SF labor plans march for July 15

"We can do it!"

That’s the message of confidence tens of thousands of Bay Area unionists and supporters who will carry the streets of San Francisco Sunday, July 15, in repeat of the massive march and rally two years ago that brought out 70,000 marchers in a similar pre-election mobilization.

This year’s event comes a day prior to the opening of the Democratic National Convention at Moscone Center in San Francisco. Just as in the historic parade October 24, 1982—when marchers’ numbers exceeded pre-parade expectations by 40,000—a combined effort of the AFL-CIO, Teamsters, and ILWU will turn out thousands upon thousands of unionists to display the city that knows how in San Francisco Labor Council Sec-Treas. John F. Crowley says.

"With the national media centered in San Francisco for the mid-July political convention, Bay Area labor will show itself as the strongest voice across the land for the just causes of working people and their families.

In addition to members of Bay Area labor groups and others, we expect to add countless visiting trade unionists and delegates to the convention," Crowley says. "With Bay Area labor working together, we can ensure that the biggest rallies this city has ever seen.

Because the November 6 general election is of crucial importance to workers, the jobless and others suffering from the continuing struggle of right wing schemes issuing from the White House, the July rally—in full view of the whole nation—will serve to mobilize interest for the fall election," Crowley says.

GOAL OF 100,000

Parade organizers have set an early goal of 100,000 marchers, based on both the large turnout for the October 1982 parade and strong support already pledged by several local unions, AFL-CIO, Teamster, and ILWU.

Northern California Regional Director LeRoy King and Local 6 President Al Larson are representing the ILWU on the July 15 coordinating committee.

House acts on longshore comp

WASHINGTON, DC—The House of Representatives has just approved a bill of major amendments to the Longshoremen’s and Harbor Workers’ Compensation Act.

The bill, drafted by Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.) and endorsed by labor, makes a combined effort of the AFL-CIO, Teamsters, and ILWU will turn out thousands upon thousands of unionists to display to a watching nation that San Francisco is still the city that knows how," San Francisco Labor Council Sec-Treas. John F. Crowley says.

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Canada ILWU celebrates

Delegates from all British Columbia ILWU Locals gathered in Vancouver last month to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the ILWU Canadian Area.

That event, in 1959, marked the culmination of years of struggle, going back to the defeats of 1923 and 1935, for the establishment of militant, democratic unionism on the BC waterfront.

It marked the end of company unionism on the BC waterfront.

It marked the beginning of a new era in the lives of BC longshoremen, leading ultimately to the achievement of parity with the US longshore workforce.

It marked the end of the "colonial" period in relations between US and Canadian unions, setting a new standard for autonomy and self-determination.

For more on the significance on this convention, and the Canadian Area convention which marked it, please turn to pages 6-7.

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Caucus sets bargaining program

SAN FRANCISCO—In a hard-working ten day session held here March 27-April 7, delegates to the ILWU’s pension, clerks and walking boss’ caucus developed a solid, well-rounded program which will be presented to the Pacific Maritime Association when negotiations for a new west coast dock agreement begin next month.

The current agreement expires July 1.

Detailed reports on the negotiating program developed by the caucus will be carried back to the membership by the delegates. They covered an enormous amount of ground, working their way through a report and recommendations prepared by the Coast Committee, debating proposals on such critical issues as manning, CFS and jurisdiction along with wages, pensions, health and welfare and other benefits.

L-P STRIKE

Jim Blachow, President of the Lumber Producers and International Workers, reported on his union’s 10-month old strike against Longshoremen’s and Warehousemen’s, a conglomerate’s effort to effectively destroy unionism in the lumber industry. “We of the ILPW are eternally grateful for the support of your union. You are probably the —continued on page 3

Presidential race

Int’il board to endorse next month

SAN FRANCISCO—An expanded meeting of the International Board will consider the ILWU’s endorsement in the 1984 presidential election will be held at International headquarters May 2-3.

“The titled officers believe that the defeat of President Reagan is of the utmost importance,” said International President Jim Herman in a letter to all ILWU and ILU locals.

Three creditable candidates still remain in the race for the nomination of the Democratic Party. Input from as wide a cross-section of our membership as possible will ensure that our endorsement carries the greatest weight possible.

While all locals are invited to send any number of representatives to participate in the enlarged Board meeting, Herman urged that “one representative be instructed to express whatever policy may have been officially adopted by your local union. The International Executive Board, after having heard the analyses and recommendations offered by the representatives of the locals, will adopt that policy on our endorsement which they think is appropriate.

In view of the fact that several locals may find it beyond their means to send a delegate, the Board will also receive and consider recommendations in writing which have been officially adopted by a section of the local union. Such recommendations should be received no later than Monday, April 30 so that they may be reproduced in time for distribution to the Board on May 2.
Longshore bargaining

We've come a long way. Fifty years ago, before the big strike of 1934, longshoremen and all other maritime workers on this coast had the sack of their employers. They worked long, hard hours, in unsafe conditions, for inadequate wages and no benefits to speak of. They were subject to the degradation of the shore-up, arbitrary speed-ups. They had no security. They had no one to speak for them.

Every single improvement on the waterfront since that time was won, not given. Nothing came easy, not the wages or benefits, and certainly not the respect that ILWU members enjoy today on the job, and in the community. We won it all fair and square on the picket line and at the bargaining table. Members and leaders of the union made tremendous sacrifices to win an absolutely unprecedented degree of security in what remains to this day an essentially casual industry.

