'83 outlook: modest settlements

1983 promises to be a hard bargaining year, as more than 3 1/2 million workers and their employers will be seeking respite from the recession.

Contracts expire in such key industries as steel, aluminum, construction, communications, airlines and maritime.

With unemployment close to 11% and significant economic recovery a dim prospect, experts predict modest wage settlements and relatively few strikes, especially in industries hard hit by layoffs.

In healthier industries, such as telephone communications, bargaining will take on a more traditional tone as workers push hard for economic gains.

Unions are not expected to grant many concessions this year. That trend is supposedly ending, as workers remain unconvinced that "givebacks" can guarantee job security.

Nevertheless concessions are still a big issue in steel talks, and prospects for a crippling walkout in this industry are the greatest in more than a decade.

Overall, negotiated wage increases in 1983 are likely to average about 6%, according to labor economists surveyed by U.S. News & World Report. This is roughly the same figure as in 1982.

Here is a closer look at the prospects for '83 bargaining:

STEEL: The current three-year pact covering 271,000 United Steelworkers of America at eight major steel companies expires on August 1. The industry is in trouble. Unable to weather the recession and meet competition from abroad, U.S. steelmakers are operating at scant 40% capacity. More than 140,000 steelworkers have been laid off. Two attempts at compromise have failed. In July, the companies rejected the USWA's offer to freeze wages for three years and postpone cost-of-living adjustments for 18 months. In November, the union rejected the employers' proposed 10% wage cut and a plan to tie COLA pay hikes to future profits. Good chance of a strike.

ALUMINUM: Contracts covering nearly 47,000 workers in the aluminum industry expire May 31. As in the steel industry, a disastrous business slump and widespread

Local 26 Convention

LOS ANGELES — Warehouse Local 26 will hold a convention on Saturday, March 5, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The convention will be held at the union headquarters, 5625 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles.

This convention will be in accordance with ARTICLE XXII of the Local 26 Constitution, allowing "two voting delegates for the first twenty-five members in each warehouse (or Company) and two for each twenty-five additional members or fraction thereof." Every warehouse shall be entitled to at least two voting delegates.

Other members are welcome, but will be Fraternal Delegates (voice, but no vote). Pink nominating petitions will be sent to all Chief Stewards on January 10, 1983, and will be given to any member in good standing (dues paid up-to-date). These petitions must be completed with signatures of ten members in good standing and mailed back to the Union and postmarked by midnight January 21, 1983.

Labor, community to honor Martin Luther King January 15. see page 6
The New Year

American working people look a terrible pounding in 1983. In recent months, they have been subjected to so many painful administrative shocks in so short a time that employers continue to find it more profitable to have companies at the stock exchange rather than build and maintain them in the real world. Hundreds of communities have been devastated by plant closures and layoffs, millions of hard working people lack even a roof over their heads. The wrong-headed and contradictory policies of the Reagan administration have virtually shut down the engines of economic growth.

ILWU DEEPLY AFFECTED

This recession has affected the ILWU as deeply as any other union. The growth of multinational and conglomerate corporations, their total obesession with profits and the indifference they appear to have for their employees and the communities in which they live, have also taken their toll. The resulting shutdowns, layoffs, and plant closures have disrupted and damaged the lives of thousands of ILWU members and their families.

We have some reason to take pride in how this union performed over the last twelve months. We have come through a year of difficult bargainings in key industries — sugar, pineapple, warehouse, Canada longshore, etc. — with a damn good record. We haven’t always won everything we’ve wanted. We’ve taken a strong or two, and in some cases we came out well in other cases we had to cut our losses. But in each instance, I think, we preserved the fundamental strength of the union, its integrity and its democratic control. There are a number of things we would agree that they’d have been better off, or more secure, without ILWU representation.

HARD TIMES CONTINUE

But the hard times will continue, and are likely to intensify. In Hawaii, for example, members of Local 148 in the sugar and pineapple industries are now attempting to negotiate new agreements under particularly tough economic circumstances. World markets are awash in cheap sugar. The pineapple market is glutted, mostly imports produced under nearly subsocial conditions by the same corporations which now claim they can’t cut their losses. But in each instance, I think, we preserved the fundamental strength of the union, its integrity and its democratic control. There are a number of things we would agree that they’d have been better off, or more secure, without ILWU representation.

User fees would hurt port economies

The following guest editorial from the December 30 New York Journal of Commerce is reprinted here.

Depressed economic conditions worldwide have hit shipping as well, causing a distinct slowdown in longshore work opportunities. For the last few years, our Pay Guarantee Plan has insulated longshore division members from many of the realities of recession. But now, inevitably, even that protection has worn thin and we have had to notify the ILWU, which is representing both active and retired members, that we may have to pay less in unemployment compensation for the remainder of the year. The contract we expect that claims will exceed this amount and thus necessitate a reduction in benefits.

STREAM OF LAYOFFS

In the California distribution industry, in fish and cotton, the recession continues to produce a steady stream of layoffs. Pension plans, although secure for the most part under federal law, are now being eroded by the continuing erosion of the active workforce. Workers and their families for both active and retired members are thus facing runaway costs for hospitalization, surgery, and physicians’ care.

In short, there is hardly an area of this union — or any other union for that matter — that is not touched by hard times. Not all of our problems are a result of the recession, but there is little question that they are of course, we will have to maintain the political momentum which we built in preparation for the 1982 national elections and begin to work now for an even greater victory in 1984.

ENORMOUS RESPONSIBILITY

But our energies must be focussed more and more on the organizing of business agents and stewards — the leaders of the union bear enormous responsibilities. Members democratically elected from the ranks and placed in key leadership positions should be free to make decisions independent of the rank and file. We have some reason to take pride in how this union performed over the last twelve months. We have come through a year of difficult bargainings in key industries — sugar, pineapple, warehouse, Canada longshore, etc. — with a damn good record. We haven’t always won everything we’ve wanted. We’ve taken a strong or two, and in some cases we came out well in other cases we had to cut our losses. But in each instance, I think, we preserved the fundamental strength of the union, its integrity and its democratic control. There are a number of things we would agree that they’d have been better off, or more secure, without ILWU representation.

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Too many paper

More and more evidence accumulates that bosses can be even more to blame for low productivity than workers who are, of course, invariably blamed by the bosses. The prestigious Harvard Business Review has found that business managers operate "in an unconscious conspiracy to avoid production problems. Essentially, they have been trying to avoid wasting time," the Review reported, "too often get away with it."

A HOP in Houston

In just one year of operation, the AFL-CIO’s Houston Organizing Project (HOP) has signed up more than 5,000 Houston-area workers into unions. Initiated by the ILWU in 1981, the drive has organized both active and retired members into the AFL-CIO’s Houston Organizing Project (HOP). The Review reported, "too often get away with it."

