreement with Local 9.

At one point in the talks, the workers suggested they might have to strike, itarishes to inform the many working-class Catholics that they could opt to pay its employees any more than the minimum wage. But this tactic was never used.

"We didn't get what we deserved," said Wright, "but it's a start. You have to crawl before you can walk."

I think the contract lets people know that the university hired a consultant, it asked Bukoskey, pointing out that there are no other non-unions at universities in Seattle.

Local 6 Wrap-Up

Big Pacts Won At Hecxel Corp., Other Firms

LIVERMORE, Ca. — "The most important thing for us was keeping the cost of living language, but overall it's a terrific agreement," says Ron King, a member of the rank and file committee that recently negotiated a new contract on behalf of Local 6 members at Hecxel Corp.

We improved many sections of the agreement in ways that make a real difference. Ever since the ILWU came in to organize this house three years ago, morale and conditions have improved tremendously, and this is just another step forward for us," says King.

Wages in the new agreement will increase by 10% in the first year, 7% in the second year and 4% in the third year. A cost of living provision could generate an additional 3% in the second year and 4% in the third year if the inflation rate is 11% or higher.

"The company made a very serious attempt to sweeten the pot enough to get us to drop the COLA, but all of us knew that once you let it go, you never get it back," King said.

Other improvements include increases in shift differentials — from 15 to 25% on swing and from 25 to 40% on graveyard; pay grade adjustments; increased sick leave accumulation, a new personal leave provision, plus sick leave allowed after the first day; and improved vacation scheduling.

The Hecxel unit negotiated its first Local 6 agreement in February of this year; the unit has grown from 65 to over 100 workers.

Negotiating committee members were King, Chief Steward David Lee and Harry Parks of Local 6, and Bill Pinkham, Business Agent.

"Negotiations were cordial," said Lee. "Neither played any games. The company realized we didn't want to tear them apart. Labor relations improved and are improving still."

OTHER PACTS

In San Jose, the negotiating committee of Manuel Pereira, Sergio Marques and Robert Magallanes, a laborer at a settlement at Garden City Pottery providing wages and benefits for workers living, along with union representation of maintenance employees, improved vacation qualifying, holiday, sick leave and other benefits. Seniority shall be retained for 24 months for newly-organized employees displaces by a production cutback.

At OMC Distributors in South San Francisco, a newly-organized local represents engineers and motor body parts and accessories, the local hired a labor relations consultant and got a settlement at Garden City Pottery providing wages and benefits for workers living, along with union representation of maintenance employees, improved vacation qualifying, holiday, sick leave and other benefits. Seniority shall be retained for 24 months for newly-organized employees displaces by a production cutback.

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Local 6 Training Program May Settle Chronic Safety Problem at Heublein

MENLO PARK, Ca. — "I got my hand caught in a machine three years ago when I tried to remove some loose caps with a screwdriver," explained Margarita Con-

Chronic Safety Problem at Heublein caught in a machine three years ago when I took it for granted I was supposed to do

else. The doctor says it'll never be the same.

"So I'm all for the new training pro-

gram, but it had been happening for a long time ago."

It's not hard for many of the 80 ILWU Local 6 members at the Heublein liquor plant south of San Francisco to re-

call close calls.

According to management, the needs of the workers are still lefty of certain ma-

chines.

"You know, I never had a chance to really talk to the operators of the machines," she said. "When I was first hired I spent

about five or ten minutes with a foreman who showed me all the machines. Each of the workers are still lefty of certain ma-

chines."

Under the agreement, both new-hires and old-timers will have an ongoing opportu-

nity to receive safety training with a solid knowledge about the safest methods of op-

erating the equipment.

"There's just no sense in standing in front of a machine for eight hours every day and not knowing the dangers," said Bruce, one of the two newly-appointed trainers.

Bruce and Elbert Branch will serve full-

time on the swing and day shifts, backed by alternates Curt Gutierrez, Thomas Budri-

gard, Ronald Darin and Tina Francisco. A third full-timer and two more alternates will be added in the event a graveyard shift is resumed. Trainers start at 9:10 an-

hour.

NEW CLASSIFICATION

"The company had no problem with the principle behind the training program, just the application of it," pointed out Business Agent Joe Figuereido. "Management initially tried to control the selection pro-

cess, but we demanded a new classification for trainers to ensure open bidding in line with the contract and wanted proper em-

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Because the Heublein workforce is predom-

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Action approach to the program. After some discussion, they agreed that the needs of the many Spanish-speaking workers couldn't be ignored and that trainers would be selected based on seniority and a language ability.

