In San Francisco

Labor joins Rev. King celebration

SAN FRANCISCO— The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.—a crusader for equality and apostle of non-violence—was a true hero. While most Americans know that he died, after all, while lending his support to striking Memphis sanitation workers in 1968. Next month, a united San Francisco Bay Area labor movement is joining the rest of the community in a week-long celebration of the first observance of Rev. King's birthday as a national holiday.

Theme of the AFL-CIO union participation will be "America Honors an American Hero." While most Americans know that Rev. King was killed on April 4, 1968, few understand that he was there to lead a non-violent demonstration of sanitation workers, members of AFSCME Local 1173, demanding a decent contract with the city of Memphis.

Government, business, labor, the schools, and all major religious groups will sponsor their own observances during the week of January 15-20, culminating in a massive, united march up Market Street on Monday, January 20. Over 100,000 participants are expected.

Marchers will assemble at 2nd and Market at 10 a.m. and start the march at 11 a.m. sharp. A rally at Civic Center will begin at 1 p.m.

LABOR BREAKFAST

As labor's part of this observance, the ILWU, Teamsters and AFL-CIO are sponsoring a trade union breakfast on Wednesday, January 15. A speaker of national stature will be on hand. The event will take place at the San Francisco Masonic Auditorium, 1111 California Street between Mason and Taylor, at 8 a.m.

Tickets are $15 individually, but the committee is hoping that each local will, if at all possible, purchase a table for ten, at a cost of $150. Proceeds will go to a Martin Luther King, Jr., Scholarship Fund, to be administered by the San Francisco labor movement.

Chairman of the King Birthday Observation Committee is Cecil Williams of Glide Memorial Church. On the executive committee are ILWU International President Matsunage, and Reps. Danny Akaka and Cec Heftel who made this issue a top priority.

Kerr clericals

see page 3

Chile dockers

see page 7

Sugar aid bill passes both houses

WASHINGTON, DC—Following the strong lead of the House Representatives, the US Senate has defeated an effort by the big industrial sugar users to gut the US sugar programs.

The Senate vote, which came last month on a motion to table the users' floor amendment, upheld the program by a thumping majority of 60 to 32. It is guaranteed that the domestic industry will continue to receive a minimum loan support of $1.8 a pound, unless the entire farm bill is vetoed by President Reagan, which is now highly unlikely.

At presstime, the House-Senate conference agreement on a 1985 farm bill, which contains the program, is about to go to the floor of each house. Passage is practically certain.

Of the 10 Senators from ILWU states, seven voted right on sugar. Senators Slade Gorton (a co-sponsor of the users' amendment) and Dan Evans of Washington, and Bob Packwood of Oregon, voted wrong.

A matter of life and death

"The nation's labor law no longer protects workers' rights to organize into unions, and to engage in collective bargaining. It has become a millstone around our neck.

"Our inability to get neutral and fair enforcement has become a matter of life and death for us. We need to develop a long-term perspective on our relationship to this fundamental piece of legislation."

“What are we going to do to defend ourselves?”

See President's Report, page 5
Harry Bridges dinner

Tickets are now on sale for the Harry Bridges Testimonial Dinner: "A Celebration of A Life, A Movement, An Epoch," sponsored by the Southern California Labor for Social Studies and Research, to be held Sunday, February 9, 1986 at the Pacific Ballroom, Los Angeles Hilton Hotel, 930 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, beginning with a no-host at 5 PM. Ronnie Gilbert will be the featured entertainment. Tickets are on sale at the Library, 610 S. Vermont Avenue, LA, CA 90007, (213) 704-9503 and cost $50 a piece; a table costs $500 and seats 10.

The Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research was founded in 1963 by Emil Poddubiak, one of the nation's largest collections on 20th Century social movements, including a huge Harry Bridges collection.

Goldblatt memorial

The National Park Service "has agreed to put in place a modest reminder in memory of Louis Goldblatt, his life and work" and ILWU locals were asked to help pay for the reminder, according to a recent letter from International Secretary-Treasurer Harry Bridges.

The reminder will consist of two benches by the lee-side wall of Fort Point here, on which a bronze plaque will carry the following inscription: "In memory of Louis Goldblatt, 1912-1982, Manager of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union,." His love of life and his life to advancing the cause of working men and women, Congresswoman Sala Burton was instrumental in getting Park Service authorization to establish the reminder.

