Dear ILWU member

You contributions to the ILWU Political Action Fund over the years have paid enormous dividends. They put you in the driver's seat; they've protected your fringe benefits, your job, your family's security.

The fund has been used consistently to support candidates for federal elective office who have been willing to support important ILWU policies and programs. It has been used to help friends of labor who have been put in the pinball machine of the corporate political action committees. Contributions from the fund do not buy votes. But they assure that our lobbyists will be listened to seriously, that our letters will be read, that our arguments will be considered.

The Fund has paid off, time and time again. It helped us defeat the powerful drive by the insurance companies and stevedores a few years ago to weaken the Longshore and Harbor Workers Compensation Act.

It helped us win support for the US sugar industry, and saved the jobs of 8,000 sugar workers in Hawaii and on the mainland.

It is in part responsible for our continued success in lobbying against restrictions on log exports, against efforts to tax employer-paid health and welfare premiums, against amendments to the Hobbs Act which would have turned routine picket line activity into a federal crimes.

This year, your continued contributions are more important than ever before. Control of the Senate is up for grabs. Of the 34 seats up for election, 22 are occupied by Republicans, many of them among the worst of those who were carried into office on President Reagan's coattails in 1980. Many of them are vulnerable. A net change of four seats will turn the Senate around.

There are some key races in ILWU areas where we can have a real impact. California Senator Alan Cranston is a prime Republican target. He has been a consistent friend of the ILWU and a competent, hard-working public servant. He must be defended by all of us, no matter where we live.

In the State of Washington, former Congressman Brock Adams is challenging incumbent Slade Gorton, a hard-line member of the Reagan class of 1980 who was particularly hostile to our effort to save sugar jobs. He can be beaten. In Hawaii, our friend Dan Inouye is safe enough, but a big victory would greatly invigorate the labor-community alliance which has played such a great role in that State's history.

While the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives seems safe, we have an obligation to proven friends who may be facing serious challenges, and to demonstrate continued support for people who have helped us in the past.

If we can do this, we have a real chance to win some of the things we desperately need—a thorough overhaul of the National Labor Relations Act, for example, to insure the survival of a vital trade union movement. We can take away the rubber stamp which President Reagan enjoys in the Senate. We can sidetrack the worst of his judicial appointments.

The ILWU Political Action Fund has clearly delivered for members of this union, thanks to the voluntary contributions of active members and pensioners. But we cannot maintain this high profile without continued support.

Don't put it off. With your help we can take an important step in the long road back. Please send as large a contribution as possible to the ILWU Political Action Fund 111 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

Thank you for your continued support.

President's report, p.2

Nicaragua

President's report, p.2

Borax contract

see page 3

ILWU-PMA extend CFS supplements

SAN FRANCISCO—The ILWU and the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) reached agreement July 12 to amend and renew the procedures to implement the 1970 and 1973 Container Freight Stations Supplements, as it pertains to containers owned or leased by members of the PMA.

Enforcement of the CFS Supplements began on March 24, under procedures agreed to by the ILWU and the PMA, after the National Labor Relations Board had upheld their legality in a ruling handed down in January.

The agreement, as amended, expires July 1, 1987. Amendments cover the procedure for payment of the container penalty; provisions for the availability of records and documentation prior to the filing of a grievance, and clarification of the NVOC exemption when the NVOC is owned or controlled by the vessel operating carrier.

The text of the revised memorandum will be mailed to each local.

The ILWU negotiating committee included Larry Wing, longshore Local 10, San Francisco; Wayne Robbins, longshore Local 13, Wilmington; Larry Clark, clerks Local 40, Portland; Jack Alexander, longshore Local 19, Seattle; Frank Bilicci, clerks Local 14, San Francisco; Joe Amato, foremen’s Local 91, San Francisco; and Jim Spinosa, clerks Local 63, Wilmington. It also included representatives from the ILWU International (ILWU-PMA International), San Francisco; Russ Alexander, Vice-President; Rudy Rubio, and coast committee members Randy Velich and Bobby Olivera.

