Longshore Wage Hike Kicks In

SAN FRANCISCO — Effective June 28, ILWU longshoremen receive a wage increase of 85¢ an hour, which brings the straight time basic rate from $10.07 per hour up to $10.92. This will produce a daily rate of $98.28, computed at six hours straight time and two hours overtime.

The mileage allowance is also raised, beginning on that date, from 21 1/2 0 per mile to 24 0.

In addition, maximum pension benefits for those retired July 1, 1978 or after are increased from $355 per month to $550, effective July 1, 1980.

These improvements are part of the three-year pact, negotiated in 1978, in which longshoremen won 85¢ yearly straight time pay raises for a total wage boost of $2.55.

The contract, ratified August 1, 1978 by a two-to-one margin, expires July 1, 1981.

Economic Slide Continuing

NEW YORK — The US economy continued to erode sharply during June, although inflationary pressures eased, according to a Wall Street Journal survey of 225 corporate purchasing managers.

More managers reported a drop in new orders received by their companies than at any time during the past 30 years, the National Association of Purchasing Management Inc.'s latest monthly report shows. The survey said 58% reported fewer new orders received in June than in the previous month, while only 5% said their companies received more new orders this month.

In the May survey, 55% reported fewer new orders, up sharply from 45% in the April survey. The previous record, set in 1974, was 56%, the association said.

"Conditions have clearly deteriorated," said Charles T. Haffey, chairman of the association's business survey committee and vice president, corporate purchasing, Pfizer Inc.

POOR QUARTER OUTLOOK

"Production is still falling, employment is lower, and prices are still rising, although at a slower rate than previously," Mr. Haffey said. "All in all, the second quarter should be a real loser," he said. The survey's employment indicator continued to fall, as it has for eight months. The survey said 40% reported lower employment in June than in the previous month, while 5% said their companies received more new orders this month.

In the May survey, 55% reported fewer new orders, up sharply from 45% in the April survey. The previous record, set in 1974, was 56%, the association said.

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1934 Recalled

See pages 6-7

NEW YORK — The US Steel Corporation announced yesterday that it was closing 15 plants and mills in eight states. About 13,000 production and white collar workers will lose their jobs. The retrenchment was one of the most sweeping in the industry's history, in spite of high demand for steel in the last two years.

—New York Times, November 28, 1979

ATLANTA, Ga — Southern Airways Inc. said it plans to fire 14% of its workforce so it can afford $65 million worth of airplanes. The air carrier said it is firing 500 employees over the next two weeks in a move that will save Southern an estimated $7.5 million over the next 12 months. "One of the quickest ways to reduce expenses," said the director of public relations, "is to reduce people."

Southern doesn't expect labor trouble because the fired workers aren't members of a union, the spokesman said.

—Wall Street Journal, August 7, 1978

Where's everyone going? See page 12.
Shutdown Epidemic

The epidemic of plant closings now sweeping the country is a stunning demonstration of the social irresponsibility of big business. Decisions made behind the closed doors of corporate boardrooms, based solely on shareholder interest, have put millions on the unemployment lines and turned vital communities into ghost towns.

Take Youngstown, Ohio, a two-working steel city in the middle of America’s industrial heartland. Generations of working people in this community have labored in Sheet and Tube and other steel areas millions into profitable enterprises, paying handsome dividends to thousands of stockholders who never set foot on the premises.

But a little community recently uncovered a different story, a shocking tale of corporate selfishness. Lykes, it turned out had acquired Youngstown Sheet and Tube in 1969 for the sole purpose of using it as a tax haven.

The effect was devastating. Some 5,000 jobs were directly affected, another 6,000 were lost as industrial suppliers and retailers closed up shop. Local, state and federal tax revenues plummeted with the demand for government services which rocketed. The public was expected to pick up the tab, while Lykes got off scot free.

COMMUNITY DISINTEGRATION

But these figures obscure the real picture of human suffering and anguish which came about as the entire social and economic life of the community came uncaged. You can see it in the crowded classrooms, and you can see it in the dramatic rise in alcoholism, mental illness, suicide, child abuse and spouse abuse and family breakups which occurred in the wake of the shutdown.

There have always been and always will be plant shutdowns, as taste and technology change. But the Youngstown case is a classic example of a new wrinkle—the destruction of perfectly viable enterprises, on which entire communities depend, by multinational conglomerate corporations looking for an even faster buck. In back-to-back cases, the munificent friends of government—what is politely known as a “favorable business climate”—to move completely to a city to suburb, and from one country to another with no regard for the social consequences. The Youngstown story is being played out all over the United States, in small towns and big cities, in communities all over this country.

For most of this century, workers left behind by shutdowns were absorbed into new industries. As the economy expanded, the buggy whip makers and blacksmiths of the 19th century became auto workers. Today, of course, the situation faces a period of slow and uncertain growth. For a laid-off 40-year-old steelworker with a wife and five children and a mortgage, as well as for the unemployed 30-year-old who has no job, no prospects, living in a half-ruined home, there is no easy escape.

So far, the workers in the major industrial states have been the hardest hit. But while in the ILWU haven’t suffered from ‘stagflation on the scale of the 1970s, rubber, steel and forest products industry workers, we’re by no means immune. Porta don’t move, but work opportunity did as the longshoremen communities depend on the port. In Hawaii we are painfully familiar with closures and consolidations in sugar and pineapple. Warehouses and shipyards are the result of jobs at Sunsent in San Jose and Thrifty Drug in San Leandro can testify to the personal impact of plant closings.

For the future, we can only anticipate that the US economy is controlled by a shrinking handful of powerful corporations. But in the absence of democratic control of the economy, we are obliged to wage a battle, at the bargaining table and in the legislative chambers, to force these corporate behemoths to assume their social responsibilities, and that the anger that all reasonable people must feel over this issue should be used to construct such a coalition.

Oil Firms Seek Larger Tax Breaks

Seven of the world’s largest oil companies shared the distinction of paying a lower, 34 percent income tax rate than a typical taxpayer making $16,000 annually. Nearly two-thirds of these oil companies and other multinational corporations want their state taxes cut still further. They are waging an aggressive low-key lobbying campaign in Congress for legislation which would allow them to shift a substantial portion of their tax liability offshore.

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High-Court Sends 50-Mile Rule Back to NLRB
WASHINGTON, DC — The US Supreme Court has made a number of important decisions recently affecting longshore jurisdiction and injury compensation.

