ILWU Int'l Convention underway

PORTLAND—Some 360 regular and fraternal delegates were on hand Monday, April 11, when the ILWU's 25th Biennial Convention was called to order. Sen. Alan Cranston (D-CA) who has announced his candidacy for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination, will be the major guest speaker. Cranston will address the convention on Thursday, April 14. A member of the Senate since 1968, he has been particularly outspoken on the issue of arms control and the nuclear freeze and is expected to address that problem in depth.

Other expected guests are the leaders of the member unions of the United Federation of Tidewater Labor Organizations, with which the ILWU is affiliated.

The Portland Hilton Hotel will serve as convention headquarters. The May issue of The Dispatcher will carry a full report on all convention actions.

IBU wins pact at Dillingham

HONOLULU — After better than six months of extremely difficult bargaining, 140 members of the Inlandboatmen’s Union of the Pacific employed by Dillingham Tug and Barge have ratified a 3% year agreement which provides substantial wage increases and makes some progress in other areas.

The wage increases average out to about 7% per year. The Dillingham workers also won an additional half-day Accumulated Time Off, 5% increase in employer pension contributions, and affiliation with the IBU’s Columbia River medical health and welfare program.

The new contract was signed only after the IBU members had decisively turned back a decertification vote. The previous pact expired in September, 1982.

The agreement was negotiated by John Peters, Sammy Jimenez, Paul Kim, Ed McHugh, Clayton Wong, Alan Holt, and Business Agent John Gouveia, assisted by ILWU President Jim Herman and IBU President Don Liddle.

Litton Industries has used every weapon in its vast arsenal — both legal and illegal — to blast its employees’ efforts to organize. After enduring the onslaught for two decades, the entire labor movement has now risen to grapple with this titan of the electronics age. A major confrontation is heating up in Washington, DC.
Canadian bishops set economic recovery program

We present here excerpts from the recent message of the Social Affairs Commission of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops titled "Reflections on the Economic Crisis." "The analysis of, and solutions to Canada's current economic dilemma," the bishops said, "inferred in the Bishops' message, coincides to a remarkable degree with the proposals we have recently put forward," according to Dennis McDermott, president of the Canadian Labor Congress.

Along with most people in Canada today, we realize that our economic system is in serious trouble. In our region, we have seen the economic realities of plant shutdowns, massive layoffs of workers, wage restraint proposals, and the collapse of collective bargaining rights for public sector workers.

At the same time, we have seen the social realities of the economic crisis, with unemployment, depleting unemployment insurance benefits, cut-backs in health and social services, and line-ups at local soup kitchens. And we have also witnessed, first hand, the results of a troubled economy: personal tragedies, emotional strains, loss of human dignity, family breakdowns, and even suicides.

Changing strategies for economic recovery, we firmly believe that first priority must be given to the real victims of the current recession, namely—the unemployed, farm workers, native peoples, women, young people—and small business workers, and some small businessmen and women. This option calls for social policies which realize that the needs of the many are more imperative over the short term than those of the rich; that the rights of workers are more important than the rights of the powerful; that participation of marginalized groups takes precedence over the preservation of a system which excludes them.

JOB SECURITY

In response to current economic problems, we suggest that priority be given to the following short-term strategies by both government and business.

First, an industrial strategy should be developed to create permanent and meaningful jobs for people in local communities. To be effective, such a strategy should be designed at both national and regional levels. It should include emphasis on increased productivity and the introduction of new technologies for basic needs, and measures to ensure job security for workers.

Third, a more balanced and equitable program should be developed for reducing and restraining the rate of inflation. This means eliminating the burden for wage earners to proper income earners and introducing controls on prices and new forms of taxes on income (e.g., dividends, interest).

Fourth, greater emphasis should be given to the goal of social responsibility in the current recession. This means that every effort must be made to curb wasteful spending, it is imperative that primary emphasis be given to unemployment insurance benefits.

DECISIVE ROLE FOR UNIONS

Fifth, labor unions should be asked to play a more active role in developing and implementing strategies for economic recovery and employment. This requires cooperative bargaining, but in cases where they have been suspended, collaboration between unions and the unemployed and unorganized workers is necessary. We believe such an effort can play an effective role in developing economic policies.

Furthermore, all peoples of good will in local and regional communities throughout this country must be encouraged to co-ordinate their efforts to develop and implement such strategies.

