Key benefits saved

Dock comp bill moves to House

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The House Committee on Education and Labor has approved a bill to amend the Longshoremen's and Har

bor Workers' Compensation Act.

The bill, which will go to the House floor shortly after Congress reconvenes in January, is considerably different from the measure that passed the Republican-dominated Senate earlier this year. The Senate bill would deprive longshoremen who work in grain elevators of coverage, compensate workers' free choice of physician, and weaken Social Security disability protection. The House version, authored primarily by Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.) corrects these and other weaknesses.

MINOR CHANGES

The changes in the acts permitted by the Miller bill are limited to secondary features of the death benefit, higher penalties for fraudulent claims and for fraudulent denial of benefits by employers, and other administrative provisions. Benefits for funeral expense and facial disfiguration are increased. The bill was supported by the entire labor movement.

"Based on the lobbying I did in Washington in early November," said ILWU President Jim Herman, "it was clear that we could not indefinitely forestall the passage of the bill in the House. We, the AFL-CIO and other concerned unions had to consider such factors as Republican control of the Senate and the White House, the nation-wide anti-labor climate and the untimely loss of our good friend Rep. Phil Burton, who was such a strong defender of the Act."

BEST SYSTEM

"All things considered, I think it is fair to say that we have won an important victory over the last three years by crushing the Nickles and Erlenborn Bill which originally threatened us. The Longshore Act remains the best comp system by far in private industry."

After the Miller bill passes the House it will go to a House-Senate conference, where differences between it and the Senate version will be reconciled. Democratic members of the House led by Miller, are committed to taking a hard line against any further concessions.

NLRB paralysis is a scandal

WASHINGTON--The National Labor Relations Board's record backlog of 1,336 cases seriously hampers union organizing efforts and causes costly problems for some companies, witnesses told a House subcommittee.

Legislation may be needed to correct the backlog, said Rep. Barney Frank, a Massachusetts Democrat who heads a House Government Operations subcommittee. "We are reaching a point where the legal rights people have under the National Labor Relations Act are in jeopardy because the NLRB paralysis is a scandal."

The corporate war against labor is in full swing. Back-to-back recessions and chronic unemployment have set the stage. The crushing of PATCO set the example.

The pressure is unrelenting. Employer pleas for cooperation turn quickly into demands for concessions, and then into out-right union busting. For a look at some critical struggles unions are waging for survival, please turn to pages 6-7.
The new missiles

The deployment of US Cruise and Pershing II missiles in West Germany, six months from major Soviet deployment, is spreading tremendous anxiety throughout the world. In the context of US military activities in Central America, Grenada and Lebanon, growing criticism of the Reagan administration's overall conduct of US foreign policy, and particularly its reliance on military force. Peace and disarmament in a nuclear age, seems less secure than it was when this administration took office.

I was deeply struck by the comments of Nobel Prize physicist Owen Chamberlain on the extreme danger of the new missiles, which appeared in the November issue of the San Francisco Chronicle. As you would expect, his comments are directly counter to those who argue that the way to less weapons is through deployment and nuclear weapons. I urge all of you to read and carefully consider the thoughts and observations of Dr. Chamberlain.

The following is adopted from a speech by Nobel Prize-winning physicist Owen Chamberlain of the University of California, at a conference of Nobel laureates held October 28 in Paris.

We have just experienced a monumental crisis — the threat from a against the frightening prospect of the installation in Europe of Pershing II missiles — abominable things that will alter the character of the United States and of the Soviet Union. The tragedy is that this threat is present, not by any gesture of the other side, but by stupidity and stubbornness and the fear of appearing “soft” in negotiating, and the debatable assumption that it will extract from the Soviets concessions that they would not make for their own good.

In the years after Hiroshima the United States remained far ahead of the Soviet Union in the development of increasingly more powerful nuclear weapons. It was the first to develop the hydrogen bomb and the first to test and install MB2 missiles in which one missile can deliver as many warheads to multiple targets. The United States installed MB2s in 1975. The Soviet Union had developed and installed its missiles some five years later, in 1975. Finally in 1980 the Soviets caught up with the United States in nuclear missiles and for the first time substantial parity existed between the US and Soviet nuclear arsenals.

BARE OPPORTUNITY

From that point on, the responsibility is clear: the Soviet Union is surely determined to maintain this equality at any cost. This parity gives both countries a rare opportunity to de-escalate the arms race. It is a historic moment which may be forever lost if extreme caution is not maintained on both sides in action and negotiations.

The capacity that the superpowers have for mutually assured destruction (MAD) is called Deterrence. Each deter one another to risk the damage from the other by its own threat.

What level of destruction is needed to maintain a policy of deterrence? Hitting perhaps 100 of the largest Soviet cities with nuclear weapons? Allowing for factors of error and maintenance, a maximum of 400 warheads would certainly accomplish this deadly task.

The 400 warheads needed for a basic deterrence policy have been calculated in terms of the 'maximum' number of cities that could be destroyed by a single attack. 'These cities' cover a range of 6 to 22; the average is 12 to 18. It is estimated that the United States would suffer 10 million casualties if all 400 US missiles were destroyed by Soviet defenses. If the Soviets lost 400 of their warheads, the United States would have lost roughly 2000 warheads. If all 400 US missiles were destroyed, the United States would lose about 800,000.

In cases of large-scale nuclear war, it is impossible to predict what level of destruction is needed to maintain a policy of deterrence. The technology of nuclear arsenals is so vast that even experts have trouble determining the minimum level of destruction required to ensure the survival of the attacking side. In addition, the population of the United States is so large that even a small percentage of the population killed by nuclear weapons could have a significant impact on the country's ability to continue functioning. The US military has estimated that a nuclear war could result in the deaths of 20 million or more people, with up to 70% of the population killed or injured.

SOVIET REACTION

Perhaps a moment passes while the operator confirms his ob jectives. Then, the computer checks his data, doubles checks his equipment. Now there are less than four minutes.

He must alert his commander, who in turn is to contact the President, who then is to contact his Secretary of State, and then the Secretary of Defense, who then contacts the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In that moment, Andropov, having been reached, realizing that the President is about to make a decision, will obviously be looking for one way or another to alter the course of that decision. If he can't do that, then he has seconds left to decide whether the American President is telling the truth or lying when he insists that there has been no buildup in recent months.

For just a moment put yourself in the position of each person along the chain of decision. This is not a dry academic exercise, just to consider this proposition.

To consider just the tragic Soviet target that destroyed the Korean jet and its passengers in a tragic accident, that even with 2 hours to decide what to do, the Soviet interceptors missed the American jet by 30 miles. This is not an average case. This is an extreme. Andropov, at that moment, would have to face the Russian follow-up, the American follow-up, the American response. And I should say that he, but the entire command structure of the Soviet Union has 5 minutes or less to decide what he would do.