- The Court said last month that the National Labor Relations Board must reconsider its decision that East and Gulf Coast longshoremen illegally tried to expand their jurisdiction to include consolidated cargo containers.

- The agreements provided that the stuffing and unstuffing of consolidated cargo containers within a 50-mile radius of a port must be done by longshoremen. The provision was a response to the increased use of mixed loads, which has threatened the jobs of dockworkers.

ILWU COMMENT

"It is in the nature of the Court that the agreement did not award the work to the ILA, and that it specifically said that the Board was free to make whatever decision it felt was appropriate, applying correct legal principles," said Justice William J. Brennan.

- The ILWU said that the longshoremen were seeking to expand their work opportunities beyond traditional loading of ships and said the requirement that shippers use longshoremen violated federal labor law.

- In an opinion by Justice Thurgood Marshall, the high court said the NLDB should take a broader view and look at the traditional jurisdiction of longshoremen. The agreement is question involves Baltimore, New York and Hampton Roads, Va.

"The question is not whether the rules represent the most rational or efficient response to innovation, but whether they are a legally permissible effort to preserve jobs," the court said.

- The Court has extended benefits to injured workers by allowing them to sue in the right of a spouse to sue for damages of loss of society.

- The new rule, announced last month from the high court on a 6-3 vote, means that spouses of harbor workers in state territorial waters have a cause of action against equal wages.

- In the loss of society case, American Export Lines vs. Gilberto Alvez, Mr. Alvez lost an eye while working as a lasher aboard the Export Builder in New York waters.

- He sued for negligence and his wife sued for loss of society.

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ILWU Stewards Learn the Ropes

PETEBSBURG, Alaska — The Alaska ILWU Council held its second annual shop steward training program here May 24-25. Participants came from locals located throughout the Southeast Alaska and Seattle areas. 

- Larry Cotter, President of the Alaska Council, led the program. Mary Brown, Sandy Tihbler, Alec Lyet, Maryg Niehuen from Local 68, Petersburg; Gene Viernes from Local 27, Seattle; Elam Guilford from Local 83, Pelican; and Aurelia Perez and Alvin Martinez from Local 61, Ketchikan, attended.

- Discussions centered on the importance of a strong, active shop steward system. Time was spent on how to identify, document, and file grievances.

- Of special interest were presentations made by Alaska OSHA's and Alaska Worker's Compensation representatives. With regard to jobsafety, time was spent on clarifying the particular hazards particular to the Alaska fishing industry, such as freezer plants, cold, wet, workplaces, and loud noises.

Chlorine and ammonia gases utilized in freezing processors have created additional hazards. Participants gained much needed information pertaining to safety on the job where such materials are utilized.

- The Worker's Compensation representative clarified the state's system of coverage. Among the many examples, one has special importance for fishing industry employees — working in cold damp environments, particularly freezer rooms and cold rooms, may cause injury.

- Formerly sickness such as this has gone uncompensated.

- The Comp representative also pointed out that if properly documented any related injury or sickness will be covered. The injury or sickness does not necessarily have to be caused by conditions on the job, but need only be aggravated by them.

A case in point was arthritis.

- The workshop concluded with a mock grievance procedure, consolidating lessons learned from earlier presentations.

Southern California Organizing Wins

LOS ANGELES — The Southern California Regional Office reports four recent organizing victories.

- Local 26 won an 88-3 vote on April 24 involving 16 workers at Allied Motion in Los Angeles. On June 5, the 13 workers at Newman Bros voted unanimously to terminate their affiliation with the local.

- On June 5, the 13 workers at Hillcrest Paper joined the group by a 22-to-8 margin.

- ILWU Marine Clerks Local 63 in Wilmingon, Del., won a 128-72 vote involving 20 office workers at California United Terminals. Local 63 now represents 11 different clerical groups in Southern California, totaling over 240 members.

Local 6 Bargaining

SOUTHERN SAN FRANCISCO — ALMC Distributors, a newly organized distributor of motor boat parts and accessories, Local 6, has wrapped up an excellent one-year agreement with wage increases ranging up to 8½ per hour, standard language on union security and grievance procedures, 13 paid holidays, sick pay (with the unpaid portion to be cashed out at the end of the year), and other improvements.

- Negotiations were conducted by BA Don Ruth and steward Lamar Davis.

Agreements have also been reached at Vepas of America, by Ruth and steward Hector Delfa, and at Mercantile Freight Co., where Mark Moon is steward.

A joint agreement was won for 23 Shipping Department members of Local 6 at CPC International (Best Foods). The agreement negotiated with the Indus.

- The agreement negotiated with the Independent Employers and Distributors Association is retroactive to January 1, 1980.

- The agreement provides one week's pay for each full year of service for those electing severance, along with accrued vacation and extended health and welfare benefits provided by the Master Contract.

- Those employees choosing to stay on the seniority list will retain job rights for 24 months, with preferential hiring into CPC's other departments.

The loss of jobs occurred when the Company decided to shift its storage and shipping operations from San Francisco to a public warehouse in Hayward, which has a contract said to set in lower wages.

- Working to put a complete package were Chief Steward Adan Salerno, Assistant Steward Bob McDonough, Department Steward Los Salamito, Assistant Joe Josen, Committeeman John Cardinale and BA Al Lamon.
ILWU Delegates Find:
Modern China Invests in Youth

by
CLEOPHAS WILLIAMS, Chairman
Local 10, San Francisco
LOUISE DALTON
Local 6, San Francisco
ALFREDO CASTILLO
Local 142, Hawaii
SAM ROSENBERG
Local 18, Seattle
KEN GREGORY
Local 508, Chemainus, BC
TAKESHI "GROWN" YUGAWA
Local 142, Hawaii

(For three weeks in March an ILWU rank and file delegation toured the People's Republic of China as guests of the All-China Trade Unions. This was the first rank and file delegation of American unionists to visit the mainland since the revolution which transformed China in 1949. Here is the second and final installment of their report.

"Women hold up half the sky" is an old Chinese expression that we hear all over the "New China." Workers in the rank and file and in leadership capacities throughout China are beginning to have an enlightened view when it comes to women. The many male workers and women workers, as well, have the view that if a woman can do the job, why shouldn't she do it? We have seen women working right alongside men doing the most hard work like stacking and cleaning brick, digging ditches, road construction, driving crane in a factory, and all manner of work that is usually done by men in the US and Canada.