We are now in an era where transnational corporations and banks can move capital from one country to another at a fraction of the cost of labor. In the process, they have enjoyed an effective role in dominating economic policies.

The private sector is to be the "engine" for economic recovery. To achieve these goals, inflation is put forth as the number one problem. The causes of inflation are seen as workers' wages, government spending, and low productivity rather than monopoly control of prices. The means for curbing inflation are such austerity measures as the federal 6 and 5 wage restraint programs and control in social spending (e.g., hospitals, medicare, public services, education and foreign aid), rather than controls on profits and prices.

These measures, in turn, have been strengthened by a series of corporate tax cuts and reduction in investment incentives necessary to maintain the petroleum industry. In effect, the survival of capital takes priority over labor in present strategies for economic recovery.

At the same time, working people, the unemployed, young people and those on fixed incomes are increasingly called upon to make the most sacrifice for economic recovery. For it is they who suffer most from layoffs, wage restraints, and cutbacks in social services.

The current tax changes, which have the effect of raising taxes for working people and lowering them for the wealthy, adds to this situation. In these conditions, in turn, are reinforced by the existence of large-scale unemployment which tends to generate a climate of social fear and passive acceptance.

Moreover, the federal and provincial wage control programs are inequitable, imposing the same control rate on lower incomes as on upper incomes.

Mega-Projects

In recent years, people have begun to raise serious questions about the desirability of economic strategies based on mega-projects, wherein large amounts of capital are invested in high technology resource developments (e.g., large-scale nuclear plants, pipelines, hydro-electric projects). Such mega-projects may increase economic growth and profits but they generally end up producing relatively few permanent jobs while adding to a large national debt. In our view, it is important to increase the self-sufficiency of Canada's industries, to strengthen our national economy and to encourage strategies to create new job-producing industries in local communities, to redistribute economic opportunities in underdeveloped regions, and to provide relevant job training programs.

If we believe that such strategies, wherever possible, can be developed on a regional basis and that labor unions and community organizations are effectively involved in their design, implementation.

To implement these alternatives there is a need for people to take a closer look at an economic vision and model that govern our society.

Indeed, it is becoming more evident that an industrial future is already underway. In recent years, new nations with new industries and corporations. According to this industrial vision, we are now preparing to move into the information computer age of the 1990s.

In order to become more competitive in world markets, one strategy that is re-to Canadian industries with new technologies, create new forms of high-tech industries, (e.g., micro-electronics), and phase out many labor-intensive industries (e.g., textile, clothing and other) that govern our society.

This industrial vision, in turn, is to be realized through an economic model of development that is primarily: capital-intensive (using less and less human labor); energy-intensive (requiring more non-renewable capital and technology); resource-intensive (increasing development priorities to external interests); and export-oriented (providing resources for developed countries for markets elsewhere rather than serving basic needs of people in this country).

Alternate Vision

An alternative economic vision could place priority on serving the basic needs of all people in this country, the value of human effort and the just distribution of wealth and power among people and regions.

What would it mean to develop an alternative economic model that would place emphasis on: socially-useful forms of production; labor-intensive industries; the use of appropriate forms of technology; self-reliant models of economic development; community ownership and control of industries; new forms of worker management and ownership; and greater use of the renewable energy sources in industrial production?

As a country, we have the resources, the capital, the technology and the knowledge to develop an alternative economic future. Yet, the people of this country have seldom been consulted and have not been given the opportunity to develop alternatives to the dominant economic model that governs our society.

In order to forge a true community out of the present crisis, people must have a chance to choose their own economic future rather than having one forced upon them.

What is required, in our judgment, is a real public debate about economic vision and development strategies including choices about values and priorities for the future direction of this country.

Across our society, there are working and non-working people in communities — factory workers, farmers, foresters, women, fishermen, native peoples, public service workers, and all others who have an interest in the economic contribution to make in shaping the economic future of our society.

It is essential that serious attention be given to their concerns and proposals if the seeds of trust are to be sown for the development of a true community.
ILWU-PMAPension trustees implement policy on South Africa

SAN FRANCISCO — Trustees of the ILWU-PMAPension Plan have made some progress in their efforts to keep plans against being invested in corporations engaged in businesses which ILWU members find objectionable.