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November 9, 1983

**Doubled contributions**

Big pension gains win in cold storage

JUANE—ILWU pensioners in the Alaska cold storage industry will enjoy substantially larger benefits thanks to a compromise taken by pension and health and welfare trustees at their meeting here November 30-December 2.

"These increases are a direct result of labor-management cooperation," said Jim Short, president of ILWU Local 200. "We put our strength together and came up with a lot of good concessions that doubled the level of employer contributions.

"Some of the sweeping changes to the plan are effective immediately from January 1, 1984. They include:

- A decrease in full vesting eligibility from 1400 hours per year to 1000 hours, and from 700 to 500 hours for all years of service.
- A decrease in fully vesting eligibility from 1400 hours per year to 1000 hours, and from 700 to 500 hours for all years of service.
- The adoption of a minimum pension of $40 from January 1, 1984 for all workers 52 and over.
- Adoption of the minimum pension plan will provide benefits to a full vesting eligibility for a process of enabling workers, and in the minimum vesting eligibility from January 1, 1983. They include:

- A matter of interpretation

**More work for Local 12**

COOS BAY—Coos Bay has been designated as one of the ports to handle Department of Agriculture cargo, Commissioner Joe Jakovich has informed The Dispatcher.

"A member of Local 12, who participated in the Coos Bay relocation is the initial designation will mean more work for the workers," he said.

The Port's general manager Frank Martin credits the labor force at Coos for winning the designation. Secretary Gene Bailey charged, "Current members working in the area are working Greyhound bus drivers. Their shop stewards were our last membership meeting."

**A matter of interpretation**

**Job, back pay won at Stockton**

STOCKTON—A member of warehouse Local 6 employed by the Port of Stockton has recovered his job and a substantial back pay award after an arbitrator ruled that he had been improperly discharged for health reasons. The award hinges on conflicting reports of medical evidence.

Carlos Ruiz, employed as a lift driver by the port since 1970 suffered a series of back injuries between 1975 and 1979—the last one forcing him off the job for three years.

**No restriction**

Ruiz was dismissed from work without re- striction by a mutually approved doctor early in 1982. He went back to work on January 26, 1983, but was terminated less than a month later. The port claimed that Ruiz was not physically fit for the work being done, but added that "he was improperly discharged for health reasons." The arbitrator found that Ruiz "is curbed of his injury and it is the risk of re-injury that remains." The arbitrator found that Ruiz "is curbed of his injury and it is the risk of re-injury that remains." The arbitrator found that Ruiz "is curbed of his injury and it is the risk of re-injury that remains."
Behind the deficit: Corporate tax scalpel

by Mike Lewis

In Alaska

Japanese deal to buy more US fish could produce jobs

ANCHORAGE—The Japanese fishing industry has agreed to increase its purchase of fish from US waters in 1984, and market it more aggressively as the result of industry-to-industry meetings held here Novem-
ber 4-6.

In the long run, the agreement, detailed in a four-point memo, could help the suffering US fishing industry, which has already been hit by increased US imports, lower US fish catches, and increased pollution. The US fishing industry has agreed to increase its purchase of fish from US waters in 1984.

Japan's position as the leading harvester in the area—with the most to lose when it is legally phased out of the Zone in 1986—made for particularly difficult negotiations, Cotter said.

JAPANESE PURCHASES

Specifically, the Japanese companies agreed to buy up to 50,000 metric tons of fish processed by US companies, and to market it in Japan, which has the largest markets for fishing industry food products.

CONTINUED ACCESS

The 1984 joint agreement on "aggregate projections of purchases and sales," as opposed to agreements between individual companies, was summarized in a "Memo-
andum of Understanding Cooperating Between the US and Japanese Indus-
tries.

The Japanese delegation cautioned, however, that "technical, resource and other factors" could change the specific catch and processing agreements.

It indicated also that because its access to the Zone was threatened, US companies must assure "full and timely release of US fishery allocations" in the Northern Pacific to Japanese companies.

Soda ash loaded

LONGVIEW—More than 28,000 metric tons of soda ash bound for the Philippines was loaded aboard the Turkish flag vessel Akad last month. It was the largest non-ship-ment ever made from this port.

More than 1,440 man hours were involved in the operation.

New Portland link to Asia

PORTLAND—Westwood Shipping Lines, a subsidiary of Wycherley, has chosen Portland as a port of call, linking the Terminal 6 container complex with Japanese and Korean ports.

Bankruptcy a new corporate strategy

As far as the dictionary is concerned, bankruptcy is a synonym for insolvency. In some business circles these days, bank-
ruptcy can be a much more positive con-
cept.

Under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bank-
ruptcy laws, a company that files for pro-
tection from its creditors receives instant relief from a variety of lawsuits and not in insolvent. The mere act of filing for reorganization automatically freezes all claims and lawsuits against a company and may allow it to get out of lenses, labor agreements or other contracts that have become unprofitable.

For the Manville Corporation, UNI
Industries and Amatex, bankruptcy has meant a way to freeze thousands of worker lawsuits related to his liabilities asbestos ex-
posure. For Wilson Foods and Continental Airlines, bankruptcy has been a route to slashing the wages established in union contracts. And for HRT Industries, a re-
tailer, bankruptcy procedures allowed a payment for the Christmas inventory it had just stocked before filing.

"I would hope that the kinds of cases we are now seeing are going to change—liability law suits and businesses to use the bankruptcy law in ways for which it was not in-
tended," said Lawrence S. Kaplan, bankruptcy law at New York University law professor, who is a critic of the law. Kaplan said that the code is being improperly used, it's up to the parties to raise that question for the court. Kaplan said that the code is being improperly used, it's up to the parties to raise that question for the court.

The workers whose asbestos exposure poses a problem for Manville, however, were not able to get any sense of what was happening. Industry has agreed to buy an additional 30,000 metric tons of fish from areas of the Zone "where the joint venture continues" in 1984.

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ea by an additional 30,000 metric tons of fish from areas of the Zone "where the joint venture continues" in 1984.
LONGBAYE—One Columbia River port was successful in its November 8, and another was turned down.

Port of Astoria's $4 million bond issue was approved by a big margin. But a proposal on the ballot that increased property taxes—permitting Port of Longview to apply its usual share of tax revenues on new capital projects—was rejected.

Longshoremen in their respective ports supported the proposals and worked hard to implement them.

Local 21, Port of Longview, petitioned the Oregon Legislature again, this time seeking funds to create a Health Care Containment Interim Task Force.

**ILWU bates.500  port bond issues:**

**Labor unity emphasized at Oregon AFL-CIO**

NORTH BEND—"We have a lot in common," Secretary Eugene Bailey said in greeting the 29th annual Oregon AFL-CIO convention in session here September 22.

He predicted that economic conditions usually would bring about "a united labor movement in this country and the world."