Most workers we talked to seemed proud that Chinese women are doing all kinds of things that we thought were the way in the US and Canada! They were very interested to hear about the fight in the US for the Equal Rights Amendment.

Women not only are doing the strenuous work, they are also in the top echelons of the unions and party organizations. In two of the cities we visited, Hangzhou and Tianjin, women are the secretaries-generals of the trade union. Also in Tianjin, we met with Sun Shaohua, Vice Chairman of the Trade Union Council, who had fought with the people and the women of Tianjin, and was now riding in the top echelon of the unions. In many cases, women are the top secretaries of the trade union. They are able to hold any job they want because of their strong work ethic and discipline. If the children are not holding a book, writing or doing something of that sort, they sit up, ramrod straight, with their hands behind their back. One day we happened to walk into the yard of a Beijing elementary school when children were playing. When the bell rang, they were lined up and marched in so fast, it was like a giant gust of wind had blown them away. There is definitely a no-nonsense approach.

There is a great emphasis on public health and preventive medicine, with both western medicine and traditional Chinese medicine in use. Each factory, port or commune we visited had its own extensive medical facilities which are provided free of charge to the people. At the Beijing machine factory we mentioned earlier we saw one young woman treated by means of acupuncture for chronic headaches, but they also had western-style surgical facilities.

They also do a lot of eye exercises. In one school we visited, the kids paused every 90 minutes for such exercises. This consists of pressing against the acupuncture points of the upper cheeks, stretching the eyelids and occasionally placing 4.5-volt electrical globe frames over the students' eyes. When we asked what this was for, the teachers said it prevented short-sightedness and reduces fatigue. And in fact, we didn't see any yawning or obvious boredom in any class. (A contradiction: for all their interest in preserving eyesight, the lighting in schools and workplaces is often quite poor, at least by our standards.)

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RELIGIOUS SERVICES

The present government has let churches reopen, which is among the many other freedoms newly allowed. We went to services in a Catholic Church in Beijing and a Protestant Church in Shanghai. We visited a mosque in Guangzhou, and a Buddhist Temple in Hangzhou. The churches were crowded and there was standing room only. The majority were older people.

The mosque outside of Guangzhou is a particularly beautiful historical site, the first mosque built in China. It is over 1300 years old, a quite serene place with tree-
lined open courtyards and beautiful buildings with hand-carved designs. As none of the delegation was Jewish, we weren’t allowed into the mosque proper, but we were all impressed by what we were allowed to see.

In all the sightseeing we did it would be difficult to pick out one thing that impressed us most, but the city of Hangzhou and the Buddhist Temple would be right up at the top. The temple is built at the base of a granite mountain and as you walk the quarter mile or so from the entrance to the temple, you pass large statues of Buddha and other deities carved into the mountain. Upon entering the Temple itself, you are overpowered by a 90-foot gold leafed Buddha with smaller gold leafed minor gods surrounding it. While we were there, a number of Buddhists prayed and burned incense.

The Temple is 1000 years old and has been restored by the government. The buildings are huge with many ornamental carvings associated with the life of Buddha. There were no rails used in the construction of the Temple. It is like many other sites and shrines we saw, a tribute to the workers and craftsmen of the old China. Indeed, in every city we saw the beautiful achievements of 6000 years of history of a creative and imaginative people.

TRIBUTE TO WORKERS

Our hosts always emphasized that while on the one hand these great temples, parks and other monuments—like the Great Wall of China which is so magnificent and awe-inspiring we won’t even try to describe it—were built by the emperors and upper classes, and later on by the Europeans, for their own purposes, off the sweat of the Chinese people, they are also seen as magnificent monuments preserved and used today as a tribute to the creativity and imagination of the craftsmen who built them. They have a real sense of wanting to reclaim their past, the beautiful things produced by their culture, for the average man, to make them accessible, to create an environment where the average man can experience awe, enlightenment and just plain relaxation.

They have been working on their hospitality for many years, too. In each city we visited, we were hosted to a banquet with the finest cuisine that each city had to offer. We were also introduced to the “mo-tai,” a 128 proof drink made from rice. It could easily power a gold leafed minor god surrounding it. While we were there, a number of Buddhists prayed and burned incense.

Theese women are members of a Shanghai commune which produces lumber products.

In our mid-twenties . . . . Dress is fairly standard—well-made but drab olive green or dark blue, except for the children who are very colorfully dressed and the young women and teenagers who wear bright scarves and jackets. In Guangzhou (Canton), which is close to Hong Kong, you see a little more western dress . . . . Tipping is unheard of, and you never have to worry about locking your hotel door or hiding your valuables. Ken Gregory left a quarter, a toothpick and a book of matches in his pocket when they went out to the laundry—found it all brought back with his trousers.

Movies are very popular. We are told there is an increasing number of dances for the young people . . . . Where we go sightseeing there are large crowds of Chinese, showing off what they think is best in their areas, but China is not reluctant to let the world know she has many major problems. See if some of them don’t sound familiar.

If this report seems somewhat glowing, it is. We have seen the best that China has to offer. You can sense a purpose in the people. They’re beginning to see they can do it. They are a hard-working people with a great deal of pride in what they do and what they hope to accomplish in the next 20 years. Like any good host, they show off what we think is best in our areas, but China is not reluctant to let the world know she has many major problems. See if some of them don’t sound familiar.

For all the fightings and bickerings, they are a people who have been working on their hospitality for many years, too. In each city we visited, we were hosted to a banquet with the finest cuisine that each city had to offer. We were also introduced to the “mo-tai,” a 128 proof drink made from rice. It could easily power a gold leafed minor god surrounding it. While we were there, a number of Buddhists prayed and burned incense.

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The Osborne Delegate Program altogether. Fortunately for us and all the future Osborne delegates, those revoltions were defeated. The $4 a month each member sends to support the Osborne Delegate Program has permitted rank and files to go to all parts of the globe and report back to our membership how our fellow workers throughout the world live. This is very worthwhile while and should be continued. We cannot speak for any country but China, but what we saw, what we talked to, how we were treated, could not be bought by any individual for any amount of money. We received the treatment we did, not because of who we were, but because of whom we represented.

The Osborne Delegate Program has a great name throughout the world because of what we stand for. The stands we have taken in behalf of others are not taken lightly overseas and are much appreciated. China and other countries don’t forget those fights on their behalf.

---Special thanks to Ms. Vita Krete

Work is combined with education. Here a student works in factory making electrical conductors.

Father and daughter tour the royal tombs in Peking.