This year, the ILWU launched a 24-hour Contract Drive in 1981 unanimously passed a resolution opposing the imposition of such fees.

The Reagan administration’s drive to shift the cost burden of a variety of government services from the shoulders of all taxpayers to the shoulders of the beneficiaries of those services appears to be flailed by a dangerous myopia.

A range of transportation user fees has been proposed — and some passed — ranging from charges for port dredging to fees for Coast Guard services to a gasoline tax increase for federal highway rehabilitation.

Some seem sound, others less so, but all have — or, more to the point, lack — one thing in common. The administration has so far failed to take into account the fees’ overall impact. The administration advocates the proposed user fees without regard to the extent to which the benefits are being realized by the users. The administration advocates the proposed user fees without regard to the extent to which the benefits are being realized by the users.

The port industry has been pushing since the start of the Reagan administration for "credible, quantitative analysis" of user fee proposals. Well, the Economic Development Administration, a Commerce Department unit, proposes to undertake a study titled "National Assessment of User Fees for Harbor Maintenance."

That pleases the AAPA, Problem is, the group points out, the planned study will focus only on user taxes associated with the maintenance and operation of existing harbor channels. The other half of the picture — funding for new dredging, especially the dredging of channels deep enough to handle the ever larger ships being used in world trade — is ignored.

Not only that, port associations also want to levy user taxes to recoup operating and maintenance costs for the inland waterway system, a variety of Coast Guard services.

"At what point," the AAPA asks, "do such added costs begin to adversely impact upon the clear national interest in the efficient and economic movement of international trade? At what point does the imposition of such costs compound the competitive burdens already borne by US exporters in the international marketplace in the face of the growing non-tariff barriers that will result? How are these negative values weighed against the benefits of the ports?"

Those are good questions. They deserve good answers. And the ports association suggests a logical way to get those answers.

Don’t mount an expensive new study at this point, it says; the proposed study of user fees for harbor maintenance is still in its "formative stage." Now, while there still is time, enlarge the study’s scope.

The ports group doesn’t have all the answers. In fact, the user-fee issue has split it into two distinct factions. One contemplates naming user fees without regard to the extent to which the benefits are being realized by the users, the other, made up of about 50 smaller ports, wants to accept the fees according to the extent to which the benefits are being realized by the users.

But, however divided, the association has a legitimate request on the analysis issue. The administration would be wise to listen and to act.

Coors boycott still on

Despite widespread rumors to the contrary, the AFL-CIO’s boycott against Coors is not over. Coors Beer is still in full effect.

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ILWU acts to boost CFS work, protect jurisdiction

SAN FRANCISCO — In two days of discussion here January 4-5, a reconstituted ILWU coast longshore negotiating committee took action to more effectively implement contract provisions negotiated in 1981 and 1982 which were designed to preserve and increase longshore work opportunities.

The committee raised with the Pacific Maritime Association the failure of the CFS Program Fund, negotiated in 1981 to increase the volume of container freight handled in the Port of Los Angeles, to serve and increase longshore work opportunities.

ILWU President William Rodgers, Joe Ramirez and Garland Moore.
**Automation a key issue in Local 17 grocery pacts**

**Local 3 wins big in Pan-Alaska pact**

**Fish processor gets expensive lesson**

**Canada foremen**
Jobs with Peace week set for April 10-16

Triggered in part by President Reagan's $1.6 trillion defense bill, the Pentagon rathole in the next four years, a coalition of environmentalists, clergy, politicians, peace groups and others is going all out to ensure success here for Jobs with Peace week, coming up April 10-16.

The first visible step to build support for the local Jobs effort happened January 4 when representatives of more than 40 peace groups met to chart strategy for the April event.

ECONOMIC EFFECTS

San Francisco Bay Area taxpayers will send $1 billion in the weeks ahead to Washington as its share of taxes consumed by the Pentagon, said Curtis McClain, Inspector, Northern California District Council. He is a sponsor of the Jobs with Peace national network. Jobs with Peace week will examine the harm that's come to our local economy, to people's lives, to jobs crucial to the defense establishment and to the briddled military spending and misdirected federal priorities.

58 CITIES

Based on the successful Jobs with Peace week held in Boston last May, this year's national campaign will demonstrate in at least 50 US cities, McClain said. "We are planning a people's response to cut unemployment, when Congress is debating the federal budget, and when people are paying taxes, to communicate an excellent opportunity to heighten concern over wasteful military spending."

North Cal Council aids Salvadorans

SAN FRANCISCO — The ILWU will co-sponsor an upcoming labor studies conference and communicate with airlines to oppose the deportation of refugees to El Salvador, in accordance with action taken at the December 6 meeting of the Northern California District Council.

The NDC endorsed and agreed to sponsor the 9th Annual Conference of the South West Labor Studies Association to be held at San Jose State University, April 29 and 30, and approved the appointment of Karl and Gail Coates as conference delegates.

The motion taken in regards to the Salvadoran refugees came in response to a communication from the Northern California Committee on Corporate Responsibility.

Donlin honored by So. Cal. pensioners

LOS ANGELES — The annual Southern California Pensioners' Christmas raffle dinner was "a very happy one for everybody," reports club president Pat LeVardidge.

Guests of honor were San Francisco Bay Area Pensioners Club Welfare Director Bert Donlin and his wife Rose Marine.

Immigration, extradition bills die in lame duck session

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The House failed last month to complete action on the bill to amend the Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act before adjourning for 1982.

As a result of new questions that were raised during the "lame-dock" session of Congress, the House Labor Committee decided to take up the measure in the little time remaining. It therefore died with the end of the 97th Congress. Sen. Nickles (R-Ok) and Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Rep. John Erlenborn (R-Ill) are likely to reintroduce bills to amend the Act when the new Congress convenes at the end of January.

"ILWU members and pensioners did a tremendous job over the past year in lobbying against the attempt to destroy the bill. But now we have to look ahead to the session. It's certainly likely that the employers and the insurance lobby will come to us again in 1983 with a similar bill, and we will need to be able to produce another strong response."

Local fiefs wins short reprieve at Del Monte pine

HONOLULU — Del Monte Corp., which announced last November that it would lay off 525 pineapple workers effective January 14, has agreed to extend operations on a scaled-down basis. The announcement came following discussions between the company, ILWU Local 142, state and county officials.

Del Monte announced suddenly on November 22 that it was closing its Twille cannery and ending pineapple production at its 30,000 acre plantation on the island of Molokai. The company claimed heavy losses, and the workers have had a very tough time of it since then. The announcement came as the nation's last pineapple producer.