I make this simple and perhaps obvious point not in any spirit of smug self-congratulation but simply to point out that when we enter bargaining this spring for a new Pacific Coast Longshore and Clerks' agreement, we are not starting from square one. Any employer who thinks that the current wave of attacks on organized labor can be extended successfully to the waterfront does not understand this history.

We have some problems which need to be addressed this time around. Given the great federal budget deficit, we are not at all convinced that the current high in the rate of inflation is anything more than temporary. Any new contract will therefore have to build in a wage increase to protect and improve the standard of living of our members.

We believe that over the years, our members, both active and retired, and fringe benefit packages enjoyed by any group of workers in this country. Our health and welfare benefits are a godsend by which others are measured. But the costs of these benefits have risen tremendously in recent years. While we are open to discussion of ways in which we can reduce the cost, it will be our major priority in this round of bargaining to make sure that there are no cutbacks in these benefits, and to make sure that the cost of these benefits is not shifted onto the workforce. At the same time, we will continue to push ahead to provide for necessary increases in the power and level of living enjoyed by those who have retired after giving their life to the longshore industry.

The tangle of problems created by the transformation of waterfront technology in the last 25 years remains with us, and continues to arise in new forms. We have made progress. We've developed a voluntary travel program so that registered work-

ers are afforded greater opportunity to work within their area. We've taken steps, in bargaining and through the coast labor relations machinery, to protect our work opportunity as new equipment blueprints are worked out.

But it's no secret that jurisdiction has been an extremely stub-

born problem. With it is betting that prices will never fall. If the forestry is not unaffected by the environ-

ment in which we operate.

The attempt by SeaRay Express, for example, to open a non-
union freight service between Alaska and Seattle, represents the most
dangerous provocation by an employer in many years. It will be a major priority for the union and the ILWU, the recently concluded Longshore, Clerks and Walking Bosses Caucus developed just such a strategy—if we are to preserve our bargaining strength over the long term.

TWO WEEK CAUCUS

The key to success this year, as always, lies in the greatest degree of unity and solidarity of the membership. As the way we've ever figured out how to generate that kind of unity is through the exercise of the democratic rights of membership through discussion and debate and, majority rule. The two-week caucus, which just concluded in San Francisco, demonstrated that those traditions are still very much embedded in the fabric of the ILWU. The process is sometimes grueling, but in the end, the delegates established a solid set of priorities and elected a negotiating committee which, I believe, will provide energetic and responsible representation.

With this kind of preliminary preparation, and maintaining our tradition of democratic decision making, I have no doubt but that we will be able to develop a program that will unite the two weeks, and give the committee and its leadership the mus-
cle to put it over.

New merger mania threatens public

Merger trends seem to be cutting in opposite directions. A tidal wave of Big Oil takeovers, unopposed by the Reagan administration, is furthering the impression that we are in the midst of a new windfall of oil industry consolidation. That's another way of saying that you and I and all other taxpayers are afforded greater opportunity to work within their area. We've taken steps, in bargaining and through the coast labor relations machinery, to protect our work opportunity as new equipment blueprints are worked out.

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born problem. With it is betting that prices will never fall. If the forestry is not unaffected by the environ-

ment in which we operate.
Guatemalan ‘Coke’ workers need support

Every so often, workers who are told their plant is going to close get angry enough to stop the shutdown with their own bodies. This is happening right now in Guatemala.

On February 17, a Coca-Cola franchise in Guatemala City—called EGA—did what many companies located in the U.S.A. are doing these days: it declared bankruptcy to take all of its operations out of the country. The announcement directly violated a 1980 agreement that the ILWU-PMA welfare pension plan stressed the fact that the pension fund is financed, including a comprehensive analysis of the relationship between the plan’s security and solvency of the pension fund. The plan is better funded today than it has ever been before. As a result of effective bargaining, the plan is continuing to meet its obligations. So long as the union is able to protect its workers from the threat of a strike, it is no reason to believe that those who wage a ‘strike’ will be successful in their efforts to retain their jobs.

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The negotiating committee, elected by the delegates will be led by International President Jim Herman. Other members include Coast Committee member Dick Wise, with International Vice-President Rudy Rubio at the mike.

Delegates to ILWU longshore, clerks’ and walking boss caucus at work.

Two-week caucus sets bargaining demands

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The recent decision by the U.S. Department of Labor to grant a temporary stay of execution to the plans of the ILWU-PMA welfare pension plan has allowed the plans to continue operating until a final decision is made on the legality of the action. This is a significant victory for the ILWU-PMA welfare pension plan, which has been fighting for the rights of its members for many years. The plan’s success is a testament to the strength of the union and its commitment to protecting the rights of its members.

San Francisco—A detailed analysis of the operation of the ILWU-PMA welfare and pension plans was featured in an all-day workshop held March 26 for the delegates to the ILWU longshore, clerks’ and walking boss caucuses. The presentations by union officials and staff members focused on providing delegates with the hard data necessary for bargaining on these issues, with plenty of time left for informal discussion.

From left, secretary Ronnie Matsui, coast committee member Robert Olvera, caucus secretary Bill Ward, Local 40, coast committee member Randy Vekich, Local 24, chaired caucus.

Longshore delegates prepare for pension, welfare bargaining

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International research director Barry Silverman leads discussion of ILWU-PMA Pension Plan project. To his right, International President Jim Herman, Vice-President Rudy Rubio, Investment counselor Claude Rosenberg, ILWU-PMA Benefit Funds Northern California director Herb Burnley, and Local 13 Welfare Director Bruce Krieger.