The ILWU Longshore Pension Plan and the South Africa's largest trade union federation, the Congress of South Africa, have recently cast their votes in favor of a proposal that requires the management of a company in which the plan invests to report on the extent to which the company's investments are made in South Africa's arms manufacturers, and to keep Plan funds from being invested in corporations engaged in businesses which ILWU members find objectionable.

This shareholder proposal is opposed by Alcan management. A similar shareholder proposal last year received an unusually high 8.8% vote in support.

"We took the position that when shareholders have invested their money in corporations which are clearly covered by ILWU policy, the union should have the right to cast a vote in favor of the proposal," said ILWU President and Pension Trustee Jim Herman. The PMA trustees agree.

In reporting on similar actions taken by the Trustees last year, the Dispatcher (July 1) noted, that this is "a departure of several steps that unions around the country are taking on the job of making sure that workers' pension monies not only earn the greatest rate of return, but are also invested in a manner that enhances the quality of life of workers everywhere.

In similar actions, the joint trustees voted to:

- A church-sponsored resolution at GTE Corp. challenging the legality of the Department of Defense in the region for research and development of the country's new communications system for the MX missile.
- A shareholder proposal challenging TRW Inc.'s $18.5 million contract with the Department of Defense for systems engineering and technical assistance on the MX missile.
- A shareholder proposal in opposition to AT&T's contract management haven National Laboratories, an Albuquerque, New Mexico facility for research and development of nuclear fusion technology and effectiveness. A similar resolution supported by the AT&T shareholders last year won almost 6% of the vote in opposition to the recommendation of AT&T management.

Overseas delegates

ILWU members Masa Arinaga, Local 145, Diane Peterson, Local 18, and Jim MacManus, Local 58, were able to visit to France on April 27 as part of the Overseas Delegation.

The trip, arranged with the assistance of the Congregational Federation of Denmark, included stops in Paris, Dublin, and Marseille, with frequent visits at workplaces and observances of France's traditional May Day commemorations.

CONTINUOUS DISCUSSIONS—The ILWU longshore and clerks' negotiating committee met in San Francisco March 13-14 for further talks with PMA regarding implementation of the contract provisions designed to preserve and increase longshore work opportunity. Further discussion was referred to the April 23 longshore, clerks and walking boss caucus.

Local 26 pickets struck Borden Chemical for nearly a month before gaining a satisfactory agreement.

Local 26 discipline arms pact at Borden Chemical after 4-week strike

LOS ANGELES — The 65 ILWU Local 26 members employed at Borden Chemical voted March 27 to go back to work based on a "new final offer" from the company.

Local 26 officers and the bargaining committees recommended the settlement, calling it a victory after nearly one month out on strike. Workers had picketed around the clock, much of the time soaked by rain and ankle-deep in mud, since February 2.

The union was successful in negotiating many language changes and improvements in wages and working conditions, and beating back all of Borden's take-away demands.

IMPROVEMENTS

The settlement includes a substantial wage increase; improved funeral leave, holiday and sick leave policies; several new job classifications; an agreement on no dual instructions; increased shift differentials; improved working schedules for maintenance mechanics; a lunch check company; improved discipline procedures and language on leave of absence for industrial injuries.

Also won was an increase in company contributions for safety shoes, and the establishment of a new joint safety committee, which requires monthly meetings. The negotiating committee consisted of Local 26 Business Agent Luisa Gratz, Chief Steward James Johnson, and stewards Bill Norton and Tony Bedolla.

"They were disciplined and loyal to the membership throughout," said Gratz, "a fine and united committee."

OTHER FACTS

In other Local 26 news, RA Jesus Alvarado reports a satisfactory two-year agreement for the clerical unit at New York Merchandise.

In addition to a wage increase, improvements were also made in overtime, sick and holiday benefits and employer retirement contributions.

The bargaining team included Alvarado and Sonia Oruca Jesus. Union members at Central Bay Co. also recently won a new three-year contract which provides improved wages and holiday pay. Negotiations were handled by Alvarado, Margo Gill, and Lewis Davis.

ILWU brings TRA payments, training aid to jobless pine workers

HONOLULU — A move triggered by ILWU Local 146 has resulted in the qualification of dislocated workers in the pineapple industry to apply for Trade Readjustment Assistance (TRA) benefits. They are also eligible for job retraining assistance.