Bailey also touched—as did other speakers appearing before the 285 delegates—on the Administration's crusade against unions, beginning with Reagan's broken promises to the Air Traffic Controllers.

A strike donation totaling $1500 was expressed to the Air Traffic Controllers. Bailey also touched—as did other speakers—on the Administration's crusade against unions, beginning with Reagan's broken promises to the Air Traffic Controllers.

Several unions represented at the convention, such as the Air Traffic Controllers, AFL-CIO, have declared that Reagan's ship of fools running against Louisiana-Pacific and passed a resolution advocating a boycott of the conglomerate.

Shannon—Local 21 Secretary Eugene Bailey was re-elected with G. Johnny Parks appointed as the new vice-president.

Fletcher, president; Nellie Fox, legislation director, and another member added, "I am tired of Reagan's ship of fools running against Louisiana-Pacific and passed a resolution advocating a boycott of the conglomerate."

Among other provisions, the Right-to-Know Ordinance introduced by Supervisor Lannon would:

• require businesses that use and store specific hazardous chemicals and hazardous wastes to obtain and post permits
• provide a source of information for the public to learn about hazardous materials that might be used or stored in any given location
• establish minimum requirements for the physical containment of hazardous materials and warn their release into the environment
• establish a thorough source of information for emergency personnel about the location and type of hazardous materials they might encounter
• require the discharge of hazardous materials into the environment with their lives and property!

The difficulty lies in getting Congress and the Administration to appropriate the necessary funds. Parks said.
As this issue of The Dispatcher goes to press, 12,700 Greyhound drivers and other employees are voting on a tentative agreement negotiated December 3. Terms of the agreement will not be released until later this month, after the vote. In the meantime, the picketing continues.

The bitter strike, which began on November 3, evoked widespread solidarity from other unions. The company’s take it or leave it bargaining strategy, its demands for massive concessions, and its efforts to keep the buses moving with scabs, convinced many that it had embarked on a union-busting strategy.

**CONCESSIONARY**

While terms of the agreement have not yet been released, ATU council chairman Harry Rosenblum said that the company had gambled that it would have enough—not by Wall Street standards. Last year’s total profits were reduced to a paltry $19.1 million, and the company claimed increased competition from other bus lines and low cost airlines—moved to tighten up on his labor costs.

**BOYCOTT CALL**

Greyhound strikers rode a tidal wave of support from other unions, which gained strength in mid-month when the company made a determined effort to use scabs to restore limited service on major routes. This support was highlighted by a call by AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland for a national boycott, along with massive demonstrations in major cities, including San Francisco, Seattle and Los Angeles.

Greyhound has been on strike at 19 Louisiana-Pacific plants in Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho and Alaska since June 24. The giant company did not participate in industrywide bargaining between the two unions and the Big 7 (Crowell-Bellerbach, Georgia Pacific, Beezer-Cascade, Champion International, Publishers Paper, Simpson Timber and Weyerhaeuser).

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**L-P strikers are 'here for the duration'**

Members of the International Woodworkers of America and the Lumber, Production and Industrial Workers have been on strike at 18 Louisiana-Pacific plants in Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho and Alaska since June 24. The giant company did not participate in industrywide bargaining between the two unions and the Big 7 (Crowell-Bellerbach, Georgia Pacific, Beezer-Cascade, Champion International, Publishers Paper, Simpson Timber and Weyerhaeuser). Instead, L-P embarked on a ruthless campaign to run un-ionized concessions down the throats of its workers.

Attempts to get negotiations moving since then have failed. The company has repeatedly rejected conciliatory proposals and made additional demands on the unions.

It has become increasingly clear to labor that Louisiana-Pacific is out to destroy the type of bargaining the lumber unions have enjoyed for 30 years. The name Harry Merlo, top L-P brass, has become synonymous with union-busting through the “sawdust belt.”

In many areas L-P is using strikebreakers to run its plants. These attempts, according to the Wall Street Journal, have been costly. The paper reported L-P losses at $18 million.

**PIECKETS INJURED**

Violence has been used against strikers in some areas, as in Oroville, California, where a company van hauling strikebreakers into a plant ran over and injured pickets.

IWA has filed charges of unfair labor practice against L-P in connection with the union strike at Prineville, Oregon. The two unions have filed an overall charge of unfair labor practice with NLRB, according to Red Russell, President of IWA Region III.

The IWA at this time has 350 members on strike against L-P 100 at Prineville, where some members who initially crossed the picketline came back out and rejoined the strikers, and 250 on strike in logging camps in Thorne Bay, Alaska and at a spruce mill in Ketchikan.

“We’ve settled down for a long strike,” Russell told The Dispatcher. He reported that many contributions to the IWA Strike Support Fund had come in from longshoremen.

A letter in the December 2 Union Register from a striker in Crescent City, California tells the story of the courage of those on the farflung picketlines.

“With winter coming on duty on the picketline will be no picnic, but we enjoy having friends and strangers drop by—and appreciate gifts of cookies and cinnamon rolls that thoughtful people bring to us. Our $70 per week strike benefit is keeping us going—it (the Strike Benefit Fund) is not going broke, what with the $20 per month dues increase voted by our union brothers and sisters. About 140 of us are receiving the benefits weekly. Much to the chagrin of management we are here for the duration!”

**Martial law in Arizona**

The small Arizona town of Morenci is under martial law, has been devastated by floods and terrorized by gangs of scab thugs.

This is the situation faced by hundreds of striking Phelps Dodge workers throughout Arizona as told to the Executive Board of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

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This is the situation faced by hundreds of striking Phelps Dodge workers throughout Arizona as told to the Executive Board of the Amalgamated Transit Union by Bobbie Romero, vice-president of the International Association of Machinists Local 1132 in Morenci.

Romero came to the Bay Area on a short visit to plead for financial aid for the strikers—members of the machinists, steelworkers and other unions—who have been fighting the huge Phelps Dodge copper corp. for more than four months.

They (Phelps Dodge) are trying to create the open shop
Porters of the Greyhound strike braved a fierce storm to demonstrate their support for striking Greyhound workers on organized by the Greyhound Strike Support Committee, concluded with a march to the terminal.

WINTER COMING ON
“The winter is coming on and we are trying to raise money to help our people pay their utility bills,” Romero said, describing winters where the temperature drops below freezing.

Phelps Dodge has refused to negotiate a contract with the union despite a pattern settlement reached with Kennecott Corp. While copper workers have been forced on strike over practically every contract, this is the first time a major company has refused to follow a pattern settlement. Phelps Dodge is demanding concessions which include no cost-of-living and reductions in pay, issues that are still being negotiated while the company “acts as if the strike has been defeated,” Romero said.

Romero described the day Governor Bruce Babbitt of Arizona called out the national guard on the strikers in Morenci, complete with Huey helicopters, armed personnel carriers, and snipers stationed on the low hills surrounding the mill. The local police continually harasses union members while turning a blind eye on the scab violence in the small town.

