Time bomb on the bargaining table

Only a few years ago, labor’s focus in health care bargaining was on improving benefits and plugging holes—such as better hospitalization insurance, dental care, and prescription drugs for pensioners. But today—thanks to incredible increases in the costs of medical care—it often takes all of our best effort just to maintain what we already have.

What’s behind this crisis? What can working people do about it?

—continued on page 3

Bankruptcy rule threatens pacts

WASHINGTON, DC—The Supreme Court ruled unanimously February 22 that a company which has filed for bankruptcy may cancel a union contract without having to prove that its enforcement would cause the firm to collapse.

On another aspect of the same case, the Court voted 5-4 that a company may unilaterally breach its collective bargaining agreements as soon as it files a bankruptcy petition, during the period between filing for bankruptcy and getting a formal reorg—continued on page 11
Consumer movement in the waiting room

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.—The hospital wouldn't let Alma Rose check out until she paid $192 for what she thought was a routine operation. The hospital insisted that she had to pay the bill or her surgery would be cancelled. She didn't cover. But neither would the hospital authorities produce an itemized bill. Rose, an insurance policy holder, was devastated. She had no idea what the hospital was charging. Later, when the hospital threatened to call a federal marshal—after which she had made her husband buy a lawyer—Mr. Rose entered a federal court to seek redress.

The incident, says Rose, "is one of a life-style disease" that has hit the American medical establishment. For the first time, people have begun questioning medical costs. Rose is not alone. A growing number of patients are saying that they have been charged for services they didn't receive. The hospital system's response is becoming more frequent.

In January the year-old "People's Medical Society," claiming 35,000 members nationally and growing by 1,000 a month, proposed a "code of practice." Physicians are being asked to fill out an evaluation each time they visit a physician: "Do you need surgery or treatment? Were you told about fees, questionable surgery and hospital options? Do you need similar participation in their deliberations over endorsements for Congressional, State and local offices. Only in this way can we do it. It will require turning all the anger and outpouring of things of importance to the American people over the last 20 years."

The question arises—why subject the American medical establishment, perhaps including one's family doctor, to what seems such tough scrutiny?

VAR INFLATION

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RISING INFLATION

The first answer is the soaring inflation in health costs. PMS claims physicians' average income of $140,000 a year at latest count, have risen—even after full account for inflation—by 3.7 times in 50 years. PMS Executive Director Charles Inlander acknowledges that American medicine has a remarkable record of achievement. But he says that the ever-more-stressed patient and doctor are getting ready to propose schemes to doctors and hospitals. To bring doctors and patients to heel.

INDEFINABLE

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IBU members rebuff raids at two firms

PORTLAND—A representation election held February 24 for dockhands employed by Knuppert Tug and Barge resulted in a 39-38 vote to stay with ILWU’s marine division, according to ILWU regional director Jim Dunnigan. The other union on the ballot was the Masters, Mates and Pilots.

Letters mailed out to each employee at the last minute by the company referred to the IBU’s “irresponsible demands” in contract negotiations several years ago and our “continuous use of muscle.” Dunnigan said they “hit the mail at the last minute, we didn’t have a chance to answer the ridiculous charges, but they backfired on the company as you can see by the vote.”

New contract inked at Grove farm

PUHI, Kauai—A 40 cents increase pay- and profit sharing funds, signed January 1, 1986 and July 1, 1988, is a part of the two-year settlement negotiated with Grove Farm Company-Rock Properties Inc., which runs from January 1, 1986 to December 31, 1988.

BA Bobby Girald, chief spokesman, noted that governing improvements are also a part of the agreement:

—Medical plan, conversion to prescription-only drug plan, and a hike in out-of-pocket premium payments
—Conversion of children’s dental plan to the family dental plan
—Various contractual changes to get clearer understanding

Girald says the settlement was ratified, with the realization by the members that the company is bust by the whopping economy—“Beagan’s ‘recovery’ pronouncements, notwithstanding.”