Joshua Aguadul, director of the State Department of Labor, has announced that some workers hired by layoffs in Hawaii's pineapple industry, will be eligible for TRA payments.

Workers laid off at Del Monte's Honolulu cannery and Kualapuu plantation on Molokai, and Del Monte's Honolulu cannery and Dole's cannery employees who lost their jobs after May 24, are eligible to apply for TRA benefits.

Once funds are released by the federal government, employees can apply for TRA benefits.

Not all affected workers have been employed at the affected facility at Del Monte and Del Monte for at least six months out of the year prior to the layoff.

Push by ILWU brings TRA payments, training aid to jobless pine workers

PORTLAND — Hearings will be held April 26 and 27 in Washington, D.C., on SB 48, a bill the ILWU Regional Office and the Inlandowners' Union charge would permit the railroads to move in on barge traffic on the Columbia River.

The measure was introduced by Oregon's junior Senator, Bob Packwood. Under Title I, it permits deintermodal transportation (the movement of goods by two or more kinds of carriers) in effect since 1912.

Under Title II, effective September 1, 1984, the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Interstate Commerce Commission, and the Maritime Administration Board in a new setup, the National Transportation Commission will be run by five members appointed by the President — in this case by Reagan — to serve five-year terms.

DESTROY COMPETITION

NW Regional Director G. Johnny Parks said that SB 48, as we understand it at this time, would diminish competition and give the railroads a monopoly on transportation on inland waterways.

The Port of Portland has not taken an official stand on the measure, but Executive Director Lloyd Ullman said the Dispatcher: "The situation here on the river is such that the bill would diminish competition."

Anderson said that the Port is registering a caution. Asked about the measure, he said, "At this point I would have more questions than answers."

Barge and towing companies across the nation have expressed opposition to the measure, most notably the Oregon State Barge Line, chairman of the Minnesota-based Twin City Barge Inc., which merged with Portland Barge Corp. last year, as likening abolition of ICC regulatory powers to giving the police the ability to decide who should be considered a suspect. Agreement of all the workers to carry out the police go on the assumption everyone will be good.

"Allowing railroads to compete for the traffic will have the effect of their raping and plundering the public."

Raj Hickey, head of Tidewater Barge Lines, the biggest mover of wheat, grain, and cargo, said that "as a Golden Gate surgeon, I cannot believe it!" Knapp is sending a postcard to Washington to testify against the bill.

Dick Cartall of Cattai Bros. spelled out what the bill would mean for the barge industry. "We can move commodities with 1/3 of the cost of the railroads — three times the amount of tonnage!"

As to whom the President would be likely to be swing, a worker must work "I'm going to send a letter to the Transportation Commission, be said, "The railroads would undoubtedly put a lot of money into the next campaign."

Railroads may enter Oregon's barge business

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railroads may enter Oregon's barge business
Some of the marchers protesting the firings at Qantas Airways in San Francisco. At left is ILWU International Vice President George Martin, followed by ILWU Organizer Felix Rivera.

300 protest Qantas firings at San Francisco Airport 'prayer vigil'

SAN FRANCISCO — For two hours just at nightfall Friday, March 18 a crowd of over 300 pickets and demonstrators held possession of a portion of the sidewalk and roadway of San Francisco International Airport's south terminal in a powerful show of their outrage over a systematic wave of union-busting at the airport and their determination that it has to stop.

Billed as a "prayer vigil," the demonstration drew workers still employed at the airport, others whose airport jobs have been destroyed or standards slashed by the switch to subcontractors, members and leaders of other San Mateo and Bay Area unions and representatives of the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish faiths.

A substantial delegation of ILWU members also participated. International President Jim Herman was among the speakers.

Recruiting throughout the event, in the words of key speakers, was the message: "We're here in an orderly, non-violent show of our anger, but our patience won't last forever."

FIREFIGHTERS

Sponsored by the San Mateo County Central Labor Council and the San Francisco Airport Labor Coalition, the demonstration was touched off by recent developments at the airport including the firing of 100 janitors if a union contractor was replaced by a non-union company using illegal aliens and paying the minimum wage; loss of fringe benefits and reduction to minimum wage for 75 airplane whose union employer said he had to do it to avert loss of the contract to non-union bidders; security guards having wages and benefits slashed twofold in the same year an airlines switched to cut-rate bidders.