The company now has agreed to keep 200 workers on the payroll, probably up to midsummer. Harvesting will continue on Molokai. Fruit will be processed into juice concentrates, packed into large containers and shipped to the mainland.

Bad break for tuna

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On its very last day in Washington, the 97th Congress took part in a swift and decisive action to kill the American tuna industry by passing legislation which has the effect of lowering the duty on imported canned tuna.

The measure, passed in the House as part of a supposedly "noncontroversial" tariff bill, excludes the tuna catch from American Samoa for the quota for low-duty imports. This means that cheap, labor-quality exporters from abroad will be able to undercut the American industry — including ILWU Fratemen's Local 33 — to a significantly greater extent.

The amendment was passed at the behest of American food importers, and at the insistence of Rep. Sam Gibbons (D-Fla., the powerful chairman of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade. The amendment, at the same time, included a provision that would allow the Pentagon in order to reduce the deficit. But this would not affect the funds already authorized and at present. Reagan has said he will oppose any major cutbacks.

BROAD FOCUS NEEDED

As the threat of a military build-up grows, some longtime peace activists warn progressives not to channel their anti-military energies too narrowly.

"Issues like the test ban, SALT I and II and the threat of cruise missiles all have to be given top priority one after the other since 1962, and people worked very hard on them," says Seymour Melman, Professor of Industrial and Labor Relations.

"The Pentagon money is effective- ly transferred to cruise missiles. And now, even if the Kennedy-Hoffeld freeze proposal were to be pushed through by itself, the process of getting it adapted, setting up the corporation, getting the test ban and the negotiation with the Soviet Union will definitely take us through — at the earliest — 1982. In the meantime the military budget will be growing, and the other programs. Not only are the American military strength increased, but the country's defense capability, and the bill will go on increasing in the years ahead."

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"I don't want to see the American peace movement drifting off into some quagmire. We have to keep our eye on the prize, whether it is one particular weapon or any particular campaign initiative while the entire military issue as never before. The threat will be to reverse the Reagan arms build-up, seek a meaningful US-SSR disarmament treaty and push legislation for industrial conversion from weapons production to renovation of the nation's roads, bridges, and productive technology.

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from the labor movement

LA, Oakland marchers honor Reverend King

LOS ANGELES — Over 50 labor and community organizations have joined with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in a rally January 15 to commemorate the birthday of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Los Angeles demonstration marks the third year of a series of events which opened at the site of Sambo's restaurant to Martin Luther King Boulevard. The theme is "We shall have a dream... jobs not jails, peace not the Pentagon."

The march will begin at the Sports Arena (east of Menlo Avenue) and proceed down Martin Luther King Boulevard to Western Avenue, which will be the site of the rally. A series of speakers will be scheduled.

"The march and rally will serve to demand the new legislature to take action against concessions and controls. Martin Luther King was cut down by an assassin's bullet in Memphis in 1968 at the height of his civil rights work. Among speakers at the Oakland rally will be President of the California Federation of Labor, the new House Majority Leader. The legislature will convene in Salem on January 18. A rally is to follow at City Hall at 1 p.m."

GOV.

"For the first time ever, the Canadian labor movement is fighting a battle to improve conditions for auto workers - whether at Chrysler, GM or Ford," says Canadian labor writer Collin Gribbons. "Litton is a major union violator with shareholders, the Canadian labor movement is fighting a battle to improve conditions for auto workers - whether at Chrysler, GM or Ford," says Canadian labor writer Collin Gribbons. "Litton is a major union violator with shareholders, the Canadian labor movement is fighting a battle to improve conditions for auto workers - whether at Chrysler, GM or Ford," says Canadian labor writer Collin Gribbons. "Litton is a major union violator with shareholders, the Canadian labor movement is fighting a battle to improve conditions for auto workers - whether at Chrysler, GM or Ford," says Canadian labor writer Collin Gribbons. 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Continued from Page 1—

"We shall have a dream... jobs not jails, peace not the Pentagon."

LA, Oakland marchers honor Reverend King

Litton named as no. 1 labor law violator in US

LOS ANGELES — The long running battle by unions and their members against the unrelenting anti-union practices of conglomerate Litton Industries, has once again come into dramatic public view last month when labor brought its protest directly to company headquarters, in Beverly Hills, headquarters city of the massive conglomerate.

"Litton is the most brazen, outrageous, unrepentant and consistent labor law violator in the US," said Bill Robertson of the Los Angeles Federation of Labor, organizer of the protest.

Litton has 90 divisions operating in 49 countries and last year rang up sales of $4.2 billion. It makes a variety of products, including contracts with the US Department of Defense, he said.

The National Labor Relations Board has filed 44 unfair labor practice complaints against Litton since 1979, when Litton was found to be in violation. 13 cases were settled; the company paid a total of $2 million in out-of-court settlements.

"Litton is clearly a company that is determined to combat the company's aggressive anti-union campaign, organized labor has responded by formation of a coalition, designed to combat Litton's practices, from the International Association of Machinists, United Steelworkers, Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO Industrial Union Dept., and the New York-based Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility.

As a first goal the coalition has set out to draw as much wide public attention to Litton's sorry labor relations record, as many union officials also note. The next front in the coalition is working to get the NLRB to treat Litton's 93 US plants as a single facility. This would make the decisions applicable on a corporate-wide basis.

Litton claims to have unions in 86 of its 93 US plants.

"Our message is clear and simple," said Beverly Hills protest organizer Steve Edgert. "Organized labor will not stand idly by while Litton bulldozes over the rights of workers and their unions."

' 'Corporate anti-union efforts are detailed at the demonstration included:

• In 1979, workers at Litton's Santa Clara printing facility voted for printers' union representation. Litton refused to bargain, and ordered Litton to bargain and a month later the National Labor Relations Board shifted to a non-union location.

• In 1977, Litton moved jobs from a unionized Montgomery, Minn. to non-union Do.

• In 1981, Litton closed the entire town to unionized New Britain, Connecticut plant.

Anacortes port manager

"Anacortes is the new Executive Director of the Port of Anacortes. He was formerly Industrial Park Manager at Spokane's Inland Hereport Airpor
Social Security brawl is expected as commission can't find a compromise

WASHINGTON—With deadlines for the delivery of the Presidential State of the Union address and the 1984 budget fast approaching, President Reagan is finding he can no longer sidestep the politically explosive question of how to shore up Social Security.

According to the New York Times, the President and a handful of senior Administration officials reached by the now deadlocked commission visitors a year. The subsidy is more incentive, Congressional Republicans and opposition to China.

Meanwhile, the White House has been assembling for "one more try" at bridging differences between the White House and Democratic leaders of Congress.