Silverman went on to explain how the pension plan is financed, including a concise analysis of the relationship between the plan’s "unfunded liability" and the security and solvency of the pension fund. The plan is better funded today than it has ever been before. As a result of effective bargaining, the plan is continuing to meet its obligations. So long as the union is able to protect its workers from the threat of a strike, it is no reason to believe that those who wage a ‘strike’ will be successful in their efforts to retain their jobs.

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Local 6 members keep pressure on

REDWOOD CITY—When New York-based Richardson Foods bought Redwood City ice cream cone manufacturer Safe-T-Pacific last year, the owner promised to "honor and improve" the contract which workers had "more or less" accepted.

But "improve" turned out to mean a page and a half of "takeaways," including reduced health and welfare benefits, and cutting coverage for ill or injured employees and their families.

If costs went up, the company said, the 60 employees could pay the difference or cut dental or vision, or some other part of the coverage. Reducing extended coverage, one employee drew almost a year of medical benefit. Reducing vision coverage, a company said, felt it was a waste of money since she never came back to work.

A strike authorization vote was taken, but everyone agreed that the middle of the night was the best time to hurt an ice cream cone manufacturer. Marle plural jumped, resulting in absenteeism and low production.

In December the company implemented Local 142 victory

Nursing home employees vote to join ILWU

HILLO—"Thank you for your vote of confidence and welcome to the ILWU family," wrote Local 142 Vice-President Fred Paulino to all bargaining unit members at Hillo's Life Care Center.

In a NLRB election conducted on January 25, employees at the nursing care center cast 97 votes for the ILWU, 84—"no union" votes, six "challenged" ballots and one void ballot.

Past organizing efforts by ILWU and United Public Workers were unsuccessful.

The majority vote showed a major change in views from voted employees in the management's "fear" campaigns resulted in small union victories. "Yes to Paulino"

CLOSE RANKS

He also urged the membership to close ranks together to get the union properly organized, attend union meetings, and rally behind the union's negotiating committee. He said the opening contract talks begin to take shape.

"With unity, Life Care Center can become a better place for everyone—workers and the elderly being cared for," Paulino added.

As a first step to get things moving, a general membership meeting was held at ILWU headquarters on February 9. Meeting officers—President Eddie Lapa, BA William Amaral, Organizers Calvin Werner and Alan Meyers, and Inter- national Representative Thomas Babaloua, who will be chief spokesman in negotiations—were on hand to discuss basic union organizational and negotiating procedures.

Columbia council blasts Bldisco

PORTLAND—The Columbia River District Council on March 12 condemned corporate use of Chapter XI of the federal bankruptcy law that "upside down" an already bankrupt company to abandon bargains agreements.

"The council makes it clear that under the new laws, the bankruptcy court has absolute power over a union movement," the resolution warned.

In other actions the CRDC urged support for a state ballot measure referred to the voters at the May 15 Oregon primary, which would keep social security benefits from being subject to taxation under state law.

Local 6 negotiators at Safe-T-Pacific included BA Henry McKnight, Lauro Paz, Patricia Harris and Dave Studebaker.

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Its key issues were its "final offer" and the takeaways went into effect. House meetings approved continuation of the union's waiting game.

In February, with spring approaching, Safe-T-Pacific started putting pressure on the union. Another house meeting was held, and a union program of counter-pressure was approved. This included filled changes with job STA, filling grievances on any and all violations, and a stop work meeting. The workers and employees were willing to fight.

That meeting was on a Saturday, with the following Tuesday afternoon scheduled for the action. Based on history, everyone expected the company to know about the union's plans. Members were taking ads on who would finish first.

NO ONE FINKED

But the Local 6 members kept the faith.

The company was caught completely by surprise when union officials called an emergency safety meeting to discuss back brakes, back seats, back parking.

FULL UNITY

Company officials were so angry and flustered that a 20-minute stop work meeting ended up losing over three hours' productive time. Showing full unity, the employees and company were willing to fight.

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BACK PAY AT SOUTH TERMINAL—Eleven members of ILWU Local 15 have received a check from Studebaker as part of an arbitrator's decision following the local's strike against Chuck Hollibaugh's South Terminal Distribution Co. in 1982. (See Dispatcher, January 6, 1984). The checks represented the cash equivalent of what Hollibaugh should have been contributing to a pension fund for them in the period covered by the back payments, as well as back wages. Shown above are, from left, Ed Hayes, Janet Nelson, Marlene Briscoe, Walt Gerber, Dorothy Fullaway, Wesley Burton and Clarence Johnson. Others, not shown include Henry Hart, Frederic Geschke, Grover Weston and Robert Briscoe.

LOS ANGELES—Some 300 members of ILWU Local 26 imported no warehouse drug contractors in 1982.

The agreement between Benco Bruswine Drug, affecting members in Santa Barbara, Covina and San Diego, provides for a substantial wage increase, maintenance of health and welfare benefits, as well as new restrictions on supervisors doing bargaining unit.

The union also received a 10% increase in its commanding health and welfare benefits, and to improve contributions to the Health Maintenance Organization (HMO). Also won was an improved grievance procedure and agreement to negotiate, with the right to strike clause extended in case of new technology.

This contract was negotiated by President Luisa Gratz and Committee member Bob "Guppy" Hollibaugh and all parties worked hard to obtain the final agreement.