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Puget Sound

Labor solidarity played an important role in shutting down the Puget Sound ports. The Teamsters and other waterfront unions supported the longshoremen by refusing to transport freight. The 300 strong Maids, Mates and Pilots union promised to refuse to work on ships that were hiring strikebreakers. The 1,600 members of the Seamen’s, Marine Engineers, and Marine Firemen’s unions joined the strike. The Marine Cooks and Stewards provided vital support in the “soup kitchen,” preparing and serving food to hundreds of men manning the picket lines day and night.

LITTLE VIOLENCE

For the first few days of the strike, peace prevailed. In Seattle, only four out of twenty ships in the harbor continued to work using strikebreakers. Soon pickets began to gather from as far away as Everett and Tacoma to concentrate their efforts on the three remaining terminals which continued to load cargo. On May 12 tensions began to rise as strikers raised nearly a dozen ships and drove the strikebreakers from their jobs. Surprisingly little violence occurred. According to the Seattle Times, “Strikers were courteous to bystanders and passersby; they did not use violence and asked them to reopen the Alaska trade and take an immediate vote on the question.”

ALASKA AGREEMENT

On May 13 in Tacoma, ILA representatives ratified an agreement to release the Alaska ships. They added the proviso, however, that union conditions had to prevail on the workers. Three days later, the employers agreed to a settlement satisfactory to the longshoremen. The agreement was to hire only union longshoremen in Alaska ports and the union had local agreements to hire ship crews under terms acceptable to the maritime unions. This was the agreement voted on by sixty-eight to fifty-two, and failed only because it required a two-thirds majority.

TENSION BUILDS

Meanwhile, the conflict on the strike front grew more intense. On June 28 a passing motorist witnessed the gunning down of pickets at Pier Park. Or rather the way in which the general public, the mayor and the waterfront employers interpreted it. The Waterfront Employers Assn. called in to help the employers open the port. “The employers agreed to arbitrate,” declared the mayor. “The employers agreed to arbitrate.”

DAFFON KILLED

In Everett on July 1, sixty picketers attempted to block the guards at the Port Wells Standard Oil Company docks who were chilling out a scab crew. In the resulting confrontation, Shelby Daffron, a member of Seattle ILA Local 31-12, was shot in the back by a guard. Several other strikes were killed or injured. A few hours later Daffron died of his wounds.

By now tension was so acute that Charles Reynolds, chairman of the Regional Labor Board of Everett, urged the city to accept the longshoremen’s offer to lift the ban on Alaska ships in exchange for removal of the troops and the nonunion men preparing to unload ships. They barely prevented violence. The longshoremen forced the guards to evacuate the docks. In Longview, several hundred millworkers struck in sympathy with the maritime workers and threatened to shut down the city’s power plant.

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Some scabs stayed in the Terminal the whole time. Some were making in and out to cash their checks. A few made it past our pickets, but their checks didn’t stick.” Toby recalls.

On July 11, they tried to move a train into the Terminal. Railroad workers had tipped us off they wouldn’t take the train through if a few rocks were thrown,” Lowrey said. “We were strung out about half a mile along the embankment. I was maybe 200 yards away from where Beatty was shot.”

“The cops were standing on a flat car with guns in their hands,” said Ted Backstrom, who would be 93 on his next birthday. “Bullets whistled all around me.”

Letters and petitions of protest poured into City Hall with Beatty’s name, “Bloody Shirt Joe.” Longshoremen, with police pistols leveled on them, carried him over the bumper and into the cars to an automobile. That afternoon Mcllouch, ILA’s representative on the Portland Labor Council’s Advisory Committee and eight other members of the committee, including Agnes Quinn of the Waitresses’ Union marched into City Hall with Beatty’s bloodstained shirt.

“This blood is on your hands, Joe!” Mcllouch said, lashing out. The Mayor’s desk. Carson never lived down the name. “Bloody Shirt Joe.”

The labor representatives demanded the immediate dismissal of Chief Lawson and the dismissal of all special police from the public docks.

CHILDREN THREATENED

Commissioner Riley, Benton and Clyde agreed. They were overruled by the Mayor. However, Carson and the Police Department came under heavy criticism. This mounted after it was learned that children were being shot at and that local groups of steady men, hearing the crackle of gunfire and thinking it was firecrackers, had run to the firing line.

Petitions and protests poured into City Hall.

Public confidence was shaken further on July 18 when an automobile carrying US Attorney General Francis Murnane Wharf jumped into the embankment. It was the bombing of the LA Times building.

The war ended in the carpenters hall, we left our records there. They railed the hall, got the ku klux klan ACTIVE

I was blacklisted because they knew I was a union man. There was a lot of violence against union men in the area, including some tarring and featherings by the ku klan klan. They once raised a yugoslav hall and broke up the place, poured hot coffee on women and kids.

When the ILA came in, we kept it quiet. But the first time we had a meeting in the carpenters hall, we left our records there. They raided the hall, got the dues lists and everything. But we kept trying, we did it again.

“I used to talk to the Italian guys, other guys talked to the Slavs, Portuguese, Germans and so on. Some guys, I paid their dues, or I leaned on them to join. You want your kids to be slaves like you.”

The steady guys didn’t want to join, they used to bring wine and stuff like that to the boss, they were a bunch of suckers.”

In January 1934, San Pedro longshoremen established a hiring hall in competition with the employer-controlled hall. The Regional Labor Board then held a representation election in which the workers voted 1,292 to 32 to affiliate with the ILA. Employers soon granted a 10% pay hike and other improvements. However, in a convention in February, all ILA locals on the West Coast met in San Francisco to outline their own demands. These included a uniform coast-wide agreement, union controlled hiring hall, a six-hour day, 30-hour week, and a $1 an hour minimum wage.

On May 9 30,000 longshoremen coastwide hit the bricks. Although the overwhelming majority of the San Pedro dock workers, numbering about 1,300, answered the strike call, the leaders of the Longshoremen’s Mutual Protective Association continued to work. This group had been formed several days before the strike by about 300 dock workers.

Without employers in Southern California barking on a short strike because of the large reserves of unemployed, division among maritime leaders, and confidence that the federal government would intervene, Nevertheless, Los Angeles Police Department conducted with the Burns Detective Agency to furnish guards, and a pool of employees was established by steamship companies and held at the company hiring hall for disbursement.