"The cost of the project is approxi mately $500 per bench, with the International authorized to contribute $500," McCain wrote. "This letter is written to give the locals an option to make a small donation ($20-$30) to help pay for the benches and park upkeep."

More poor children

The number of American children living in poverty totaled 13.8 million in 1983, soaring 52% in the last decade and reaching the highest level since the mid-1960s, a congressional study showed recently. More than one child in five is living in poverty, according to the study conducted by the non-partisan Congressional Research Service and the Congressional Budget Office. Given the poverty and the study conducted by the non-partisan Congressional Research Service and the Congressional Budget Office. Given the poverty and the two-tier wage structures show little or no shortening. A recent survey by two UCLA professors reveals that two tier systems were negotiated in about 9% of union contracts in the first nine months of 1985, little changed from 8% in 1984, but up considerably from the 3% reported in all of 1983.

South organizes

In the south, through the first ten months of 1985, AFL-CIO-affiliated unions won 25 elections out of 323 efforts to win bargaining rights for 4,000 workers. Of the other elections, 39 are in litigation. Gains were chalked up by the ILWU, Steelworkers, Carpenters, Teamsters, and Electrical Workers. Electrical Workers and Food and Commercial Workers.

November 13-14 sessions

Following is the full text of two statements of policy passed by the ILWU International Executive Board at its San Francisco meeting, November 13-14.

Bill Chester

ILWU Vice-President Emeritus Bill Chester, who died on November 3, 1985, at the age of 71, was part of the generation of ILWU leaders who helped spread union consciousness throughout the country. He was a pioneer in the fight against racism within the trade union movement and in the community at large. His civic leadership was a credit to the ILWU and to all of labor. Bill Chester was appointed Northern California Regional Director in 1960 after ten years of service to the union as a member of bargainer's Local 22 and longshore Local 10. He was during those years, a member of the Local 10 executive board and a board of trustees, and of the Hay Area Longshoremen's Memorial Association. He served on many such committees and organizations, in addition to the 1946 and 1948 strike committees.

During those years he emerged as an important spokesman, organizer, strategist, and as a link between the ILWU and unions and community organizations. He continued these activities on a broader scale, after his election as Vice-President-Assistant to the President at the 1969 ILWU International Convention.

He was involved in the negotiation of scores of contracts, including West Coast, Canadian and Hawaii longshore, dried fruit, pineapple, cotton compress, waterfront watchmen, shipholders, and many other agreements throughout the ILWU's jurisdiction. His community service was prodigious. He fought for fair housing and fair employment practices for all people. He fought for the freedom for a large number of southern blacks, and Jim Crow. He was an active fundraiser on behalf of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Chester also served the community as a member of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, as a member and chairman of the BART board of directors, on the Airports Commission, and on a wide variety of civic organizations.

The end of his term of the ILWU and of many other unions enjoy a better life because of Bill's leadership to the labor movement. His civic leadership was a model of how labor's strength can be used to benefit the entire community. We are grateful that so much of his enormous energy was expended on behalf of our union, and extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and many friends.

Geneva Summit

It is in the national interest of both the US and the USSR to deescalate every nuclear tension. This deescala tion, the testing and production of nuclear weapons, the technological arms race, interventions into the affairs of other nations, as well as provocative and antagonistic acts of all kinds. Any other course leads toward certain declines. By making his Strategic Defense Initiative (Star Wars) program non-negotiable, President Reagan may have effectively closed the door to real progress on arms control.

Failure at the summit, will strengthen those forces on both sides who oppose disarmament and arms control, and who stand to gain from further increases in military spending and international tensions. Whatever the outcome at Geneva therefore, the ILWU will continue to support a bilateral, verifiable nuclear freeze, reduced in military significance, and other initiatives to reduce the intolerable burdens of the arms race.

We oppose, in particular, the staggering- expensive and destabilizing Star Wars research and testing program, which violates existing anti-ballistic missile treaties and which is respectable only as part of an aggressive, first-strike strategy.

OSHA crippled as job injuries rise

(They following editorial was published in a recent edition of the New York Times.)

Work accidents for the big increase in job related injuries and illnesses recently reported by the Labor Department. The Reagan administration's hostility to health and safety regulation, says the AFL-CIO. Increased business activity and employment says a Congressional Office of Technology Assessment. The answer almost surely is both, but while the latter is inseparable, the former is inexorable.