Defense costs

Every $1 billion of tax money the Pentagon spends on military equipment causes a loss of 18,000 jobs that could have been saved if consumers had been allowed to spend the money, according to a new study by the Employment Research Association of Labor Union.

The study, based on Defense Department procurement figures and Bureau of Labor Statistics impact figures for 161 in- dustries, said the fiscal 1981 military budget of $104 billion "caused a net loss of 13,000 jobs in the industrial and commercial base of the United States."

"This meant that every $1 billion transferred from purchases by the taxpayer to purchases by the Pentagon caused a net loss of 18,000 jobs in industry and commerce," the report said.

More recently, 167 machinists and ground crew workers were fired by Qantas Airways and replaced by such subcontractors at inferior wages and working conditions. And now Japan Air Lines is telling the union to accept take-away mandates or be replaced like the Qantas workers—all of the foregoing in disregard of long-established prevailing wage provisions which the city of San Francisco and its Airport Commission have failed to enforce.

Leading the demonstrators in prayer were Father Joseph W. Frazer of St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Menlo Park; Father William O'Donnell of St. Joseph's Worker's Church, Berkeley, and Sec. Treas. Charles Perkel of Service Employ- ees Local 77, one of the affected unions.

Lightfoot was mixed with pity in the prayer of Father O'Donnell, who declared: "Let us engage in an exercise of imagination: what if this group of workers was doubled in size, and instead of standing here, we were down on the freeway."

"Government has only one reason to exist, and that is to protect the people of this country and not the managers. Our boards rooms where militarism has gone mad, versus the people and their bread for what? So that a few can they see as important that they can live off the rest of us—no way."

PYGMIES

"This is a peace demonstration," Herman said, "and we're letting it be known in a careful way that there is real anger, and we're putting these pygmies on notice — if they think they can take away the workers, they will learn otherwise."

"Trade unionism was not born out of the belligerence of a single employer; we would have nothing unless the workers took it from the employer in unity. The aircraft declared was on each other with derogation, and we people are now ex- pected to pay for it. If these things con- tinue, the old struggles will be renewed, and the new victories will come because of the new solidarity. That is a lesson for us to keep until the brawl comes to our door- step, but to mobilize with whatever union that is in struggle."

San Mateo Labor Council Exec. Sec. Richard Holbolet told the crowd, "There is a union contract in existence, and its terms are what we're going to have to return—If we go it, you go. If union members are going to be thrown out on the garbage heap of society, then let's knock one airline out of business and set an example to the others."

The Rise of a

Simmerby Litton

Labor fights back

by Vincent DiGirolamo

Simmerby Litton

Lightning may not strike twice, but Lit- ton Industries will. Robert Brown can at- tend.

Brown, a member of the Machinists union, is facing a hearing in New Britain, Connec- ticut, has been hit twice by the com- pany's shrewd-turnaround policy. He had 90 days' layoff when Littletime, a successful Royal Typewriter plant in Hartford, and the much-heralded 15 years of relief to its hand tool division at New Britain Ma-

chinery last year.

FIRINGS

Mostly, although profitable, were moved to low-wage, non-union loca-
tions, thousands of workers were left jobless. And in Brown's case, despite almost 20 years of service, there was no hope to turn back.

Today, Brown spends days walking a picket line with the remaining Littletime employees in New Britain, who were forced on strike last July when the company de-
manded takeaways, refused to discuss eco-
nomic issues and walked out of negotia-
tions.

TOP VIOLATOR

Similar actions by some of the 82 other Litton companies are being across the nation have rocketed the high-tech elec-
tronics conglomerate to the top of labor's "pariah" list. Topping such companies are Litton and its Airport Commission have failed to enforce.

Leading the demonstrators in prayer were Father Joseph W. Frazer of St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Menlo Park; Father William O'Donnell of St. Joseph's Worker's Church, Berkeley, and Sec. Trea.

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The air blows the money into the company's hands, which is in struggle."
John Henney, Secretary of California Labor Federation addressed 300 participants at anti-Litian rally on Stanford University campus last month.

Litton's Labor Relations Director Matt Diegeler also points out that 20% of all Litton employees are represented by a union, which is about the national average. He says the series of protests against Litton is being conducted solely to force the company to pay compensatory damages to the workers involved.