SEVERE BEATING
Romero’s own 18-year-old son was a victim of a severe beating and was hospitalized for two days merely because he was caught wearing a IAM union cap.

The company has cut off all health and medical benefits for the workers, claiming they have been replaced permanently by scabs.

Workers living in company-owned housing are being threatened with eviction.

The Gwede County Board of Supervisors under the recent floods in the area as an excuse, have imposed a 10 pm-6 am curfew and use it harass strikers on their way to the picketlines.

On October 3 the supervisors, including Phelps Dodge supervisor Jackie Cooper, imposed another ordinance declaring it “unlawful for any person to gather with one or more persons or singly to attack, harass, intimidate, threaten or commit any act of civil disobedience which endangers persons or property or the general peace and welfare of the community.” This again was justified by the flood, although very little looting has been reported.

The strikers have received support from many labor organizations, community and religious groups, but funds are still needed.

The Alameda County Central Labor Council voted to give $100 to the strike fund and called on local unions to donate what they can.

The Copper Strike Relief Fund is at 606 Plummer St., Tucson, Ariz. 85719.

-East Bay Labor Journal

‘Gang of 4’ plots to oust union at Nord Co.

EVERETT, Wa.—Members of the Lumber and Production Workers on strike against the E.A. Nord Company since July 14, says the company’s “four-phase” plan to break the union—which began in 1979—has led only to

protracted economic warfare—in which everyone involved loses.

The plan began with the hiring of so-called ‘management consultants’, who spearheaded Nord’s “surface” negotiations with the union, leading to wholesale use of scabs after the inevitable strike, and attempted decertification of LPFW Local 1054.

The LPFW Union Register summarized Nord’s strategy in its November issue.

NORD GANG OF FOUR

PHASE ONE: Company president Scott Nord hired John Hermann in 1979 as a management consultant. Hermann had worked with the West Coast Industrial Relations Association (WCIRA) and American Executive Services, Inc., “both of which specialize in this despicable aspect of labor relations,” the Register reported.

Nord next hired Fred Long, WCIRA founder and president of Human Resources Management, Inc., who became the company’s chief negotiator, and Darryl Springer, one of Hermann’s former bosses, as plant manager.

“None of them had experience in the industry,” according to the Register, although Hermann later joined Nord’s Board of Directors, and Springer became executive vice president and general manager, and a board member.

Local 1054 dubbed the men the “Nord Gang of Four.”

SURFACE NEGOTIATIONS

PHASE TWO: Led by the Gang, the company bargained “at mere surface levels,” during 1983 contract negotiations, “while hammering away at the union with a litany of regressive, anti-union concession demands,” the Register reported.

“They set about scheming and preparing to force a strike,” according to the Register, using intimidating steps recommended by WCIRA’s handbook, “the Non-Union Compass.”

Nord, for example, installed a closed-circuit tv system at the plant, and ordered company plant chairmen to develop psychological profiles of workers.

The company also videotaped union workers on the job “to make it a little easier to try to train the mindless scabs who had been lined up via a network of strikebreakers.”

PHASE THREE: Nord hired nonunion workers to “scab the plant while attempting to get as many union members to cross the picket lines as possible,” the Register reported.

Then, Nord officials, “in a desperate attempt to deceive LPFW members,” falsely claimed to have “irrefutable evidence that a majority of Nord employees had disavowed representation by the LPFW” so the company would no longer recognize the union—which was supposed to lead to PHASE FOUR: decertification of the union.

PHASE FOUR STYMIED

The union, however, knew Nord’s plan: “so closely followed other anti-union campaigns that it began to anticipate the company’s next moves before they happened,” the Register reported.

“Consequently the membership hasn’t been fooled back to work,” the Register reported. “Likewise, attempts to pull off the fourth and final phase of their campaign—decertification—has been stymied.”

“The truth is that Nord doesn’t want the scabs as permanent employees any more than the union does,” according to the Register. “No employer, least of all Scott Nord, who has tried in the past to squeeze every ounce of production out of his workers through speedups, etc, can ever stand to permanently hire an untrained, unskilled, incompetent, unproductive work force.”

Continuing its support for Nord strikers, ILWU longshore Local 32 “collected close to $2,000 in the last couple of months” for Local 1054, according to Ron Thornberry, secretary.

Members of Local 1054 will “be number one on our list to receive Christmas baskets,” Thornberry said.

Also Local 1054’s “Spouses on Strike” held a rally on December 9, invoking “with a McCartney of striking dressers dressing as Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus” with a special parcel for Scott Nord,” according to the announcement for the demonstration.

Bankruptcy caper

The strike by Machinists and pilots against Continental Airlines has led to increased cooperation between unions to break the company’s chairman Francisco Lorena, “the wizard of the confrontational approach to reducing labor costs,” according to Business Week.

The International Association of Machinists (IAM) went on strike August 13 when Continental sought a single contract after Texas Airlines bought Continental, and tried to weaken the “scope provisions” of the union’s contract, which says that work traditionally done by IAM members shall continue to be done by them in the future.

The airflow Pilots Association (ALPA) struck on October 1, to protest Continental’s use of Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Act to cut labor costs (see page 4).

The strike by the pilots has “Continental scrambling to find new pilots,” Business Week reported in its October 17 issue.

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The strike by the Machinists and pilots against Continental Airlines has led to increased cooperation between unions to break the company’s chairman Francisco Lorena, “the wizard of the confrontational approach to reducing labor costs,” according to Business Week.

The International Association of Machinists (IAM) went on strike August 13 when Continental sought a single contract after Texas Airlines bought Continental, and tried to weaken the “scope provisions” of the union’s contract, which says that work traditionally done by IAM members shall continue to be done by them in the future.

The airflow Pilots Association (ALPA) struck on October 1, to protest Continental’s use of Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Act to cut labor costs (see page 4).

The strike by the pilots has “Continental scrambling to find new pilots,” Business Week reported in its October 17 issue.
most influential man on Big Island

HONOLULU—“Who is the most influential person on the Big Island?” asks Hawai‘i Business magazine in its November cover story.

Answer: ILWU division director and state senator-elect, John Pakamine, “the one individual who qualifies for that distinction,” in the magazine’s words. Pakamine has served the state House of Representatives since 1961. “His molding of Hawaii’s strong labor laws gave Hawaii unions the legal muscle to force industry and government into accepting their terms,” Hawai‘i Business said in the article called “Big Island: The 13 Most Influential People.”

Pakamine also “brought home to Hama- (which means “to bring”) and the kids and schools money can buy,” the magazine said.

As chairman of the agriculture committee, Pakamine led the passage of laws for a $2 million sugar research and development fund, a $200 million promotion budget for the pineapple industry and a $750 million allocation for development of alternative livestock feed.

