Another jump in joblessness

WASHINGTON—Nearly 12 million people were out of work in November as the nation’s unemployment rate shot up fourteen-tenths of a percentage point to 10.8 percent, setting another postwar record, the Labor Department reported December 3. "The rise in the rate from the 10.4 percent level in October was far sharper than many economists expected. It was caused, the department said, by the loss of 165,000 additional payroll jobs as well as by an increase of 175,000 in the number of new workers."

In many months, even when the unemployment rate rose, the nation’s industries added jobs to the work force, but there was no increase last month, the statistics bureau noted. More than 9.933,000 people were working in the week of November 15 when bureau officials made their monthly household survey, virtually the same as in October.

HIGHEST RATE SINCE 1940

Of a labor force of 111 million, 11,987,000 people were unemployed and looking for work, an increase of 430,000. This resulting seasonally adjusted rate of 10.8 percent is the highest since 1940, when the average for the year was 14.4 percent. Lane Kirkland, the president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, called on Congress to act immediately to change the course by passing job legislation. "To wait two months until the new Congress gets down to work is to deny any hope to the millions of jobless Americans facing a bleak holiday season," he said.

Mr. Kirkland, head of the 15-million-member labor federation, said he thought workers respected the society in which they lived and that they trusted the people who represented them to act to alleviate their suffering.

"If it takes riots in the streets to bring about movement, I would regret that," he said. "I think we have a democratic society that is supposed to be responsive."

"If all else fails and then people come to the conclusion that the only way they can get the people’s attention is to create turmoil in the streets, well, then, I guess perhaps we have to go out and organize some turmoil in the streets, if that’s what it takes to convince people."

REAL TOTAL

In her customary monthly testimony before the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, Dr. Janet L. Norwood, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, said that virtually every element in the November employment and unemployment situation was down.

"Retailers hired fewer workers than usual for the holiday season," she said, "and the big and the small stores worked shorter hours, a comprehensive measure that reflects both employment and hours worked, continued to decline in November."

In addition to the nearly 12 million unemployed last month, there were about 1.6 million "discouraged workers" who have given up looking for work and are not counted in the regular rate, Dr. Norwood said. More than 6.5 million other workers were underemployed, working shorter work weeks than they wanted.

"6-5" pattern broken

Canadian dock pact paves way

VANCOUVER, BC — Canadian Area ILWU members have won a 22% wage increase in the first two years of a new three year contract.

The gain was achieved in the face of stiff employer resistance that included a lock-out and back to work legislation passed by the federal parliament, with the threat of wage controls (limiting wage increases to 6% in the first year and 5% in the second if agreement was not reached.

ILWU members ratified the settlement by a 66% majority. The base rate in the old contract, which expired December 31, 1981, was $12.59 an hour with $18.83 for the afternoon shift and $25.10 for graveyard shift. Increases are retroactive to January 1, 1982.

Terms of the new agreement include the following:

- in the first year, an increase of $1.30 an hour will be added to the base rate, of $12.59; $1.95 an hour to the afternoon shift and $2.60 to the graveyard shift. Increases are retroactive to January 1, 1982.
- in the second year a straight $1.60 an hour will be added to all shifts.
- a wage re-opener clause will go into effect in the third year.
- substantial improvements in the welfare and pension plans as well as in the supplementary unemployment benefit program.
- triple time for recognized holidays. (In 1986 ten ILWU local presidents were jailed for refusing to obey an injunction ordering ILWU members to work on a statutory holiday.)
- The alternative of a 6 and 5 program was just too gruesome to accept.

A promise denied?

For better than 40 years, Social Security has been America’s most successful anti-poverty program. Whatever its inadequacies, Social Security has brought a basic level of dignity and security for this country’s retired workers.

Today Social Security is under attack. The same people who went after school lunches, aid to the disabled, housing assistance and other social programs are pushing for cutbacks in benefits and other major “reforms.” A major legislative battle is shaping up in Congress early next year.

For the first in a series of articles on the future of Social Security, please turn to pages 4-5
Right to strike denied

L.A. unions join to defend public workers

LOS ANGELES—The recently passed Los Angeles County proposition outlawing strikes by county workers is constitutionally faulty on several grounds and a major court battle is shaping up quickly to stop the measure in its tracks.

Proposition A, which won 57% to 43% approval in the November election, will be challenged primarily on three fronts, said Cheryl Rhode, political director of the Los Angeles-based Service Employees International Union 660, which represents 9,000 of the 71,000 County workers affected by the illegal anti-strike measure.

Proposition A is a violation of rights guaranteed by both the US and California constitutions, Rhode said. "Furthermore, LA County's board of supervisors lacks the statutory authority to impose strikes in an area of labor relations, which the state of California has preempted."