The commission is due to report its suggestions for financing the Social Security system by January 15. The President's state of the Union address is to be given on January 25, with his timetable scheduled to go to Congress on January 31.

NO GUIDANCE

It is possible, Administration officials insist, that Reagan will make specific recommendations and simply urge Congress to deal responsibly with the Social Security problem. In fact, he steadfastly refuses to offer the guidance and direction requested of him by both Democratic and Republican members of the commission.

"The commission wants an up front commitment and say, 'Hey, fellows, this is the way I want you to go,' I would then stand back, cock my ear and wait for the loud outcry from Capitol Hill, and the same old political football would be seen going up in the air like a punt on third down," said Reagan in a televised news conference January 5.

In fact, the White House has been strong-arming the commission visitors on both sides of the question.

In log exports, it has demanded that "joint ventures" be the only means of achieving the desired results for the White House and Democrat leadership of Congress.

The potential for sale of logs and wood products is available through the Occupational Health Clinic; call 821-5391.

The "changed family environment" of job loss "ripples" over to work and family life, the researchers said. They pointed out that in the same study, marital separation rates were significantly higher among "unemployed" compared to "employed" families.

Another study, conducted over a 10-year period in the aircraft industry, revealed unemployment among the majority of people unemployed during the period had episodes of severe physical or emotional sickness including high blood pressure, alcoholism, increased risk of accidents, and physical and emotional symp-

More care for workers

The Occupational Health Clinic at San Francisco General Hospital has announced expanded service for working people. New funds have made it possible for the clinic to offer more treatment for stress and emotional strain, including expanded hours of operation, and improved referral services, says staff member Ruth Schwartz.

How joblessness sabotages health

Unemployment is a serious threat to health and the quality of life, and these factors should be taken into account by public health officials in setting public policy, a team of social scientists concluded in a recent study.

An individual worker's physical and emotional health can be strained to the breaking point as a result of unemployment, Boston College psychologist Ramsay Rayman and Brandeis University sociologist Paula Rayman said in a study — "Health and Social Costs of Unemployment" — in the October 1982 issue of American Psychologist.

They pointed to studies which linked per-

dations of Social Security coverage to new employees who have other substantial income is also likely to be agreed upon.

Democrats generally have supported re-

emphasizing "joint ventures," and predicted the annual cost-of-living raise, expansion of Social Security coverage to new federal workers and possible increases in taxes for self-employed persons.

A partial taxation of old age benefits for pensioners who have other substantial income is also likely to be agreed upon.

AF-L-CIO President Lane Kirkland, a key panel member, supports the idea.

Democrats generally have supported higher payroll taxes and Republicans have advocated restraints on the size of the annual cost-of-living increase.

Politicians on both sides have been reluctant to make the first move or get out in front on the issue, fearing they could expose themselves to partisan attack.

The commission, formed in December 1981, was partially viewed as a ploy to de-politicize the volatile Social Security issue before the November elections. Voters, especially seniors, blame "the happy, happy Republicans for threatening their benefits.

The perception in the commission has been that it is not a legislative body, that ultimately the solution has to come from Congress and the President through the legislative process," said commission member Barbara Conable in a recent New York Times interview. "The commission has not been able to eliminate the political issue that the President hoped it would eliminate."

Like the President, Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill appears reluctant to break the deadlock. He says he can "live with" the Democratic approach to come up with a solution to the Social Security problem, but that they will be able to. The commission's January 15 deadline will be the starting point for congressional debate next month in the House Ways and Means Committee.)
Keith Eickman retires from Local 6 office

SAN FRANCISCO—After better than 40 years as a member of the ILWU, and 25 years as local president, Keith Eickman retired on December 31. 1932. Thelma Mackey, mainstay of the ILWU, its auxiliaries and Pensioners for their prayers, cards, and gifts during the six months of John's illness followed by his death in November. John gave his heart to the union, his children and his wife and we were proud to stand in line understanding such dedication to ideals.

Keith Eickman, 69, served as chief steward at Zellerbach paper between 1941 and 1957, and was elected West Bay Buoy as assistant late in 1989. He was elected Local 6 secretary-treasurer in 1969 and president in 1977. He has served on the ILWU International Executive Board since 1977.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Eickman was also active for many years in the Northern California District Council, and the ILWU. We will all lean heavily on his counsel in the future.

It seems to be a very appropriate time to thank the members of Local 6 for their support and for aiding whatever abilities I possessed in the pursuit of goals benefiting working people. Eickman said in a retirement statement.

Keith Eickman, retiring after 40 years as a fulltime officer of Local 6, to the membership.

"Being an officer of Local 6 has been a very rewarding responsibility—very demanding, with a new crisis every day, but never dull...I am convinced that the American labor movement will obtain the ability to forge ahead against all obstacles, and that Local 6 will be playing an important role in that battle. I intend to be an active rank and file member—along with other retired members—upholding the traditions of Local 6 as a vital and democratic organization.

Eickman will also continue to serve as a part-time administrator of the ILWU Warehousemen's Welfare Fund.

Army pals reunited after 39 years

SEATTLE—Friendships forged in time of war can be among the strongest known to man. The story of ILWU Local 19's reunion of World War II buddies last June, after 39 years apart.


Names in brackets are those of deceased members.

Spring into labor studies

San Francisco Community College's Labor Studies program offers 12 courses for the spring semester. All are free and open to ILWU members and others. Registration begins February 3 with most classes starting the week after.

For members living in the South Bay, San Jose City College also offers a variety of labor studies courses this spring semester. Classes begin January 19 at the 200 Moorpark Ave. campus and run for 16 weeks.

SCHEDULES

The San Francisco Community College spring offerings are American labor movement, Labor and politics, Labor enterprises and collective bargaining (beginning and advanced courses), Labor economics, Union officers in the workplace, Grievance handling and arbitration, Health and safety in the workplace. Rights and discrimination in the workplace, and Union administration.

For application and information regarding the SF program call 259-2599.

For course details see Basic labor law, Union organizing, Collective bargaining, Today's labor movement, Leadership skills, Health and safety in the workplace, Rights and discrimination in the workplace, and Union administration.

The election will be held by secret ballot by mailing officially addressed ballots in sealed ballot boxes at the respective union offices in San Pedro at 806 South Palo Verde Street in San Diego at 5055 North Harbor Drive, Suite J.

During the election the polls will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each Friday through January 20, 1983, and the counting will start the week after.

The $275 million coal terminal will carry coal originating in the Powder River Basin, 400 miles away, for shipment to Japan. 100 million tons of coal are expected to be moved through the terminal in the next 15 years. The terminal will be able to load ships up to 250,000 tons.