“The only ship that sailed out of Portland during the strike. It was only half loaded. Note pickets, police boat with armed cops. The wharf, near site of Portland’s first commercial dock and today’s Francis Murnane Wharf, is no longer in exist-
Stranahan Feted

Tribute to Local 40's Favorite Son

Local 40 Secretary Larry Clark presents plaque to J. K. Stranahan at testimonial dinner. From left, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Coffee, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pozzi, (Mr. and Mrs. Phil Fitzgeral behind podium), Lois Stranahan, International President Jim Herman and CRPMFA Secretary Ernie Baker.

Tribute to Local 40's Favorite Son

Stranahan Feted

President Jim Herman and CRPMA Secretary Ernie Baker. 

retiree Wally Hanks, all the way from Local 40 Secretary Larry Clark presents plaque to J. K. Stranahan at testimony.

Jesse Stranahan brought 207 people to of the crowd is a real tribute to Jesse."

Bend, Longview and Astoria — and one, the history of Local 40, "Secretary -Business Agent Larry Clark, who emceed the affair told the diners, noting that the "pain of the crowd is a real tribute to Jesse."

In addition to "the hundreds of hours he spent putting our bulletin together, Stranahan served as dispatcher and on almost every committee Local has," President Phil Fitzgeral testified. 

"Their activism did not stop with unionism," declared union lawyer Frank Pozzi. 

"Jesse was not satisfied to be a recipient of the power we have in ILWU" can be used

Our union," declared Herman, "has come under incredible assault because we

Stranahan then presented with a day, all-expense-paid trip to two Hawaii - site of the ILWU’s next Biennial Convention in April, 1981, and

OTHER speakers included CRPMA Pres.

Don abstracted a word at peace and dared to fight for the rights of those out of the mainstream to agitate for equity and social justice.

AN EXAMPLE

"He has a very deep concern, very well liked in the local, and his ac-

vities on behalf of the community youth," Superintendent of Longview Local 13 President John Pandora.

President of Local 40; the Stranahans' son, Tom, is the fact that I have had over the years a happy and rewarding association with#

Jesse then was presented with a

President, Lois Gray and Northern Cali-

naries' President Dawn Rutter was also
to oppose further utility increases, to ap-

The meeting was chaired by Southern California Federated Auxiliaries' Vice-

TARRANT, Ca. — Representatives of seven ILWU federated auxiliary chapters in California held their 14th annual meet-

Big Lake' Helped

Habor Area Kids

LONG BEACH — Donald Lake, a well known member of longshore Local 13, died June 11 of natural causes. He was 36 years old. 

The funeral of the 50 ft. longshoreman, known throughout the community as "Big Lake", generated tributes from city government, and community and religious or-

But Lake did not just get along, he was a coal miner's daughter) and his late wife, was a coal miner's daughter) and his late

Jackson, unable to be present because of re-

"This is the first testimonial dinner in the history of Local 40," Secretary-Bussi-

ness Agent Larry Clark, who emceed the affair told the diners, noting that the "pain of the crowd is a real tribute to Jesse."

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Local 142 Hosts Labor Conference
On Dangers of Nuclear Power

By Ab Quinn Melibrath

HONOLULU — Leaders of AFL-CIO and independent unions and the ILWU met on May 17 at the ILWU hall with Australian and Japanese union leaders to discuss mutual problems arising from the use of nuclear power and weapons, and other concerns in the Pacific rim countries.

The meeting began with a formal press conference of the five delegates, who were also participants in the Nuclear Free Pacific conference, which was being held simultaneously in Hawaii under the sponsorship of local and independent unions, church groups, and other organizations.

President Carl Damaso chaired the program.

The delegates were John Halfpenny, state secretary of the Amalgamated Metal Workers & Shipwrights Union, Australia; William Ethell, branch secretary of the Building Workers Union, Australia; John Baker, retired general secretary of Union of Postal Clerks & Telegraphers; Masayoshi Murayama, president of the Japanese Seafarers' Union; and Kenzo Sakai, chairman of the Japan National Transportation Workers Union.

WIDESPREAD OPPOSITION

The foreign delegates reported that although many steelworkers in both Australia and Japan oppose the use of nuclear power and the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

Although this is especially true among blue collar workers, the sentiment is spreading to higher paid white collar workers.

Halfpenny said his union and others are opposed to all nuclear power regardless of the country and they are working for the abandonment of the nuclear industry. However, although his union and others are opposed to nuclear power — the basic opponent in nuclear power — other unions and members ignore the boycott and continue to work the mines.

Sakai said Soyo, the General Council of Trade Unions in Japan, joins against the proliferation of nuclear power and weapons.

On the other hand, Domel, the Japanese Confederation of Labor, is not against nuclear development. Many of its members work with nuclear submarines at Pearl Harbor and nuclear fabricators.

Additionally, within the socialist oriented unions there is no opposition to the USSR stockpile of weapons because of ideology.

Leaders of the Hawaii Metals Trade Council and Boilermakers Union, whose members work with nuclear submarines, are opposed to nuclear power. On the other hand, Murayama said that he had no contacts with unions either in Washington, D.C., or in the mainland that he visited. He wondered if this might stem from support by the labor movement of President Carter's pro-nuclear position.

ALTERNATIVES

Trade unions and workers must take an active part in the conversion of nuclear industries to other non-polluting industries and alternative uses of job skills in industries where there are massive layoffs, delegates agreed.

Eibell discussed the experience of 18,000 workers at 17 plants of the Joseph Lucas Industries, Ltd. (Great Britain), Europe's largest manufacturer of military hardware, who faced layoffs.

For the last 10 years, the workers, through their Combine Shop Steward Committee, worked on every phase of the company's operations with the aim of using workers skills for socially useful products.

Some of the things they made instead were pacemakers for individuals with heart conditions and dialysis machines for people with kidney trouble.

This is of particular interest to the ILWU in Hawaii. Recent convention action called for a state inventory of all military lands, facilities, and manpower skills and training in the event of military cutbacks in Hawaii.

Halfpenny said that a recent study of Australia's economic growth projects that by the year 2000, all the goods and services for 15 million residents will be produced by one-third of the present force of five and a-half million workers.

Likewise, projections for the United States by one consulting firm predict that in 10 to 15 years, there will be 40 to 50% unemployment in the country.

VARIETY OF SOLUTIONS

Halfpenny maintained that workers in each country must work out solutions to their problems. He said that there are no easy answers, but collective action could result in turning resources used for nuclear power and defense to useful ends.