Finally, a third challenge will be waged on behalf of LA County taxpayers, "who will be made to pay exorbitantly for enforcement of this ill-conceived proposition," Rhode said.

The SEIU, with total backing from all employee unions, associations and groups representing LA County workers, has made its challenge in Superior Court immediately after the California secretary of state certified the election, Rhode said. The SEIU "was aware of this issue of utmost importance," said Council President Luisa Gratz, "and we are being for the public workers in every possible way."

**OATH REQUIREMENT**

In the SEIU's suit, passage of the punitive and unconstitutional proposition—engineered by a three-member anti-labor coalition on the LA County board of supervisors—has produced broad and vehement protest, mainly over the measure's stringent oath requirement, Rhode said.

Under this part of the act, County workers, new and current, would be required to waive their right to presumption of innocence and, further, to abide by all terms of the measure, said Rhoden. "On this issue alone, Proposition A falls outside protections guaranteed by the US Constitution."

In challenging the legality of Proposition A, the SEIU cites other consequences of the charter amendment.

Proposition A removes any management flexibility in dealing with work actions by requiring the firing of any employee for any work action, no matter how trivial. It prohibits employees from expressing or communicating a complaint or opinion on working conditions if interference with "full, faithful and proper performance of duties.

It prohibits amnesty.

It requires that a worker be presumed guilty if sick or absent on a day when there's a sickness or slowdown by other employees—and the worker must prove his or her innocence.

It strips any employee represented by a union (from getting any wage increase or improvement in working conditions if the union supports a work action).

**Unemployment cuts back health care**

WASHINGTON, DC—More than 16 million Americans have lost health insurance coverage as a result of unemployment, and many appear to be foregoing necessary medical care, according to a new report issued by the Urban Institute.

The principal source of coverage for most of these workers is their employers, said the Urban Institute, which found that 12.7 deaths per 1,000 unemployed were recorded in 1980, compared to 12.2 last year.

Unemployed workers have special health concerns, according to Dr. Walker and other health specialists, who said they are particularly vulnerable to high medical costs when they lose their jobs.

"At the end of 1979, more than 18 million workers were in their prime working years. The report showed that 13.1 million workers were unemployed, and 4.9 million were in the labor force PB available from the insurance industry."

"The working poor, senior citizens and children in particular have lost health insurance benefits as a result of unemployment, and the cost-of-living clauses in their group contracts are not being adjusted to keep up with the rising cost of living,

"Unemployed people find it difficult to maintain health insurance coverage, and many have no health insurance at all. They often skip scheduled medical appointments, and face the risk of high medical costs when they lose their jobs."

"In the past, more than 18 million Americans, representing 85% of the civilian population, were covered by one or more forms of private health insurance, according to the latest figures available from the insurance industry."
International Exec Board session

PORTLAND—Meeting here November 19 and 20, the ILWU International Executive Board heard reports from the titled officers and acted on a number of internal issues.

The Board also voted to donate $500 toward a holiday dinner for the crew of the Ciudad de Manuta, an Ecuadorian ship which has been on strike—and stranded on the Columbia River—for three months.

The board acted after hearing a report from Local 21 President Mel Bannister. Bannister said the local has been able to provide food for the crew by raising money from area unions. Appeals to the Ecuador minister of labor and other government officials have met with no response. The ship is owned by Grancolumbiana, a PMA company.

In other actions, the board members appointed committees to review the International Constitution and to review the International’s finances.

Ciudad de Manuta

Ecuador seamen still on Columbia, get ILWU aid

LONGVIEW — Striking crew members on the Ecuadorian ship Ciudad de Manta spent Thanksgiving Day anchored in the chill Columbia off the Port of Longview.

The vessel was temporarily shifted from the Port’s No. 3 berth to make room for another ship to load cargo. When the loading was finished, the de Manta’s owners “refused to let them return to Berth 3.” Local 21 President Mel Bannister told The Dispatcher, “so they’re still out in river.”

Did they have any food for Thanksgiving dinner?

“Oh, yes,” said Bannister. “We made sure they had food before they went out there, and we delivered another $860.03 worth of groceries to the ship today.”

OTHER DONATIONS

He added that the $900 check the International Executive Board voted for the seamen’s Thanksgiving, when the Board was in session in Portland November 16 and 17, “has not arrived yet, but a $500 donation came in from Local 47 in Olympia, the Longview pensioners voted to contribute $60 a month, and few private individuals also sent money.”

At this writing the ship’s delegate Fausto Bercade was slated to leave November 27 for Seattle to meet with the Ecuadoran Consul and Bob Gilis, an attorney.

Local 142 inks Foodland agreement

HONOLULU—A settlement reached with Foodland Super Market brings an 18% wage increase over the three-year duration of the new contract, which runs from November 1, 1982 to October 31, 1985.