Litton is being conducted solely to force the company to pay compensatory damages to the workers involved.
Local 21’s Mel Bannister succumbs

LONGVIEW — Local 21 shut down the port on March 28 to bury its long-time president, Bannister, 55, died of a heart attack at home. He "had just fallen when I found him," said his wife, Lois. "He had been ill." Bannister's service to Local 21 included five terms as president, Secretary Ralph E. Rider, Jr., told The Dispatcher. "He was Vice-president for many years, serving on the Executive Committee." He had also served on the local's safety committee and the Governor's Safety Council, and was awarded a certificate of merit by the State Department of Labor & Industries at a ceremonial dinner.

During the 1971-1972 strike, Bannister served on the International's negotiating team for small ports on the Columbia River, and was a member of the Executive Committee. He went to New York with ILWU's President Harry Bridges to confer with ILA head Ted Stmus. Rider recalled that Bannister was active on the Cowlitz County Safety Committee, to which most area unions belong. Bannister was instrumental in securing cash and food donations for the Eberline Center.

"My wife really is a mother to these kids," Harris said. "I'd come in from a hard day's work, and there'd be a second glass of milk. The child was always happy."

Bannister was a delegate to the United 25th Biennial Convention, slated to be held in May 11, but it's a meeting he won't make.

Pallbearers included Perry Rose, Bob Rose, Louise Harris, Ralph Rider, Jr., Bob Ginnat and Wayne Baer.

Bannister's body was represented at the International at the funeral chapel attended to the high regard in which he was held. Born in Saskatchewan, Canada, March 19, 1928, Bannister moved to southern Washington as a child, attending school in Kelso.

ERICAN MECHAN

He became a merchant seaman at 15, spent three years in the Navy and served in World War II. "The rest of his life was spent on the waterfront," said Lois. "He was a 30-year veteran.

Bannister's service to ILWU includes nine years as President, Secretary Ralph E. Rider, Jr., told The Dispatcher. "He was Vice-president for many years, serving on the Executive Committee." He had also served on the local's safety committee and the Governor's Safety Council, and was awarded a certificate of merit by the State Department of Labor & Industries at a ceremonial dinner.

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East Bay recommendation

The following candidates in municipal elections, to be held May 10, have been endorsed by the East Bay ILWU Joint Legislative Committee:

CITY OF OAKLAND

School Director
District #1: Elizabeth F. LAURENSON
District #3: James NORWOOD
District #4: Andrew ROBINSON
District #6: Rudy JOHNSON
District #7: J. Alfred SMITH, Jr.

Governor's Board, Parolis Community College Dining Board
Trustee Area #2: Fran WHITE
Trustee Area #4: H. Pat BALEN
Trustee Area #6: Ramon A. SEVILLA

CITY OF ALAMEDA

Mayor
Aneme STONE

CITY OF RICHMOND

City Council
George LIVINGSTON
Richard GRIFFIN
Andrew ROBINSON
Daniel BATES
David Mac DIARMID

District councils set political agenda

HAWTHORNE—Members of the ILWU Northern California District 10 Political Council met here February 26-27 to set the union’s statewide political agenda for 1987. Some of the more important issues were endorsed by the body.

To combat current union-busting tactics, the council voted to support legislation to require union and non-union labor-management consultants. A related proposal would ban the use of mice by private security guards and probe its proposal from involvement in labor disputes.

To further workers’ rights, the council agreed to back prospective plant closure legislation in Sacramento, extend successor clauses in collective bargaining contracts, and help pass a federal law that will make it mandatory that corporations respect the provisions of labor contracts even though a company is sold.

The council also recommended the creation of a consumers’ utility board and safe deposit insurance to protect savings for consumers and supported an oil severance tax for education.

Health & Safety

Resolutions on health and safety issues demanded the increase of maximum Occupational Safety & Health Administration civil penalties against employers for serious and repeated violations, and the expansion of “right-to-know” laws to give unions access to toxic substance information.

The council also denounced the administrative sabotage of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act by the Environmental Protection Agency, backed legislation intended to deregulate the EPA, and opposed staff reductions at CAL OSHA.

In addition, the council voted to continue to fight for the preservation of the Longshoremen’s & Harbor Workers Compensation Act.