ILWU 34 strike mural unveiled

"From here on in, people will be able to look at this mural and understand the great pride that all of us have in our rich history and tradition. This mural is dedicated to those who fell, to those now in struggle, and is a beacon for those to come."

Please turn to page 5.
“The $100 million aid package marks a qualitative leap in the intensity of the war... We are faced as well with the possibility—if we really mean to force a change of government—of a larger, regionalized war, involving US troops.”

By JIM HERMAN
ILWU International President

Nicaragua nightmare

The contra aid program recently approved by the House of Representatives is among the most shameful and short-sighted actions in any nation's history. It stands, the World Court has ruled, in clear violation of international law. If allowed to continue it will make US policy hostage for years to come to the scum of Nicaragua—former officers and big shots in the hated Somoza dictatorship; mercenaries with no popular support; international drug dealers and freebooters without a shred of principle. It inflicts unspeakable pain upon the ordinary people of Nicaragua.

Following are only a few of the most recent feats of the Nicaraguan “contras” for whom the House of Representatives recently approved a $100 million aid package:

May 20—attacked two potato-growing cooperatives, killing three children and five adults, wounding 15, destroying 14 homes, three trucks, warehouses, and the community school;

May 24—ambushed and killed eight Nicaraguan health workers and one Spanish nurse on their way to the Northern border to dispense polio vaccine;

May 31—attacked another agricultural co-op with mortars, killing 15 people, including one eight-year-old girl, wounding 22.

Terrorists? President Reagan calls them the “moral equivalent of America's founding fathers.”

MORE OF THE SAME

The recent House vote, tight as it was, and the expected Senate approval, sentences the people of Nicaragua to more of the same, war without end. The combination of tough US economic sanctions and the continuing low-level war has already inflicted terrible damage. The economy is in a shambles, with acute shortages of food and other necessities everywhere. Reserves of US dollars with which to buy imported machinery, oil, and spare parts are dwindling rapidly. The black market is booming, and visitors and journalists report real hunger here for the first time in years.

It will get worse. The $100 million aid package—actually much more if you include additional assistance earmarked for backup in the event of civil war in Honduras and Costa Rica—will rapidly escalate the intensity of the war. Soon the contras will be armed with more sophisticated weapons, including surface-to-air missiles with which to attack government planes and helicopters. The Nicaraguan government will respond, channelling even more of its meager budget—50% of which is already consigned to the military—into defense.

STRANGULATION

This policy of slow economic strangulation and military escalation has some obvious political advantages. It is relatively low cost. Without risking US lives, at least for now, it is draining the Nicaraguan economy, forcing ever-increasing austerity and ever tighter discipline on a people already stretched to the limit. The US can afford to drift along like this for years, keeping the economic squeeze on, giving the contras just enough assistance to force the government to be preoccupied with its own survival, setting a powerful example for the rest of Latin America.

We are committed. While the $100 million buys the capacity to inflict substantially damage on the people of Nicaragua—"a real war," some observers have said—it does not buy a triumphant entry into Managua. We will certainly, over the next year or two, be treated to demands for even further assistance, for appeals not to abandon our "ally" in midstream and perhaps even to assurances that someone in Washington sees some light at the end of the tunnel.

The question as to whether the Sandinistas are good guys or bad guys, closet totalitarians or struggling revolutionaries under enormous pressure, is probably beside the point. They have, to be sure censored and shut down the country’s only opposition newspaper. They have shut down the Catholic Church's radio station and barred prominent churchmen from re-entering the country. But they have also held the most fair and honest election in the country’s history; they have established a constitution with the help of prominent international jurists, they have permitted the existence of a vigorous opposition. Literally under seige—with a US-created and funded army on its soil operating from secure bases in Honduras—the Sandinistas are, whatever their shortcomings, a hell of a lot more democratic than many other countries with which the US is closely allied, or pressuring gently by means of "constructive engagement."