Covered are some 890 employees who work in Foodland’s stores and warehouses. There are 27 stores, located throughout the state—17 alone on Oahu—and others on Maui, Hawaii, and Kauai.

The pay boost will take effect in six-month increments. It will bring the wages of cashiers from $9.29 to $10.99, clerks from $9.83 to $11.68, and head clerks from $10.72 to $12.67.

Hiring meetings were held throughout the islands. The agreement was reached at 4 p.m. on October 30.

Other gains include:

• For part-time workers—increased medical plan benefits, including drug and vision care, and 75% of premium costs to be paid by management for those obtaining 36 months of service; first-time dental coverage, with the company assuming 50% of the premiums for individuals with one year of service.

• The company’s pension plan contribution will rise by $6 per hour for fulltime workers.

• There is modification in the disciplinary procedures, guaranteed job assignment, allowance for work uniforms, and various contract language changes.

International Representative Leonard Hobish was chief union spokesman. Harold Miyamoto and Lolita Kanibe were chairman and secretary of the negotiating committee respectively. All islands were represented on the committee.

Foodland’s ILWU members hold down such jobs as: cashiers, warehousemen, and stock, drug and courtesy clerks.

The successful conclusion of negotiations elicited these remarks from committee members:

Miyamoto: “Because our Oahu stores are spread out all over the island, we took extra pains to make sure our members were reached in a series of ratification meetings. We were prepared to take a strike vote if necessary.”

Katherine Nault, a fulltime cashier: “I’m really pleased we were able to take care of our part-time workers. They deserve what they got in the settlement.”

Comp negotiations continue in Congress

WASHINGTON, DC — As this issue of The Dispatcher goes to press, Congressional negotiations are still in progress over minor amendments to the Longshoremen’s and Harbor Workers’ Compensations Act. About two weeks remain in the “lame duck” session of the 97th Congress to complete enactment of all legislation for this year.

“Our position remains the same,” said ILWU President Jim Herman. “To prevent future extremist attacks, we are willing to support a specific number of minor amendments which will not compromise the integrity of the Act, and which will not adversely affect either the scope or amount of coverage.”

Mayor, city council

Smashing win for labor in Vancouver vote

VANCOUVER, BC—Vancouver has had labor-backed mayors before, and also labor-backed aldermen, but on November 20, Vancouver voters for the first time elected a majority of labor-backed candidates to City Hall.

Those elected on the slate backed by the Vancouver and District Labor Council included Mayor Mike Harcourt, who was elected with a two-to-one majority for his second term; his associate Bill Vree who ran as an independent, was elected alderman; Fred’ Committee of Progress Electors (COPE) aldermen who were reelected—Harry Rankin (who again topped the polls, Bruce Fraser and Bruce Yurick; and one new COPE alderman, Lorne Davies.

OFFSET

Labor’s victory at City Hall was somewhat offset, however, by COPE losing its majority on the School Board (where its representation dropped from five to three and the loss of one seat on the Parks Board, where it now has only one member).

COPE spokesmen point out that the victory at City Hall was due to the fact that labor was united around one slate while the business groups were divided and ran three slates. In the case of the School Board and Parks Board the business groups united around one slate and consequently made some gains.

Major issues in the election campaign were tax reform, affordable housing, a ward system (the referendum for it secured a 57% majority) and a disarmament referendum that drew an 80% majority from voters.

NEEDED REFORMS

“The programs of COPE and Harcourt have a good deal in common,” said Frank P. Keating, the president of the Vancouver & District Labour Council. “The job now is to use their majority to bring in some much needed reforms and do justice.”

Kennedy is also secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Area ILWU.

In the neighboring city of New Westminster, Tom Baker, a carpenter’s business agent, was elected as mayor with labor backing.
Short strike wins new pact for Meatcutters in California chains

A selective six-hour strike in the Los Angeles area helped win wage negotiations three- month stalemates between meatcutters and meat merchant members of the AFL-CIO Food and Commercial Workers to California's six major supermarket chains. Members of 11 UFCW local unions from the Los Angeles area, which accounts for more than 70% of the state's $5 billion retail food operation, over the term of the contract. Despite management's determination to strike and fight for the contract terms, provisions as a guaranteed eight-hour workday, cost of living and job security for meat cutter negotiators were able to retain them.

The new contract provided wage increases ranging from $1.45 to $1.47 per hour over the term of the contract.

The Port of Portland is stuck for $43,000 in back taxes, which was owed by Western Distributors, the shipper of 7,000 containers of imported live fish, and other bills owed shore-side warehouse and stevedoring companies. The parties were brought together shortly before the walkout started and worked through the night.

Both unions left their jobs after a long struggle and workers negotiated a separate agreement covering northern and Fresno. The latter contract terminates in 1984 and now covers 6,000 employees in the southern California jurisdictions, except Stockton and Fresno. The latter contract terminates in November.