They also stipulated that another work-

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ee or the alternate.

"Some of the accidents were the result of poor communication," said Head Stew-

ard Jose Grajeda, "and we're trying to change that. Part of the problem is that it's so noisy in there we have to read lips."

Organizing Victories For Locals 9 and 27

PORT ANGELES—ILWU longshore Loc-

als 9 and 27 announced they have signed agreements April 10 by a vote of 7-0-1 at the Penisula Tim-

ber Company in this Puget Sound port. Contracts will expire March 31, 1981.

In addition, warehouse Local 9 in Seat-

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Finally, an NLRB election involving five employees at Continental Grain Elevator was conducted by the Northwest Regional

Office.

Local 6

Arbitration Victory Ends Harassment

SAN DIEGO — Last year, su-

visors at Brunswick's California warehouse in San Diego were told by their boss to use a certain cleaning equipment which

was made inaccessible for Warehouse Local 26 member Sal Delillo.

A 24-year veteran, among those who had first organized the unit into the ILWU, Delillo found himself subject to "all kinds of petty harassment," according to Local 26 President Joe Baarra.

For example, after 24 years in one de-

partment, they allegedly transferred him to another section, and then got on his case because they said he wasn't keeping

up with the rules. -- everyone knows that it takes some time to get to know around a new department," said Baarra. While a vigorous protest from the local got him reassigned to his old job, the harassment continued. Superiors were constantly on Delillo's case, and de-

lined his regular turn in the rotation for Saturday and overtime work.

The tension came to a head in December

when Delillo broke his wrist acciden-

tally while working around the house. When he showed up in to tell Brunswick he'd have to take off for six weeks, he was told that he was fired because of inadequate work performance.

"After 24 years with a clean record, that was totally unacceptable," said Baarra. The local grieved the discharge, which ultimately went before the arbitrator Leo Weiss. The arbitrator last month

ordered Delillo reinstated with full back pay (for approximately six months), plus

overtime, seniority and all fringe benefits.

Steward James Pate unit secretary and Le-

gal counsel Herb March handled the case.

Local 6 Takes on Overtime Issue

SAN FRANCISCO — Several months ago, Gallo Sales instituted a four day week (ex-

cept for busy season) for both ILWU Local 6 warehousemen and Teamster Local 85

members.

The use of forced overtime, while se-

curing waterfront employers in Boston,

Atlantic Shipping Associations, which re-

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Office.
To many members, the ILWU's 20-year organizing adventure in New Orleans is an obscure chapter in its history. Some may recall, perhaps, that Interna-
tional Longshoreman's Union (ILA) President John L. Powell was not until the ILWU arrived during the Great Depression, he says, that a militant, racially integrated labor union gained a foothold in New Orleans.

In 1937, when the ILWU and warehouse locals established up and down the Pacific Coast, the ILWU sent its best organizer, Bob Robertson, to New Orleans, the second largest port in the nation.

Localization of the ILWU. The city was organized by the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA), while the ILWU belonged to the rival Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO). Robertson was the first CIO organizer in New Orleans, and he formed a team of CIO organizers who ran a successful campaign to recruit hundreds of longshoremen of all races.

In March 1943, a Local 207 rank-and-file meeting was called to discuss the ILWU's activities. The ILWU had gained a foothold in the port, but its efforts coincided with a violent labor conflict that threatened to derail the union.

The next day, police picketed Robertson and told him to leave town or else. Robertson, who had been a labor organizer for many years, was not about to back down. He continued to organize the longshoremen, and eventually, the ILWU gained a foothold in the port.

Local 207 continued to grow, and by 1947, the local represented 1,700 workers. Over the next four years, Dorsey and his colleagues elected new officers and Chet Meske, an International Representative, signed up over 300 workers in 18 warehouses in the New Orleans area. Green also organized in Mobile, Gulfport, and Baton Rouge.

In addition, the local began to lose a series of racially charged representation elections. Then, after two strikes culminated when white workers crossed the picket lines of blacks, Green organized a Jim Crow union with the ILWU's consent.

But nationally, the cold war was getting underway. The ILWU had to make some choices along the way of defining where it stood in the labor movement. These choices would have profound consequences.

The ILWU's decision was accurate: Dorsey and his cohorts were getting rich off ILWU-sponsored contracts, and the ILWU lost by more than 3-to-1. Simple vote buying partly explains the defeat, says Wells, coupled with the dockers' fear of losing their jobs, and a general distrust of the outsiders from California.