The magazine also noted his influence in

Walt Raimondi, Local 34, starred in old Coast League

OAKLAND—Walt Raimondi, one of five brothers who were all-city high school ball-players in the 1930s and 40s, one of four who made it to the Pacific Coast League, died October 17 at age 59. He had been a member of ILWU shipper Local 34, for the last 30 years.

Raimondi went directly from McClymonds High School to the Oakland Oaks in 1943. Resuming his career after the war he was sent to Phoenix by Oaks manager Da- sey Stengel, along with another hot young infield prospect named Billy Martin. Young Raimondi suffered a serious setback, how- ever, when he broke an ankle sliding into second base. It took 27 stitches to sew up the wound. “But Walt wasn’t finished,” recalled his brother Al. “His arm was so strong they made a pitcher out of him,” and Raimondi pitched at Victoria and Salt Lake before plates old enough to move over to the waterfront in 1948.

Longshore Xmas party

The Bay Area longshoremen’s Memo- rial Christmas party on December 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. All active and retired mem- bers are invited to attend and to bring their families, especially kids who will receive gifts.

Xmas in Astoria

ASTORIA—The Astoria Pensioners annu- al holiday dinner, hosted by the Local 40 retirees, drew 63 old-timers many from out- of-town to the Moose Lodge November 2, Sec- retary James A. Rainey told The Dis- patcher.

Pensioner Dave Kindred emceed the af- fair, which combined talks on politics and peace with fellowship and food.

Local 50 President Bob Bob gave a short talk on the importance of the Port’s 84 mil- lion bond issue for the renovation of Pier 1. (It was approved by the voters six days later by a margin of 53.1% to 44.1%).

Joe Stranahan, Federated Auxiliaries Executive board member from Portland, reported on the October peace walk in Portland and on Rusty Baldu in,children in California for picketing the Livermore facility (see the Dispatcher November 4).

Lloyd Kennedy, former PCPA board member, reported, in Portland, passed in the Beavonometrics in general, and Frank Reiche, Tacoma, PCPA vice-president, stressed the importance of getting out the vote against Reagan.

Out-of-town guests included Area Welfare Director “Doc” Kallio and a wife Billie, Bud and Emma Hyden and Lois and Don Cheery, all of Portland; Marigote Leich, Tacoma, Nick Engels, President of the Tacoma Pensioners; Donald Nys, Presi- dent of the Local 21 Pensioners and his wife Sweeta and the Local 21 Pensioners vice-president Al Erickson, all of Longview.

Local 24 member is Aberdeen mayor

ABEABEN, Wa.—George Irwin, long- time activist in Local 24, was elected mayor of this Olympic Peninsula port city last month.

Irwin, who has been president of Local 24 three times since becoming a longshore- man in 1955, has also served on the union’s executive board, LRC and in other posi- tions. He has been a member of the Aber- deen city council for the last three years.

“Well, it is your deep involvement in the affairs of your community that represent the best of the ILWU,” said the ILWU International or- der in a message of congratulations, “and we know that your term as mayor will con- tinue in that spirit.”

Longshoremen win safety award

Two West Coast longshoremen were awarded recently first place honors for their entries in a National Safety Coun- cil Marine Safety Poster and Photo- graph contest. The awards were an- nounced during the Annual Meeting of the National Safety Council held in Chi- cago, October 17, 1983.

Bob Nixon, Local 8, Portland, Oregon longshoreman was presented a First Place Poster and accompanying certi- ficate in the Local 8 hall. The award was made by Dale Larson, PMA Area Super- visor for Training and Accident Preven- tion (T/AP).

Nixon, a longshoreman in the Port- land Area for 10 years, was selected in a national competition for his submission of a safety poster depicting a typical hazard be encountered within a marine terminal when cargo equipment runs over or strikes unsecured steel plate boxes. He has created similar posters the last four years for ILWU Medical which have contributed significantly to the accident prevention efforts in each of the Pacific Coast ports.

John Romo, Local 10, San Francisco was awarded a First Place Plaque and accompanying certificate in the Local 10 hall during a Joint Accident Preven- tion Committee (JAPC) meeting.

Romo, a longshoreman in the San Francisco Area for nearly 20 years, re- ceived his award for submitting a photo depicting a safe operating lift practice on the marine terminal. This is a subject of interest to Romo has firsthand knowledge of experience as a lift driver. Romo has also contributed to the accident pre- vention effort in the Bay Area by partic- ipating as a Local 10 representative to the JAPC since January, 1982.

From left, Local 10 photographer John Romo with PMA San Francisco area safety supervisor Larry Gallagher.

Active pensioners

Recent letters from the SF Bay Area ILWU Pensioners praised San Francisco Archbishop for his stand on Central America, supported Medicare and pro- tested production and deployment of nu- clear weapons.

Letters and a petition from the East Bay Pensioners’ Club condemned US government attempts to break a strike by Guatemalan dock workers. Robert Rohatich, president of the Bay Area Pensioners, thanked Archbishop Irwin for his leadership in pointing out the dangers of US interven- tion in Central America.

Local 6 president William Burke ex- pressed his group’s “deep concern” about cuts in Medicare benefits and “increases in premiums and co-payments” for Medicare participants.

The SF pensioners who signed Local 6’s petition supported the Consumers Relief Act (HR 2154/S. 996), and were “unalter- ably opposed to the decontrol of the price of natural gas at the well head.” They said the decontrol could “be made affordable to every person in our country.”

The Seattle ILWU Pensioners Club, in a letter to the US Immigration and Natural- ization Service, said, “We abhor the imposition of a US government department to break a strike on behalf of Greek shipowners, whom we have seen personally operate some of the most dangerously unde- rtrained, ill-equipped vessels, some of the most underpaid and abused crew members of any merchant fleet in the world.”

President Marting Jugum and Secretary/ Treasurer Bruce Crowry wrote a letter after reading a report about the strike aboard the M/V Georgios Prios on June 28.

Senior’s protest new phone access fee

PORTLAND—Members of the Oregon Fair Share (OFS), the Gray Panthers, several religious organiza- tions and the ILWU Columbia River Pensi- oners Memorial Association, marched up and down outside Pacific Northwest Bell building number one, chanting: “A N P B C, we won’t pay your access fee.”

The access fee was slated to begin in January but postponed until April, due to public protests, would force tele- phone service to old-age and dis- ability service or not make any long distance calls. (See The Dis- patcher, November 4.)

ILWU pensioners J.K. Stranahan, one of the speakers at the rally, condemned, charged that “the so-called split between AT&T and the Bell System is not to break up a monopoly, actually is leading to one of the worst monopoly practices on record.”

He said that the 40,000 senior citizens council from San Diego to Bellingham, repre- senting some 10,000 people, had taken action on the phone issue.

“We oppose shifting the cost of long dis- tance service to the phones,” Stranahan said, pointing out that low in- come seniors face a dilemma of los- ing their phones, “often their only access to vital life-support systems.”