When more people are working, obviously more people are risking job related health problems. Public regulation can help but the administration wants neither to regulate nor help.

A CIPHER

The regulator is supposed to be the Occupational Safety and Health Administrator. Created in 1971 to reduce job illnesses and injuries, OSHA has never been a regulatory paragon. Under this administration, however, it has become less a thorn in the administration's side, after his election as Vice-President-Assistant to the President at the 1969 ILWU International Convention.

He was involved in the negotiation of scores of contracts, including West Coast, Canadian and Hawaii longshore, dried fruit, pineapple, cotton compress, waterfront watchmen, shipholders, and many other agreements throughout the ILWU's jurisdiction. His community service was prodigious. He fought for fair housing and fair employment practices for all people. He fought for the freedom for a large number of southern blacks, and Jim Crow. He was an active fundraiser on behalf of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

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First ILWU pact brings Kerr clericals up to scale

LONG BEACH—The 41 clerical workers at Kerr Steamship have unanimously ratified a first-time ILWU Local 63 agreement, which, over the next seven months, will bring their wages, benefits and conditions in line with other ILWU maritime office workers in the Harbor Area.

The agreement, the second in the negotiations for a new "master" agreement, covers clerical work, spelling out duties, procedures, job titles and job descriptions. It also includes standard language on union security, arbitration procedure, grievance procedure, seniority and scope of work. All classifications and job descriptions are clearly spelled out.

Wages at Kerr averaged 87 per hour prior to negotiations. Under the new agreement they will increase from a low of $13.36 per hour to $15.81. Half of the employees will receive increases of 100% or better. Retroactive—September 6, 1986, the day of the ILWU Local 63 election—wages will average $87 per employee.

The agreement provides for continuation of the company's current medical, life and long-term disability insurance for employees and their dependents. Employee contributions will continue without change; employees may elect to contribute to the company medical plan at their own expense. The company has agreed to initiate a pension plan.

The agreement also provides standard eleven holidays plus two floaters, improved vacations, sick leave, funeral leave, and jury duty.

TOUGH ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN

The agreement was negotiated soon after Kerr dropped its objections to the union's issues, has considerably improved the situation.

24-18 victory in the NLRB election held November 8. But this victory came only after an expensive employer campaign—quarterbacked by the notorious San Francisco-based firm of Littler, Mendelson, Fastich and Fity—failed to deceive and intimidate employees into voting "no union." (See Dispatcher, October 11, 1985.)

The Kerr campaign—involving pro-corporal delay at the NLRB, followed by cappulative promises, promises of promotions and improvements—left the union unimpressed, disillusioned and cynical—"cost us a few votes among some of the new people," according to Southern Area Vice-President Rudy Rubio, who discussed organizing strategies for the '80s, International Secretary-Treasurer Curtis McClain, who discussed problems in bargaining, as well as business agents, stewards and, for the first time, a number of employer representatives. 

Many find wages increased by 100%
LOS ANGELES—The month-long supermarket strike involving more than 20,000 Teamsters and customers reflects a decision by employers to “change the relationship and the balance of power” in the huge Southern California grocery business, observers believe.

The workers are battling seven profitable chains who are typically trying to cut wages and in some cases, hours. But bread-and-butter issues are not the crux of this struggle. Instead it’s the ‘chains’ demands that unions loosen work rules and allow the stores more flexibility when they open new facilities.

“These employers know what’s happening in other parts of the country and they’re patterning their demands after what happened largely in the midwest, where we were solidly organized, and where the economies went to hell,” said Jerry Menapace, director of retailing for United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), that just isn’t the case.”

“When the dust settles in this the first industrywide shutdown since 1978, the country’s largest grocery market—comprising Los Angeles and Orange Counties—will surely have reached a new stage in the management-labor relations.

“You’re trying to gain an intent by the employers to change the relationship and balance of power,” said Daniel Mitchell, director of the UCLA Institute of Industrial Relations. “It’s not business as usual.”

STRIKE/LOCKOUT

The strike first halted business as usual at the Vons chain on November 5 after deadlocked negotiations. Management had demanded that UFCW misoquicts accept pay cuts, and a new classification (‘meat clerk’) who would be hired at less than half current wages under a two-tier structure.