Participating in negotiations with Girald were the following Unit 3103 leaders, representing some 42 members: Chairman Pat Agustin, Alex Kelekoma, Gilbert Medeiros and Toshio Kobayashi.

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DOCK PREPARATIONS—Preparations for the negotiation of a new West Coast longshore and clerks’ contract continued last month with the holding of area union conferences in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland and Seattle—the above photo was taken during discussion at the Columbia River area meeting on February 15. The longshore, clerks’ and working bosses’ caucus, which will determine union demands and elect a negotiating committee, meets in San Francisco on Monday, March 26, for a workshop on welfare and pension issues. Caucus debate begins on Tuesday, March 27.

—photo by Jim Foster

Local 29 wins pact for Crown cruise work

SAN DIEGO—ILWU Local 29 has negotiated a two-year contract covering longshore and clerks’ work on “day-cruise” ships operated by Crown Cruise Lines.

The Supplemental Agreement, negotiations for which began last October, will be effective from April 1, 1984 to March 31, 1986. San Vargas, Local 29 Secretary-Treasurer, told The Dispatcher, Crown Cruise Lines will become a non-participating member of the Pacific Maritime Association, paying all fringe benefits.

Vargas said between $10,000 to $12,000 worth of work will be generated by the daily cruises. The contract provides for a weekly guarantee of 20 hours’ work, with an overtime plan for deckhands working for Willamette Riverboatmen’s Union of the Pacific, with a pocket premium payments and working overtime for straight time.

Local 24 forces coal cleanup

ABERDEEN—Loading of the log ship Green Star was bailed last week on March 3 when members of longshore Local 24 charged that there was coal dust and other residues in one of the ship’s holds, and refused to work until it was removed and a clean air certificate provided.

The coal tar residues came from a cargo unloaded in Tacoma. “You’re not supposed to breathe the dust,” said Local 24 member George Irwin, who doctored in Aberdeen as a nurse. “We got word from the Tacoma ILWU officials that the material can be hazardous.”

A marine protection specialist was sent from the Coast Guard station at Westport. The ship’s crew washed down the hold in the number four hatch and swept up coal tar residues on deck.

Longshore crews returned to work around the “bouy the next day, while the ship passed successful air quality tests in the contaminated hold. Work in that hatch was resumed. The number four hatch was repaired and cleaned. The beef ended in victory for us,” said Dispatcher Walt Wilson. “The ship sailed for Japan March 7.”
LOS ANGELES — Members of Local 26 employed at Capital Metals last month overwhelmingly ratified a new three-year contract containing important job security guarantees, as well as an outstanding eco-nomical package for workers.

"This agreement is really a product of the support the committee received from the entire unit, and the strength of the committee itself," said Local 26 President Luisa Gratz. "There was also a very positive management attitude. The agreement was wrapped up after only five meetings, and there was never any attempt to hit us over the head with takeaways. It's really exceptional, especially these days and in this area."

**Job security, wage gains in Capital Metals contract**

The 35,000-acre plantation has some 600 employees, a number that has been reduced by 50 percent over the past five years. The company is also installing a facility to pickle rolls of steel, a cheaper product with extensive uses. The new pickling line is expected to provide around 30 jobs.

The Local 26 bargaining committee consists of Stewards Michael Burton, Luisa Jerrifferson, Daniels and Carl Legardy.

**ILWU rebukes Burton's foe**

SAN FRANCISCO — Supporting State Senator Milton Marks in his runoff re-election, "would be to trample on the memory of the late Rep. Phil Burton," said International President Jim Herman in a stinging rebuke to Marks delivered late last month.

Marks, who ran against Burton in the 1982 race, invited ILUW participation in his campaign kick-off in a January 25 letter. Burton's widow, Sala, won the election for the vacant seat.

The invitation "assumes that we have no loyalties, no principles, no memories, and no commitments beyond the moment," Herman said in his February 23 response, which was mailed to Marks.

"It assumes as well that we have absolutely no concern for the trust placed in this organization by its members, and for the credibility of our political endorsements. You are not to be trusted to use our label as a stepping stone," Herman said.