ONLY THE BEGINNING

The real point, however, is whether the American people want to continue the policy of attacking or "destabilizing" virtually every country that makes an effort to free itself from the power of entrenched wealth. The House vote is only the beginning of a long political contest in this country. It was produced by intense presidential lobbying and pressure. The vast majority of Americans continue to oppose contra aid. Far from settling the issue, the House vote confirms that the issue raised by US interventionism since Vietnam have not been laid to rest. We will hear many more debates, endure more political manipulation and see many more close votes before Nicaragua is crushed or the US returns to the principles of its real founding fathers. The ILWU and an increasingly large number of unions will continue to present the case, as forcefully as possible, for a peaceful, diplomatic solution to the problems of Central America.
NEW CONTRACT WINS ENTHUSiASTIC RATIFICATION

‘ILWU Borax negotiators made all the right moves’

WILMINGTON—Amid cheers, applause and confetti, the Borax contract of ILWU chemical workers Local 20-A last month approved by 97% a new three-year agreement covering the US Borax packaging and shipping facility here.

“We got what we wanted,” said Local 20-A President Mike Diller. “Pensions were our first priority. With the International’s help, we did the job. Given the times we live in, it’s a tremendous achievement.”

BIG PENSION GAIN

The settlement increases pension credits for each year of service, forward and back, from $20 to $27—a 35% jump especially welcomed by a group of senior employees averaging more than 40 years of age and more than 18 years of service.

The wage package features an immediate bonus averaging $1065 per worker, 3.5% increases in the second and third year of the new agreement, and cost-of-living protection in the third year. Spot increases of 104 per hour will enhance the earnings of about 30 workers in two classifications—one group of which will receive its increase retroactively. The company will continue to pay the full cost of all health and welfare benefits. Several contract language changes will improve conditions on the job.

Of utmost importance, the union freed off the employer’s attempt to introduce a two-tier wage scale, to require employee contributions for dental plan benefits, and to eliminate cost-of-living protection.

“ALL THE RIGHT MOVES”

Research Director Barry Silverman, who Diller credited with playing a crucial role in the late stages of negotiations—settlement was not actually reached until two hours after the contract expired—completed his report to the membership by describing the key steps in the bargaining process.

“We made all the right moves,” Silverman said. “Before negotiations began we ran a two-week workshop on the job of bargaining for the Local 20-A committee and for the Local 30 committee from Borax, where the company maintains its mines and processing plant. “We solidified the connection by visiting each other’s worksites, and by having representatives of Local 30, led by incoming President Paul Wilcock, sit in on Local 20-A negotiations.” The Local 30 agreement expires in November.

“As bargaining progressed, we kept the membership informed, including holding a vote to reject an employer offer which featured a host of ‘takeaways’ and very little on the plus side.”

“Ultimately,” he concluded, “the settlement reflects the hard work of a tough, thoughtful and disciplined committee, and a stubborn and committed membership.”

The members of the Local 20-A negotiating committee, each of whom was greeted warmly as he rose to speak for ratification, included Diller, Glen Campbell, Sisto Duran, Alondras “Oog Man” Brown, Don Capes and Leonard Branch, Southern California Regional Director Joe Ibarra and International Representative Nick Podue assembled throughout the bargaining process.

Another round of cheers greeted the report on the outcomes of the ratification vote, and the shift headed back to work, others left to celebrate. The membership meeting was reminiscent of better times in the labor movement.

IBU ratifies agreement at Dillingham Tug

HONOLULU—The 120 IBU members employed by Dillingham Tug & Barge Corp. ended their 36-day strike on July 4 by voting 84-8 to approve a new three-year contract with the company.

The agreement provides a $500 bonus, $62.20 per day and $336 per week for Local 63 clericals win security

LOS ANGELES—The 300 members of Local 63 who went on strike July 1 voted overwhelmingly (140-3) July 7 to accept a new 3 year contract providing important economic improvements and job security language.

Picture lines formed at 11 steamship and container companies as Monday, July 1 after negotiations for a new agreement broke down. Affected companies included APL, Eagle Marine, California United Terminal, Overseas Shipping, Sea-Fac, Zim Container Line, International Transportation Service, Kerr Steamer, Stevedoring Services of America, Marine Terminals. The picture lines were respected by members of ILWU longshore Local 13, clerks Local 63 and Local 63 clerical workers, leading to a slowdown of a major section of the Ports of LA and Long Beach.