The ILWU's failure to out the ILA did not prevent it from establishing Warehouse Local 207 under Dorsey's leadership. Over the next four years, Dorsey and other leaders of Local 207 were elected, and the local pioneered the concept of "per capita tax" to the International.

In 1937, the local was affiliated with the American Federation of Labor (AFL), while the ILWU belonged to the rival Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO). Robertson was the first CIO organizer in New Orleans, and he formed a team of CIO organizers who ran a successful campaign to recruit hundreds of longshoremen of all races.

The local fell further behind in its payments of "per capita tax" to the International, and Robertson traveled to New Orleans to investigate and remedy the problem. The local was led by Howard Goddard, who replaced Green.

Dorsey agreed to all the measures and procedures laid out by Robertson, but grew more and more antagonistic to them and to Goddard, once Robertson left for San Francisco. Dorsey was soon accusing Goddard of squeezing him out and turning the local over to the Community. But Goddard countered that Dorsey was a red-baiting racketeer who collaborated with the FBI and reactionary in the CIO.

The results are a wonderfully detailed book, full of facts about people you know and people you've heard of; good bits of union and political gossip; reminiscences of what really went on across the bargaining table. The chapters on the 1944-46 organizing drive, the early strikes in sugar, pine and longshore, and the Smith Act trials are particularly strong. The book has obviously been a labor of love. Dorsey and his colleagues were getting rich off ILWU-sponsored contracts, and the ILWU lost by more than 3-to-1. Simple vote buying partly explains the defeat, says Wells, coupled with the dockers' fear of losing their jobs, and a general distrust of the outsiders from California.

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by

CLEOPHAS WILLIAMS
Local 10, San Francisco

LOUISE DALTON
Local 6, San Francisco

ALFREDO CASTILLO
Local 142, Hawaii

SAM ROSENBERG
Local 19, Seattle

KEN GREGORY
Local 508, Chemainus, BC

TAKESHI "GROWN" YUGAWA
Local 142, Hawaii

(Four weeks in March an ILWU rank and file delegation, chaired by Cleo-
phas Williams, Local 10, San Francisco, toured the People's Republic of China as
guests of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions. This was the first rank and file.
delegation of American unionists to visit the mainland since the revolution
which transformed that country in 1949. Here is the first installment of their report.
Part 2 will be published in July.)

Mostly, we remember the tremendous sense of pride and
purpose voiced by the tea farmers who explained how they
had levelled two good-sized mountains in order to in-
crease their productive acreage... the glow in the
face of an older woman who, showing us around her
neat apartment in Beijing, described how the pension
she received enabled her to help take care of her grand-
children... the way in which trade union leaders told
us about all the heavy industry which had been built,
the increase in coal and water power output. Despite
their enormous problems, they have brought this large
and complicated country—which 30 years ago, lay devas-
tated by years of civil war and foreign occupation—to the
brink of modernization.

WARM RECEPTION FOR ILWU

The other basic theme of our trip was the enormous
respect with which we were treated. Aside from just
plain courtesy and concern for our welfare, the pains
that were taken to assure us a productive visit, and their
concern for our comments and criticisms, the Chinese also
highlighted the strength of their rank and file trade
union delegation from the US was extremely important.
They have a great deal of good feeling for the ILWU—
they know about our support for them against the Japa-
nese invasion in the late '30's, and our consistent position
favoring non-intervention during the years between the People's Re-
public of China and the US. Many union people had met
with old friends of Lou Goldblatt and the late ILWU
Vice-President Jack Hall.

The ACFTU was founded in 1925 and has 50 million
members. It is organized on industrial lines and is the
only trade union organization in China. There are 17
divisions, such as seamen (longshore and most ware-
houses, transport, postal, railway, etc.). It is a voluntary
organization.

The history of the ACFTU is turbulent and violent.
In 1927 they organized a strike in Shanghai and other
ports. The government of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek
broke the strike. The workers were unemployed and deprived
by the pitting of gang against gang, hatch against hatch,
industrial power by the turn of the century.

One practice with which we completely disagreed is
the pitting of gang against gang, hatch against hatch,
and hard work, we saw no evidence of
throughout the country. The workers are appreciated there,
people's running, nobody's breaking
safety. They just plug away at it.