Marks "made a choice," Herman said, to campaign "as the stalking horse for every corporate and "New Right" group in the country who hated Phil Burton for the same reasons we loved him."

"You accepted their money — lots of it," Herman said. "You accepted their political direction as well, attacking Phil on such gut issues as his support for strong enforce-ment of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, his opposition to deregulation of natural gas prices, his defense of the minimum wage, and of the myraid social programs which were then under assault in this Administration."

**HIRED GUN**

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"But having drawn such a line, you cannot expect us to for-give you a chance to see how Ro:Ro's work was settled right on the floor."
'Got to get down to basics' 

California councils gear up for '84 vote

Los Angeles—Political nuts and bolts will be an absolutist vote, grass roots lobbying the use of absentee ballots—Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce's successful industry, the supermarket parking lots and talking to people directly. LA community organizer Ron Rodriguez also led a discussion of voter registration campaigns.

OTHER WORKSHOPS

Speakers also emphasized the need to raise funds for the ILWU Political Action Fund. "Labor is not a paper tiger but a sleeping lion," said Local 34 Vice President Richard Cavalli, who reported on his own local's successful fund-raising drive.

Other speakers and workshop leaders included Local 6 President Al Lannom and Local 26 President Luisa Gratz, who led a session on plant closures and the failure to achieve legislative remedies for the problems.

Bob Forrester, IBU Southern California Regional Director, reported on his recent experiences with Reagan's National Labor Relations Board. Local 26 attorney Jim Virga also addressed the NLRB, and suggested that we have simply got to be more sophisticated in how we approach these things.

SACRAMENTO — A bill seeking to reverse the right-to-work law rejected overwhelmingly by California voters in 1968 was killed in the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee last month by a 6-2 vote. The Assembly Constitutional Amendment 40, sponsored by Assemblyman Patrick J. Nolan (D-Glendale), would have prohibited unions from negotiating union shop, agency shop, maintenance of membership or any other form of union security agreements, and transform California into a compulsory open shop.

Under existing law, workers already have the right to vote on union shop agreements in contracts to decertify the union in a secret ballot election if they choose. John F. Henning, executive officer of the California Labor Federation, told the committee in testimony against the bill.

In 1958, a similar compulsory open shop amendment was defeated by a 1 million-vote margin in a state-wide referendum.

Amendment 40 was voted against in 1968, sponsored by Assemblyman Phillip H. Hamilton (D-Paso Robles), would have prohibited joints from negotiating union shop agreements. "Right to work people were very vicious in their resistance to the bill," said Hamilton.

Amendment 40 was defeated in the legislative committee. It was defeated in the Assembly, and the bill was not brought to the floor for a vote.

George Cole, of the United Steelworkers of America, described his organization's efforts to defeat the two competing amendments. Lenny Goldberg, legislative aide to Assemblyman Tom Bates (D-Berkeley), described the massive economic changes underway, and discussed a number of legislative initiatives designed to ease the effect of those changes on working people.

The Conference was chaired by North- ern California District Council President LeRoy King and Southern California Council President Dave Arias. Northern Califor- nia District Council Secretary Don Watson, Local 34, was in charge of arrangements.

Some of the more than 70 delegates who attended political action workshop.

Right-to-work bill dumped

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Some 250 members of the Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific move barges through the outdated Bonneville Dam locks.

**Outdated locks**

**IBU pushes Congress to act clear up Bonneville bottleneck**

PORTLAND — The navigation lock at Bonneville Dam, oldest dam on the Columbia River, is smaller than locks on the seven newer dams upriver. Tidewater Barge Lines, Knappton, Columbia Marine Lines, and Shaver Transportation have a bottleneck to river traffic!


**TEN-HOUR BACKUP**

A towboat can haul up to five barges through the upriver locks in one 3-minute pass, but barge traffic at Bonneville in busy times can back up to ten hours or more.

"It has a hell of an effect," Roy Snell, president of Western Transportation Co., told a staff reporter for The Will Street Journal. "In heavy periods there'll be towboats stacked up on both ends. It involves our costs and our time of transit."