Guest speakers at the Saturday session included Barry Frank, from the California Labor Unions for the Freeze, who detailed the cost in jobs that farms spending capital on union busters, and Nate Brotsky, from the United Auto Workers Local 649, who detailed the amount of their members’ salaries and health care benefits for workers making $7.50 per hour.

The council went on record in support of the UAW members in their fight and the program of the nuclear freeze group.

The Sunday session saw the approval of the Manic-IOUS Nuclear Freeze Bill and IRS 1085, a bill by Rep. Charles Rangel of New York to prohibit the export of nuclear equipment, and a bill by Rep. James Oberstar of Minnesota to provide research funds to trainable nuclear workers for training in a job alternative.

No on recall!

The ILWU is going all out to support San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein in her effort to turn back a recall drive. The recall election will be held April 26.

Dianne has been a good, competent mayor. She has kept her doors open to all the people of this city, including labor,” said Rep. Ken ECKHARD, executive of the ILWU San Francisco Joint Legislative Committee. “ ‘What she needs more than anything else is a strong and decisive turnout!’

Interest withholding— for the truly greedy

by Mike Lewis Representative

WASHINGTON—With the advent of high-tech communica- tions, it is easy to forget how effective the old mail-from-home techniques of information gathering are still. Thanks to the nation’s banks, we’ve just had a demonstration.

When Congress once again considered an interest withholding requirement last summer, the American Bankers Association flatly took dead aim at it. The new law merely requires the withholding of 10% of a person’s annual stock dividends or savings account interest, to be credited against his or her tax liability at the end of the year. It works the same way as withholdings from paychecks, and it was enacted because the US Treasury has lost billions of dollars in tax revenue due to interest income going unreported.

That interest, however, is also worth a good deal of money available to the banks. Though the withholding law creates no new taxes and contains specific exemptions for members of Congress and depositors who earn less than $150 in annual interest or dividend income, savers were told in the House debate that “Congress Wants a Piece of Your Paycheck.”

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Charging the meeting was SCDC Presid- ent Luisa Gratz. The meeting was ad- journed in memory of ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus Louis Goldblatt.

JULY 11, 1983 Page 7 THE DISPATCHER

SAN FRANCISCO—Business Agent Joe planets has ordered the United Auto Workers to suspend its attack on strikers during collective bargaining negotiations.

The ILWU, AFL-CIO, and all other unions will continue to actively oppose the Reagan administration’s proposal to broaden the federal government’s power to strip workers subject to the Hobbs Act while preserving its anti-extortion law to apply to the tense, high-pressure circumstances of a labor dispute.

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Reflections by ILWU freshmen and veterans

With a long tradition of political activism behind them, many ILWU members have served the public over the years in many ways. On the mainland and in Hawaii, members have served on port commissions, school boards, etc. More than a handful have also been elected, at various times, to state legislatures.

In November, 1960, two young northwest longshoremen—Jim Scavera, Local 12, North Bend, Oregon; and Max Vekich, Jr., Local 30, Aberdeen, Washington—were elected to their respective state legislatures. They have written the following articles to describe their experiences over the last few months.

By JIM SCAVERA (D-Coos County)
Oregon State House of Representatives

Before I arrived in Salem I was warned that this would be the toughest time in the legislature since the Great Depression. Now I'm starting to believe it.

The governor's projected budget for two years is $3.3 billion dollars. The state takes in $3.3 billion dollars in revenue, corporate tax, a tax on liquor and cigarettes will raise only $27 million, leaving a shortfall of $300 million. Trimmin', the state's budget, reviewing the transfer payment from state to local government and equitably raising new revenues are the options available. They're easy to talk about, but reaching a balanced budget is a tough task. There's also a desperate need for some kind of local property tax relief, and we're concerned about something like California's Proposition 13 happening in Oregon.

There's a move on to end our problems by putting on a sales tax. We've never had one here, but there are certainly people working for it. There's a group of folks who, around Puget Sound. That split becomes very apparent when you're here. It's very tough task. There's also a desperate need for some kind of sales tax. We've never had one here, but there are a lot of people who want it. We need to get it done. There's a lot of problems here, but there's a lot of problems. We need to solve our problems. I don't personally believe my constituents want it, or even want their state legislators to submit it for a referendum. But it's still a threat.