The southern agreement was settled at 6:30 a.m., with the aid of two federal mediators, Allen and Nick Frederick. Frederick, who had joined the negotiations earlier this time, was approached to avert a strike, returned from Washington, D.C., on the eve of the walkout to give it a try. The union said that it brought together shortly before the walkout started and worked through the night.

This is because unless a pensioner specifies otherwise, withholding is automatic unless a pensioner elects withholding. As best we can determine, most ILWU pension plans are present in the process of formally notifying new beneficiaries of this change in the law, and sending out forms whereby pensioners indicate whether they want or do not want a portion of their benefits withheld. Some plans, such as those of the major insurance companies and banks, may have effectiveness to the non-notification of new beneficiaries requirements. The IRS will review such requests for exceptions to the withholding requirements until April 1 or July 1.

However, whether it starts in January, April or July, tax withholding on pension benefits is here, and pensioners will have to decide how they want to handle it.

You or a pensioner have what amounts to four options under the new law.

1. You can sign a statement delining that you do not want taxes withheld from your pension payments.
2. If your pension benefit is $450 a month or less, you don't have to do anything, and the new law will have no effect on your benefit payments.
3. If you sign a statement delining that you do not want taxes withheld from your pension payments.
4. Your own firm has just under $1 million in delinquent bills over the last five years.

In the case of a Greek owned grain ship that left with $300,000 in unpaid bills, the owners were brought to court months ago, and the ship was sold.

The new bill would be "marine muffing"

PORTLAND – Rep. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) has introduced a bill in Congress (HR 629) designed to put an end to "marine muffing" and to protect the port.

The President's subsequent announcement that he had no intention of making cuts in Social Security benefits to help bring the huge deficit in the 1981 federal budget under control. "While aides have charact-

The facts are that it never has been the system's ability to pay is threatened with bankruptcy. "Social Security is going broke," say the headlines. "What was accomplished at the table on wage issues in the membership probably would not have been accomplished at that point in time and in our national climate of current economic conditions. And in our national economic climate of current economic conditions, there is no indication that Social Security's current troubles would reduce the cost — contributions to the Social Security Trust Fund — by any appreciable amount. We continue to advocate, as one of the many, many ways of reducing the Social Security Trust Fund, the very basis of the system. The justification for all such cuts designed to make Social Security less "taxable." The ILWU shall continue to be part of the ILWU Twenty-Fourth Bicentennial Convention, held in Honolulu in April 1981.

The ILWU defends delegates social security

"Social Security is going broke," say the headlines. "Drastic cutbacks are needed." Millions of Americans are suddenly feeling their retirement security in danger. A majority of young working people don't really believe that there will be anything left for them when they retire. The ILWU delegates to the Social Security Convention will be at the top of the agenda. Conservatives claim that the system is near collapse and needs radical surgery. Liberals, strengthened by the results of the November election, argue that the system is basically sound. This article is offered in hope it will help Dispatcher readers understand the background to the debate which is about to take place.

Everyone understands that Social Security — the nation's largest and most successful anti-poverty program — has a problem. The problem is basically a reflection of the poor performance of the American economy over the last few years. Benefits, which are indexed to the average wage, have been adjusted substantially. The tax receipts which fund the entire Social Security System, however, on the other hand, have declined because of continued chronic high unemployment. Each 1% increase in the inflation rate cuts $1.5 billion in revenues.

The next few years, experts agree, the Social Security problem is a major one. As President Reagan announced in his budget address in February, the system is on the edge of a crisis. The solution to this crisis is to "strictly limit" any increase in benefits. The solutions to this crisis is to "strictly limit" any increase in benefits. The solution to this crisis is to "strictly limit" any increase in benefits. The solution to this crisis is to "strictly limit" any increase in benefits. The solution to this crisis is to "strictly limit" any increase in benefits. The solution to this crisis is to "strictly limit" any increase in benefits. The solution to this crisis is to "strictly limit" any increase in benefits. The solution to this crisis is to "strictly limit" any increase in benefits.
that drastic "reforms" are necessary, not only to get the system through the next few years, but to strengthen its finances against the crises that will almost certainly occur sometime around 2020, when members of the post-World War II baby boom generation begin to retire. Administration spokesmen and congressional Republicans have suggested that the needed savings could be achieved by increasing the normal retirement age from 65 to 66, and by reducing COLA benefits for future retirees. They want to stiffen the penalties for early retirement, and to increase the payroll taxes which set benefits for future retirees.

Congressional liberal Democrats, on the other hand, supported by the labor movement, retirees' groups, civil rights organizations and others, are profoundly opposed to this approach. The scare campaign, they charge, has been set in motion by those who have never supported Social Security in the first place in order to create doubt and insecurity, and, ultimately, undermine the system.