Snell was chairman of The Columbia River Towboat Association until he was recently replaced by Joe Carbon of Knappst."snell feels the Bonneville bottleneck "is the key to economic growth in the Northwest.

Oregon's two senators and Congressman Ron Wyden, "are very sympathetic to the problem and want a new lock built," says Newbold.

Wyden feels the Bonneville lock "is the key to economic growth in the Northwest." The Columbia-Stake river system extends 465 miles from Lewiston, Idaho, to the sea, carrying two-thirds of the wheat grain, logs and other commodities into export channels.

The Army Corps of Engineers has been working on construction of a new lock at Bonneville since 1975. So what's holding it back?

**BLAME ADMINISTRATION**

ILWU and barge line spokesmen say that the government's bungled policy on federal funding is to blame. The government traditionally has fought for aid to navigation since post-Revolutionary times, but Congress has always been reluctant to fund major projects.

Army put 'band-aids' on Spirit Lake danger

PORTLAND—a tunnel through the rock on the west side of Spirit Lake will be drilled by the army corps of engineers, in hopes of controlling the flood and sedimentation danger caused by the eruption of Mount St. Helen's three years ago. Work will begin in July.

The Columbia River maritime and community organizations believe that a new sedimentation dam is what is necessary to hold back the sedimentation which threatens the Columbia River ship channel, and the barge traffic which carries commodities like wheat, steel, Buckeye, Columbia Rock and Lowerlebo.

But the Corps will only reply that the feasibility studies which are being done on that issue won't be completed until later in the year. In the meantime, dredging continues on the Columbia and lowerlebo.

ILWU Northwest Regional Director G. Johnny Parks charged that corps efforts to date simply were "a band-aid approach."

IBU Research Director

by BARRY SILVERMAN

Incredible increases in the costs of medical care have precipitated a problem of critical proportions for consumers and employers, and jeopardized benefits which all of us in organized labor have long struggled to achieve. A few years ago our focus in bargaining was on improving benefits and plugging obvious holes - better hospitalization and drug coverage for pensioners, what have you. But today it often takes all of our bargaining skill and all of our muscle just to keep inc...
Increased out-of-pocket expenses for participants by increasing deductibles, like raising the major medical deductibles in insured plans from $100 a year to $150, $200, even $300 a year, and eliminating or curtailing "first-dollar" benefits which provide specific reimbursements for common outpatient services like doctor visits, lab and x-ray work.

In addition, employers are experimenting with approaches which reduce existing levels of benefits or require worker contributions, supplemented by the creation of cash incentives to workers to reduce the frequency by which they seek medical care and thus reduce plan costs.

As AFL-CIO staffer Karen Ignagni notes, "All of these plans reward people for un-


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Auxiliary awards
10-year pins
SAN FRANCISCO—Local 6 president Al Lannon urged members of Auxiliary #16 to vote President Reagan out of office this fall and help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ILWU at the January 14 Bang-Up New Year's Pot Luck and Gift Exchange banquet held at the Al Bah Shrine Temple.

TOM YAGI honored on retirement
WAILUKU—Thomas Yagi, who retired as Maui Division director, effective January 1, was honored at a testimonial banquet held at the Maui Lu Hotel ballroom on January 21.

The good cross-section of the community, union officials and rank and file ILWU members, attended the affair.

Yagi, 62, served 38 years as a full-time local. The 1980 Local 123 Biennial Convention adopted a resolution which highlights Yagi's accomplishments as ILWU leader. Speakers at the banquet included the following: Local 142 President Eddie Lapa, Local 893 Vice President George Fletcher, Local 29 Secretary-Treasurer Sam Vargas, District 2735 East Hastings St., Office 201. P.O. Box 206.

Vancouver, B.C. 1092.

Dorothy Arzumian, who succeeded Sallie Ann Taylor, was named as Local 29 Secretary-Treasurer Sam Vargas to the Silver Beaver.