JOB SECURITY

The main issue was job security. The Local 63 negotiating committee insisted that the introduction of new technology, transfer of work to other facilities, supervisors doing bargaining work and other problems had made significant inroads on ILWU jurisdiction.

“The major victory gain was in this area,” said Local 63 President Tom Warren. “We got some language in the area of seniority and jurisdiction that should provide real improvement.”

Wages were increased by 30 cents in the first year, 40 cents in the second year and 50 cents in the third year, with the exception of Marine Terminals, where the wage settlement was slightly higher. As this issue of The Dispatcher went to press, settlement with Indies Terminals was pending.

PICKET LINES RESPECTED

“Our members held together, and we had important support from the International and the area waterfront locals who respected our picture lines. That made an enormous difference,” Warren said. Negotiating committee members included Debbie Rubio (APL), Joanne Waid (Eagle Marine), Carm Carney (Cal United), Laura Phillips (Indies), Steve Schwartz (ITS), Victor Eselle (Kerr), Manuel Garcia (Marine Terminals), Cheryl Ervin (Overseas), Barbara Bye (So Pac), Evalena Hurst (Zimi), Local 63 BA Jeff Powell, Warren, Vice-President Tom Harrison, relief BA Jerry Rich, International Research Director Barry Silverman and Regional Director Joe Ibarra.

The contract was negotiated by President Luis Gratz, RA Hector Cepeda, chief steward Pete Infante, Eugene Villareal and Claro Canizalez.

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LATE-night coverage by Southern California Regional Director Joe Ibarra and International Representative Nick Podue assisted throughout the bargaining process.

Los Angeles—The 100 ILWU Local 26 members employed by Borden Chemical culminated their long difficult negotiations—which lasted until an hour before the vote—by ratifying a new three-year contract last month. The contract calls for substantial wage increases across the board on July 1, 1986 and January 2, 1988, with four hour callout pay for maintenance work, others left to celebrate. The membership meeting was reminiscent of better times in the labor movement.

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New bill offers childcare leave

By MIKE LEWIS
ILWU Washington Representative

WASHINGTON, DC—At least some members of Congress have begun to grasp an overwhelming fact of life for working families in the 1980s: the days of the single-earner, all-male family are a thing of the past. Three of ten American families in the 1980s: the days of the single-earner, all-male family are a thing of the past. Three of ten American families are headed by women. Our two-parent families include 46.6 million children and over half of these children have two working parents.

Yet a working mother (or father) has no legally assured right to take a partial leave of absence for the birth of a child. UNION CONTRACTS HELP
Some companies may have policies to help workers who provide such leave under their contracts. But only 36 percent of union contracts guarantee paid parental leave, and only 16 percent of working families are covered by such leave agreements.

The result: at least 60 percent of women employed by large companies are left with no legal rights. In the past six weeks—the minimum recovery period prescribed by most states and small companies, which are the least likely to provide any leave benefits, the percentage is even lower.

This is the United States we’re talking about. Florida, Virginia, and Utah—98 other countries—even Picnicott’s Child—would provide such leave. Even 18 weeks of parental leave for birth, adoption or serious health condition of a child or parent can be part of a union contract, yet in the last six weeks, only 36 percent of families are involved in an effort to drag Congress into the twentieth century. Senate to act on aparthied bill
WASHINGTON, DC—Opponents of apartheid won a major victory last month when the House of Representatives approved a bill to provide conditional economic sanctions on South Africa. This is the United States we’re talking about. Florida, Virginia, and Utah—98 other countries—even Picnicott’s Child—would provide such leave. Even 18 weeks of parental leave for birth, adoption or serious health condition of a child or parent can be part of a union contract, yet in the last six weeks, only 36 percent of families are involved in an effort to drag Congress into the twentieth century.

The members of ILWU longshore Local 50 voted recently to assess each member $5 as a contribution to the Clatsop County Food Bank. The members of ILWU Local 500 maintain the food bank on an all-volunteer basis.
SAN FRANCISCO—A large steel mural sculpture celebrating the 1984 West Coast strike and the San Francisco General Strike was officially unveiled July 3 before an appreciative crowd of 1,000 old-timers, members, politicians and well-wishers.