BACK TO WORK
We've got to get the money from somewhere. The obvious answer is that we need to put 100,000 or so people in this country into the welfare system to pay the bills. There are people around who tell us that the way to do that is to get rid of the minimum wage or pass a right-to-work law. But that's going to be extremely unpopular.

The problems of my district down in the southwestern part of Oregon, the north coast, are the same as the problems of the rest of Oregon. We've got a sick economy, and we need to have development, we need to have jobs. But there's also a lot of families that are struggling. I personally have five generations in North Bend, and I have a real commitment to the place. We want to preserve the beaches, the rivers, the quality of life as we know it. We don't want to open up the place to some company that wants to take advantage of our needs to use us as some kind of dumping ground.

There are some long term answers to those questions. We can't just put a payroll tax, or that we have to wait for the economy to turn around. We can revise our income tax and our corporate tax to make them more progressive, and to give some help to small businesses and new businesses. In the Housing Committee, to which I was assigned, we're investigating the possible channeling state investment funds into local jobs in Oregon, instead of putting these funds into other states or countries. It's a long way from a good idea to a good piece of legislation, and we don't have the votes now.

I wasn't elected on some ideological platform. I ran on the basis that I would do my best, that I would be straight with people. I see part of my job as being the people's connection to state government, helping ordinary small people deal with these large and impersonal state institutions.

We spend a lot of time on the Judiciary Committee which is my other assignment. There are a lot of legal issues, how the courts work, how the Department of Motor Vehicles and others work. It's a good committee, but the basic idea is that these procedures ought to be as simple as possible. People shouldn't fall through the cracks and be caught with no voice in the system itself. They should get a fair shake.

By MAX VEKICH (D-Abderdeen)
Washington State House of Representatives

In the legislature for me is a lot like being a juggler. You've got five or six balls in the air all the time— hectic. When you're in the middle of something going on, you've always got something cooking. I enjoy the action—but people should realize that you pay a certain price, in terms of family life, and in terms of personal life. There are very few blue collar people around, even at this level.

The Washington legislature is like a big turf war. People want to do things for their own districts, for their own folks—which is as it should be. But of course, you can't do it all by yourself, so you get involved in coalitions which change, depending on the issues.

For example, we have a basic east-west split between the farmers in the east, who are very conservative and very homogenous, and the urban and suburban areas around Puget Sound. That split becomes very apparent on social issues, or transportation-type issues. Then you often have the big cities, like Seattle and Spokane lining up against everyone else.

MALL-TOWN LIBERAL
I'd call myself a small town liberal. The area I represent is working-class, middle-income, and so we tend to be pretty solid on labor issues. But we differ from the liberal ideal, for example, because we've got different problems. We don't have the same concentration of poor people, so there's somewhat less interest in social spending. The ideas about mass transit as opposed to state highways are more popular, and that's good, we agree on support for public education. They're more inclined to support the state university system, we're more conservative about colleges.

Finally, if you want to get anything done here you have to play by certain rules, just like in any institution. If you try to break the rules, then the other members, the senior people here, you've got to show them some competence and some kind of record. Do your homework. Go to the meetings. Ask good questions, introduce well thought-out bills. Don't surprise people, and most of all, don't create unnecessary bottlenecks.

If you want to get help from people, you've got to help them. You've got to be willing to horse-trade a little— which means giving up things you believe in, but it means being in the real world. If someone comes to me and wants my vote, I've got to think about it in different ways. Do I agree with the substance of the bill? Is this a worthy cause? If you're going to do something for this district which will help him get re-elected and if do, do I want to see him get re-elected? My vote isn't for sale or trade, but your colleagues do have the right for you to take their ideas seriously, to give them full consideration, not to dismiss them. Then you're entitled to the same thing in return.

Take the log export issue, for example. We had on the one hand a pretty active group of lobbyists from the sawmill industry who had built the beaches for some of the new democrats on a platform of banning log exports to create jobs here. Well, of course, when you get down to it, that's part of cutting off your nose to spite your face, and we were able to show people that they would lose more jobs than they would gain.

But the appropriate tactic was to keep things cool and not make a big splash about it, putting people in an embarrassing position. I was in that case to talk to the chairman of the natural resources committee, of which I'm a member, and to other people on the committee who listened to me in good faith and agreed that we simply didn't want to have further hearings on the bill. It died in committee, and the same