More than 1,000 scouting volunteers attended the 65th Council Annual Meeting at the Al Bah Shrine Temple where Vinole received the Silver Beaver.

Vinole's 11 years in scouting are the finest years of service for any recipient of the Silver Beaver.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE
Vinole, who is the husband of Juanita, a very active in handicapped scouting, were also named "Scouters who make a difference" by Torrey Pines District.

Juanita Vinole helped organize scouting programs at two local schools, conducting three mid-afternoon meetings a week, and has two den meetings a week at her home.

Joe, besides his work with Pack 444, is a Cubmaster of Longfellow School PTA Pack 206. The scouting units under the Vinoles' supervision have participated every year in the Scout Fair and the Scout-a-rama.

Alcoholics, drug addiction

Local 6 members clean up act at Heublein

MENLO PARK—Until six months ago, Bob Carl (not his real name), 30, had a "13-year career with drugs and alcohol." But after reaching emotional and physical "rock bottom" he joined Narcotics Anonymous.

Carl is an 8 1/2-year employee at Heublein and a member of ILWU Local 6. He's been sober for six months, and has a 4 1/2-month string of perfect attendance on the job and, most important, has started a chapter of Drugs Anonymous (DA) to help other Heublein workers and their spouses cope with their "dual addictions" to drugs and alcohol.

Eight people attend the program's meetings, which started six weeks ago. Every Tuesday from 4 to 5 p.m. at St. Anthony's church, Carl's and his fellow addicts vari- ously listen to lectures by former addicts, discuss a range of topics or bare their own souls.

UNION, EMPLOYER HELP

Heublein and ILWU Local 6 have donated $50 each to help the volunteer programs.

"It especially helps the addicts fight panic by focusing them on their daily triumphs," Carl said. "I don't worry if I'm going to use tomorrow, all I want to do is stay sober today." Carl added, "If you say 'I am not going to have a drink for the rest of my life,' that's discouraging."
GM's secret wage-freeze plan blasted

DETROIT—General Motors Corp.'s hope to unionize nearly 80,000 workers if it introduces and substitute profit sharing for annual pay raises is "wishful thinking," UAW President Owen Bieber said.

GM's strategy, contained in a document called "A New Era of Bargaining," also calls for the institution of a two-tier system—under which new employees would earn much less money.

The GM-UAW contract expires September 17, and sixty days after the drop of the car maker's $3.7 billion profit for the third quarter, talks will begin in June.

Company executives "are engaging in wishful thinking if they think they can persuade us to GM's idea of making us take less than we deserve," Bieber said. "GM's de- ceptive rhetoric belies the reality of the size of its workforce before the end of this decade merely reinforces the need to make job security a priority for UAW members."

WORKFORCE REDUCTION

GM wants to reduce its unionized workforce from 370,000 to under 300,000 during the next three years, according to the document, which would make the current GM president vice president for industrial relations, Alfred S. Warren.

The company joins the chorus of companies claiming the need to reduce wages along with their workforce to remain competitive.

Workers at the Packard Electric Division in Warren, Ohio, rejected a contract in 1983, because it would have allowed GM to pay workers less than $7.31 per hour. GM's current workers can earn.

GM also wants to "expand profit sharing" by workers employed out of 1982 negotiations, when bringing 30 cents per hour and cost of living increases, according to the document.

"The company's negotiator antagonizes a union outcry over executive bonuses, GM chairman Roger B. Smith is estimated to receive approximately $1 million, the April, for example. Under the employed profit sharing plan, the average worker would receive about $600."

Lucky's won't buy scab Church lettuce

OAKLAND—In a positive turn for the United Farm Workers, Lucky Stores is dropping purchase of Bruce Church lettuce, which is grown in California.

Bruce Church lettuce—marketed underBruce Church trademarks, including Friendly, Green Valley Farms, and Lucky—has been the target for five years of an AFL-CIO boycott, stemming from an unbroken string of unfair labor practices against UFW workers from 1977 to 1979.