The mural, sponsored by the ILWU and the Mayor's Office of Community Development, is located at the intersection of Mission and Steuart Streets, directly across the street from the site where picketers Howard Sperry and Nick Hendrick were fatally shot by San Francisco police on July 5, 1934—"Bloody Thursday"—provoking a four-day general strike.

THREE PANELS

It consists of three large panels—shaped to evoke images of ships, seagulls and ocean waves—painted front and back with images of waterfront conditions before the strike, the strike itself, and the progress made by San Francisco and west coast unions over the last half-century.

The unveiling, complete with music and refreshments, combined the traditional memorial service ordinarily conducted by the 10 pensioners with a unique program to celebrate the completion of the mural and its public unveiling.

With the release of a screen of multi-colored balloons covering the mural, was co-chaired by International Secretary-Treasurer Curt McClain and Local 10 Pensioners' Welfare Director Bert Donlin.

"OUR GREAT PRIDE"

"From here on in, people will be able to look at that mural and understand the great pride that all of us have in our rich history and tradition. International President Jim Herman told the crowd. "These artists re-

Looking north: mural panels depict the long hours, poor working conditions and speed-up which led to the strike, the solidarity of other unions and the violence of Bloody Thursday, and the progress made by labor in the Bay Area over the last 50 years.

Contract finally signed

Local 6 Bio-Rad unit will rebuild

RICHMOND, CA—After six months of uncertainty resulting from a high-powered employer attack to bust their union, the 100 members of ILWU Local 6 employed at Bio-Rad Laboratories finally have a contract.

The agreement was signed, however, only after the National Labor Relations Board ruled April 10 that Bio-Rad had to submit to arbitration for firing of Terry Brown, Kevin Reynolds and Cornelius Fielder. The company has appeal-

"We have a rebuilding job to do. They took their best shot and we didn't fold. The unit is united itself back together, and we gladly welcome back those who resigned under pressure, no questions asked," he said.

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REBUILD THE UNIT

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Mural artists, being introduced by San Francisco Arts' Commission Director Claire Isaacs at July 3 unveiling, includes, from left, Ray Patton, secretary of the club and member of the committee which coordinated the affair. Del Castle, club historian, was president of the committee. Master of Ceremonies was club president Terry Sweeney. Rosco Caycrraft, former president, and local politicians, also spoke. Jean Gundlach, former coast committee secretary and Local 19 retiree Terry Tyler, put together the program booklet.

That evening, Local 19's banquet and dance highlighted the centennial celebration and Steuart Streets, directly across the street from the site where picketers Howard Sperry and Nick Hendrick were fatally shot by San Francisco police on July 5, 1934—"Bloody Thursday"—provoking a four-day general strike.

The mural project and unveiling was coordinated by ILWU Information Direc-

dor Danny Beagle, Northern California Regional Director Leslie King and Local 10 retiree David Jenkins.

SEATTLE—ILWU Local 19's first step into being occurred when a seaman named Terry King called together a meeting of waterfront workers on June 12, 1886.

The men were casual longshoremen who'd duties on the log ships hand't changed since about 1850. But their working conditions hadn't changed either, so at the end of the strike, the strike itself, and the progress made by labor in the Bay Area over the last 50 years.

Local 19, and it was honored royally last month.

Bridge Speech

"Last month marked the 100th anniver-

DURATION CHANGED

Two tough bargaining sessions produced virtually the same contract the company had refused to sign when its Local 6 employees ended their 18-day strike last November. The duration, however, was reduced from three years to 17 months—ill expires February 28, 1987—and contains certain concessions which the company put on us after the strike was settled," said Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer Leon Harris.

The NLRB sent us back to work out our differences," said Harris. "We know we weren't going on strike. The company knew they couldn't knock us out either. So what we have now is a truce, a cooling off period."

The union is particularly concerned about labor's Federal Executive Secretary Jack Henning. San Francisco Labor Coun-

TEN ARTISTS

The ten artists involved in the project were introduced by Arts Commission Direc-
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SAFETY STOCK: A large steel mural sculpture celebrating the 1984 West Coast strike and the San Francisco General Strike was officially unveiled July 3 before an appreciative crowd of 1,000 old-timers, members, politicians and well-wishers.