Local 26 wins solid wholesale drug contracts

LOCAL 26—Exports of log from Canada and the United States to China set a record in 1982, topping 565.6 million.

China has been buying increasing quantities of North American logs every since it first entered the market in 1979 and 1980. A continued rise in exports is expected in 1984 with shipments expect.

The top three exporting ports in 1982 disclosed the following figures compiled by Stevedoring Services of America.

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Local 32 joins protest against Navy ships

- Everett—ILWU Local 32 president Richard Austin joined protests against the possible basing of a nuclear carrier force and the exclusion of public comment on the city's decision making process.

The Navy wants a northwest homeport here in Seattle, and support for the basing has come mainly from city officials, critics charge.

Resistance here came in the form of a demonstration at city hall, where a citizen's proclamation was taped on the door.

"To our elected officials. All citizens should be protected by the right to vote," the statement read. "Responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people."

Local 32 president Austin was one of 100 people attending another 2½ hour rally against the basing of the ships, which the local says would absorb jobs in shipping, trading and towing, if the ships were docked anywhere other than on Jetty Island, away from the main piers.

"Creating jobs for tomorrow's promises does nothing for unemployment," Austin said.

Rep. Burton given public service award

BROOKFIELD, Wis.—Representative Phillip Burton, who died last April during his 11th term in Congress, will receive the 1984 Public Service Award given by the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans.

The Award was started in 1979 to recognize prominent people who contribute significantly to advancement of employee benefit plans, both private and public, and to working Americans.

Burton, who was 56, was first elected to Congress in 1964 representing California's sixth district (San Francisco).

Through his lengthy tenure, Burton earned recognition as a prime figure in legislative initiatives supporting the interests of workers. In his last terms, he had a strong hand in shaping bills promoting the purposes and stability of employee pension benefit plans, both private and public, and was influential in the passage of the Multi-employer Pension Plan Amendments Act of 1980.

At the time of his death, Burton was chairman of the Education and Labor Committee's Subcommittee on Labor Management Relations, the key House body in the area of pension legislation.

Along with Representative John Erlenborn of Illinois, the minority leader, Burton was preparing for major efforts on a number of pension-related bills, including re- porting and disclosure requirements and fiduciary rules for public plans. ERISA's simplification, single employer plan terminations, insurance and eliminating discrimination in pension among women.

Puget Sound locals join rally at SeaWay

SEATTLE—More than 1,000 members of the ILWU, Teamsters, IAM, Office & Professional Employees and other unions turned out for a "Ask Your Congressperson" day at the放眼 on a roadway in south Seattle adjacent to the new SeaWay Express facility.

SeaWay is slated to begin a cut-rate barge operation between Seattle and Seward in Mid-April.

The party-goers at the labor rally were convinced over a story in the Jackson, Daily News which quoted SeaWay manager Fred Peil as saying, "the company's freight handling system is predicated on employing a non-union work force."

Peil is no stranger to the ILWU. "He's the man who had Don Liddle and Larry Minner thrown in jail during IUW's beef with the ferry system several years ago," ILWU International Representative John B. Bukoskey told The Dispatcher.

Peil later was fired by the ferry system, was unemployed for a while and then surfaced at SeaWay Express, orchestrating strategies for the new barge operation. The Dispatcher learned.

The labor rally coincided with an open house held by SeaWay Express to advertise its cut-rate service.

Guests had difficulty getting through the doors because of the hundreds of St. Patrick's Day enthusiasts wearing union buttons who were in the way.

"They were drinking coffee and kool-aid and having a fine time; it was an impressive show of solidarity," Bukoskey said.

"We wanted to show the operators and shippers that labor can unite around common goals."

Pickets came from all the locals on the Sound, from Aberdeen on Grays Harbor, and from warehouse Local 9 and IBU. -

And did SeaWay's guests finally get through the doors to the open house? Yes, they did. The Dispatcher learned, when four or five hundred longshoremen politely got out of their way by going inside and sampling the champagne. When they were asked to leave by the police, they left, as politely, and regained the throng in the roadway. By all accounts, it was a most successful St. Patrick's Day.

Port of Seattle

SEATTLE—The Port of Seattle recorded the best year in its 72-year history last year, according to an article in the Daily News. The Port handled 950,000 containers, an 18% jump over 1982.

The biggest growth was in the Port of Seattle, which handled 74% of the overall volume.

The total value of the goods handled was $25 billion.

The port is now the largest container port in the US, according to the Daily News.

There was a dramatic growth in container cargo. Currently the third largest container port in the US, Seattle moved a record 900,000 containers, an 18% jump over 1982.

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Canada ILWU celebrates 25 years of solidarity

VANCOUVER, BC—The 18th convention of the Canadian Area of the ILWU held in Vancouver March 12-16 was unique in several ways.

It marked the 25th anniversary of the Canadian Area established in 1959.

It was held at a time when the labor movement, human rights, social services and living standards are under concerted attack by both government and employers and the threat of nuclear war hangs over all mankind.

The free-ranging debate by 70 delegates representing 3500 members of the ILWU Canadian Area and the new Retail, Wholesale

and Department Store Union revealed the democratic character of a union controlled by its members and with its officers held strictly accountable for its actions.

The debate demonstrated that this union is concerned not only with contract and on-the-job problems facing its membership but with all the problems facing Canada. Furthermore, it is determined to maintain its militant tradition while joining with the other movements, human rights, social services and political action, and a program for economic recovery as well as inner union problems.