UFCW set up picket lines, but six other chains—Albertson’s, Alpha Beta, Hughes, Lucky, Ralphs and Safeway—locked out their butchers and Teamsters for the honor of the line. The Teamsters also rejected a proposal to eliminate the requirement that the unions represent workers hired at newly opened stores and warehouses.

All told, the strike/lockout affects about 12,250 stores—12,000 Teamsters and 100 from other unions and 109,000 workers, ranging from Bakersfield to the Mexican border.

The chains have complained they face stiff competition from convenience drug stores which also sell groceries. But they are all earning healthy profits — Vons, $23.6 million; Safeway, $185 million; Ralphs, $79.7 million and Alpha Beta, $185.5 million.

The nation’s labor law has become a minefield around our neck. The law no longer protects workers’ rights to organize into unions of their choice, and to bargain collectively over their wages, benefits and working conditions. In fact, it gets in the way.

Since a majority of Roanag appointees took over in 1981, the NLRB has been distorted by one blatantly pro-management employee decision after another. Labor’s strength has been boosted by consistently pro-management procedures used to render decisions in a timely manner—most of the time by the NLRB’s own board, because the employers’ ability to render decisions in a timely manner is compromised. Teamsters for Honoring the Board’s Wheel says it appears the board is more interested in the board’s bureaucratic wheels to turn when their jobs, and their family’s income is at stake.

Sadly, we have come to the point where the unions must be alert and aggressive. No matter what happenings in other parts of the country and they’re patterning their demands after what happened largely in the midwest, where we were solidly organized, and where the economies went to hell,” said Jerry Menapace, director of retailing for United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), that just isn’t the case.”

“Far from the jungle of jungle,” said a union official, “this is like so many other strikes, a war of attrition. The law is like the foundation of the government. It is the base of the structure. The union is the roof.”

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New Directions set at AFL-CIO meet

ANACHEIM—Although delegates to last month’s 118th AFL-CIO Conven- tion faced their stiffest debate over the federation’s ‘Central American policy, they also addressed many other issues having to do with the state of the US labor movement, and of the US economy.

Organizations of the national economy and the federal budget deficit, occupational safety and health, workers compensation, unemployment insurance and pensions, social security and education were among the many subjects on the agenda.

A key decision, which will hopefully add to labor’s political strength, was to require that all AFL-CIO affiliates join and therefore financially support the state labor federations, which oversee political and legislative work.

CENTRAL AMERICA COMPROMISE

The most spirited debate, however, took place between delegates favoring military support of the contras in Nicaragua and those seeking condemnation of US-backed rebels seeking to overthrow the Sandinista Government.

The heart of the eventual compromise was the addition of a reference to Nicaragua in a prospectus of “Latin American solidarity” that a negotiated settlement, rather than a military victory holds the best hope in El Salvador. The new language calls for such negotiated settlements—rather than military action—often to conflicts in both El Salvador.

US labor law is to prompt unions must get smart

Just enough to make a fair fight possible. The Wagner Act outlawed low wages and dirty practices, on both sides. It established the National Labor Relations Board, with which we are still living. Taft-Hartley banned the secondary boycott, a powerful weapon in organizing and bargaining. It permitted states to enact “right-to-work” laws. It gave the government extraordinary powers to engage in strikebreaking—powers which have been used against the ILWU more than once. It forced union officials to sign a “non-communist affidavit”—and while this section of the law has long since been ruled unconstitutional, it did its damage, provoking destructive splits within the labor movement.

These problems, severe as they were, were softened by the high quality of people who had agreed to the Taft-Hartley amendments, with which we are living. Taft-Hartley banned the secondary boycott, a powerful weapon in organizing and bargaining. It permitted states to enact “right-to-work” laws. It gave the government extraordinary powers to engage in strikebreaking—powers which have been used against the ILWU more than once. It forced union officials to sign a “non-communist affidavit”—and while this section of the law has long since been ruled unconstitutional, it did its damage, provoking destructive splits within the labor movement.

The Act, sponsored by Sen. Robert F. Wagner of New York, and therefore sometimes called the Wagner Act, was passed in 1935. It is patterned after a method of resolving labor disputes. In the absence of a bargaining agreement, employers had the potential of becoming a small-scale civil war. Passage of the Wagner Act was preceded by years of turmoil, culminating in 1934 in a series of bitter and often violent “lockouts” across the west coast market. This strike which gave birth to the ILWU.