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The union is particularly concerned about
Right-to-know coalition formed

SAN FRANCISCO—The San Francisco Council on Workplace Health and Safety has voted to launch a coalition of reps from business, labor and health care, has started a two-year campaign to educate employers, workers and the public about the state’s new Right To Know.

The Hazardous Substances Information and Training Act gives workers and employers the right and responsibility to know the makeup of chemicals used in the workplace.

REQUIREMENTS

The Act requires that chemical suppliers provide employers with specific information on any of the 700 chemicals listed in the Director’s List of Hazardous Substances. Under the regulation, moreover, another 4,000 substances are classified as hazardous.

The new coalition’s campaign will help employers “ensure that your employees are safely handling workplace chemicals,” Mayor Diane Feinstein said in a letter contained in the coalition’s information packet.

The public awareness campaign includes a telephone resource line at the Department of Public Health, training and assistance to help companies comply with the law and educational materials.

Along with other major donors, the campaign is being written by the San Francisco Labor Council, and other unions, including ILWU Local 10’s Trust Fund. Local 6 President Al Lannon is one of the coalition’s Advisory Committee members.

For further information, contact the Right To Know Hotline at 415-558-3333.

Puget Sound locals pitch in for public television

SEATTLE—On June 5, 26 brothers and sisters from ILWU locals and Women’s Auxiliary in the northwest volunteered to answer phones for public television KCTS pledge drive.

“In addition to providing a service for listener-supported Channel 9, our union also benefitted from the positive media exposure we received,” said Richard Austin, president of the Puget Sound Council.

The following people answered telephones during the pledge drive:

Local 6, Auxiliary members:
- Rebecca L. Bagenal; Local 1 (Seattle);
- Fern Haigren, Miriam Moor, Lonnie Nelson; Local 19 (Seattle);
- Ralph Adler, Kathleen Lassen, Bruce Lawler, Dick Mork; Local 12 (Tacoma);
- Maryann Schur; Local 23 (Tacoma);
- Donna Rohan; Local 32 (Everett);
- Local 3 (Vancouver);
- Local 44 (Richmond);
- Women’s Auxiliary 38 (Olympia);
- Valerie Hayes, Dolores Lenny, Linda Shattuck; Local 51 (Portland);
- Michael Forbes; Local 58 (Portland);
- Tom Wilson; Local 84 (Seattle);
- Terry Barlow, Rusty Deaver, George Fratus, Fred Hansen, Burrill Hatch, Larry Mitchell, John Perryma, Leta Sidney, Gay Williams, Local 7 (Bellingham), also offered to pitch in.

Dockers, Worriers

SAN FRANCISCO—Following is the July, 1986 listing of dockworkers of various ILWU-PMA plans.

Local 8, Portland; Warren Cobbs, Walter G. Rust, Fred A. Twiliegler; Local 10, San Francisco; Raymond A. Brinkley, Rossell Colbert, Ernesto Rodriguez, Peter Tolbert, Jesse Warren; Local 13, Wilmington; Rambllo T. Terao; Local 14, Eureka; Harvey Watkins; Local 18, Seattle; Connie Sierro; Local 25, Longview; Richard Holcomb.

Local 23, Tacoma; Arthur P. Baydon; Local 34, San Francisco; Vernon Camara; Local 52, Seattle; Martin MacKinnon; Local 53, Naples; George J. Fogarty; Local 63, Wilmington; Roy R. Gay Jr., Joseph E. Le Fort; Local 91, San Francisco; Gilbert Retterbeard; Local 99, Portland; Walter Watson; Local 94, Wilmington; Mike Ahumada.

*The widows are: Lucille M. Bell

Pension List

(Michael, Local 14); Angelina Bevittato (Local 13); Helen Bilsing (Local 10); Peter, Local 2; Versile Loe Diggs (Russell, Local 10); Marlene Eddie (Edward, Local 52); Anna M. Freitas (Alexander, Local 19); Dorothy F. Jaaf (Alexander, Local 12); Soledad H. Johnson (Louis, Local 54); Joyce H. Lindberg (Lindberg, Local 54).