"EXAGGERATED, PREMATURE"

Even without a solid recovery, forecasts of bankruptcy are both exaggerated and premature, they say. And once the system gets past the next few years, it should have clear sailing for a generation. According to respected financial columnist Sylvia Porter, the 1980s will bring "a slower increase in the over-65 population, in effect of small-er families and reduced birth rates caused by the Great Depression of the 1930s. During the 1980s also, millions of people born during the post-World War II baby boom generation will be in the prime of their working years and contributing Social Security taxes.

"Beginning in 1991 Social Security will show a surplus of about $2 billion," Porter says, "and these surpluses will grow year after year for at least the next 20 years." An administration which consistently fails to correctly predict economic trends from month to month, she concludes, is hardly in a position to demand benefits cuts to deal with a situation which may or may not develop in 40 or 50 years. Administration attempts to balance the budget at the expense of Social Security recipients will also fail to create growth and job opportunities. "The federal budget deficits are due to a deep recession, to the administration's pro-posal to increase defense obligations by 13.2 percent, and to the revenue loss of last year's tax cut," says Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio). "We should correct these situations before we attack Social Security cost-of-living increases." And even the conservative Fortune magazine suggests that the budget-balancing argument is "a cop-out. Social Security, a separate program with its own taxes, is contributing only $10 billion to a total deficit of $150 billion."

To address the undeniable short-term problem, Social Security supporters like Rep. Claude Pepper (D-Fla.), and Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D-NY), in cooperation with the AFT-CIO, have developed a series of proposals to close the gap without any major tampering with benefits or retirement age. These proposals, which could bring close to $200 billion into the system in the next seven years, include:

- A three-month delay in the cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security beneficiaries, to take effect gradually, one month per year, beginning next year. These COLA increases, which now take effect in July, would, by 1985, show up in the October tax bill.
- Advancing up to 1984 the Social Security tax increases which are now scheduled by law to take effect in 1985, 1986 and 1990. The effect of these Social Security tax increases would be to bring in an additional $12 billion of revenue in 1985 and $22 billion in 1990, to be matched by the same amount in increased taxes.
- Requiring all new federal employees (and probably those with less than five years' service), to be covered by Social Security and Medicare, and to pay in.
- The same would apply to employees in nonprofit organizations.
- In the long run, Social Security supporters also argue, general income tax revenue should also be infused into the Social Security system. The concept of tripartite funding—employer, employee and government—was recommended by the system's founders.
- The system's founders—"asserted that government contributions to the system would be necessary and should begin by 1962," recalls J. Douglas Brown, who was chairman of President Roosevelt's Advisory Commission on Social Security in 1937-38. The government, he said, should be able to provide benefits out of revenues derived from sources other than payroll taxes.

"The broadening of coverage since 1938," Brown concluded in a recent letter to the New York Times, "makes government contributions both more justified and more necessary. Social Security remains a public trust and our national defense against poverty.

But by December 31, the National Commission on Social Security Reform—appointed by President Reagan in May—will deliver its report and recommendations to the president. The Commission, chaired by Ford Administration economist Alan Greenspan, is composed of 10 members ap-pointed by the President and the Senate Republicans, and five appointed by House democrats. While heavily stacked on the conservative side, the presence of AFT- CIO President Luz Kirkland, Pepper, and Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore., who succeeded Speaker Robert Ball—guarantees that the report will be taken seriously on both sides of the aisle. While the members of the commission may never actually get to see a single set of recommendations, the report will most likely establish the basic framework for one of the most seri-ous Congressional debates of this century. (Continued next issue)
John Rutter, Local 10

DUBLIN—John Rutter, a Local 10 vet-

ern and EILD family recipient, died last

month after a long illness. He was 62

years old.

A veteran of all the ILWU longshore

strikes since he came on the waterfront in

the late 1930s, Rutter had served on the

Local 10 building committee and an

assistant Business Agent. He often attended

ILWU International Conventions at his

own expense.

Rutter was a World War II veteran with

service in the US Army. He was a Promi-

sive Boy Scout leader, a commander and

chaplain of St. Paul's Catholic Church in

Dublin, and a vice-president of the National

Association of CCU alumni.

A memorial service was held at the Dub-

lin VFW post November 19. Memorial de-

nations may be made to the post's Cancer

research committee.

John Rutter is survived by his wife,

Diane, former president of the ILWU Fed-

erated Auxiliaries; by three children, Nor-

man absolutely devoted union man.

dan West, and Celia; and by two sis-

ters.

“...we will always remember John’s won-

derful openness and warmth, an easy-going

city. To serve and help others is a duty and a

principle,” said International President Jim

Hiebert in a letter to the family. “He was an

absolutely devoted union man.