The $300 million grain elevator is being constructed jointly by the federal government and the provinces of Alberta and BC together, with a private grain company. Operations are expected to start November 1, a year after the terminal opens.

The two projects will considerably increase the work opportunity for ILWU members.

The BC government has also awarded a contract to Dome Industries, a Japanese company, for an estimated $3 billion liquefied natural gas plant (LNG). The gas, collected at Kitimat and BC, would be transported to Japan. Still to be finalized is whether the plant will be at Grassy Point, just 30 kilometers north of Prince Rupert, or at Kitimat, site of a large aluminum smelter.

Gap growing wider

Even if the economy perks up, the gap between rich and poor will continue to widen, says the President's panel on poverty-based Urban Institute in September.

Basell for the Institute's forecast was a comprehensive 530-page study, just finished with the help of $4 million in grants from the Ford and the Rockefeller foundations.

All policies of the nearly two-year-old Reagan administration are cushioning ever-broadening rips between the nation's rich and poor, according to the Urban Institute. "The Reagan administration has been far more successful in keeping the richest people from getting poorer, and most of its programs have been designed to increase the incomes of the middle and lower-middle classes."

Similarly, the Urban Institute found. "The Reagan tax cut is designed to be a large distribution of tax cuts to people who will use the money immediately." The Urban Institute concluded that while these tax cuts will be a boost for economic growth, there will also be significant spillovers to the consumers of the rich, middle, and lower-middle class which will then boost the economy. The Urban Institute also found that the 'American Dream' has been tarnished for many, with a large number of people losing their retirement savings and facing difficulties in affording basic necessities if they try to live as they did in the past. The report highlighted the widening gap between the richest and the poorest, with the richest 1% owning over 30% of the country's wealth, while the poorest 20% own less than 2%.

The study also showed that the gap between the richest and the poorest is expected to continue to grow wider, with the richest 1% becoming even richer and the poorest 20% becoming poorer. The Urban Institute recommended that the government should focus on reducing income inequality, providing more social safety nets, and implementing policies that ensure a fair distribution of resources. The report emphasized the importance of education and lifelong learning to bridge the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

The study was published in a report titled "The American Dream: Is it Still Alive?" and was based on a comprehensive survey of American families, including a large sample of low-income families. The report highlighted the widening gap between the richest and the poorest, with the richest 1% owning over 30% of the country's wealth, while the poorest 20% own less than 2%.

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Local 10 renews brotherhood

SAN FRANCISCO — "It is so gratifying to see two separate Christmas events, which had ILWU workers, pension members and volunteers acting as Santa’s helpers," writes Sylvia Smith, of the ILWU Local 10 pension club.

For the first event, at the Apostleship of the Sea on December 12, there was a terrific turnout of Local 10 pensioners and guests. "With good friends, food, drinks and music — how could we miss?"

The annual raffle winners of the 12 prizes were Mrs. Eddie Phillips, Hazel Jensen, Georgia Christiansen, Dorrey Red- land, Ed Kline, Nora Antonelli, Mrs. Fred- drine Martin, Mrs. Betsy Bulke, Willis Bowers, Mr. and Mrs. George Fisher and Corrine Massey.

Sisters, daughters, aged 300 matchboxes for decorations. Thanks to all who donated prizes and the ticket buyers.

At the ILWU Local 10 Christmas party at the hall on December 18 had great food cooked on the new stove. "We had chicken meatballs, beans and potato baked in the oven, and turned out 80% for the October 24 lottery in the hiring hall on November 22, and foreman Alan Shiu distributed by free baskets of turkeys, hams and trimmings to families referred by church, community and welfare agencies.

The generous cash contributions of members would work hardships on the retired. President Chuck McBride represented Local 59 at the festivities. James Rainey, of the Astoria Pensioners, served as master of ceremonies.

In North Bend, 75 people enjoyed turkey, cranberry sauce and all the trimmings December 2 at the annual Christmas party for children referred by Breadline.

The event was combined with the serving of in 1083 officers.

Get it together!

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

In other words, do you know workers who want to be organized? If so, please write or telephone information to one of the following. An ILWU staff member will be happy to help.

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

Seattle Area
John Bukovsky, International Representative
2801 First Ave., Room 260
Seattle, Washington 98121
Phone: (206) 445-9717

Southern Californ. Regional Office
Joe Ibarra, Regional Director
12811 South Broadway
Garsonia, California 90248
(213) 227-7632
Los Angeles (213) 770-2170

Canadian Area Office
2611 E. Hastings St.
Vancouver, B. C.
Phone: (604) 254-8141

Northern Californ. Regional Office
1188 Franklin Street
San Francisco, Calif, 94109
Phone: (415) 775-9523
LeRoy King, Regional Director
Phone: Crockett Area: (415) 750-2771
San Francisco Area: (495) 277-5638

Hawaii Office
Thomas Trask
Regional Director
4515 Dr. King Jr. Blvd.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
P.O. Box 172
Phone: (808) 949-4151

Ray Modrow, Astoria Pensioners’ Club president, oversaw the Local 50 Christmas party. Seated from left to right are Lucille and Norman Mattson, and Veronica Foster.

John “Doc” Kallio, Jr., and his father, John Kallio, Sr., at the Port Astoria Christmas party, November 30.
Lockheed, Pentagon in illegal lobby

WASHINGTON — Air Force officers and high-ranking Pentagon officials violated federal law by initiating, organizing and directing a massive lobbying campaign with the stated goal of winning congressional approval of the C-5 cargo plane, the General Accounting Office said in a report.

The GAO report detailed the campaign, which operated early in 1982 at Lockheed computer center in a government-owned building located next to Lockheed’s plant in Marietta, Ga. Burbank-based Lockheed is the manufacturer of the controversial C-5 military cargo plane.

The intensive lobbying was designed to ensure congressional funding to begin a $18-billion procurement of 36 C-5 aircraft. The effort was ultimately successful. Congress authorized more than $1.5 billion to begin the C-5 work, and approved a special exemption to allow Lockheed to start spending those funds even though the money had yet to be appropriated by Congress.

JUSTICE WON'T ACT

The GAO said its report and substantiating evidence will be turned over to the Justice Department for possible prosecution. However, the GAO report said it was unlikely that the Justice Department would follow through, and they called for appointment of a special prosecutor.

The GAO said the cost of Lockheed’s lobbying, which Lockheed officials put at almost $500,000, may eventually be borne by the taxpayers because of a flaw in the law.

Defense contractors are currently prohibited from passing on lobbying costs, but most of Lockheed’s contracts preceded the law.

Lockheed officials told the GAO, however, that they may be willing to absorb part of the cost.