On each of these issues the report, which was adopted by the convention with amendments, was a clear-cut stand.

Key issues were raised by International President Jim Hiram in his address to the delegates.

"Today the crunch is on," he said. This is a time when a whole generation is looking for something different, when it's their day to smash-bang unions. The name of the game on both sides of the border is to play hard ball. It is in this atmosphere that we go into bargaining.

"The interlocking arrangement between money on both sides of the border is clearly established. Anybody who has any kind of interest in his heart for corporations, any corporation, any goddamned one of them, needs intensive psychiatric care."

"The most fundamental of our problems is how do we get our rank and file to get out into the street when somebody else is engaged in struggle. The ILWU will not sit on their hands by itself so we better get in gear and we better get our act together. There are no real enemies inside; they're all outside." Also on hand were International Vice-President Rudy Rubio and Secretary-Treasurer Curt McLean.

FEDERAL ELECTIONS

Dealing with the federal elections expected before the end of 1984, the Officers' Report pointed out that neither the governing Liberal Party nor the opposition Conservative Party had any solutions to the current economic depression. It called for support of the New Democratic Party but advised that this support must be "critical support," that the NDP still faced the problem of the "police and the programs that will offer a clear and distinct alternative to the old line parties."

It also advised that labor and the ILWU "should actively campaign in the federal election for policies which we believe should be adopted by the next government of Canada, policies that will ensure peace, an independent foreign policy and jobs for all."

CUTBACKS

The Officers' Report also took a hard look at the factors behind the "failure of the New Right expressed in monetarism, Thatcherism, Beanoquistism and the policies of the Liberal and provincial Social Credit Government of British Columbia."

"Today we have a completely new ball game," the Officers' Report noted. "Now the struggle is to hold what we have against the concerted attacks of government and employers. The labor movement must develop new strategies to deal with this attack. No one trade union can win this kind of battle by itself. It will take the combined efforts of the whole trade union movement, willing and determined to take whatever action becomes necessary, up to and including general strikes. Not only that, it is necessary to secure the support of the whole community in this struggle."

The Officers' Report and the delegates in debate levelled strong criticism at the program of the provincial governments, charging that "it is taking money from health, education and other social programs and diverting it to huge megaprojects that benefit special business interests." It is diverting money out of our pockets, depriving us and our families of essential services, and then putting this money into the pockets of the corporate crowd. It is redistributing the wealth of the province in favor of the big corporations."

The Officers' Report also examined the lessons of the Solidarity Movement established to fight the government's cut-backs. Two of the main lessons of that struggle, it stated, were:

- Unity of the whole labor movement and of the whole community is essential to any victory. It is also the duty of all leaders to get people to participate.

- Opposition in the legislature must be complemented with extra-parliamentary opposition—opposition in the streets and job action if necessary.

It also proposed that Solidarity should now turn its attention to working out its own program that could be implemented by a government in this province to ensure labor and human rights, provide adequate social services for all, and get BC out of the depression and provide jobs for all.

On the recommendation of the officers, the convention adopted an alternative economic and social program that included a large degree of public ownership, a restructuring of the economy with the emphasis on a strong manufacturing industry, a job creation program leading to full employment, diversification of Canada's trading partners, a fairer taxation system and cuts in defense spending.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

Specific proposals included public ownership of key industries and financial institutions, building a Canadian merchant marine, a large scale program of building affordable housing, reducing in working time with no reduction in take-home pay, lower interest rates, foreign exchange controls to prevent the drain of profits to foreign countries, price and rent controls and an end to all restraint and austerity programs.

In other business the convention:

- Condemned Bill C-9, an act to establish a new Canadian Security Intelligence Service, charging that it "opens the door to a police state in Canada," that it legalized criminal actions by the police, and that it is "directed against unions and all who seek reform."

- Heard Art Kube, president of the BC Federation of Labor, warn that unless the trade union movement supports the building trade unions in their current dispute with non-union contractors, "no union will be safe from the gains by the government and the employers."

- Welcomed the historic statement by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops which declared that "the rights of workers is more important than the maximization of profits," which asked that unions "have an effective role in developing economic policies" and which declared that "labor, not capital, must be given priority in the development of an economy based on justice."

On the convention floor—left to right at foreground table, Frank Morrison, Local 519; Larry Mannix, Local 503; George Kutnikoff, Local 503. On the convention floor—left to right at foreground table, Frank Morrison, Local 519; Larry Mannix, Local 503; George Kutnikoff, Local 503. On the convention floor—left to right at foreground table, Frank Morrison, Local 519; Larry Mannix, Local 503; George Kutnikoff, Local 503. On the convention floor—left to right at foreground table, Frank Morrison, Local 519; Larry Mannix, Local 503; George Kutnikoff, Local 503.
In honor of the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Canadian Area ILWU this month, the Citizens Committee of the Union features recollections of the disastrous 1935 strike, and the subsequent rebuiding of the union on the British Columbia waterfront.

The oral histories and text are taken from the book Man Along The Shore!, published by ILWU Local 500 pensioners.

The strike began June 4, 1935 after newly-organized locals in Powell River, who had demanded wage parity with the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers Association, went on strike.

The new union declared a strike and placed all ships from Powell River on the waterfront. Vancouver longshoremen refused to unload a ship full of newspaper and the Shipping Federation, the employers' group, broke the three-year agreement it had signed with VDWWA on October 10, 1934.