Employers wanted to retain the old system, with wages regulated by the labor market, the law of supply and demand. They expected to find, in place of the law, a “negerable conditions and violent strikebreaking—with the assistance of local police, state militia and even federal troops.”

There were those who argued for the opposite—one-third—full rights given to the labor market, and new legislation, that would give the government extraordinary powers to engage in strikebreaking—powers which have been used against the ILWU more than once. It forced union officials to sign a “non-communist affidavit”—and while this section of the law has long since been ruled unconstitutional, it did its damage, provoking destructive splits within the labor movement.

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example, permitted employers to interro-
gate workers about union affairs, made it
easier for employers to keep workers who
desire union representation from talking to
their colleagues, and given employers
greater latitude to fire employees who assert
their rights, who protest hazardous
conditions, file for workers com-
penation or seek back wages.
Other decisions have narrowed the
ability of employees to assert their rights, who protest hazardous
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President's Report
by Jim Herman

Not all of our problems are the Labor Board's fault. The reality of the
world will not solve the problems of
chronic massive unemployment, and the
de-linquent or brainless strike-breaker from
firing them easier. Nor can we use the Board as a
keystone for reform. It can hardly be used as a
keystone for reform.

Let's not kid ourselves. Both repeat
and new unions will get derailed on the
political strength, which about none of us
should have any trouble. The shockingly low
percentages of us—ILWU, Teamsters, AFL-
CIO—are registered to vote. Too many of us
had vested interests in the man who appointed the cur-
rent Labor Board. We want to do something about that. Our sur-
renormality have very little impact on us. But for
now we simply cannot expect to accomplish
anything as major or as controversial as labor law reform.
The other approach is to recognize the realities and design an organizing
strategy to fit them.

The BOTTOM LINE
The bottom line is that workers are scared. They're scared of losing their jobs
and their homes. They're scared that their employer will leave town or close up.
They're scared that their skills may become obsolete. They're scared that they may
be used to organize a union who, under the prevailing circumstances, can stop an
employer from playing on those fears, and cannot even guarantee their jobs if they are
fired during an organizing campaign.
We have to develop an approach to organ-
izing that takes those fears into considera-
tion. We must be more sophisticated in
targeting the employee groups which are most
likely to vote union. We have got to
pick the targets where we have a fair chance of
winning in industries where we have a
proven record, and where we can mobilize the
strongest support.

While such a strategy may result in our
participation in fewer organizing cam-
paigns and fewer elections, it may be a path of
easier road than the traditional scatter-shot
approach.

For example, our successes in recent elec-
tions in the medical care industry in Hawaii,
Alaska, and Northern California were based
on a relatively solid body of research that
established an innovative campaign
strategy and strong community support.
Our recent success among clerical workers at
KAM Steamer in the Los Angeles Harbor Area—in the face of a skillful company cam-
paign quarterly by a notorious anti-
unions consulting firm—resulted in a vote on
our strong position on the waterfront crisis.

Consequently, we've had some victories. Some of our campaigns have still tied up in
vagaries of the Labor Board. But we are
making some progress against the tide. We are
showing that if we have a few things going our way, particularly if we have a
unified approach to a given project, we can take
on even the worst of the union-busters and
unions, and give a good account of ourselves.

We need as well to address the longer-
term issues, which involves a political
reawakening of the trade union movement.
We have won some battles and gotten a fair
enforcement of the law as it is now, standing
by our heads up or down. We can no longer
once again demonstrate the political
strength which got the National Labor
Relations Board to act in the first place.
Those two approaches, it seems to me, are
two sides of the same coin, the same
basis of our approach to the problems posed
by the distortion and collapse of the law.

Working conditions, file for workers com-
penation or seek back wages.

President's Report
by Jim Herman

Day-to-Day Discrimination
This change on top has hit hard at the
regional offices where the fate of the
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by the distortion and collapse of the law.
Local 47 helps homeless

OLYMPIA—Scores of Thurston County residents were homeless beds again instead of on the floor, thanks to the work of Friend, a group of women who have been Longshoremen and the Army National Guard.

"Because there is more work on the waterfront this year and because of state of-ice facilities, we had no idea how bad the unemployment situation really was in this area," said President of Local 47 told The Dispatcher.