FLIGHT TRAINING

The GAO said it could not establish how much the Air Force spent on the effort, although its investigators said the Air Force had diverted some funds to the campaign from an account used to pay for flight training.

Despite the Air Force objections to the C-5, Pentagon officials last year decided to buy 50 C-5s, an abrupt turnaround that prompted wide skepticism in Congress.

Critics predicted the Air Force would instead buy new and used commercial wide-body aircraft as an economy measure. It was against that proposal that the Lockheed-Air Force battle was waged.

Air Force officials still say privately that they vastly prefer the C-5, a new cargo plane designed by St. Louis-based McDonnell-Douglas Corp., over the C-5.

After word of the lobbying effort began to leak out in mid-June of 1982, Lockheed closed down the program and destroyed all its computerized records. Lockheed officials have said.

DENIAL

The Air Force issued a statement denying “any improper or illegal action as alleged.” The statement added that the Air Force is studying specific GAO allegations and would have no further comment.

The head of the Air Force legislative office, Maj. Gen. Guy L. Hecker, who played a major role in the lobbying effort, retired from his post last year and could not be reached for comment.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Kelly Burke, who was also involved in the C-5 program, believes there was no wrongdoing.

“Just because that Lockheed was working as a special interest, but when that overlaps with the general interest of explaining the Administration’s budget program, then it is right and proper for the Air Force and Lockheed to work together,” he said.

LHIUH—ILWU Local 142 members were among the thousands who suffered severe damage to their homes, and sustained costly personal property losses, as Hurricane Iwa ravaged Kauai on November 23.

Grime traces of the havoc wreaked by Iwa are much in evidence all over the island—even though much repair work has been done after over a month following the disaster.

There are wrecked homes, hotels, condominiums and business buildings ... "totaled", large and small boats ... deserted warning signs ... split utility poles—since replaced by new ones ... dried cane stalks ... trees on the hillside stripped of leaves and branches—standing in stark contrast to other greener looking ones which somehow escaped Iwa’s wrath ... badly burned school buildings and paved roads ... and browned trees, hedges, and lawns—if so is! It had been sprayed on them.

Hardest hit

Bernardo and Millie Flores of Kukaha Sugar Unit 3106 were probably the hardest hit among union members. Their once neat beach-front home is a shambles. Three bedrooms are gone, 20 feet of lawn is littered into huge waves, which dumped a foot of sand on their yard.

Powerful winds sheared off roofing, ruined windows, ripped doors and seemed completely demolished the Flores’ garage.

Unit 3106 Chairman Frank DeCosta says his members suffer severely. He said several trees, lawn storage sheds strewed about like paper cartons, and water soaked furnishings caused by torrential rains entering homes through leaky windows.

Numerous taken-for-granted conveniences—electricity, water and phones were cut off, now restored. Indications are telephonic.

ILWU tears up ILWU members on Kauai

Iwa’s wake—Scene of destruction at Rennecke’s Beach in Poipu, Kauai, reveals badly damaged houses pushed inland by storm’s might, across a well used scadsde road way.

In Iwa’s wake—Scene of destruction at Rennecke’s Beach in Poipu, Kauai, reveals badly damaged houses pushed inland by storm’s might, across a well used scadsde road way.

FINISH HISTORY OF TACOMA DOCKS

Tacoma longshoremen, in short, felt they could take care of themselves. At the only surviving ILA local during the 1920s and early 1930s they felt they had sparked a strike that could take care of itself and the 1930s, and were not at all pleased to see leader- ship of the revived union fall to people they mistrusted. They were deeply suspicious of John L. Lewis and had their doubts about Harry Bridges. They worried about the ILWU’s left-wing tilt. And many of the old-timers had doubted, even since 1916, that anything good could come out of San Francisco.

SOME ARGUMENTS

This book will provoke some arguments. Some will disagree with the account of the ILWU-ILA split. Others will quarrel with the interpretation of the 1930 strike and the collapse of the Maritime Federation of the Pacific. The characterization of the ILWU’s post-1948 contracts as “sweet-heart agreements” is incorrect. Finally, while the authors appear to have interviewed a substantial number of old-timers, they have not interviewed wateren here about the day-to-day contract enforcement, and the internal life of the local, especially during its 20 years of relative isolation from the rest of the coast.

But despite these objections, “The Working Waterfront marks an important step forward in the process of changing working people’s history from the dry reciting of names and dates to a vital and useful story of the struggles for social and economic justice. And it’s a particularly important reminder of the fact that the same struggle can move forward in a variety of ways.”

—DB
Local 8, Portland

Elected last month to head Local 8 in 1983 were: president, Dean Lusk; vice president, Ron Hanson; secretary, Neal Milligan; treasurer, Al Hansen; BA, Gene Younger; LRC Bill Luch and Donald Bledsoe; FOB, Fred Proctor. The regular dispatcher is Warren Smith and relief dispatcher is Bob Cranton.

Local 17, East Bay

The three trustees are Mark Ayers, Norm Lowrey and Norm Parks. CDR decided to pay $100,000 to Floyd Ackley. The six caucus delegates are Frank KEMP, Don Somerville, Ron Mrus and Richard Marzano. Rodger Skilbeck, John Usorac, George Ginnis. The shop steward chairman is C. Head. The ILWU-PMA joint Accident Prevention Board meeting is: president, Nick Engels Sr; vice-president, John Usorac; secretary and treasurer, George Ginnis; LRC, William Bridgwater; president, Robert Ray; secretary, Neal Mills. Joffrie Frye will be picked up at the office anytime after 4 p.m.

Local 19, Seattle

Longshoremen members last month elected their officers for the coming year, as follows: president, Ken Gasberg; vice-president, Ray Peterson; secretary-treasurer, Alex Baroumes; and labor relations rep., Dereck Moore. The shop steward chairman is Bert Pedersen. The ILWU-PMA joint Accident Prevention Committee delegates are: Eddie Holland and Jerry Miller; and Richard Marzano Sr. Caucus/convention delegates to ILWU. Also elected are five executive board members.

Local 23, Tacoma

1983 officials for this longshore and warehouse local are: president, Philip Lelli; vice-president, Ron Hanson; secretary and 3rd dispatcher, Richard Marrano; business agent, George Ginnis; LRC, William Bridgwater; treasurer, Bill Luch. The three dispatchers are Fred Miller, Tony Tomali and Richard Marrano. Rodgers Skilbeck is the regular pager. The ILWU-PMA joint Accident Prevention Committee delegates are: Bert Pedersen, Joe S Арнис, Frank Dwyer.