BATTLEY PIER

The Ballantyne Pier remains the bloodiest memory of the strike. On June 19 an estimated 1,000 longshoremen marched to Ballantyne Pier. They were led by one of their members, Mickey O'Byrne, who had received a Victoria Cross, awarded during the First World War. In Alexander's words, their tactics and approach were met by massed police headed by Vancouver Police Chief W. F. Foster. O'Byrne and Foster had grown up together and they refused to disperse.

Mounted City Police rode their horses through the ranks of the longshoremen, pursuing them through the streets and down back lanes, riding up the steps of houses in the neighborhood where women and children were gathered, swinging their clubs indiscriminately in what the Vancouver Daily Province described as "the bloodiest hour in waterfront history." At least 28 people were injured by the police.

The longshoremen's Women's Auxiliary established a first aid post in the Longshoremen's Women's Auxiliary, and the dispute continued. The Mounties had part of the upstairs shed and the longshoremen lived upstairs. The RCMP had the upstairs and the longshoremen lived downstairs. They were billed there for the duration of the strike and during this time the RCM had the upstairs. They were led by Mickey O'Byrne and an older, experienced veteran along with a blind fellow. I can't remember his name now. When they got down to the track the RCMP took over. The O'Rourke and the blind fellow out of the way and they turned the fire hose on the rest of them and broke up the parade.

The City Police got into the act and they were chasing the guys all over the streets on their horses.

After the strike was over, most of the original longshoremen didn't get back to work, and there was a new regime set up all together. The old ILWU Local 500 pensioners, Bill Chestnut, Bill Henderson, Harry Chauner took over.

**Bill Chestnut**

The strikers moved into shed 51 along with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The RCMP had the upstairs. There were billets there for the duration of the strike and during the time that the RCM had the upstairs, they were led by Mickey O'Byrne and an older, experienced veteran along with a blind fellow. I can't remember his name now. When they got down to the track the RCMP took over. The O'Rourke and the blind fellow out of the way and they turned the fire hose on the rest of them and broke up the parade. The City Police got into the act and they were chasing the guys all over the streets on their horses.

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Harry Walters

I was in the '35 Strike but not the '23 Strike. When they took that '35 Strike vote there were 75% in favor of the strike. We didn't get that back. We took a vote and they left the necessary vote to 60%. That strike was illegal. It was not a legal strike but the poxers that that was the case. I tell you, there was something strange going on in those days. There was a certain clique in the union and they instigated the house meetings. A certain number of them would get together and have a house meeting and those were the guys who controlled the union. Those guys would all stick together and the rest, like a bunch of sheep, would follow. The '35 Strike was an illegal strike, we didn't vote for a strike and we should have gone back to work. But the clique called a meeting and changed the 75% to 60%. I don't know who won the strike. We were locked out. Some didn't get back and some did. I kept working. I had a wife and family and I wanted the job. That was an illegal strike and I went back to work and a lot of others also went back.

**Paddy McDonough**

Just prior to the '35 Strike there was quite a bit of friction. This was evident at every membership meeting. It revolved around working conditions and the men were dissatisfied. I felt that there was going to be a strike on the waterfront because the men were getting so fed up with conditions and dispatch rules.

**Doc Cope**

It seems to me that strikes runs in cycles, every 15 or 20 years. Unions were not what they are today. No fringe benefits, no holidays with pay, no eight-hour day, no welfare and medicare. Just remember—a gang of men could work hell out of the men for 15 or 20 years then, through a strike which they would defect, get rid of the older men and through strikebreakers get a new bunch. This is what happened. Through the years, time after time, strike after strike on the waterfront was broken to the benefit of the Shipping Federation.

After the 1935 strike, as after the 1923 strike, the employers established a black list, barring the waterfront hundreds of longshoremen who had been active in the unions. Many never got back. Many of those who did had to wait a long time and only got back because the employers were short of skilled and experienced labor.

**Vic Pollard**

I know that I lost quite a few old friends in the 1935 Strike. They were getting old and the Shipping Federation figured that was a good time to get rid of them, and they got rid of 200 of them. Several of them were friends of mine and they never got back. Charlie Page was a hatch tender and an old sidekick of mine. His trouble was that he had a bit of a sharp tongue and if a boss said something to Charlie, if he offended Charlie for any little thing that happened during the day's work and Charlie knew and realized that he was not to blame, he didn't hesitate to come back at the boss. The result being that when the strike was over in 1935, Charlie didn't get back.

I was lucky to get back. I took a bad tickling. When the 1935 Strike was finished I didn't get back to work until about the middle of 1936. As long as the strike was on I was down there every morning with my old car and between you and me, I had the strongest feeling and we used to go down to the West End and keep those students from going down to Coal Harbor and going out to the ships. We were trying to keep them from going to work. There were quite a few fights and I was hauled out in court fires and that sort of thing.

**COMPANY UNIONS AGAIN**

After the 1935 Strike was broken and the existing organizations smashed, two new companies were established by the employers in Vancouver, the Canadian Waterfront Workers Association and the Vancouver Longshoremen's Association. In 1936 they signed a five-year agreement with the Shipping Federation limiting the total membership of the two organizations to 650, and including a provision that new members must be acceptable to the Shipping Federation.

The following year, 1937, a new four-year agreement was signed, this time including another company union—the North Vancouver Longshoremen's Association. It limited the membership to 715 for the CWWA and the VLA and 85 for the NVLA, for a total of 800.