Following the rally at the phone com- pany office, demonstrators marched to the Portland office of US Sen. Bob Packwood to deliver stacks of petitions.
ILWU opposes Oregon may vote on sales tax plan

PORTLAND—The special session of the Oregon Legislature cooked up a sales tax package which included a limitation on state spending and a 30% reduction in property taxes.

This grisly brew will go to the voters in March if it is ratified by a majority of the state’s 603 cities, counties and school district.

The constitutionality of the ratification gimmick is in doubt. “If the courts don’t kill it, local governments could,” says Nel Fox, political and legislative director for the Oregon AFL-CIO. The sales tax was overwhelmingly defeated at a recent body’s recent convention in North Bend.

ILWU’s Columbia River District Council lowered the boom on sales tax proposals everywhere and we’re very disappointed with the Legislature’s actions,”(CRD) lobbyist John Olson told reporters.

“Passage of a 4% sales tax would result in a 30% reduction in property tax—which would make the tax package ‘absurd’ from being one of five states without a sales tax,” says Fadeley. “Oregon would go from being one of the few states in the nation which tax revenue is lower than property tax revenue to one of the highest states in the nation which tax revenue is lower than property tax revenue.”

The current issue of the Oregon Labor Press revealed that businesses in the farm industries are the leaders in the campaign to pass the tax on the grounds that it is a “massive property tax relief for them.”

COPE’s regional director Jane Adams said, “sin on strike since 1978 to increase the average wages from $1.08 per hour, so their children won’t have to work in the fields. Epinoza told The Dispatcher.

Sixty percent of the farmworkers are under 16 years old. FLOC workers have been on strike since 1978 to increase the average wages from $1.08 per hour, so their children won’t have to work in the fields. Epinoza told The Dispatcher.

Campbell’s has agreements to negotiate with FLOC, which is headquartered in Toledo, Ohio. Epinoza said. Campbell’s has also pressured small farmers not to negotiate with the workers, according to a FLOC representative.

Southern California

Dock locals aid ‘Campbell kids’

WILMINGTON—Local 13 Business Agent Johnny Espinoza has spearheaded the collection of $1,000 to assist in the boycott of Campbell’s Soup Company products by the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), which represents migrant farmworkers in tomato fields in northwest Ohio.

Sixty percent of the farmworkers are under 16 years old. FLOC workers have been on strike since 1978 to increase the average wages from $1.08 per hour, so their children won’t have to work in the fields. Epinoza told The Dispatcher.

Campbell’s has refused to negotiate with FLOC, which is headquartered in Toledo, Ohio. Epinoza said. Campbell’s has also pressured small farmers not to negotiate with the workers, according to a FLOC representative.

Espinoza said he collected $640 from Local 13 members, and received donations of $250 from Local 13’s Executive Board, and $200 from Foremen’s Local 94 in Wilmington. He gave the money to Cruz Phillips, National Boycott Director of FLOC in Los Angeles.

Campbell’s released the money, which “is like a regular strike fund,” helps FLOC members’ bills and keep their office operating.

Phillips told The Dispatcher the $640 will pay for advertisements in “major papers which will discuss the boycott against Campbell’s, FLOC’s organizing efforts and the problems of child labor in Ohio.”

The farmworkers in Campbell’s fields “have to utilize this money to make living.” Epinoza said. The kids want to go to school. We want to stop the child labor.”

ILWU leaps to Boxer’s defense

SAN FRANCISCO—The ILWU, along with several other maritime unions both here and nationally takes great exception to the castigation of Congresswoman Barbara Boxer in the San Francisco Examiner editorial of September 20. ILWU President Jim Herman said in a press release issued September 21, “the attack on Barbara by the Examiner and others in the community is totally without merit.”

Congressman Boxer has an unimpeachable record in advocating and voting for legislation in support of jobs, economic recovery and the stimulation of business activity in the Bay Area. "No one in organized labor would, to my knowledge," said Herman, "question Boxer’s commitment to the welfare of working people and her preoccupation with the specter of unemployment.”

Re. Boxer was attacked by the Examiner for voting against legislation to allow two foreign-built "Princess" cruise ships to make San Francisco a port of call by letting the "coastwise trade" in. In response, the Examiner of September 22 said, "the Examiner has an unimpeachable record in advocating and voting for legislation in support of jobs, economic recovery and the stimulation of business activity in the Bay Area. "No one in organized labor would, to my knowledge," said Herman, "question Boxer’s commitment to the welfare of working people and her preoccupation with the specter of unemployment.”

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

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

Ruth B. Swanson, regional administrator for the Denver area; or Joe Ibarra, Regional Director, San Francisco, Calif. 94109.

Northern Calif. Regional Office

1168 Franklin Street
San Francisco, Calif. 94109

Phone: (415) 775-0533

LeRoy King, Regional Director

Crockett Area:

Phone: (415) 767-1717

Sacramento Area:

San Francisco, Calif. 94109

Phone: (415) 775-0533

SANTA CLARA—- Hard Hat Mack,” advertised as a video game pitting OSHA workers against workers under the “coastwise trade,” has a big win November 7 when an arbitrator declared the action of the Violation on failure to comply with the order of the Occupational Safety and Health Act.“Migrant kids at work in northwest Ohio onion field.

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 into the ILWU? 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

2435 N.W. Front Ave.
Portland, Ore. 97209

Phone: (503) 223-1955

Seattle Area

John Bukowski, Regional Representative

2800 First Ave. Room 260
Seattle, Washington 98121

Phone: (206) 447-1917

Southern Calif. Regional Office

Joe Ibarra, Regional Director

Steve Lauterbach, Regional Rep.

15301 South Broadway
Gardena, California 90248

(213) 227-3762

Los Angeles (213) 770-2170

Canada: 3151 Atkinson Dr.

Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

P.O. Box 172

Phone: (808) 949-4151


Migrant kids at work in northwest Ohio onion field.

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The Dispatcher

 Arbitrator rules

SAN FRANCISCO—Trumming up to wage common battle against the Emporium’s attempt to trim wages in its Tehama St. warehouse, Department Store Employees Local 1100 and Teamsters Local 860 scored a big win November 7 when an arbitrator stopped the department store’s fight to the East Bay.

Arbitrator Neil M. Herrig said he was compelled to return the situation, as far as it was practical, 16 status quo, (as to permit the meaningful bargaining envisioned by the collective bargaining agreement to take place).

What the decision comes down to is that 24 threatened subcontractors stalled, facilities are saved at least temporarily, for members of both Local 1100 and Teamsters 860.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Arbitrator Herrig immediately stopped sending subcontractors to subcontracting Bay Area marketing Services in Union City; refrain from laying off or refusing to negotiate with workers and working conditions of bargaining unit employees. This means that the arbitrator’s order removes work until the 60-days notice requirement is satisfied.