Dorothy K. Mawae (Jonah, 21); Mimmi Meland (John, 13); Marie M. James, Local 10; Virginia M. Mouchou (Alexander, Local 91); Mary G. Pacheco (Antonio, Local 10); Soledad Ramirez-Pelt (Norwood, Local 13); Guadalupe Reviles (Pete, Local 13); Margie Traynor (Local 10); Kathleen V. Tyler (Lester, Local 10); Ruth E. Upjohn (Ross, Local 60).

*Names in brackets are those of deceased husbands.

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Top officers of the Columbia River Pensioners and the Oregon Council of Senior Citizens joined former employees of Summit Home Care Ltd to protest abuses at the company.

SEATTLE—Neil Lovell, a former IBEW patroon of the Puget Sound Region and member of the Puget Sound Executive Committee, retired on disability June 1 from Foss Launch and Tug Company.

Oregon pensioners blast insurance lobby

PORTLAND—Columbia River Pensioners and Oregon Council of Senior Citizens blasted the Oregon Federation of Business and Commerce and other business-oriented groups about the scalded insurance crisis.

None of the members denied that a crisis exists. But they differed with big business claims that the problems stem from the amount in damages court awards to people making claims against insurance companies.

Rising rates charged by the insurance companies—worth $1.2 billion a year in Oregon—are at the heart of the crisis, charged the pensioners. They passed a resolution saying, “The extreme tort reforms supported by anti-labor forces threaten the legal rights of average citizens, injured workers and consumers.

The resolution upset the work of the Insurance Consumers Action Network, a coalition group including Oregon Fair Share, which is lobbying for protection of consumer and worker rights “in any reform enacted to deal with the liability insurance crisis.”

The Port Group, which has members living in Vancouver as well as Portland, also endorsed the initiative campaign sponsored by Oregon Fair Share, and the Washington State AFL-CIO to make it illegal for insurance doctors to “charge more than Medicare sets as a reasonable fee.”

Nursing home proposed

WILMINGTON—The ILWU Southern California Pensioners group last month authorized its officers to explore all avenues leading toward the establishment of a rest home for retired ILWU members and their families.

The group’s concern, according to club President Nate DBhani, grows out of the pensioners awareness of many incidents of poor care and patient abuse in many convalescent, nursing and rest homes in the area.

The executive board of the ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners Association has already adopted in principle the concept of an ILWU home. The Southern California group is presently investigating the progress report made for the CPCA convention in Anderson California this fall.

IBU’s Lovelace retires

SEATTLE—Neil Lovell, a former IBEW patroon of the Puget Sound Region and member of the Puget Sound Executive Committee, retired on disability June 1 from Foss Launch and Tug Company.
Critical state elections in California

SACRAMENTO—Bowed by polls showing a steady trend in their direction, California Republicans are enthusiastically gearing up for a campaign to win control of the State Senate this November. Beyond the immediate goal of winning the Senate, Republicans believe that they can win five Senate seats this November, with four others rated as “possible.” They have also made it clear that a deal with some of the state’s more conservative Democrats, under the new Democratic Conservative Caucus, to give them effective power in the Senate, will depend on the results of the election.

CRUCIAL VOTE

“We’ve never had a more crucial state legislative election,” says ILWU Northern California District President LeRoy King. “These folks are serious. Republican assemblymen, Republican state legislators, especially as reapportionment gets close, are going to be working hard to turn this around, but only if we can get our people registered and out to vote.”

Republicans are already in full swing on increased registration, and a huge war chest—as much as $1 million for each closely contested race.

They’re focusing on five races:

• The line of least resistance is in the 16th district, around Bakerfield, where Republican incumbent Dan Rogers is the favorite for a seat being vacated by Democratic incumbent Walter Stirm.

• The 14th district, around Concord, will feature a strong challenge. Unions with a strong record of organizing and candidates have already lined up from the Republican state senator, Smalley, who has raised a large amount of money for her race.