The decision by the East Bay-based Lucky chain to give up church lettuce was triggered by a late December finding by the state's Agricultural Labor Relations Board that the grower had engaged in massive unfair labor practices over the past four years. In its December 27 decision, the farm board ordered Church to make whole fields workers who lost pay since the strike's start in 1979.

"We have advised Bruce Church that effective February 17 we will discontinue buying from Church because of the decision," Lucky announced in mid-January.

Since the dispute began the UFW and others have carried on picketing and other efforts, including a store boycott of Lucky stores aimed at encouraging the chain, California's second largest, to halt purchase of Church's products.

Portland RO/RO dock

PORTLAND—First ceased to call the Port of Portland's newly completed roll-on/ roll-off terminal at Terminal 4, which is located at Terminal 4, which is 1,500 feet long) was originally intended for the China Ocean Shipping Co., the national carrier of the People's Republic.

The $400,000 facility was completed in December and is expected to receive more than $500,000 in business in the first year.

"I don't care who the Democratic candidate is," said Charlie Ridgel, Local 9 Business Representative, "but if the winner aboard the line outside the Galaxy movie house was supposed to open during the March 17."

"Good cause"

But in what could become a precedent-setting decision, Eugene L. Davis, administrative law judge for the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, said striking dockworkers at three of the four idle ports on the east coast of the Westwater Inn February 27-28.

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"Good cause"

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"Good cause"
Pedro compress workers learned ropes, laid groundwork for more organizing

This month’s "Coming of the Union" feature—in celebration of the 50th anniversary of ILWU—features the recollections of George Lee, who went to work at the Anderson Clayton Co.'s Western Compress in San Pedro shortly after the '34 strike. Lee went on to become an ILWU organizer and an officer of warehouse Local 26.

The organization of Western Compress was a direct result of Pedro workers' successful drive in San Pedro, which was the catalyst for similar organizing in the cotton industry. When conditions in San Pedro soon improved enough to draw attention to the low pay and miserable working conditions by compress workers in the Fresno and Bakersfield areas. In 1937, under the leadership of Lee and CIO organizer Hursel Alexander, the first organizing drive began in the Central Valley. The compress jurisdiction of ILWU covered workers Local 78 and Warehouse Local 26 dates back to these efforts.

The interviews with Lee were conducted under the auspices of the ILWU University of California Oral History Project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Interviewers were Dispatcher editor Danny Beagge, ILWU-NES Project Director Dave Wellman, and coordinator Harvey Schwartz.

In succeeding issues, we will present the additional recollections of longshoremen, warehouse workers, agricultural workers and other ILWU members of the early days of the ILWU in their respective industries.

Starting in 1936

The President of the company (Western Compress) at that time was D. C. Dillingerm. He was located on Sixth Street. The plant superintendent, P. C. Lacy, called Dillingerm to the plant, and his expression was, "What do you boys want?" Nobody said nothing. So I spoke up—you know I was 19 years old at the time and I thought the whole thing was going under anyway—and I said, "We want fifty cents an hour more and a smoke break." He said, "You got a quarter," and he agreed to the smoke break. Everyone yelled and went back to work.

UNDER SURVEILLANCE

At that point Dillingerm told Lacy to bring me upstairs to the office, and he told him, "I don't want him trucking. I don't want him working with the other guys. I want him to check cotton in front of grass at all times." I thought it was a promotion. I didn't understand, because I was so young, but I understand now that I was put there to keep me under surveillance, so that I couldn't create or arouse any more disturbances.

After we cleared up that cargo from California, and things slowed down a little, they sent me for to come upstairs.

Lacy said, "Do you have a menu on this smoke break?" I said, "No, sir." He said, "Well, God damn it, no more smoke break! Cut this shit out and get back to the job!"] We had nothing in writing you see. Chapigned, I was to go back and tell the guys that this guy made an ass out of me. Don't have a smoke break any more. But really he grated the guys up, because they had learned, that in concert they had some power. So they accepted it, but they said that next year, when we come again, don't have another load of bad cotton, if he wants a menu, we'll give him a memo, and we're going to wipe his ass with it!"