Regardless of the fact that the Emporium has not yet fulfilled its union contract, the Emporium announced in August that it would close its San Francisco warehouse and contract the work to a non-union firm in Union City. The move would cost 240 retail sales unit.

On November 7, both Local 1100 and Teamsters 860, in their position. Meanwhile, the arbitrator is going ahead with its scheduled closing of its Tehama St. warehouse in San Francisco, it said.

"Hard Hat Mack”

don the tubes

SANTA CLARA—"Hard Hat Mack,” advertised as a video game pitting OSHA workers against American workers, has been removed from the shelves of the Emporium Capwell here after a written protest from a California state senator.

Dan McCord (D-San Jose) wrote a letter on September 29 to the store’s manager urging Capwell to "rejet games that foster misleading sentiments harmful to workers wrapped up in a "working class hero" package." California Business News reported.

McCord wrote a letter of support for the state's workers.

McCorquodale condemned the maker of "Hard Hat Mack,” Electronic Arts of San Mateo, and other companies which create games that "are inhumane, sexist, racist or insensitive to a particular group of people."
Bennett and woodworker leader Jack Maroco, representing Operation Solidarity, the coalition of unions in the province. Both the calling off of the strike and the protocol of the verbal agreement as well as the manner in which it was reached have become a matter of controversy within the Solidarity movement since. The agreement provided among other things for a consultation process between the strikers, employers, labor and other groups. The government, however, is already re-neging on the agreement. One provision was that the money saved by school boards during the strike would be applied to next year’s budget and so enable about 600 teachers to keep their jobs for another year. The government’s attitude to the consultation process revealed when, in line with the following agreement, a tribunal, at the request of the teachers, interviewed the government regarding the reinstatement of rent controls and the removal of the rent freeze. The delegation received a flat no to all their requests. The teachers in the form of the Federation of Labor and Operation Solidarity have pledged their full support to teachers if job action is required to force the government to live up to the agreement it made.

BAD ATTITUDE

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A CHANGE IN CLIMATE

In the short space of five months, from July to November, 1980, the labor and political climate in BC has been transformed as a result of: (a) the vicious attack by the Social Credit government on social services, labor and human rights, and (b) the response led by the Solidarity movement. The Social Credit government has lost some of its public support and been exposed as an agency of the big business nationalism who control the resource-oriented economy of this province. The public impression is that the labor-backed New Democratic Party was affected by the refusal of the NDP group in the legislature to support the escalating strike movement that developed. The real opposition to the Social Credit government is today the Solidarity movement which emerged in the course of this Bay unemployment.

NOT FAR ENOUGH

Early newspaper accounts said the Blue Maguey was coming into Nequita Bay to load lumber when she crashed into the jetty. However, Ray Thorne, the state’s employment division director, disputes the story, saying the vessel was just a mile offshore. He has also introduced legislation to change the asbestos standard from going into effect. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration on November 4 issued an emergency temporary standard (EIS) for asbestos cutting the legal exposure limit by 75%—the first such emergency action under the OSHA.

The heeding of OSHA’s action, the Asbestos Information Act, representing asbestos mining and manufacturing firms, filed suit in New Orleans’ Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals seeking to block the standard. The Court issued a temporary stay of the standard on November 23.

OSHA’s emergency action—technically an appeal to the president—limits the use of asbestos for services, work practices and respirators. The new standard was not a departure from previously issued OSHA standards which rely primarily on engineering controls and permit respirators to be used only in emergencies. However, even at the new asbestos level, asbestos is hazardous to lungs of construction workers, miners and millers. The new standard would provide protection for high-hazard situations such as in plant decontamination.

OSHA based the emergency action on studies showing that workers exposed to asbestos are at a greater risk of developing asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma, a fatal cancer of the lining of the lungs and stomach. They predict that the new limit will nearly eliminate asbestos-related deaths by 2055.

NOT FAR ENOUGH

Labor unions have generally criticized the new OSHA standard as not going far enough. Peg Seminario of the AFL-CIO has said that OSHA should not have set the standard at 0.1 fiber—the level unions have requested—and for its reliance on often ineffective engineering controls. The new standard does not provide protection for high-hazard situations such as in plant decontamination.

An emergency standard can be issued amid increasing political heat and adverse media criticism of OSHA for its failure to aggressively protect workers’ health and safety. Rep. George Miller, Chairman of the House Labor Standards Subcommittee, recently held hearings on the asbestos problem and the failure of OSHA to issue standard for ethylene dibromide (EDB) in grain elevators. He has also sought to institute providing compensation for victims of asbestos exposure.

Crew members safe

NEWPORT—All 19 crew members of a freighter that ran aground on the north jetty Nov. 19 were lifted to safety by US Coast Guard helicopters, but the ship itself was a total loss.

Many seabirds were caught in the oil slick, and the failure of OSHA to issue a new one-half fiber limit by any of the employers, work practices and respirators. This is a departure from previous OSHA standards which rely primarily on engineering controls and permit respirators to be used only in emergencies. However, even at the new asbestos level, asbestos is hazardous to lungs of construction workers, miners and millers. The new standard would provide protection for high-hazard situations such as in plant decontamination.

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Unions protest jailing of apartheid foe

NEW YORK—More than 50 leaders from 32 unions in the Labor Committee Against Apartheid (ACOA) have protested the conviction this summer of an elderly South African labor leader.

On June 27, as Vicka Mthethwa, 73, was sentenced to five years in prison for inciting a group of young people to anti-white violence, according to a September letter from the American Committee on Africa (ACOA) LEAGUE

Mthethwa's conviction was "based on the testimony of blacks held in detention by the security police until they testified," ACOA Executive Director Jennifer Davis wrote. "Several rescinded their evidence against Mthethwa on the witness stand." Mthethwa was shackled with leg irons during the trial despite suffering from diabetes which could lead to amputation of his left leg. He cannot walk and has high blood pressure because of three years already spent in prison, Davis wrote.

The LCAU, which includes the United Auto Workers, the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union and the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, protested at the South African Council General, and asked the U.S. Mission to the United Nations to intervene on Mthethwa's behalf, according to Davis' letter. Letters protesting Mthethwa's conviction should be sent to Prime Minister PW Botha, Union Building, Pretoria, South Africa.

New stedevore combine formed

Three leading West Coast stedevore companies have merged to form Stedevoring Services of America.

The three companies, serving the coast from Alaska to Northern California, are Stedevore, operating in Washington and Alaska, Brady Hamilton of Oregon, and Greg Olson of California. The new company is the result of acquisitions by the three companies, according to president F.D. "Ricky" Smith.

Stedevoring Services of America is now the largest single owner of the stedevore company, Smith said.

Local 6, San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO—The Local 6 General Executive Board voted to appoint Louise Dalton to the Board of Trustees, according to Patrick Heide who has resigned to take the position.