Although there is a great emphasis on produc-
"Women hold up half the sky," is a phrase fre-
ently heard in China. Above, a heavy equip-
ment operator on Shanghai docks.

But let's begin at the beginning. In our three-week
trip we visited Guangzhou (Canton) in the far south,
Shanghai in the central coast area,quinling in the cen-
tral north and Beijing, in the north, and its port city
Tianjin (Tientsin). We saw docks, factories, schools,
hospitals, housing and farms. We asked to see a sugar
farm and refinery, but were unable to do so because
the growing season was over and the distance too great
for our short stay.

Our host was the All-China Federation of Trade
Unions. On our first day in Beijing we met with Mr.
Qian Da Dong, Deputy Director of the Liaison Depart-
ment, and Mr. Tang Ziang, Vice-Chairman of the
National Committee of the Seaman's Trade Union of
China, an old friend of Lou Goldblatt and the late ILWU
Vice-President Jack Hall.

As we went we heard the same theme, in con-
versation with students, with workers, with union and
management officials—we must raise the consciousness of the workers, we must repair the ten years of damage
done by the Gang of Four, we must modernize.

VISITING THE DOCKS

We visited the docks in each of the four port cities
we visited, so we'll start with a general description. Most
of the cargo, is break-bulk. It's stored on the wide docks
and covered with tarps. Most of the cranes were of the
10-12 ton capacity—the equipment was old but in good repair. Many of the forklifts do not have
overhead protection, which we pointed out. Our hosts
were always very anxious to hear our criticism and
comments.

There are some container cranes which are similar in
all respects to the ones we use, except that they have
elevators for the crane operators. No five story climb
for them! When we asked why, they explained—"But
why not? They're workers, aren't they?"

We saw women working on the docks as checkers.

We saw women working on the docks as checkers.
EMPHASIS ON OLD CRAFTS

Some factories are state-owned. Others are of the cooperative type. These factories are owned by the workers. The formula for the cooperative has been developed by the State. So much for taxes, so much must be put aside for housing, welfare, to run the factory; then the profit is split by the members of the cooperative. A jade factory we visited in Beijing is typical of the relatively small workshops that combine factory and three shops. At present it has 1000 workers, each of whom is a shareholder. They make jewelry and ornamental carvings. All the work is done by hand and most of it takes months to complete. A new worker must go through a nine-month apprenticeship. The young amber will reach a uniform color. Our guide at the tea cooperative pointed out some older houses being demolished and said that is what a large family would have lived in before the Liberation—a thatched roof, mud walls and an area of about 20' x 20'.

EMPHASIS ON OLD CRAFTS

Many factory workers are part of the whole management and government structure. There are no contracts, as we know them, but they are much more oriented toward education. Delegates are elected to the Provincial Labor Congress which is part of the governing structure. The Congress lobbyists on behalf of the workers. They are also experimenting with the idea of electing management people.

In a bull session with workers in Quingdao, we learned that they are very anxious to modernize, to see containers come in, because it will make the work easier. They are not worried about the inevitable loss of work opportunity—they seem perfectly certain that there will be other work for them to do.

Major beefs go before the Area Congress, which is similar to a legislature. But when we asked about more routine problems we got the look that one long-shoreman will give to another and we were told: "Oh, we settle those right on the job." Some things are sacred.

Longshoremen are a division of the Seamen's Union. China is building a large modern merchant fleet. There are well over 60 ships at present and more on the way. They are also building large seaward clubs in all of their ports. These clubs have excellent facilities. We stayed in one at Tianjin. The rooms were modern and comfortable. They may not be the largest that most of us had ever seen. What a pleasure it was to stretch out in those hot tubs! The facilities also have barber shops, restaurants, and small shops to buy souvenirs. There are clinics and doctors in residence and our hosts are quite proud of how they treat the sick of all countries. In one of the clubs in Quingdao we were invited to see a movie made in China. It wasn't until we got to the theater and a large sign was projected onto the screen welcoming the ILWU workers from Canada and the USA, that we realized that the show was to be for 2000 years. At one time jade was only used in the palace and we thought this great effort as being used at the docks and this program was something they had told them it wouldn't work in the US or Canada. Remembering that China before Liberation had no heavy industry, to accomplish so much in 30 years is quite an achievement.