Present at the meeting were representatives of the following unions: Construction & General Laborers Union, Service Employees International Union, Food & Commercial Workers, Public Employees Federation, American Federation of Teachers, American Federation of Government Employees, Professional Employees Federation, National Federation of Teachers, American Federation of Government Employees, Professional Employees Federation, Hawaii State Federation of Labor (AFL-CIO), and Boilermakers Union.

US-China Trade

SEATTLE — Flannel shirts, textiles, basketball and drums that the goal of China were discharged here October 15 — the first import change that Chinese goods was unloaded from an American ship in this port.

Do you know workers who don’t make union wages? Who have no fringe benefits? Who have no security on the job? In other words, do you know workers who want to be organized into the ILWU? If so, please write or telephone in information to one of the following. An ILWU staff member will be happy to help.

Northwest Regional Office
G. Johnny Parks,
Regional Director
405 N.W. 18th Ave.
Portland, Ore. 97209
Phone: (503) 223-1955

Seattle Area
John Bokoskey, Organizer
5501 — 4th Avenue, South.
Rm. 212
Seattle, Wash. 98108
Phone: (206) 768-6640

Southern Calif. Regional Office
Donald Wright, Regional Director
2524 Frankham
Harbor City, CA 90710
Phone: (213) 539-7975

Canadian Area Office
Craig Prichett,
Regional Director
3643 E. Hastings St.
Vancouver, B. C.
Phone: (604) 254-8141

Northern Calif. Regional Office
1188 Franklin Street
San Francisco, Calif. 94109
Phone: (415) 773-0525

Felix Rivera, Int'l Rep.
Phone: Crockett Avenue.
(415) 751-1711
Sacramento Area:
(916) 371-5638

Hawaii Office
Thomas Trask
451 Atkinson Dr.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone: (808) 949-4161

John Arismus, Int'l Rep.

Organize!

MEMORIAL—The last of the beloved Liberty ships from World War II tied up at her final berth in San Francisco Bay last July 5, where the vessel have to while amoral service held in honor of those who have gone down to the sea in ships and never returned. With hundreds of well-wishers and maritime union, industry, and government officials aboard, the S.S. Jeremiah O'Brien steamed under her own power from the fitting-out dock at the Northrop shipyard to Pier 3 at Font Mason to take up her chores as a memorial to the ships and seamen-harried ancient troops and cargoes in the last Great War.

U.S. Corporations Reap Huge Windfall
As OPEC Hikes World Oil Prices

Soaring OPEC prices have consistently meant soaring profits for Big Oil. In a new study for the National Bureau of Economic Research, Dr. Avram Kisselgoff has sought to clarify just how the huge increases in OPEC crude oil prices have been translated into higher prices and profits by American oil companies.

His study, "The Propagation of Prices in the Oil Industry, 1968-1976," finds that, at all three stages of operations — production, refining, and marketing — American oil companies were able to increase their profit margins substantially.

Using data from the Chase Manhattan Bank on 29 United States oil companies, Kisselgoff found that annual gains in net income after taxes, which had not exceeded 16% in the 1967-72 period, jumped 79%, to $11.7 billion, in 1973, and by 46%, to $16.4 billion, in 1974.

Net gains in 1979 ranged from 106.4% at Texaco to 55.6% at Exxon.

The study made a point that a "meaningful evaluation" of the profitability of the oil industry should also take into account the extent to which the oil industry is investing in reserves of fuel other than oil, such as coal, uranium, oil shale and timberland. As a result, he says, the oil industry is in possession of assets that do not currently yield profits, but whose potential profit increases inexorably with the rising value of the reserves.

It's also worth noting that while oil prices soared and company profits exploded, the chief executive officers at the nation's five largest oil companies — Exxon, Mobil, Texaco, Standard of California, and Gulf, in that order — got wage increases averaging about 16% last year. These handsome raises and bonuses, on average, to almost $74,000. Much of the increases came as a result of a wave of bonuses tied to company profit gains.

The oil executives in the Big Five (we're talking about 220 persons in all made out somewhat better than other top executives in the corporate world, who averaged raises of 7.8%, and also better than the industry's rank and file. On average, members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, which represents most of the organized workers employed by the nation's oil refineries, received an 8.3% increase last year. And this, of course, took a nationwide strike and bond, on average, to almost $74,000. Much of the increases came as a result of a wave of bonuses tied to company profit gains.

So next time the media implies that Americans might nobly have to sacrifice their sons for their cars, think about another alternative: breaking up the Big Oil monopoly that is the basis of our econom- ic and energy problems.

Local 23 Crane Training
TACOMA—ILWU Local 23 and the Port of Tacoma have completed a crane operators' training program, in which approximately 100 union members too part according to Local 23 Dispatcher Robert Reed.

An outline for the program was worked out by Local 23 and the Port. This cash was turned over to the Crane Inspection and Certification Bureau. A UBC person- nel came to Tacoma, studied port facilities, and produced slides, training aids and an "Operator's Handbook" covering all Port- er's crane operations.

Local 23 members in the program received eight hours of classroom training, followed by five days of "on-the-job" training conducted by three members of Local 23, including Ellsworth Green, the local's crane safety man.
Defeat of Proposal 9 Hailed

Dean Tipps, executive director of Citizens for Tax Justice, a nationwide coali-
tion of groups fighting progressive tax reform, today hailed California voters' over-
whelming rejection of Proposition 9, which "begins the end of the conserva-
tive interpretation of the tax revolt as "a license to plunder," as the Los Angeles Times called it.

The defeat of Proposition 9 confirms that most Californians, like most Ameri-
cans, realize that the tax cut doctors are "inaccurate," said Tipps. "They want government to be better and more effi-
cient. But they are increasingly skepti-

cal — and rightly so — that radical tax cut tax schemes like Proposition 9 will ac-
complish either goal."

Sometimes called "Jaws II," Proposition 9, which would have cut income tax rates in half — was authored by Howard Jarvis, one of the architects of Proposition 13, the property tax limita-
tion measure which passed overwhelm-
ingly in California two years ago.

Tipps charged that the defeat of Propo-
sition 9 showed Howard Jarvis "has be-
come a victim of the Proposition 13 myth he tried to create." Instead of indicating "an "ideological shift to the right," Proposition 9 "was a revolt against massive property tax shift onto homeowners," he said.