INTO THE CIO

Now after we organized, we didn't have any idea how to get a charter. But this Rev. Jones, who was formerly a member of the ILA in New Orleans, he knew all the tricks and he was sort of our advisor. He secured the charter for us, and we paid our dues to him on 31st and Hoever for awhile. But it was in November of 1936 that by vote of the members we decided it was just bullshit because all they were doing was paying dues to him. He never did anything but get us our charter from the AFL. If we had a problem, we'd go up to his office and see him and he'd say, "I don't know what to do," and that was about it. It was around that time that we went with the rest of the dock locals into the CIO.

We started a steward system. We learned that from ILFU, Vice President Bob Robertson. He told us that we didn't need him or anyone else, just a rank and file leader in every department—a receiving steward, a warehouse steward, a press steward, and a break-out steward. We would meet every Sunday at someone's house, and we got things under control pretty well. We put an end to the business of people lining up across the street shaping up for work—the union controlled the hiring, and we pretty much ran the whole show. We did a good job for them, too.
International responds to Bildisco decision:

"We are not without power!"

WASHINGTON, DC -- The Supreme Court decision affirming employers much greater ease in using bankruptcy procedure to avoid labor contracts has provided employers with a powerful weapon to break labor unions.

"It is important that our locals keep this in perspective," said ILWU President Jim Herrera, referring to all US ILWU locals. "Bildisco, no matter how we show it, can, if it so desires, that the contract is not burdensome -- for example, that large management bonuses or huge dividend payments are not the cause of the problem, not the union contract. Even if the contract is found to be burdensome, the Bankruptcy Court must balance the equities involved.

In bankruptcy cases where an employer seeks to abrogate a union contract, the union will have the opportunity to show, if it can, that the contract is not burdensome -- for example, that large management bonuses or huge dividend payments are not the cause of the problem, not the union contract. Even if the contract is found to be burdensome, the Bankruptcy Court must balance the equities involved.

In Bildisco, the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in the Bildisco case was unanimously approved by the 1LWU International Executive Council was meeting in Florida. Laurence Gold, the Federation's special counsel, said reporterm the labor movement was work with Congress to secure amendments to bankruptcy law -- to prevent this kind of manipulation of collective bargaining arrangements in bankruptcy law.

"The court should meet and confer in a friendly and convincing manner that their proposal is not a blank check." Herman said.

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The small gray card from Bob Fuller, of Bockaway, Ore., which accompanied his donation to the ILWU Political Action Fund, said simply, "For Reagan's defeat," but it captured the sentiment of the letters from other contributors.

They answered President Jim Herman's "urgent appeal" letter to support the fund in this election year, which was published on the back page of the January 12 Dispatcher.

Among the letters was one from James D. Sutherland, of Seaside, Oregon, who said, "I sure appreciate what the union has done for me and mine."

Sutherland said he is in the "34 and 36 strikes. There is only three of us left that worked in the twenties in Local 50, Astoria. I retired in '77 and am 94 years old so excuse poor writing. Hope you all are the best of luck. These young people don't really know what we did for them."

G. W. "Bill" Kerr, Local 63 retiree, Wilmington, asked the union to "please accept my donation to help rid these bastards (the "B" actor) from trying to take away Social Security Disability as they tried to do to me."

Along with his donation, Roy H. Larsen, retired from Local 46, Portland, said, "I have never before seen such a concerted effort by the corporations and big business to destroy what has been taken so many years to attain; that they are doing it with the seeming approval of the present administration makes it hard to accept."

Offering his plan to counter that attack, Harold Billiard, Local 13 retiree, said, "I feel very strongly that Labor and all ordinary citizens must do everything they can to get rid of Reagan before he gets rid of us."

"It is time the average citizen woke up to the facts of political life," Billiard added, "and quit falling under spell of political con men like Ron Reagan—nothing but a puppet and tool for those who bought him his office. In my opinion the most dangerous liar since A. Hitler."

Myrna R. Hull, from Coos Bay, sent a check in "memory of my deceased husband Verl Hull" a member of Local 12, North Bend, Oregon. "I know he would want me to do this," she wrote.