Next year a separate two-year agreement was signed between the Shipping Federation and the Burrard Coastwise Longshoremen's Association, another company union.

**BARRED DEMONSTRATIONS**

The 1939 Constitution of the CWWA barred "any form of demonstration, parade or affiliation with any radical movement." It stated that applications for membership would be granted only to persons who were not members of any radical or revolutionary movement. This was designed to keep the union from time to time occupying the position of the Labour Manager of the Shipping Federation.

The 1941 Constitution listed one of its aims and objects to "resist all revolutionary movements in the Government of Canada and to support the past order." What revolutionary movements were going on within the government of Canada it did not specify.

**MEMBERSHIP GROWS**

Canadian membership increased as more locals became part of the ILWU from 1945 through 1956, when organization of all BC longshoremen into the union was completed.

The BC District Council went out of business and the ILWU became the first Canadian Area Convention in January 1959, when the locals adopted a Constitution providing for full autonomy within the International Union, and elected the Canadian Area Officers and Board Members.

The organization drives later resulted in an additional locals after 1959, an increase in membership to more than 2,000, and contracts ensuring increased wages, a seven-hour day and protection of longshoremen from the effects of automation on the docks.

Ten ILWU Canadian Area local presidents went to jail in June, 1966 to protest injunction ordering men to work on a statutory holiday.
Barbara Lauritsen, long-time secretary in the office of ILWU Local 6, retired in March 1983 after 26 years of service. She was born in the Clatsop County Union for 32 years.

At this point, the funds are used for immediate medical emergencies, for those who have prolonged "battles with the system." Barbara Lauritsen, her husband, Pete, now 63 years old, is an active member of warehouse Local 6, died March 1. He was 80 years old. He had served as Secretary-Treasurer of the West Bay Pensioners' Club until 1980. A native of Australia, Gayle first worked at National Ice, was an assistant secretary of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific, and ran against Harry Lundberg, of that union before coming into Local 6 in the late 1930s. He was a national level officer, was an ILWU organizer during the war, worked at P.T. Barnum, and retired out of S&K Sales. "He was a good man, a good trade unionist," said International President Endicott Bridges, who worked closely with Quittenton for many years, and was a long-time personal friend. "He made a lot of friends over the years."

Newport booming

NEWPORT—"It's very exciting on the waterfront!" said Joe Uranga, Local 13 president and other offices and branches. He served as Local 12 president and other offices and branches. He was also deeply involved in the community, through Local 13, the YMCA and other organizations. When he retired in 1972 he was serving as a life-long resident of Oregon and the family couldn't qualify for the family medically indigent program, which is essentially county-run for Oregon residents of the state. He was also appointed to the San Francisco Fire Commission for three terms and was a member of the Peninsula Community Service Board numerous times, and other committees.

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Lumber talks recessed

PORTLAND—The Association of West ern Pulp & Paper Workers recessed multiple plea bargains with Boise Cascade, Geo ria Pacific and Weyerhaeuser covering IF WPWP locals, so the delegates could re turn back to their memberships on the un acceptable take-away offer and conduct strike authorization votes.

According to the negotiating table March 26, armed with a strike authoriza tion which carried by SEIU, WPWP Pres ident Farmes Bryson told The Dispatcher.

The talks were continuing as this was writing.

Bryson was quoted in the March 23 Rebel as saying the strike was necessitated by the adamant insistence of the spokes man for the three companies upon major "take-aways" of any sort of the present contracts. The most critical was in the areas of benefits for the companies' proposal calling for a $2000 frontloaded deductible for each employee, plus a $250 deductible for an employee's dependents, and other emasculating features.

Atari faces suit

SANTA CLARA—Atari Inc., which fired 600 workers on short notice last year, can be held liable under the federal March 19 by a Santa Clara Superior Court judge.

Maria Carson and Rodolfo Villanueva, among the workers laid off February 22, filed a class action suit against Atari on August 15, 1983, charging that the company lied about job security and failed to pay back wages and punitive dam ages totaling $13 million suit.

At the March 19 hearing, Judge Peter S. Pastor denied Atari's motion to prove their charges against Atari dur ing a trial, the company will be found guilty of unfair labor practices, among others, up paying back wages and punitive dam ages totaling $13 million suit.

Last winter Atari told its laid off workers in the home computer division their jobs were being shifted from California to Tai wan and Hong Kong. The workers were laid off in January 1983, and they are now proving their charges against Atari dur ing a trial, the company will be found guilty of unfair labor practices, among others, up paying back wages and punitive dam ages totaling $13 million suit.

At the time of the layoffs, Glazers local 850 was fighting for the rights of its workers.

At a hearing to defend itself against unfair labor charges, Atari's counsel said the layoffs were planned a couple of years in advance.

Carr to lead Western Teamsters

LOS ANGELES—Teamsters International Trustee James L. Carr has been named director of the Western Conference of Teamsters, replacing Red A. Thompson, who was serving in the post unofficially.

Thompson was named director of the Teamsters International since January 1976. As head of the statewide Teamsters Local 950 in Alaska for nearly 30 years, Carr has repre sented more than 12,000 workers in virtu ally every industry, service and trade in the state.

Over the years since 1951, his first in Alaska, Carr helped develop excellent pen sion plans, comprehensive health and wel fare programs, prepaid legal plans, a Team ster Mail, training trust, strong political action program, recreation centers and some of the highest Teamster wages in the US.