Compared to the less than 3 cents per

New ILA Contract Provides Important Pension, Welfare Gains

NEW YORK — As reported in the June

issue of *The Dispatcher*, the Interna-
tional Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's

Association, AFL-CIO, reached agreement with East and Gulf Coast employers on the basic terms and conditions of a new three-year agreement.

This master contract settlement sets the economic conditions for the ILA, and pension and medical plan contribution rates, but leaves to each individual port or region the job of negotiating the level of benefits that can be supported by these uniform contributions.

The ILA's agreement with the New York Shipping Association was hedged in the mid-1980s on June. Pen-
sioners will receive the following benefits:

- **Disability pensioners, employees age 40 or older with 15 to 25 years of service,** and 50 years of service, $305 for 35 years, and $505 for 35 years.
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- **Disability pensioners, employees age 40 or older with 15 to 25 years of service,** and 50 years of service, $305 for 35 years, and $505 for 35 years.

In the area of welfare benefits for new pensioners on and after January 1, 1990, the ILA Welfare Fund is obligated to provide medical and surgical benefits to pensioners and their dependents only to the extent that such individuals are not covered by Medicare, are not covered for medical surgical care as a result of being a member of the Social Security program, and in the event that no employer has contributed to the plan.

The ILA's welfare fund for pensioners is non-profit, and its operations are subject to audit by the Internal Revenue Service. The fund is administered by a board of directors elected by the ILA membership.
ILWU-PMA Alcoholism Program Offers Needed Help (Southern California)  

WILMINGTON — Since completing a state alcoholism training program in March, former ILWU Local 13 member Ed Torres has been working full-time to refer workers to the ILWU-PMA Employees Assistance Program he headed for the last year and a half.  

"Things have started popping," says Torres. "People are looking for more awareness of the program and are making the referrals that are needed to get a real favorable response, especially from people with other problems."

In addition to helping those suffering from alcoholism and substance abuse, the Employees Assistance Program offers aid to people having marital, financial and psychological troubles.  

"An advanced alcoholic has all these problems," Torres says. "A drunk who has these problems exhibits a lot of the same symptoms as alcoholics — tardiness, absenteeism, conflicts with co-workers. They're all related. It's often a case of distinguishing between the primary problem and the secondary one. We deal with any set of circumstances that causes their problem to make the program accessible to them."

Alcoholics Anonymous has no position on the availability of treatment programs. "AA is a fellowship, not a human service organization," Torres says. "They're not in the business of providing treatment, but they're trying to get people into treatment."

Ed Torres counsels a Local 13 member on alcoholism problem.

"He's cooperating with us 100% — more than anyone in the past at Kaiser. Something very positive is coming out of the relationship." Always emphasised are Alcohols Anonymous, Al-Anon, and especially family counseling. "The family has to be involved for the treatment of it," says Torres. "We can't stress it enough. The success of a person's recovery depends on family support."

NEW ADDRESS

To become more expert on the family therapy aspect of treatment, Torres will attend an alcoholism studies program at Duke University this spring. He hopes that workers and their families will be less reluctant to drop by when he moves out of the Local 13 hall and into a new office at 1314 North Avalon Blvd. in Wilmington. His phone number will be the same: (213) 549-8006.

There are still plenty of members who won't use the program until they get into serious trouble and are forced to participate in order to keep their books, Torres says. But he is encouraged by the number of workers who are walking in voluntarily. He now has nine people in treatment, mostly for alcoholism, and 20-30 as outpatient, involved in follow-up counseling.

Ex-ILWU Editor Describes Exchange

Ex-ILWU Editor Describes Exchange with 1st Line Workers

In the spring of 1975, Sidney Roger, former editor of the ILWU Dispatcher, led 44 workers from the Port of Los Angeles to Rotterdam, Holland, to work out of their home ports. "It has been slow getting people in San Diego and Port Huron to use the program, but that's because they haven't seen it in action yet and they're skeptical."

"They are planning on attending this workshop this Fall for all labor groups in Southern California. He's anxious to have other unions look at the trial and see, and how a program works with the screening of both labor and management."

The success of the program, he says, is due to the cooperation of the locals, the officers, the Local 13 officers, Coast Commission Bill Ward, and Ron Mayney and Ed Flynn of PMA. "I have to thank these guys," says Torres. "Every- thing I've asked for they've given me. They realize the joint approach is the only way to go. It leaves us free to con- centrate on the individual."

Alcoholism Workshop Open to Everyone

SAN FRANCISCO — All interested union members and their friends and family are encouraged to attend a free alcoholism workshop Saturday, July 19 sponsored by the Longshore Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program, reminds program director George Cobbs.

The workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the View Room of the Local 10 hall at 400 North Point Street in San Francisco.

Following the opening remarks by ILWU officers will be a series of talks by ex-alcoholics Bob Crutcher and Ted Kulongoski. A state senator with a real favorable response, especially from people with other problems."

CRUTCHER'S SERENITY HOUSE will speak on the disease concept of alcoholism. Dr. Gil Ayote, U.S. Public Health, will address the medical aspects of alcoholism. A panel discussion with several longshore- men, will discuss the various treatments of alcoholism.

S千元 INCISION

The workshop also will feature a panel discussion on what workers and management can do, work. Participating will be Willa Sudworth, executive director of the Oregon State Labor Federations and Art O'Fla- nan of the Teamsters. ILWU Local 13 members George Cobbs and Ron Wyden will moderate the discussion. The ILWU PMA EPPossess Cumberland Program in Southern California. George Cobbs, who will close the workshop, emphasizes that everyone is welcome. For more details, call him at (415) 718-6863.

Borden worked with one man who did not speak a word of English. "The only thing we got going for us is that we're both good longshoremen, he can work with him without screwing the job up. We both proved we're good and we both know our work. We have no communication gap as far as our jobs go."

And Yamamoto said, after returning home, that he enjoyed the talking and arguing among union men here. "The free- dom, the camaraderie. . . . The hiring hall is a good feeling."

Homan said that maybe a social- ized union can do what they have not need it. It's a type of home to the average guy.

PATERNALISM

Roger wrote in conclusion: "For those who enjoy a paternalistic environment, this is a great way to go. For those who prefer a militant, somewhat abrasive, al- ways noisy, but free environment, San Francisco is the place to go."

When Roger resigned from the Dispat- cher in 1972 he returned to work on the waterfront as a shipper, taught in the Labor Studies Program at the Institute of Industrial Relations, University of Cali- fornia — Berkeley, and traveled exten- sively.