LIFE IN RURAL CHINA

The overwhelming majority of the Chinese people, maybe 90%, are rural. Everywhere we went the roads were buzzing with farm traffic, people bringing their stuff to market, hauling seed and fertilizer, etc. From the roads you see people working the rice fields, their pants cut off or rolled to the knees, guiding their plows through the rice paddies behind immense water buffalo. The overall impression is of great efficiency in using the land, intensive agriculture, with an increasing amount of mechanization. As much as possible each big farm, or commune, attempts to feed itself, to engage in diversified agriculture along with producing some kind of cash crop. On the farms, many farm families own their own house and are allowed to utilize the land it sits on. But there is no private ownership of land, no mortgage payments, no property taxes, no real estate speculation.

On a tea cooperative outside Hangzhou we were shown some of these homes and watched the construction of others. Most were built in rows of five or six units. They were two-story affairs, with the kitchen and dining room on the first floor and the bedrooms (two mostly, but occasionally three) on the second floor. Houses and apartments are utilitarian, with concrete floors and walls and in some areas, without heat. There are very few of those added touches that we expect in the West.

As we were to learn in our conversations with apartment dwellers and on this tea farm, what they have now is paradise compared to what they had before. The leader of the tea cooperative pointed out some older houses being demolished and said that is what a large family would have lived in before the Liberation—a thatched roof, mud walls and an area of about 20' x 20'. When asked why they didn't keep one to show the younger generation, he said, "That would have to be re- minded of the old days."

This particular tea cooperative grows one of China's most famous green teas, "dragon well tea." The tea leaves are picked individually by hand. Depending on the quality of the leaves they are either machine dried or dried by hand under a low heat with the worker continuously moving the leaves back and forth until they reach a uniform color. Our guide at the tea cooperative pointed out a thatched roof, mud walls and an area of about 20' x 20'. When asked why they didn't keep one to show the younger generation, he said, "That would have to be reminded of the old days."

One high point of the trip was a visit to "Children's Palace" in Shanghai—an after-school center where kids develop all kinds of crafts, music, dancing, ceramics, and other skills. More on this in second installment of report, to be published in July.

Housing is a serious problem in China, and everywhere you look they are building. Photo shows mason at work on a Beijing construction site.
Local 9 Family Pens Ode to Volcano

Local 21 Retiree Spurs Tax Reform

Mai Celebrates Its Pop Miyamoto Day

Local 23 Pensioners' Dinner
Hostages

Many forms of behavior that have nothing to do with solving the problem which the hostages are a part of are com-

T. M. Hart

Local 6 Sports Program Rolling

SAN FRANCISCO — The newly expand-

ed Local 6 activities program kept rolling

last month, as the big warehouse union's

first annual golf tournament drew some

30 participants to the Farmway Glen Golf

Course here on Sunday, May 18.

First place was won by Manuel Mendez

who is employed by Zellerbach Paper in

South San Francisco, with a 77. Jim Morey

South San Francisco shot a 79 for third

place. All Local 6 golf players received a prize.

Employers who donated prizes to help

make Local 6 Golf Tournament a success were

Boise Cascade, Elmar Electronics, Skids Food, Shell's Food, Del Monte Foods and Mayfield's.

THANKS TO ALL

The Local 6 Activities Committee wished
to thank all those who worked to make our
golf tournament a success.

Other continuing activities include:

• Softball: Teams have formed in San

Francisco, East Bay, Stockton and other

areas. All Local 6 members are eligible to

play, with some 40 participants representing a large
total of number of individual houses. The group is planning

a weekend trip to Reno in September. For information call League Secretary, Tillie

Baker.

• Deep Sea Fishing: First expedition is

planned for July 12, to take off from Piller Point near Half Moon Bay, at a cost of

$14 per person. For information, contact

BA Henry R. Raff s.

RAFFLE PLANNED

The Local 6 activities committee is sponsoring a raffle to support its program.

Entry tickets are $1 each or four for $5. Contact your shop steward, BA or division office to secure tickets.

An annual trip to deep sea fishing, a case of whiskey, a case of coffee and a case of

wine. Tickets are $12 each or four for $5. Contact your shop steward, BA or division office to secure tickets.

Local 500 Bowling

In Hall of Fame

VANCOUVER, BC — Wayne Sargent, a 13-year member of ILWU Local 500 was inducted into the Bowling Sport Hall of

Fame at the Pacific National Exhibition on June 26.

The induction was in recognition of 20 years of service and excellence in the sport of 5-pin bowling.

Sargent served nine years on the execu-
tive board of the Barbyly 5-pin Bowling Association, becoming president in 1969. He also sat on the Master Bowlers Associ-
i

ation executive board for ten years, and

worked as provincial chairman for three years.