• In the second district on the northern border, Barry Keene, a political conservative, is considered vulnerable to a challenge from popular Republican County Supervisor Dick Brand.

• In the 12th district in San Jose, incumbent Democratic Senator Dan McCready is the favorite for re-election, but labor leaders are in full swing to keep the seat in Democratic hands.

• The 6th district, incumbent Democrat Gary Hart faces Santa Barbara Democrat John Foran—Assemblyman Lou Papan is labor’s third candidate in a basically Republican district.

Another significant Senate campaign will pit incumbent Senator Bob Drescher against the line of least resistance, a strong challenge. Unions with a strong record of organizing and candidates have already lined up from labor leaders.

For the Chamber of Commerce, the vote is expected to be hotly contested.

MAC NUT PACT—A two year agreement covering 600 ILWU Local 142 manic- damia nut workers employed by C. Brewer on Hawaii and Maui was ratified last month. Wage rates for regular employees will range from $7.18 to $5.47 per hour when the agreement expires on April 30, 1988. The negotiating committee, from left, included Albert Araujo, Jr., Archie Kekuawela, Bobby Jackson, “I feel we have made significant gains. The bridge benefit paid prior to age 65 was increased to $26 per year of service. The group rates in those instances where coverage would other- wise be terminated were continued at their group rates in those instances where coverage would other- wise be terminated were continued at their group rates in those instances where coverage would other- wise be terminated were continued at their group rates in those instances where coverage would other- wise be terminated.

Category 3: The dependent children of a covered employee who are age 18 or over and have not lost the status of a dependent child under the plan may continue their coverage if they lose benefits for any of the following reasons:

(1) Death of the spouse;
(2) Loss of the employment of the covered employee or his or her dependent child;
(3) Divorce or legal separation from the spouse; or
(4) The spouse becomes eligible for Medicare.

WHO’S COVERED?

The law sets up three categories of persons who are eligible for the right to continue their coverage under their employer’s plan:

1. The employee;
2. The employee’s dependent child;
3. The employee’s dependent parent.

Moreover, employees who elect to continue their coverage if they lose benefits may continue coverage if they lose benefits for any of the following reasons:

(1) Death of the spouse;
(2) Termination of the spouse’s employment (reasons other than gross misconduct), or reduction in the spouse’s hours of work;
(3) Divorce or legal separation from the spouse; or
(4) The spouse loses eligibility for Medicare.

The law requires that persons be given the opportunity to maintain the health care benefits they had while they were employed, unless they lose group health coverage because of termination of employment or

in hours of employment, or the termination of the employment by the insured as a result of his or her gross misconduct or the employee’s parental misconduct on their part.

Category 4: Employees or family members may elect to continue their coverage if they lose benefits for any of the following reasons:

(1) Death of a parent;
(2) Termination of a parent’s employment (reasons other than gross misconduct, or reduction in the parent’s hours of employment)
(3) Parents’ divorce or legal separation;
(4) A parent becomes eligible for Medicare; or
(5) The dependant child is the child of a deceased parent.

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in hours of employment, or the termination of the employment by the insured as a result of his or her gross misconduct or the employee’s parental misconduct on their part.

Categories 1 and 2: The employees and family members may elect to continue their coverage if they lose benefits for any of the following reasons:

1. The employee’s divorce, legal separation, or a child losing the status of a dependent child under the plan;

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in hours of employment, or the termination of the employment by the insured as a result of his or her gross misconduct or the employee’s parental misconduct on their part.

Categories 1 and 2: The employees and family members may elect to continue their coverage if they lose benefits for any of the following reasons:

(1) Death of the spouse;
(2) Termination of the spouse’s employment (reasons other than gross misconduct), or reduction in the spouse’s hours of work;
(3) Divorce or legal separation from the spouse; or
(4) The spouse loses eligibility for Medicare.

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Two Canada locals score at coal facility

ROBERTS BANK, BC—ILWU longshoremen employed at Roberts Bank Terminals at the Roberts Bank Coal Terminals recently ratified a two year contract with significant gains.

The agreement increases pension benefits, increased vacation time, and a 26-14 majori-