Dockers, Widow On Pension List

SAN FRANCISCO—Following is the

Dockers post's Cancer

Aided by family, union members,

Tacoma docker fights his way back

TAOMA — When ILWU Local 21 mem-

ber Joe Faker was traumatically struck down in

an industrial accident in 1968, he re-

sponded in the only way he knew how:

with straight-ahead courage and unrelent-

ing will to survive; with the strongest of

strengths, to take the job back from fate.

At another point, the Local 21 brothers

turned out to put a badly needed roof on

his home. Faker says: “All of this made me

an honorary executive board member for

five years. My whole life.. .

And even though it's been years since

Faker worked as a longshoreman, he still

spends a lot of time at the ILWU hall.

“I'm down there every other day. I be-

long to the old-timers' club; I like to keep

in touch with the guys who work the wa-

terfront, which is my livelihood, my first

love,” he says.

A CANDIDATE

Next year, in fact, Faker intends to run

for one of three slots opening up on the

port commission, a board growing in

importance as the bustling Tacoma water-

front gets busier and busier. Faker has

run for the elective office twice before—

both times with full support of Local 23

in 1973 and 1979, when he just missed win-

ning.

In the meantime, Faker is very involved

as chairman of the Tacoma Area Coali-

tion of individuals with Disabilities (TACID),

which only recently reached an ambitious

goal: the start of construction for the Com-

munity Center for the Physical and Sensory

Impaired.

“We're shooting for a January 1984 open-

ing of our new building,” says Faker, who

has been chairman of the three-year-

old coalition since last year.

The center, which will include class-

rooms, multipurpose rooms, and many

stricting services for the physically disabled, is

fulfilling of a dream for Tacoma's dis-

abled community. Faker says: “It's the

first of its kind in the country. It will get

people talking about themselves to see if

that each of us understands not only our own
disabilities, but the disabilities of others.

“We can't expect able-bodied people to

understand us if we don't understand our-

selves. Until that happens, there will be

barriers,” he says.

There are other hopeful signs, Faker

says. “I see society starting to zero in on the

ability, rather than the disability of peo-

ple at large are not talking anymore and

to think of disabled persons in terms of

what abilities they have.

“The disabled, such as myself, have a

wealth of talent built up over the years.

even a great deal of talent remains even after

a disabling injury or sickness. It's im-

portant to forget that talent remains

of this service, conducted by the Rev. Hubert D. Newton, a Presbyterian

tor. The cover of the memorial program

bore these words: “The only way to have a

friend is to be one.” Obviously that's what

Lanell Johnson had been to the water-

front, since most of the waterfront, on

which he had worked since the middle

was at the service. And not only longshore-

men, but clerks, pensioners, and walking

bemons.

Survivors, in addition to his wife, in-

clude two sons, four daughters, seven

grandchildren, his mother, two brothers

and two sisters. Johnson’s older son, Lanell, Jr., is a Local 8 "B" man.

Bob Peebles retires

VANCOUVER, BC — Bob Peebles, well-

known and highly respected for his ILWU

activities on both sides of the border, re-

tired last April after 36 years on the Van-

couver waterfront.

Born in 1917 Bob started on the water-

front right after discharge from the Cana-

dian army where he served overseas for

5½ years and was wounded at Arras.

His union activities included service as

a business agent of Vancouver Local 500, an

International Executive Board member and

Canadian area ILWU President. Vancouver

members recall his active support for the

amalgamation of the various locals to

form Local 500 as well as his initiative in

starting the annual pensioners banquet

which has been carried on for over 20

years. He's been an active supporter of

the union's drug and alcohol rehabilitation

programs.

“Minnie” Johnson, Local 8

PORTLAND — Lanell Johnson, 55, Local 8

earned $11,459 in 1981. He worked at the

size of his funeral, one of the largest, and

also one of the most unusual ever held

here.

Lanell Johnson was not a Catholic, but

the dockers requested a Catholic mass. Five

blocks from the old Longshore Hall, where

Chet Nelson on some early dock machinery. Photos were taken sometime prior to 1939

Chet Nelson on retirement envelopes waterfront memories

SAN FRANCISCO—The kid pushing old machinery in the above photos in Chet Nelson, longtime foreman of Local's 91, who is retiring at the end of this month, is Chet Nelson full time in 1980. He was first elected President of Local 91 in 1939.

Local 91 will hold a retirement dinner for Nelson on Wednes-

day, January 20, beginning at 7 p.m. at Francisco's Restaurant,

SPY person. For further information call Local 91 Secretary-Treasurer Eric Nelson at (415) 741-1050.
Alcohol Problems?
If you are a longshoreman, clerk or boss with an alcohol problem, or know one, contact the ILWU-PMA Alcoholism Recovery Program representative in your area. They are trained to offer personal and family counseling, referral and other services—all on a confidential basis.