There are 650 families in Thurston Coun-
ty who are indigent, according to the organization.

More than 120 mattresses and box springs were handed out October 31 to needy families, many with children. The beds, from Port Lewis and the Naval Air Station on Whidbey Island, were purchased with profits from the Christmas Children's Shoe Sock-

The Port of Olympia opened up a dockside warehouse for storage. Eight hundred used a fork lift to move stacks of mattresses from one side of the cavernous building to the other.

Ten members of his local were in-

volved in the Beds for the Needy project, as were volunteers from the National Guard Service Battalion in Centralia.

Eickman reappointed to SF Park and Rec board

SAN FRANCISCO—Former Local 6 President Keith Eickman has been re-appointed to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Commission. Eickman has held the position since he was first appointed by then-Mayor George Moscone in 1977.

Eickman said he would continue to "try to represent the views of the membership general, and of the ILWU in particular."

Gladys Hoover, auxiliary leader

ROQUIAM—Gladys Hoover, Treasurer of the ILWU Federated Auxiliary for 20 years, was among those who helped organize the Seattle Hotel at the end of each quarter. The longer an employee maintains a record of accident-free job performance, the more valuable the prizes become. Presenting the check to Barnes is Ronald D. Widdows, Seattle port manager for Eagle Marine Services, Ltd., APL's stevedoring subsidiary. Also present at a recent awards ceremony were: (1) to Dennis Stein, safety manager, Pacific Maritime Association; Mel Donaldson, representing ILWU Local 19 Safety Committee, Ken Gissberg, President, Local 19; and Bob Rogers, Local 19 Safety Committee.

Dockers, Widows on Pension List

SAN FRANCISCO—Following is the December, 1985 listing of dockworkers retired under various ILWU-PMA plans:


Local 19, Seattle: Vladimir Drufoff, Henry D. Moore, Franka W. West, Local 21, Longview; Jack R. Berglund, Rex E. Hendrickson, Edgar E. Rackiff, Local 24, Aberdeen: Ernest Bartlett, Local 27, Portland: Lasley: Walter N. Schrader; Local 94, Portland: D. M. Perez (Anthony, Local 9); Jean Parkes (Bud, Local 10); Lola V. Sainsbury (William, Local 10); Wava J. Tory (William, Local 10); Wava J. Tory (William, Local 19); Wava J. Tory (William, Local 19); Wava J. Tory (William, Local 19); Wava J. Tory (William, Local 19).

The widows are: Myrtle Allen (Rex, Local 8), Lola V. Sainsbury (Walter, Local 34); Leonore Taylor (Bud, Local 34); Annie Barrett (Booker, Local 34); Ivan Marie Dzutsoff (Tony, Local 19); Wava J. Tory (William, Local 19); Wava J. Tory (William, Local 19); Wava J. Tory (William, Local 19).

Names in brackets are deceased husbands.

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ROQUIAM—Gladys Hoover, Treasurer of the ILWU Federated Auxiliary for 20 years, was among those who helped organize a dockside warehouse for storage. Eight hundred used a fork lift to move stacks of mattresses from one side of the cavernous building to the other.

Ten members of his local were involved in the Beds for the Needy project, as were volunteers from the National Guard Service Battalion in Centralia.

Eickman reappointed to SF Park and Rec board

SAN FRANCISCO—Former Local 6 President Keith Eickman has been re-appointed to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Commission. Eickman has held the position since he was first appointed by then-Mayor George Moscone in 1977.

Eickman said he would continue to "try to represent the views of the membership general, and of the ILWU in particular."

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**Plant closure bill falls short**

WASHINGTON, DC—By a margin of only five votes, the House defeated a bill to provide some protection for workers who lose their jobs due to plant shutdowns. The vote, 208 to 203, showed how little support labor really enjoys among Democ- cratic members of Congress from the South. While 182 Democratic representatives supported the bill—54 mostly from the South — joined the Republicans to oppose it. Only 20 Republi- can bills, including Don Young of Alaska, voted in favor of the measure.

**RECOGNIZING**

The defeat was all the more disappointing because the bill had been modified to attract additional support. In its original form, it would have required all employers who permanently lay off or send workers to pre-notify them at least 90 days in ad- vance. In its modified form, the employer would also have had to consult with the union over the reasons for the shut-down announcement.