Roger retired from Local 34 in 1979. When he resigned from The Dispatcher the then-ILWU International officers wrote a letter that said:

"Your work as editor for the past six years has been a credit both to you and Howard Simpson. I have been the editor of The Dispatcher our paper has continued as one of the outstanding things our union produces."

New Container Berth

PORTLAND — The Port of Portland Com- mission is scheduled to open its new container berth with cranes at Terminal 6 on the Columbia River July 5, 1980.

A press release said that because of the trend toward total containerization of trade, the port had made a significant growth of container barging on the Columbia Snake river system, the growth pattern at the Terminal would continue to rise. 

Francisco is the place to go."

North Container Berth

PORTLAND — The Port of Portland Com- mission is scheduled to open its new container berth with cranes at Terminal 6 on the Columbia River July 5, 1980.

A press release said that because of the trend toward total containerization of trade, the port had made a significant growth of container barging on the Columbia Snake river system, the growth pattern at the Terminal would continue to rise.
Some 320 members of West Coast labor, community and church groups met in Portland June 20-22 for a conference on the causes, effects and remedies ofplant closings. Sponsored by the Progressive Alliance, the conference was attended by Democratic workers President Keith Johnson and ILWU Sponsored by the Progressive Alliance, the conference was attended by Democratic workers President Keith Johnson and ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Curt McClain. It attracted a b roll of speakers—unionists—dissenting workers—and community organizations such as Oregon Fair Share, Rate Payers Union, etc.

The highlight of the conference, however, was an address by Paul Kekut, College economics professor and co-author of Capital and Community: The Causes and Consequences of Private Privatization, a definitive study on the issue of plant closings.

The closing of plants is represented by officers and members of Portland and Coos Bay waterfront locals, pension and insurance. International President Jim Herman delivered the keynote speech on the first night of the conference, and Research Director Barry Silverman helped lead a workshop on collective bargaining responses to shut-downs.

Other speakers included State Senator Ted Kulongoski, who has won widespread labor endorsement in his campaign to unseat Republican senators, as well as Art Arling, Ohio Public Interest Campaign; Bill Dodds, Executive Director of the West Area Labor; Bob Kennedy, and Nellie Poe, President and Legislative Director of the Oregon AFL-CIO; Larry Kennedy, Secretary-Treasurer of the Portland Trade Council; Bill O'Neil, International Vice-President of the United Steelworkers; General Counsel Thompson, General Vice-President of the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers; and James Martin, Assistant Secretary of the Coalition of American Public Employees.

We've said that 15 million jobs disappeared as a direct result of plant closures, but that is basically understating the problem. The vast majority of these jobs losses rippling quickly through the rest of the community is tremendous. Area retail trade suffered 12 percent of its pinch. Smaller companies which have been suppliers to plant-shutdown plants have suffered immediate and in each case, additional workers are laid off. As the tax base shrinks, public workers are laid off as well. When, for example, New Jersey, the factory shuttered, throwing 725 employees into the streets, the New Jersey AFL-CIO estimated that over 468 jobs in local businesses were lost. These massive shutdowns are particularly deva- stating to older citizens of minority groups and to women—many of whom leave the labor force for long periods of time or even permanently.

Another important provision in the tax codes permits US companies to postpone tax payments on overseas operations, providing a tremendous inducement to move capital overseas. The whole policy issue is up for grabs, however, as the current wave of shutdowns has sparked widespread protests. More unemployment has hit hardest, and provoked de- bates as well.

For workers who belong to unions, the first line of defense against dislocation is without doubt the collective bargaining process. Some unions have made significant breakthroughs in recent years; the formation of assisting work- ers through the period of transition.

The major electrical unions, for example, have reached the point of forming a company to which would require the company to give two years notice prior to any partial or complete shut- down. The United Food and Commercial Work- ers has contracts with several meat packing firms requiring the closing of a plant and re- opening on a non-union basis within five years of the original closure. Some unions have negotiated transfer rights, continuation of health and welfare benefits and similar agreements with companies that have threatened plant closures.

Many unions have negotiated transfer rights, continuation of health and welfare benefits and similar agreements with companies that have threatened plant closures. But even if Taft-Hartley were repealed, and even if every single American worker were organized and protected by strong contract lan- guage, protection needs to be extended beyond the plant closing itself to all workers who are directly affected. In addition to the almost complete failure of the mechanism for rebuilding the local economic base and protecting local communities, there is a need for a national policy to protect public interests during the period of transition. The legislative solution is a national program to protect public interests during the period of transition.

One important legislative step would be the strengthening of the Taft-Hartley Act which now provides, for example, that workers who lose their jobs as a result of a plant closing are entitled to six weeks of unemployment benefits.

Bills in both houses of Congress—such as one recently won an agreement from Westinghouse Corporation to give 18 months of disability benefits to workers who lose their jobs as a result of a plant closing—are now pending. In addition, a bill sponsored by Rep. Ford and Michigan Sen. Don Riegle, among others, would also protect the health and other rights of workers affected by plant closings.

One of the most subtle and destructive of the new methods of moving capital is what some rather cynical economists have taken to calling the "cash cow" phenomenon. Conglomerates will purchase the cash cow for a price that lets the company, "pay all for itself, using the cash thus acquired to pursue new and even more profitable paths. The "cash cow" is discarded once its earnings have run dry—along with the workers and communities left behind.

Why is this happening, and why is it happening now? One of the most important factors which has made this possible has been a profound revolution in transportation and communications which makes it possible, for example, for a company to make one computer part in Taiwan, another in California, and another in the United Kingdom and operate from a "virtual" office in Dallas. In addition, America's enormous political, military and economic influence after World War II allowed US companies to control large sections of the world market, and to take advantage of lower wage rates, tax breaks, and other advantages of operating in foreign coun- tries. Finally, the growing competitiveness and instability of the world economy, with its chronic inflationary cycle, has driven US companies to compete ever more viciously and systematically in their pursuit of higher and higher profits.

Corporations move their capital around in search of lower costs. In the process, they increase the rates. But the current wave of shutdowns is dis- tinctive because it involves the larger, diversi- fied multinational corporations. We're not talking about small independent businesses running away from unionized states. Their chief weapon is an in- creasingly effective, coordinated strategy to take advantage of lower wage rates, tax breaks, and other advantages of operating in foreign coun- tries. Finally, the growing competitiveness and instability of the world economy, with its chronic inflationary cycle, has driven US companies to compete ever more viciously and systematically in their pursuit of higher and higher profits.

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