He was Pacific National Exhibition match play singles champion in 1961 and 1968, and a member of five Pacific Coast

Championship Teams and four Western Canada Championship Teams.

Local 650 Bowler

June 6, 1980

Page 2
Postal Workers’ Right to Strike Defended

Canadian Unions Mend Fences, Plan for ’80s

Winnipeg, Manitoba — Unify to defeat the grim spectre of the takeover by government, corporations and other conservative elements of the labor movement. The delegates to the Thirteenth Constitutional Convention of the 1.3 million-member Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) yesterday endorsed the policy of “no winners” by United Steelworkers of America president John Sweeney. ‘No Winners’ turning the foreign policy wheel, McDermott said: “It took us a long time to struggle out of the cold war into an era of peaceful co-existence, and because of recent events we are now rapidly swinging back into that cold war mentality.”

The rise of conservatism is global in nature, he said. “It is the rise of corporatist, techno-bureaucratic, militarist intrusions and a capacity to extend their own brand of one-party, one-corporate-party dictatorship over the economy and working people. The new spirit of full solidarity with the Salvadoran people.”

The IWA’s entire membership in Region 750 and 70, over the three-year period, adopted the delegates which called for ratification and implementation of Salt II and the continuation of disarmament talks both bilaterally and through the United Nations.

“The Canadian Labour Congress,” it said, “will continue to press for rapid and boundless disarmament, and that the welcomed normalization of China’s relations with the West, and the beginning of talks with China, has not undermined American power.”

The state of the economy was further elaborated in the report of the Finance and Economic Development Committee.

“Sluggish growth in the Canadian econo-

Pensioners Honor Slain Prelate

San Francisco—The Bay Area ILWU Pensioners honored Archbishop John Quinn in honoring the memory of Oscar Romero, the slain Archbishop of San Salvador, on May 23rd. The pensioners supported Quinn in his efforts to stop the military-backed military aid to the Salvadoran government and to help instead to provide aid to the Salvadoran government and to help instead to provide aid to the Salvadoran people.”

Do you know some workers who don’t make union wages? Who have no fringe benefits? Who have no security on the job?

In other words, do you know workers who want to be organized into the ILWU? If so, please write or telephone information to one of the following.

Organize!

Canadian Area Office
Craig Pritchett, Regional Director
5811 E. Hastings St.
Vancouver, Wash.
Phone: (601) 254-8141

Northern California, Regional Office
1180 Franklin Street
San Francisco, Calif. 94109
Phone: (415) 788-2900
Karl Lajpette, Rr.
Phone: Crockett Rd.
780-1711
San Bruno Area: (415) 877-1898

Hawaii Office
Truman Marks, Regional Director
451 Atkinson Dr.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone: (808) 949-4161


Correction


BOYCCOTT J. STEVENS

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Workers Win Access To Job Health Record

WASHINGTON, DC — Workers must be given access and a copy of their medical and exposure records according to a rule issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) on May 23, 1980. The rule takes effect on August 31, 1980 in states under OSHA's jurisdiction. The rule, which increases the safety and health plans issue a similar form within 60 days after the May 23 date.

Upon written request by a worker, former worker, or designated representative, an employer must provide a copy of the requested record within 15 working days. The following medical information must be provided if requested: medical and employment questionnaires and histories; results of medical examinations and laboratory tests; medical opinions, diagnoses, progress notes, and recommendations; description of treatments and prescriptions; and employee medical complaints.

Employee exposure information — such as, the results of workplace monitoring and measuring of toxic substances; the methods used to collect and analyze the toxic substances; biological monitoring results that assess the body's absorption of a toxic substance; material safety data sheets; or in the absence of any of the above; any other record which reveals the identity of toxic substances — may also be provided if requested. The information need not be for the employee requesting the information, it may only reflect the employee's exposure.

An employer may deny a worker direct access to medical records indicating a terminal illness or psychiatric condition. However, if the worker designates a representative, in writing, the employer must provide access to such records. An employer must also provide access to the worker if the employee is unable to get hold of information even though the representative will turn the information over to the worker.

Employers are not required to provide medical examination or to monitor worker exposure to toxic substances, according to the rule. However, where the employer has such information, or access to such information, it must be preserved and maintained for at least 30 years. Medical records must be maintained for the duration of employment plus 30 years.