Southern California
Ed Torres, Local 13 1314 North Avalon Los Angeles, CA 90016 Phone: (213) 549-8066

Northern California
George Cobb, Local 19 400 North Point St San Francisco, CA 94333 Phone: (415) 776-5825

Columbia River/Oregon Coast Area
Jim Copp, Local 8 5605 North East Gilson Portland, Oregon 97213 Phone: (503) 231-4802 or (206) 694-8367

Puget Sound/Washington Area
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Waterway user fees may slide in through congressional back door
PORTLAND—Portland is one of the river ports that would be hardest hit by Reagan's waterway user fee proposals. The 9th Circuit Court held this week without argument that the controversial cost recovery legislation was not such a drastic change from the lame duck session starting December 3. and could become a focal point during consideration of the Water and Energy Development Appropriation Act for FY 1983. It is currently scheduled to carry over to the 98th Congress starting in January.

At issue is an Administration move to cut Navigation Operation and Maintenance (O&M) funding by $150 million. Congress refused to make the cutback in a "continuing" resolution which will keep navigation programs going, but only until December 17. The cuts would have closed down an number of inland waterways, shallow draft harbors and small ports, according to the Oregon issue of Washington Waterways.

The draft version of the final budget (probably not including O&M cuts totaling $225 million)

Local 18, Sacramento, spotlighted the danger of Reagan's water user fee propos- als to work opportunity in a resolution approved at the 1981 ILWU Convention in Seattle.

FEDERAL ROLE
Navigation and maintenance operation costs traditionally have been underwritten by the federal government, since water- borne trade and commerce benefit areas not directly involved in these activities as well as the ports and people deriving their livelihood from ocean, river and barge traffic.

But now the Reagan Administration is at- tempting to shift these costs. Harry N. Cooper, president of the President, vice-president, secretary-treasur- er, San Pedro BA. San Diego BA, chief field representative and barger. The men- tioned openings are: president, vice-presi- dent, 8 executive board members, 4 audit committee and 2 convention delegates.

The signed petitions must be returned no later than 4 p.m., December 31, 1982, to the Local 33 union hall at 806 South Palos Verdes Street in San Pedro, California 90732, at the Local 33 fisher- men's local at 5655 North Harbor Drive, Suite J, San Diego, California 92106.

Local 21, Longview.
Longshore Local 21 will hold its election on the second Friday following the regular meeting of the Columbia River District Council. The election will be for three-year terms, with one retiring each year. The 3 labor relations committee members shall be elected for 18 months. The other openings are: president in writing at the December meeting of the Local 21 executive board. Nominations will be at the regular meetings held November and December. Nominations in writing will be accepted in person or in writing at the December meeting only. All candidates must be members of the executive board. Nominations will be made December 14, 1982 at the 7:30 p.m. meeting at the union hall.

POLLING will be between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. at 815 North Washington Street, Olympia.

Columbia River Pensioners
At the November 10 meeting of the Columbia River Pensioners Memorial Association, the following officers were elected in addition to those already elected: Local 18, San Francisco, CA 94133 Phone: (415) 776-5825

Local 47, Olympia
Longshore Local 47 will hold its final election December 20-24, 1982, to fill the offices of president, vice-president, secre- tary-treasurer, auditor, and 2 convention delegates. The men- tioned openings are: president, vice-president, secretary-treasur- er, San Pedro BA. San Diego BA, chief field representative and barger. The men- tioned openings are: president, vice-presi- dent, 8 executive board members, 4 audit committee and 2 convention delegates.

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In this Dispatcher feature, the last office of Norman, General Council for the International, will oc- cupy the same table and present a legal interest to the rank and file. An im- portant word of caution—these arti- cles will be different for each area in general terms. They are not, and are not to be taken as advice on any specific subject for any specific per- son in any specific situation.

In all cases in which a person has a legal problem it should be taken to an attorney for assistance. That is particularly true outside of the State of California.

Dock Jobless pay benefits protected
The long-standing practice of the Cali- fornia Employment Development Dep- artment (EDD) of disqualifying all longshore- men unemployment benefits whenever there is an isolated work stoppage on the waterfront has again been attacked by a judge of the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board.

In a decision issued on November 5, 1982, Judge Robert P. Mason adopted Local 29's claim that none of the claimants either participated in the work stoppage or were discharged, which, they were improperly disqualified by the EDD.

Local 29 has work stoppages in question occurred at Crescent Wharf and Warehouse on No- vember 28 and 29, 1981, and arose over a claim incident to unloading conditions. Each work stoppage involved only 100 claimants. None of the discharged registered longshoremen in the Ports of San Francisco and Oakland who work under the PCL/O. Yet, PMA sought to deprive the claimants, who were out of their jobs, of unemployment compen- sation because of the discharge. The local board reasoned that their unemployment was the result of a gen- eral lack of work opportunities on the waterfront.