ITU, Teamo leaders support merger

COLORADO SPRINGS—Officers of the International Typographical Union and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters have announced agreement on a merger plan, subject to ratification by both unions.

The agreement was reached in July by IF WPWP headquarters in Colorado Springs and the IUTeamster headquarters in Portland.

The officers pledged to "recommend and advise" their respective memberships for a merger affiliation during the mem bership referendum of the ITU and the ap proximate process of the ITU.

An ITU official said the new agreement would be submitted to the two merging org anizations "for approval as per their re spective constitutions.

 mysteriously: "We condemn Mr. Coors for what he said and he can't come back and retrace it to day. He said it." Brookins said. "I served in Zimbabwe in 1973 and Mr. Coors is right. Life was good for 250,000 whites — but it was very bad for 6 million blacks."

Meanwhile, the AFL-CIO Coors boycott is almost seven years old. The boycott tar gets Coors Beer, Coors Light, Herman Joseph's 1988 Golden Lager and George Kill to End the boycott.

David Sickler, national coordinator of the Coors Boycott, said the action was pro moted "by the Coors Company's flagrant disregard of its workers' civil rights which included insulting questions in lie detector tests, locker searches and other indigni ties."

Sickler also called attention to the fact that President Reagan is reportedly now considering another member of the Coors family, Joseph Coors, as a possible replace ment for White House Counselor Edwin Meese III, who has been nominated as US Attorney General by Reagan.

In 1982, Coors's share of the California market was 20%, compared to 45% in 1977. According to Beer Marketer's In dustry Intelligence, Coors captured only 16.1% of the California market during the first 31 months of 1983, but remained in fifth place among beer makers nation ally.

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Louisiana Pacific Corp., reported earn ings of $7 million in the fourth quarter of 1983 and $28 million for the year. Indicating that these profit figures are a source of revery around the various Union halls, West Coast Council Executive Secretary James Bledsoe said "It's just nuttin' that Loui siana's reported earnings conceal the fire sale going on at Louisiana Pacific."

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Portland area voters urged to ratify plans to upgrade port's Terminal 2
Local 4 bails out stranded seamen

VANCOUVER—It's not likely that 27 Greek seamen on the Ypatia Haloussi, stranded in this port from February 26 to March 14, will ever forget Local 4 and the local Seamen's Center. Nor will the ten Costa Ricans flown up from San Pedro to clean the hold.

And Local 4 President Don Birrer and Local 4 member Bruce Weir, will never forget the struggle to get the Costa Ricans aboard a plane for their home port in Central America.

The Odyssey aboard ship—eariald would be a better word—began when the Panamanian flag, Greek-owned bulk carrier under charter to the government of Pakistan, was boarded by US authorities. The sea workers, called Birrer and asked if Local 4 could do something to help.

The local could and did. Birrer called a labor attorney Frank Pozzi because the seamen planned to go to the INS because the Costa Ricans' visas were running out.

The local also bought several hundred dollars worth of groceries and took it down to them.

Quite unexpectedly they got the money back. Someone—possibly the government of Pakistan, speculate Birrer, which would not have to lose 50,000 or 60,000 tons of grain, put up $17,000 or $18,000 to pay off the seamen and the Costa Ricans, and the ship's agent, General Steam, brought it over the ship. The captain reimbursed us for the $325 we'd spent for groceries.

"General Steam sent a courier over to pick it up. Someone had delayed loading the grain, but it took only six days to get them (the Costa Ricans) out here of 100 tons of grain. They were not in order and TWA canceled the flight. Finally it was arranged for them to fly to New York, then to Eastern Airlines, and for Air Florida to fly them to Mi-

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The Ypatia Haloussi sailed March 14.

Labor anthem sung by another album

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—A new album featu-

Resident released from the hospi-
tal here after a stay for a stomach ailment, "symbolizes that ordinary people out of their own life experiences can capture in simple words and feelings the idea of struggle," Guy Carville.

A woman who speaks of her own life, as a foreign farm hand, as a mother who swears her son an orphan is a nation of workers who want to chop us up for chop suey?" Reesee sang the song in the academy award-winning documentary film. "Harlan County, USA."

"Which Side Are You On," sung by 84-

"Our union constitution has rules forbid-

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"Which Side Are You On," sung by 84-year-old Florence Reece who wrote it. It's not likely that 27 Greek seamen on the Ypatia Haloussi, stranded in this port from February 26 to March 14, will ever forget Local 4 and the local Seamen's Center. Nor will the ten Costa Ricans flown up from San Pedro to clean the hold.

And Local 4 President Don Birrer and Local 4 member Bruce Weir, will never forget the struggle to get the Costa Ricans aboard a plane for their home port in Central America.

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The nation is hearing more these days of corpora-
tions demanding union give-backs, the theory being
that if we allow business to take the business of
union wages, hours and conditions of employment
away from the workers, there will be less to
complain about. Such arrogance should surprise
only the innocent, and confused and who accept the myths of private enter-
prise.
It is the corporate rulers who own and thereby con-
trol the American system, and it is they who own the means of production from toys
to whiskey to space craft.

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Unions have a right to exist and to do their job. They are a vital part of the fabric of American life, representing the interests of workers and advocating for fair labor practices. However, it's important to note that the union movement is not monolithic, and there are differences in perspective and approach among union members and leaders. It's crucial to understand these nuances to make informed decisions and support policies that best represent the needs and interests of workers.