"Louise Dalton will be a unifying factor in the East Bay leadership," Executive Officers Gough, Al Lannon and Leon Harris told the Board; "Her deep roots in our Union, her steady interest and concern for the Members, and her proven ability to solve problems will be an asset to the entire organization.

Dalton works at MJB Coffee, has served as a member of the Board of Trustees.

WASHINGTON—About 120,000 West Coast Japanese-Americans were uprooted from their homes and interned during World War II because of "race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of leadership," the head of a federal commission said earlier this month.

Joan Zeldes Bernstein, chairman of the commission, which is mandated to conduct a Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians study, told a press conference that the "broad documentary record" of the internment makes it "a very important part and place in the community," according to the brochure announcing the study. The ILWU has announced its fundraising campaign, which seeks $500,000 to help the Labor Foundation, 1550 Folsom Street, SF, 94103.

New labor studies classes offered in bay area colleges

With 1984 just around the corner, the social science departments at San Francisco Community College and San Jose Community College are planning new classes.

And they aren't. Classes start in San Francisco, January 11; registration is already open.

Same goes for San Jose Community College. There's plenty of room for new classes.

Among other things, the new term at SFCC brings a new course on labor relations, designed for the working class in the Bay Area. This course, "American labor movement, Thursdays, 6 to 6:50 p.m. GE115;" was designed to add to the already large pool of labor studies classes at SFCC.

Know-how to build and strengthen this tradition is taught by instructors from the ranks of labor, classes emphasize practical applications to the day-to-day demands of labor leadership.

Here's the what, when and where:

- American labor movement, Thursdays, 6 to 6:50 p.m., GE115.
- Friedman's co-op union, Tuesdays, 7 to 10 p.m., City College Cloud Hall 229.
- Blue collar women's issues, Saturdays, 1:30 to 3 p.m., Community College Center, 33 Gough.
- Health & safety, Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m., Cloud Hall 229.
- Grievance handling and arbitration, Mondays, 7 to 10 p.m., City College Cloud Hall 229.
- Collective bargaining, Mondays, 10 p.m., Community College Center, 33 Gough.
- Labor economics, Wednesdays, 7 to 10 p.m., Courthouse Center, 800 Mission.
- Pension, health & welfare issues, Mondays, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., S.F. Hall, 240 Golden Gate Ave.
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- Grievance handling and arbitration, Mondays, 7 to 10 p.m., Community College Center, 33 Gough.
- Collective bargaining, Mondays, 10 p.m., Community College Center, 33 Gough.
- Labor economics, Wednesdays, 7 to 10 p.m., Courthouse Center, 800 Mission.
- Pension, health & welfare issues, Mondays, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., S.F. Hall, 240 Golden Gate Ave.
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Under heavy fire of the inability of the government to make decisions, he asserted. The company also has suffered from protracted delays eroding rank-and-file support of unions and enabling management to win, for fear that an NLRB ruling will give them their jobs back.

"We, I would say that most of our workers are questioning whether our system of justice works," said Leo Wigen, vice president of a United Food and Commercial Workers Union local in Spencer, Iowa. "This is trying to win back the jobs of 418 production workers left unemployable three years ago because of the Minneapolis food cooperative since has gotten out of the meat business, Mr. McGill said it could be liable for more than $20 million in back pay. "A sizeable percentage of the company's ($180 million) assets would have to be disposed of" to settle those claims, he said.

Logjam at NLRB

TWO-YEAR DELAY

Officials from four unions described delays as long as two years in getting the board to rule on unfair labor-practice charges and representation elections. They said that the protracted delays erode rank-and-file support of unions and enable management to win, for fear that an NLRB ruling will give them their jobs back.

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NLRB chairman Donald Dotson agreed that the record backlog reflects a significant slowdown in the pace of decision-making, representing "a very serious, vexing problem." The delays stem from several factors, including high turnover in membership recently, the board's reluctance to decide major issues without its full five members, and the buildup of 540 cases awaiting a "lead" ruling—that is, a precedent-setting decision—in several important policy areas. Currently, there is one vacancy on the board.

However, he insisted, "I don't think the system has broken down," and he predicted the backlog would ease in the next six to 12 months. "By then, we hope to have a new member seated and to have reviewed a number of lead opinions," Mr. Dotson said.

Other board officials suggested legislative changes may be necessary to undo the backlog, such as allowing members to continue to serve until their successors are confirmed. Currently, they step down at the expiration of their five-year terms. Another possible change would be to give the board the power to refuse to review cases decided by hearing officers. Currently, all such cases may be appealed.

COMMITMENT TO HAWAII?

While Del Monte did market products to the effect that Costa Rican pineapple was sweeter than Hawaii's—"heavily publicized the sweetness of Del Monte's Costa Rica deal.

The Honolulu Advertiser comments on the sweetness of Del Monte's Costa Rica deal.

Labor must protect communities from toxic waste

SAN MATEO—Despite passage of local and state laws controlling use and storage of toxic wastes in the workplace, Cal-OSHA continues to fight for electronics workers exposed to harmful chemicals.

At a recent luncheon sponsored by the San Mateo County Labor Council, which featured workers discussing their fears of the poisonous chemicals on their jobs.

State legislation takes care of three major problems.

Gautschi also showed a videotape, produced by the Labor Council, which featured workers discussing their fears of the poisonous chemicals on their jobs.

The state legislation takes care of three major problems, Gautschi said. It provides for double containment of toxic wastes stored or disposed of in the ground. The toxic waste container must be placed in an outer, leak-proof container. The legislation also provides for monitoring of waste disposal, and for financing of monitoring costs by the monitored companies.

However, Gautschi noted, the state legislation fails to provide protection for "whistle blowers"—employees who report hazardous conditions. Nor does it provide for public disclosure of toxic materials stored on industrial and business premises.

"Public disclosure is extremely important," he declared. "Without it, even a fire department can have a hard time finding out what chemicals are stored at a particular location." The San Clara county ordinance does have provisions for public disclosure and protection of whistleblowers, Gautschi said.

The new state law nullifies all county ordinances on toxic materials passed in California counties and cities after January 4, 1984, except for those dealing with double containment, he reported. He suggested labor union members might want to talk to their county supervisors and city officials about adopting an ordinance similar to the Santa Clara county ordinance, which has stricter double containment provisions than the state law.

double containment ordinance must be passed during 1984 before the state double containment provisions go into effect.

San Mateo County Supervisor Anna Eshoo, who attended the luncheon, indicated that she might sponsor a country ordinance to plug gaps in state law.

Appearing on the videotape, Gautschi charged hun-
tons of toxic materials passed in California counties and cities after January 4, 1984, except for those dealing with double containment, he reported. He suggested labor union members might want to talk to their county supervisors and city officials about adopting an ordinance similar to the Santa Clara county ordinance, which has stricter double containment provisions than the state law. Any local