Following its historical precedent, and despite the specific language of the PMA's position and sent notices to the claimants 'that they were not eligible to file claims for unemployment compensation at Crescent. This was the determination that claimant received.

Local 19 has met with a string of suc- cesses in its recent appeals of the EDD's disqualification of no boul/2 claimants. On July 8, Judge Daniel Hanley reversed the EDD's disqualification of no boul/2 claimants because a handful of Local 19 members refused to cross an MM&P picket line. Three days earlier, the Appeals Board determined that work stoppages arising out of the walkout were grounds for denying unemployment benefits to all Local 19 members. That decision was appealed by PMA and is currently pend- ing in the California Court of Appeal.
More on Proposition K

In a letter published in the November Dispatchers, retired member George Kaye, Local 10, objected to the San Francisco ILWU Legislative Committee's opposition to Proposition K on the November ballot. This measure would have authorized study of the feasibility of a municipal takeover of PG&E.

We acted in this way primarily because of a letter we received from Local 1368 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, representing PG&E employees in Northern California, requesting that we oppose the measure. This letter was particularly persuasive because it came from the workers who were directly involved in the situation. In addition, San Francisco COPC, the legislative arm of the AFL-CIO, opposed the measure.

Over the last 20 years, the SF legislative committee has attempted to work as closely as possible with the AFL-CIO on issues of common concern. We feel that this unity has been extremely beneficial to the working men and women of San Francisco. You can see the results, for example, in the drive we were able to put together to elect Rep. Phil Burton. Of course there are cases where we agree to disagree. But in this case, in view of the request of the workers who were directly involved, the decision was made that it was essential to retain a common front.

Keith Eckman, Secretary
ILWU Legislative Committee

Local 6 runoff
SAN FRANCISCO—A runoff election will be held by ILWU Warehouse Local 6 in all districts on Thursday, December 16. Polling places are as follows:

East Bay Division

OAKLAND: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Local 6 Union Hall, 99 Tamarack Drive

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Local 6, 290 Millar Avenue

BURLINGAME: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Joint Apprenticeship Committee, Plumbing and Pipefitters Industry of San Mateo County, 1518 Rollins Road

RICHMOND: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Foresters of America Hall, 16th Street

For more information, contact Local 6.

The freeze wins big

In Washington State

New state legislator, from Local 24 zeros in on economic development

ABERDEEN, Wash. -- "Unemployment was the only issue in my campaign, and that's the yardstick by which the people of the 35th district are going to judge me over the next two years," says ILWU Local 24 member Max Vekich, Jr., who won a smashing 21-1 victory last month in his race for a seat in the state house of representatives.

Catching his breath after months of hectic campaigning in the primary and general elections, Vekich hopes that the Demo- cratic reconquest of both houses of the Washington state legislature will permit the development of some creative solutions to the state's massive economic problems.

NEW MAJORITY

Vekich has applied to the house leadership for a seat on the commerce committees on commerce, natural resources and trans- portation. Assuming that these appointments will put him in a strategic position to help move things in a positive direction.

Having run on a "job issue," Vekich hopes to push for legislation to stimulate Washington's floundering forest products in- dustry. He wants to create a state development bank to channel funds into housing construction. "We can't expect any help at all from the federal government as long as Reagan's in office," Vekich says, "so we'll have to do it from here." The hope is creation of which would require a massive legislative effort—could serve as a sound investment for state and municipal em- ployee pension funds.

"The new legislature will also be grappling with the state's financial crisis," Vekich says. "We've lost a tremendous amount of revenue because of the slumping econ- omy." With revenues from sales taxes way down, and no income tax at all, "the state will have to make a move next year." Arguing that "there is not much room to cut back any more on social services," Vekich says he'll work for a state income tax linked tightly to home owners' prop- erty tax relief.

FERRY PROBLEMS

Vekich is also looking forward to playing some role in working out the problems of the State Ferry System, if he is appointed to the Transportation Commit- tee. These workers, members of the In- landboatmen's Union of the Pacific, ma- rine division of the ILWU — saw their collective bargaining rights taken away by the Governor's blue ribbon committee on the ferries.

The political trend next year will con- tinue to depend on two familiar factors: the national economic health and the sophis- ticatedness of the Democratic Party. Despite the recent stock market rallies and the reductions in the Federal Reserve Board's discount rate, the massive federal deficit caused by the 1981 Reagan tax cut and massive budgetary upping to reach an annual $200 billion. This could have dire consequences for the long-predicted economic recovery next spring.

Moreover, all indications are that the Bureau of Budgets' optimistic budget proposal for 1984 will be every bit as merciless for social programs as the last two. With con- tinuing economic hardship and unemploy- ing callousness in the White House, the public is likely to become increasingly receptive to long-range progressive solutions on the arms race, unemployment, energy, and other national priorities.