Local 34, San Francisco

Ship Clerks’ Association members last month elected their officers for 1983: president, Fred Billed; vice-president, Frank Secretary/BA, Gene Younger; LRC Bill Luch and Donald Bledsoe; FOB, Fred Proctor. The regular dispatcher is Warren Smith and relief dispatcher is Bob Cranton.

Local 40, Portland

Ship Clerk and Superanglers elected the following officers and standing committees last month: president, Phil Pitzer; vice-president, Mike Marino; treasury/BA, Larry Clark; dispatcher and welfare officer, Jim Nicklos and Gary Toole; secretary, Doug Hauf and Doug Hanson; relief dispatcher/SF, D. P. Liston; relax and East Bay dispatcher is Robert Ayers.

Local 50, Vancouver, BC

President, Denny Allan; vice president, Mike Marino; secretary-treasurer, Dan Cole. The three BA’s are: Jim Keil, Bill Kemp and Don Somervile.

Local 509, New Westminster

President, Don Skopen; vice president, Jerry White; secretary-treasurer, Skeets Powell; dispatcher, Norm MacDonald. The shop stewards are: Joe S Арнис, Brian Hearn and Ron Noulatt.

Local 503, Port Alberni

President, Willard Gallic; 1st vice-president, Larry Mannix; 2nd vice-president, Clare Nordmarui; secretary-treasurer, Brian Van Huss; dispatcher, Jim Van Huss; sub-dispatcher, L. Jorgensen.

Local 504, Victoria

President, John Meinach; vice president, Ray Peterson; secretary-treasurer/dispatcher, Ed Seymour.

Local 505, Prince Rupert

President, Stan Douglass; vice-president, Ray Michelle; secretary-treasurer/dispatcher, A. Waxweiler; BA, D. Hembroff.

Local 506, Vancouver

President, R. Graham; secretary-treasurer, Ray Durman.

Local 508, Chemainus

President, Al Saunders, vice-president, Ken Gregory; 2nd vice-president, Jim King; secretary-treasurer, Dan Strohm; 2nd district, Ron Mear.

Local 514, Vancouver

President, Doug Sigurdson; vice-president, Don Parf-Pearson; secretary-treasurer, Charlie Mcintosh.

Local 517, Vancouver

President, Jim Jackson; 1st vice-president, Jim Mulligan; 2nd vice-president, Linda VanKoughnet; secretary-treasurer, Larry Farthing; recording secretary, La Partington.

Local 518, Vancouver

President, Lief Nielsen; secretary-treasurer, John Middke.

Local 519, Stewart

President, Frank Secretary; secretary-treasurer, Harold Schindel.

Alcohol Problems?

If you are a longshoreman, clerk or boss with an alcohol problem, or know one, contact the ILWU-PA 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
1320 North Eldon
Wilmingtom, CA 90744
Phone: (213) 549-8666

Northern California

George Cobb, 400 North Point St.
San Francisco, CA 94133
Phone: (415) 775-8363

Columbia River/Oregon Coast Area

Jim Coggin, Local 8
566 North East Gilian
Portland, OR 97212
Phone: (503) 231-4682 or (216) 694-0637

Puget Sound/Washington Area

Frank Dwyer, Local 19
1900 Building
Room 2122
50th Second Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104
Phone: (206) 622-1308

British Columbia/Canadian Area

Hugh MacLean
115 Hastings St. Office 301
Vancouver, BC V6K1Z8
Phone: (604) 333-8223

Home: 407-8901
Emergency: 485-9141

metro pager 2257

Newfoundland

Joseph J. Scott is the International Convention delegate. General executive board members are Fred M. Gemignanii, Ronald Webb and L. Javier Hurtado.

Local 506, Vancouver

President, R. Graham; secretary-treasurer, Ray Durman.

Local 508, Chemainus

President, Al Saunders, vice-president, Ken Gregory; 2nd vice-president, Jim King; secretary-treasurer, Dan Strohm; 2nd district, Ron Mear.

Local 514, Vancouver

President, Doug Sigurdson; vice-president, Don Parf-Pearson; secretary-treasurer, Charlie Mcintosh.

Local 517, Vancouver

President, Jim Jackson; 1st vice-president, Jim Mulligan; 2nd vice-president, Linda VanKoughnet; secretary-treasurer, Larry Farthing; recording secretary, La Partington.

Local 518, Vancouver

President, Lief Nielsen; secretary-treasurer, John Middke.

Local 519, Stewart

President, Frank Secretary; secretary-treasurer, Harold Schindel.

Local 34, San Francisco

Ship Clerks’ Association members last month elected their officers for 1983: president, Frank Billed; vice-president, Frank Secretary/BA, Gene Younger; LRC Bill Luch and Donald Bledsoe; FOB, Fred Proctor. The regular dispatcher is Warren Smith and relief dispatcher is Bob Cranton.

Local 51, San Francisco

New officers elected by the members of foremen’s Local 51 are as follows: president, Joe S Арнис, vice-president, Harold Hildebrand; secretary-treasurer, Eric Nelson; assistant secretary-treasurer, Max Gutierrez; sergeant-at-arms, Henry Moreno; recording secretary, Chad Hunt; delegate, Joseph J. Scott is on the general executive board, as well as International Convention delegate. Rich Bolecek. Ryder, Joe Villegas, Alicia Metzger, Bridge, Erben Dennis, Buddy Pryor, Mark Anderson, Rich Bolecek, Heide, Leonard Baylor, Gerry Butler and Joe Van Huss.

Local 52, Astoria

President, Bob Bish; vice-president, Bob Bowles; secretary-treasurer/dispatcher and welfare officer, Jim Pinkham and Ron King. Pinkham and Ron King. Pinkham and Ron King. Pinkham and Ron King. Pinkham and Ron King. Pinkham and Ron King. Pinkham and Ron King.

Local 53, Stockton

President, Denny Allan; vice president, Mike Marino; secretary-treasurer, Dan Cole. The three BA’s are: Jim Keil, Bill Kemp and Don Somervile.

Local 54, Stockton


Local 560, Vancouver

President, R. Graham; secretary-treasurer, Ray Durman.

Local 561, Vancouver

President, Al Saunders, vice-president, Ken Gregory; 2nd vice-president, Jim King; secretary-treasurer, Dan Strohm; 2nd district, Ron Mear.

Local 571, Vancouver

President, Jim Jackson; 1st vice-president, Jim Mulligan; 2nd vice-president, Linda VanKoughnet; secretary-treasurer, Larry Farthing; recording secretary, La Partington.

Local 578, Vancouver

President, Lief Nielsen; secretary-treasurer, John Middke.