Henry Schmidt's daughter, Louise van der Ven, wrote from Sonoma that she supports "the candidate committed to peace, economic equality and social justice."

And 86-year-old Herb R. Wooliscroft, retired from Local 19, Seattle, since December 1962, wrote from his home in Florida. "I am sending you one dollar for every year I have retired. Keep up the good work."

Small locals dig deep for political action

SAN FRANCISCO—With the political year just getting underway in earnest, a number of ILWU locals—especially some of the smaller ones—have shown considerable ingenuity and initiative in raising funds for the ILWU Political Action Fund.

Among the more successful has been Local 34, San Francisco, which has raised over $4600 since the New Year.

"We mailed out to every registered member of the local a letter explaining in general terms which we thought the political issues facing the local were, and explaining basically what the ILWU Political Action Fund is all about," said Local 34 Vice President Richard Cavalli. "Enclosed with that letter was a return envelope so that each member could mail in his or her check."

"Since then, we've written a special letter to some of the office workers' units we represent, and to members in Stockton and Sacramento," Cavalli said. "There has also been a tremendously generous response to a special appeal to pensioners."

Local 34 has also published another appeal that "we spread around the docks by hand," Cavalli said, with person-to-person contact."

"The goal is two-fold," Cavalli said. "To raise money for the PAC fund, of course. Our other goal is to attempt to begin the process of getting members involved in current political issues. At some point we're going to want to get them to go out and vote. The focus of the appeals have been on the issues. We've tried to stay away from candidates."

"Basically, it's our attempt to reeducate the membership to where their bread and butter really comes from," Cavalli said. "The union doesn't sign their paychecks, but what they get on Friday is the result of the union's activities."

OTHER DONATIONS

Longshore Local 12, Coos Bay, has been another big giver this year, with a donation of $777. While collections are just getting underway, other locals that have made generous contributions are: Local 50, Astoria, and Local 18, Seattle. The biggest giver has been Local 142, Hawaii—the largest local in the ILWU—which has donated a total of $40,000 since the inception of the plan in 1981.

User fee bill burial planned

PORTLAND—At a news conference at the Port of Portland's Terminal 2 February 17, Sen. Bob Packwood pledged to get the Abnor water user fee bill referred to the Senate Finance Committee, where he said it would get a long, long thoughtful consideration that will take several months and years.

Packwood is a ranking member of the committee and an opponent, as he said here, of the Abnor water user fee proposals that would make a port or region pay for navigation improvements and "change the nation's historic, 200-year-old waterway policies."

Senator Mark Hatfield, in a statement read here by an aide, agreed the Abnor bill should go to the finance committee, which already has his own bill, a much more moderate approach to the subject, in hand. The Abnor bill went to the Senate floor without hearings.

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

We will soon have an opportunity to go to the polls and express our opinions on those we have elected to national office. At stake are the Presidency, every seat in the House of Representatives, and one-third of the seats in the Senate.

Each of us has an immediate interest in supporting candidates committed to peace, economic equality, and social justice. We need to demonstrate our ability to defend people new in office who consistently support the interests of working people and help unseat those who are opposed. While we cannot hope to match the immense war chests of the corporate political action committees, we can, by pooling our resources, have a considerable impact on those elections where we have an important stake.

Federal election laws prohibit using union dues for contributions in federal elections. It is necessary, therefore, for us to go directly to the membership for funds earmarked for that purpose.

I urge each of you to contribute to the Political Action Fund of the ILWU. Donations of as little as $1 per active workship will add to the power and prestige of our Union in dealing ship will add to the power and prestige of our Union in dealing with the political issues of the time.

Please send your donations to the ILWU Political Action Fund, 11th Flank Street, San Francisco, California 94109. Best wishes to you and yours.

Fraternally,

James R. Herman
President

The Political Action Fund of the ILWU is administrated by the Titled Officers. Reports on the status to the Fund and the uses to which contributions are put are made to the International Executive Board and are available to all members.