PENSIONERS' LEADERS — Members of the ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners Association Executive Board met in San Francisco April 16-17, to hear a series of reports on local activity, make plans for the next PCPA Annual Convention, and to handle routine organizational business. They also heard reports from International President Jim Herman, Vice-President Ruby Kuhn and Executive Vice-President Treasurer Curt McClain. On hand were FCPCA President Gordon Giblin; San Francisco: Franchomme; Rosco Averill; Seattle: Norman Mantam, Northwest ports; Ernie Baker, Portland; Jim Rainey, Columbia River; Glenn Titus, Southwest Oregon; Germain Bulcke, Northern California; Pete Grassi, Southern California; Lou Gonick, Northern California warehouse.

Hawaii ILWU Pensioners Hold Productive Convention, Plan for '80s

KAHULUI — A strong 1980-82 program for Local 142 retirees was established at the 10th Biennial ILWU State Pensioners Association convention, held here on Maui over the April 11-12 weekend.

Some 155 persons attended the session. Delegates represented ILWU pensioners clubs located on Hawaii, Oahu, Kauai and Maui.

POLITICAL ACTION

The pensioners reaffirmed their full support for the Local 142 Political Action Committee, including continuation of voter registration work, assistance in the election of ILWU backed candidates and legislative lobbying. They reaffirmed ILWU convention positions calling for the creation of a truly progressive tax system, and asked for state action on housing and transportation needs of elderly citizens.

The retired activists also offered full support to the ILWU's organizing activity.

Johnny Elias, who was blacklisted on the Honolulu waterfront, as a young union organizer in the 1930s and 1940s, was among many who backed the "Support ILWU Organizing" resolution.

He related his experiences during the "tough anti-union days" when feelings against ILWU ran high in the community. The pensioners also approved a key amendment to the constitution and by-laws.

Bay Area Pensioners

Members of the San Francisco Bay Area Pensioners have elected the following officials for the coming year: president, Robert Robotham; vice-president, Sherwood "Jim" Sylvia; secretary-treasurer, Mike Samaduzzaf; and welfare director, Bert Donlin.

Trustees are Bill Goben, Henry Massey and Louis Susan. The San Francisco Bay Area Pensionists' Association will represent the SFPA at the National Seniors Convention June 25-28.

Dockers, Widows, Pensioners on Pension List

SAN FRANCISCO — Following is the June, 1980 listing of dockworkers re-tired under various ILWU-PMA plans:


The widows are: Sylvia Benson, (Daley, Local 49); Alene Bergland, (Alashe, Local 1); Hazel Bledsoe, (Gayton, Local 8); Ozie E. Breda, (Lester, Local 10); Helen S. Brown, (Charlet, Local 40); Gertrude Creny, (Dick, Local 11); Alice S. Deshauter, (Local 19); Lola Espinosa, (Rodel, Local 14); Josephine Garey, (Edina, Local 24); Jeanne A. Greenway, (Boy, Local 91); Mary W. Gutterfield, (Frank, Local 11); Loretta Hansom, (Osvald, Local 91); Beastie Hart, (Howard, Local 23); Sara Hattaway, (Barney, Local 60); Grace Jones, (Kenley, Local 10); Marjorie Hattaway, (Barney, Local 11); Hilda M. McClain, (Peter, Local 1); John E. Parker, (Alexander, Local 63); Juanita M. Phillips, (C. Lerma Small, (Robert, Local 8)); Marion M. Smith, (George, Local 5); Jean F. Whelan, (Maurice, Local 34); Lillian Whitman, (Harold, Local 22); Alice A. Wines, (Elen, Local 112). 

"Names in brackets are those of deceased husbands."
Chilean labor leader Manel Jimenez, at ILWU headquarters.

their own demands—or he instructed to do so by management. The current law also permits management, when presented with demands it finds unacceptable, to lock workers out and shut down, and go back to work with an entirely new work force. Workers who speak up at union meetings, no play any kind of active role, are routinely fired. Picketing is illegal, and there are all kinds of inducements to hire scalps. You can be fired for serving on a picketing committee. Large scale of strikes—farm workers and construction workers—are totally excluded from even this pretense of bargaining.

Finally, when the law took effect every single improvement we made over the last thirty years—health and welfare, holidays, pensions and on, what we took away and we had to start from scratch—with a 3/4 wage increase. The whole plan was put together by the bosses and the gendarmes, obviously without any input or participation from labor. Our efforts to participate were ignored. But despite all the restrictions, in the recent union elections, army intelligence estimated that about 85% of the people elected to union office recently were anti-junta.