When the bill reached the floor, however, anti-labor House members succeeded in deleting the consultation requirement by a vote of 289 to 129. Opponents had also prepared over 100 amendments to prevent the bill from coming to a final vote.

Recognizing that additional votes would have to be found to sustain the bill, labor supporters allowed a small increase in the minimum size of layoffs that would be covered. They had already agreed to allow the bill’s enforcement leverage to workers’ damage suits back pay in order to avoid the layoff criterion as it affected part-time workers. These changes were confined in an amendment introduced by Rep. Les AuCoin, vote of 211 to 201. Another weakening amendment, which was key for votes, was then defeated by a narrow margin.

Shots had already been fired on final passage, however, the bill went down.

**HOW OUR GUYS VOTED**

In the final vote, 183 Democrats supported the bill’s opponents voted right. Reps. Les AuCoin and Ron Wormser from Detroit, usually friends of labor, voted wrong. Rep. Doug Bosch of California voted wrong on the consultation requirement. Rep. Les AuCoin, Rep. Gus Hawkins, Vernel Dymally, and George Brown were key for votes. This was particularly unfortunate, since the votes of these and other few labor-abor senators could have reversed the narrow margin on final passage.

The bill should be a good lesson to all of us,” said ILWU President Johnnie Kouchi, adding, “We unions have gotten used to working with our em- ployers on legislative issues concerning trade and worker rights, but worker rights is all we can afford to look the other way, - said In- deed, many of them said they’d prefer not to deal with it. Only Reagan and Dan Rostenkow-ski finally realized that his bill would lose if it kept either of these bad pro- visions.

The Chamber of Commerce pulled out all the stops to beat this bill, even though pre-notification of losing your job is the most moderate idea imaginable. They twisted the truth and they put the lie on House members — just like they do when we try to organize new shops. "In other words, we have our political action to work for us and we’ll better get on with it," said the chairman.

**Local 24, Aberdeen**

Local 24, ILWU, Aberdeen, Washington is holding final elections this month for the offices of president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, five dispatchers, and three committeeemen. Nominations close December 12.

**Local 98, Seattle**

Ship and Dock Foreman here have elected the following officers for the coming year: President, Don Miniken; vice-president, David Woock; recording secretary, Harold Hokanson; secretary-treasurer-dispatcher, Don Halgren; relief dispatcher, Ray Gore; labor relations committeeman (3-year term), Ron Lucas.

Outport vice presidents are: Don Gould and Dennis McSweeney, newly-elected; Vic Manenica, Don Grasberg, Howard Fry and Jim Root (reelected).

**Local 4, Vancouver**

The following officials have been elected for the coming year by members of Local 4: Don Lynch financial secretary, Leland Anderson. The three members of the labor relations committee are Richard Ran- core, Richard Conklin and Gerry Johnston. Lance Lynch and Robert McElraths are members of the altern- ate dispatch. Jim Forbes is on the Puget Sound District Council. Carson deputies are Gerry Johnston and Jim Forbes; Rich Lynch, Don Bair and Jim Peterson are on the executive board. Paul Scott is welfare officer. Pete Van Proeyen and Richard Boyer are the guards.

**Local 142, Hawaii**

Following are the results of this month’s election of officers by members of ILWU Local 142, Hawaii. The local’s first triennial statewide ballot was for terms of office run- ning from January 1, 1986 to January 1, 1989. The election filled 22 fulltime and 31 non- fulltime positions, including local executive offices, district, state, trusties, business agents, International convention delegates, and local executive board members.

Among those elected were the following: President, Eddie Lapa; Vice-President, Fred Paulino; Secretary-Treasurer, Gyu Fujimura.

All four division directors were re-elected: Yoshiko Takanime, Hawaii; John Arutunian, Los Angeles; Jose Corpuz, Ohau; and Kauai, Alfred Castillo. Division trustees will be Marcelino Realina, Hawaii; Claro Romeros, J., Mau; Dave Mori, Oahu; and Frank DeCosta, Kauai.

The U.S. agents are: Hawaii—William Amaru, Watari Kswamato, Eusebio “Bobo” Lapenia, and Akira Omono; Maui—Latricia Camara; Joseph Franco, Sr., William Kenneson and Roger Tadool; Oahu—Denny Apostadzyn, Norman Asun- tia, Hubert Kanaha, Takeshi “Taku” Kouchi, Alfred Mattson; Kauai—Clayton Dela Cruz and Bobby Girard.