Local 591, San Francisco

President, Joe S Арнис, vice-president, Harold Hildebrand; secretary-treasurer, Eric Nelson; assistant secretary-treasurer, Max Gutierrez; sergeant-at-arms, Henry Moreno; recording secretary, Chad Hunt; delegate, Joseph J. Scott is on the general executive board, as well as International Convention delegate. Rich Bolecek. Ryder, Joe Villegas, Alicia Metzger, Bridge, Erben Dennis, Buddy Pryor, Mark Anderson, Rich Bolecek, Heide, Leonard Baylor, Gerry Butler and Joe Van Huss.
TACOMA—Members of Local 23 used the occasion of their annual pensioners’ Christmas Party and a regular local stop-work meeting December 7 to celebrate the completion of four years of hard work on a history of their union. The book, entitled The Working Waterfront, is the result of a joint effort by the union, the Washington Humanities Council, the port, and a number of business and educational leaders in Pierce County.

Coordinated by its business would be lost to government-chartered ships, the Alaska Steamship Company accorded to the Joint Northwest Strike Committee’s demand. The Tacoma Port Commission then authorized use of its docks. On July 6 the four Alaskan steamers arrived at the Tacoma piers with union crews. As a result of the Joint Northwest Strike Committee’s victory over Alaska shipowners, longshoremen from Pacific Northwest ports traveled to Tacoma, where they were dispatched from the union hall to picket lines at the entrance to the harbor. The workers paid directly to the men, one-fourth was sent to their local strike committee, and another fourth went to the Joint Northwest Strike Committee. The committee sent $1,500 to the ILA pension fund, $2,000 to San Francisco, and various amounts to other California locals.

The Joint Northwest Strike Committee also set aside $1,500 to organize a coast-wide union of longshoremen. At the long strike, discussions took place between the ILA and the Masters, Mates and Pilots; Marine Engineers; Sailors; Cooks and Stewards; Marine Firemen, and Radio Telegraphers about establishing a unit organization for greater strength.

Twelve years earlier, the Port of Tacoma had been closed down by a work stoppage. The union’s membership saw that everyone had to leave the waterfront. Most of the men were employed by the ILA, which refused to align with the ILWU when it was formed, as an affiliate of the CIO, in 1937. Over the next twenty years the members repeatedly voted to retain their affiliation with the International Longshoremen’s Association, AFL, joining the ILWU in 1968 only when hard times made traveling picketing impossible. So the key question in any attempt to make sense of the local’s peculiar history is, how come? What made these people so different? What made them willing to put up with 30 years of isolation from the rest of the coast?

There’s a simple way of answering the question. “A majority of the men favored staying with the ILA-AFL because of the long tradition of working with other AFL unions in the Tacoma Central Labor Council,” say the authors. “By joining the ILWU, the longshoremen would have been isolated from the other labor community.”

It’s not an altogether unreasonable explanation, but why wouldn’t the same argument have prevailed in other West Coast ports where the AFL was also the center of the action? The deeper answer, the authors imply, lies in the long tradition of the Tacoma waterfront labor movement—a combination of militancy, intense localism, and a unique relationship between the Port of Tacoma and the waterfront employers.

OUTSTANDING HISTORY OF TACOMA DOCKS PRODUCED BY 74-YEAR COMMUNITY EFFORT

‘Flying squad’ kept Tacoma cool in ’34

(The following excerpt from The Working Waterfront describes the situation on the Tacoma docks during the summer of 1934.)

Tacoma escaped most of the violence because Commencement Bay employers made no attempt to import scalps and force the docks open. Perhaps the reason for the reluctance of the employers to break the picket lines was the formation of a special unit of Tacoma longshoremen called the Flying Squad. When the 1934 strike was only three days old, the Flying Squad participated in scab-clearing on the Seattle docks.

Evidently, much planning had taken place by longshoremen before the strike began. On March 30, 1934, Tacoma Locals 38-26 and 38-3 amalgamated into Local 38, ending the long-standing rivalry between lumber handlers and general cargo longshoremen. The merger of the two Tacoma locals clearly meant a unified front toward employers.

The Tacoma Central Labor Council passed a motion that if troops were used to break the longshoremen’s strike, the Council will call a general strike.

OPENING THE PORT

On July 6, 1934, the Joint Northwest Strike Committee agreed to load Alaskan ships under the terms of the ILA-AFL, thus opening the port again. Chair-

man John Prins negotiated on June 25 a special agreement with port authorities to supply a berth for scab ships. But Prins’ understanding with the Port Commissioners was unclear. When, quite mysteri-

ously, the Port reneged on its promise. Despite renewed attempts by Prins to re-

open the port, there was no movement of ships into or out of the harbor.

The history of the ILWU — and of most unions — has almost always been written from headquarters. Readers are too often left to wonder what this or that event really meant to the rank and file, and particularly to those members who were on the center of the action.

That’s why The Working Waterfront: The Story of Tacoma’s Ship and Men is a par-

ticularly useful contribution to the history of the ILWU, and a model for other un-

ions interested in similar projects. The authors, Ronald Magden of Tacoma Com-

munity College, and A. D. Martinson of Pacific Lutheran College, look at things through the small end of the telescope. They provide the reader with a fresh and often unorthodox perspective, and a re-

minder that the deep strength of the Ameri-

can labor movement lies precisely in the diversity of roads traveled.

Tacoma Local 23 was among one of the three northwest locals which refused to align with the ILWU when it was formed, as an affiliate of the CIO, in 1937. Over the next twenty years the members repeatedly voted to retain their affiliation with the International Longshoremen’s Association, AFL, joining the ILWU in 1968 only when hard times made traveling picketing impossible. So the key question in any attempt to make sense of the local’s peculiar history is, how come? What made these people so different? What made them willing to put up with 30 years of isolation from the rest of the coast?

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FIRST STRIKES

This tradition goes back to 1886 when the first recorded strike on the Tacoma waterfront occurred, a three day walkout which produced a 10¢ per hour increase. Other struggles followed over the years, the toughest being in 1916 when many, old-

timers claim, Tacoma and Seattle were cut out when San Francisco dockers cut their own deal. While the rest of the west coast longshore locals collapsed after the disastrous strikes of the early ’twenties, only Tacoma longshoremen, the authors claim, maintained the integrity of their union and their control over hiring. Ign-

oring employer provisions, they suc-

cessfully maintained union discipline and virtually cleared the waterfront of non-

union men by working harder and faster than the men out of the fink hall.

A MOLD CAST

“Thus the mold was cast for the future Tacoma longshoremen. He became proud of his union, and at the same time devoted to being a localer on the docks.” Realizing that Tacoma could only compete with larger and more accessible ports by reducing turnaround time, “the union’s membership saw that everyone carried their end of the workload and if someone could not cut the mustard he had to leave the waterfront. Placing the boss was secondary to the men’s pride.

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