What about the economic picture in general?

Things cannot get much worse. The official employment rate is near 30%. We believe the real figure is probably twice that. While there are tremendous gaps between workers on one hand and the professional or business classes on the other, eighty percent of the Chilean workers who are employed are making an average of $10 per week. Several hundred thousand workers are kept on by the towns and cities on municipal jobs, street cleaners and so on, at $30 per month. They are very often underemployed. The price of meat is sky high and there are serious nutrition problems in the country. Children are not allowed to make bread entirely of bread and sugar 3-4 times a week. They are sending kids out on the street to steal trinkets and candy. It is very difficult for the labor movement to make it grimmer. It is amazing, however, that they are still so strong. We have powerful legal and political organizations. The Chilean people cannot be held down forever.

What sort of help do Chilean workers need?

We are very grateful to those brothers and sisters who have engaged in such boycotts, and who have given up their own wages in order to do so. It is one of the most moving manifestations of public opinion which I mentioned earlier. But what we are asking for is a total boycott—that's the only thing that will really work. We have boycotted everywhere from Canada to Sri Lanka. We are sending kids out on the street to sell trinkets and candy. It is very difficult. The notion, by the way, that a boycott is wrong because it would hurt Chilean workers is nonsense.

Editor's note: Manel Jimenez left the US April 29 for a return to Chile in time for the May Day demonstrations, planned by the Chilean labor movement. During the course of this interview he said that he was not sure what his fate might be. Latest word from the Free Chile Committee in Eugene, Oregon, is that Jimenez is at Santiago airport by a large crowd of supporters. He called us and said that he was sure of his fate. The US embassy was arranged by the US labor department prior to his departure. As far as is known at this time, Jimenez is presently safe.

However, on April 29, as tension built toward May 1, the workers in the area of Santiago airport and declared a state of siege. The army surrounded the city and at least 500 were arrested. Most unions said they would not participate in May Day plans out of concern for the safety of the members, and the government forced the Catholic Church to cancel its traditional May Day mass. An additional 34 trade union leaders were arrested on May 1, and it is believed that Jimenez was not among them.

Portland Labor Hosts Chileans

"We who take responsibility for standing up to the junta can be arrested and tortured at any time...if you can get out of this dark night with your help."

Among those present were Keith Johnson, President of the International Woodworkers of America; Grace Kline, editor of the Oregon Labor Press and associate editor Frank Philo, head of the Metal Trades Council; Bill Luch, secretary of ILWU Local 3; Jack Baker, secretary of the Multnomah County Labor Council; Bill Fast; Port agent for MEBA; K. Strahan, editor of the RE-CAP; Teamster Union representatives and others.

Basic Steel Agreement Provides Major Wage and Fringe Benefit Increases

PITTSBURGH — The United Steelworkers of America and the Steel Company of America have presented a new three-year agreement providing substantial wage and benefit increases for 286,000 employees on the company's five largest steel companies.

The highlights are:

• Greatly improved pensions, especially for workers who have been retired for some time.
• Safety and health improvements were a key issue for union negotiators, who argued that benefits of current retirees have been relatively ignored by rampant inflation.
• The new agreement will increase benefits for those already retired in two equal steps in the second and third years, with further steps following a cost-of-living adjustment of 3%. The increases will total about $25 a month. After the second increase, every four years an amount equal to at least $10 a year of service will be received. The two adjustments will provide a total increase of $25 a month for those who retired before August 1, 1968, and $35 a month for those who retired between August 1968 and 1971, 35% for those who retired between 1971 and 1974, 25% for those who retired during the term of the most recent contract.
• Future pension benefits for current employees will be increased. Existing members will receive a 15% increase in the second year of the contract, and by $1 in the second and third years, raising the rate of accrual from $15.00 to $30.00 per year of service depending on a participant's total years of service. A steelworker with 25 years of service retiring August 1, 1982 will receive $175 per month. A 30-year man will get $238.50.
• To pay for the pension improvements, the union agreed to give up a final cost-of-living adjustment of 3% an hour due May 1 under the old contracts.
• The industry's extended vacation plan for workers with 25 years of service was revised to provide a 14-week vacation every five years, up from 13 weeks.
• Insurance improvements, most of which take effect in the third year of the contract, include an increase from $75 to $1,000 in maximum annual dental benefits and from $500 to $600 in maximum orthodontic benefits.
• The agreement includes a provision for mandatory arbitration; any group of eight workers in any plant can start their own union and file...