**A chance for real tax reform**

by MIKE LEWIS

ILWU Washington Representative

WASHINGTON, DC—Why are Reagan and the Republican Congress’ tax cut plans such a threat to our economy? The answer is: Because the House Ways and Means Committee has neglected something totally unexpected: tax reform.

For decades, the Committee has been the happy hunting ground for loophole-hungry business lobbyists. But last month it actually followed through on taxing away loopholes that everyone pay their fair share of taxes. The Committee bill that House Republi- cans at last month is blocking from reach- ing the floor reverses almost all the 1981 Reagan giveaways to corporations.

The bottom line of all the changes is that the corporate tax bill would increase from 13% to 15% by 1990. This would be a long step in the right direc- tion; total corporate tax revenues paid 23%.

The bill also substitutes four basic tax rate cuts for the current system of tax cuts on capital gains; increases personal exemp- tions and standard deductions; and re- moves more than $5 million poor families and individuals from the tax rolls. Most work- ing families would get at least a moderate tax reduction.

What made all this happen? A Rio Grande מקור: two reasons. First, Reagan thought he could demagogue tax reform the way he had his tax cut proposal. He started a ball rolling on the idea of fairness, and we have something almost as good. The bill’s enforcement leverage to workers’ damage suits for back pay, and to change the bill’s revenue to workers’ freedom to pre-notify them at least 90 days in ad- vance. In its modified form, the employer would also have had to consult with the union over the reasons for the shut-down announcement.

When the bill reached the floor, however, anti-labor House members succeeded in deleting the consultation requirement by a vote of 289 to 129. Opponents had also prepared over 100 amendments to prevent the bill from coming to a final vote.

Recognizing that additional votes would have to be found to sustain the bill, labor supporters allowed a small increase in the minimum size of layoffs that would be covered. They had already agreed to allow the bill’s enforcement leverage to workers’ damage suits back pay in order to avoid the layoff criterion as it affected part-time workers. These changes were confined in an amendment introduced by Rep. Les AuCoin, vote of 211 to 201. Another weakening amendment, which was key for votes, was then defeated by a narrow margin.

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Senior Power Day calls for action

PORTLAND—A Senior Power Day Conference, the first of its kind ever held here, drew 135 people to the Longshore Hall November 16. It was sponsored by the Oregon Council of Senior Citizens and the ILWU's Columbia River District Pensioners. It hoped that an international union escort could provide safety for the striking workers.

DILOGO SI, GUERRA NO

A major theme of the FENASTRAS Congress was the need for unity, coordination, and political action. The 48% unemployment, a 50% inflation rate, and poverty visibility touched the lives of all. The 50% of all the resources put into the war against the rebel guerrillas would be put into rebuilding the economy, and that the labor movement has a role to play in ending the war.

The project, entitled "From the Bottom Up," has received a $10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency. Over the past four years, the project staff to complete the process of putting the interviews and other materials into publishable form.

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Work on the project continues to be under the supervision of Larry Wellman. Labor historian Harvey R. Goldberg and sociologist Jane J. Wellman serve as co-directors.

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New funding for ILWU history

SAN FRANCISCO—The ILWU Oral History Project has received a $10,000 grant from the San Francisco-based Skaggs Foundation to continue its work of documenting and publishing the experiences of rank and file union activists and leaders over the last 50 years. The Skaggs grant will be matched by another $10,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The project, entitled "From the Bottom Up," is producing a series of grassroots histories of a number of ILWU locals, focusing on the union's origins and early struggles, its role in the community and the job, the history of various ethnic groups organizing, and the development and leadership of local leadership.

INTERVIEWS COMPLETED

Supported by the Institute for the Study of Social Change, at the University of California, Berkeley, the project was first funded in 1981 by the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency. Over 200 active and retired members have, since that time, been interviewed in depth. The project staff has also collected a large amount of material from the International and local archives, private collections, newspapers and other sources.

The $40,000 in new funding will permit the project staff to complete the project, putting the interviews and other materials into publishable form.

Co-directors of the project are ILWU Information Director Dan Inouye and Professor of History Cecilia Wellman. Labor historian Harvey Goldberg will serve as research director.

Project work on the project continues to be under the supervision of International Secretary-Treasurer Kurt McClearn.