Raise the minimum wage
See President's report, page 2

Vol. 45, No. 6
June 16, 1987

Tom Dufresne

"Many ILWU members were very involved in the June 1 general strike. Our children are going to be affected by what the government is trying to do. Our teenage kids are going to be working, and we want to see some opportunities for them in unionized areas."

Dave Isinger

"We are fighting for one cause here. We were hit with federal legislation which is basically the same as what they're doing here in the province. Our rights to bargain, to strike and to picket are restricted. So when it came down to the province, we know what this Bill 19 is about."

Ken Boote

"This bill involves us even though we are under federal, not provincial jurisdiction. They'll eventually get around to taking our rights away too. I think we should have the right to belong to a union if we want. I don't think we should be dictated to by the government."

Jim Brown

"We set up the dispatch at 6:30 a.m. Everyone did their share. It was put together pretty quick, but it worked. Everyone was assigned a place different from where they worked. It got a lot of people more interested in what's going on, looking into what these bills are all about. It brought things to a head.

Please turn to page 8
Raise the minimum wage

By JIM HERMAN
ILWU International President

The minimum wage law, in all its simplicity, is perhaps the most effective anti-poverty weapon ever created in the US. Passed nearly 50 years ago, it created a safety net for the whole economy, guaranteeing that American workers had enough purchasing power to keep the economy moving.

Starting at 25 cents, the minimum was gradually increased to keep pace with rising prices. The general consensus was that it should be pegged at 50% of the average non-supervisory wage in private industry. While that 50% rule was never enacted into law, it was followed pretty closely by lawmakers and Presidents from both major parties. With all its limitations, the minimum wage worked.

Until 1981, that is, when newly-elected President Reagan, standing history on its head, declared that the minimum wage had “caused more misery and unemployment than anything since the Great Depression,” and promised to veto any effort to raise it. With Republicans in charge of the Senate, and the House of Representatives thoroughly cowed, he made it stick. And so it has remained, with no increase, the next six years, with the minimum wage, the 6.7 million employees earning the 3.35 minimum wage, put three billions of dollars in the hands of those most likely to spend it on basic necessities produced and distributed by other workers.

Increasing the minimum wage creates jobs by putting more money in the hands of those most likely to spend it on basic necessities produced and distributed by other workers.

Today, this great achievement lies in ruins. The minimum wage has not kept up with the cost of living. It has not kept up with the average wage. It has not provided earnings, as originally intended, sufficient to keep the “working poor” out of poverty.

The numbers are shocking. The 6.7 million employees on the $3.35 minimum wage earn, if they have full-time work, less than $7,000 per year. Those with two dependents are therefore at best pulling in substantially less than what the federal government defines as a poverty level income. Indeed, they make so little as to qualify for welfare and medicaid in more than half the states, and to qualify for food stamps in all of them. An additional 6 million workers whose wages are tied to the minimum — up to $4 per hour — are not much better off.

MINIMUM WAGE CREATES JOBS

The record leaves no room for doubt — increasing the minimum wage in fact creates jobs by putting more money in the hands of those most likely to spend it on basic necessities produced and distributed by other workers. One economic study after another concludes that the minor job losses caused by the inability of certain borderline businesses unable to pay a decent minimum wage would be overwhelmed by the creation of new jobs. The most recent evidence, suggests that a $1 increase would lower unemployment among low wage workers by 3% or more.

There is legitimate debate as to how large the increase should be, how the increases should be timed and other questions. But it’s certain, as International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union President Jay Mazur points out, that “to leave the minimum wage at the present inadequate and deteriorating level is to increase poverty, to deny the neediest a living wage and protection from exploitation and — most important — to deprive our economy of a necessary stimulant to lift us from our present perilously stagnant state.”

INCREASE BILL BENDING

As is written legislation sponsored by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-Los Angeles) to increase the minimum wage, and to tie it permanently to a percentage of the average wage, is working its way through Congress. It is expected to arrive on the House floor in September, and on the Senate in July.

It is likely to pass. Its fate in the White House is uncertain. Labor Secretary Brock has offered a compromise — an increase in the minimum wage in exchange for a revived sub-minimum for teenagers. Such a “compromise,” which would lead to the displacement of American workers by their own children, is totally unacceptable.

Understanding that we may well face a presidential veto, it is not too early to start lighting a fire on this issue. Congress has recently overridden two Presidential vetoes — one on South Africa sanctions, the other on highway construction. The vetoes were a result of intense political pressure from back home, pressure reflected a broad consensus from all elements of the community that the administration was out of step.

We have to begin building such a consensus right now. Pulling together enough votes to override a veto is a long shot for this year, but it will remain a critical issue in the 1988 elections and beyond. The minimum wage is a moral and economic issue involving our entire society — not just poor people, not just teenagers, as the administration and Chamber of Commerce would have us believe. It should be a touchstone for our political activity in the immediate future.

JIM HERMAN
President
WASHINGTON, DC - US and Canadian unions representing tens of thousands of employees working as longshoremen in the US and Canada's largest seaports are taking steps to increase their bargaining strength through mutual aid efforts.

Local 6 President Al Lannon joined representatives of a dozen international unions representing Nestle workers in a strategy session which developed a program to pull together an effective Nestle Union network - ultimately leading to coordinated bargaining.

In addition to Nestle Chocolatine in Salinas, represents workers at several companies recently absorbed by the company, including Hills Bros. Coffee, MJB Coffee and MJB Rice. Nestle now employs over six thousand employees.

Also participating in the meeting were representatives of the Port and Harbor Island Union, the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, and Department Stores Workers Union, and the Food, Tobacco and Allied Workers Department. The meeting was called by the International Union of Food Workers-North American Regional Organization, and was chaired by ILWU Regional Secretary Joy Anne Grune.

"COMPANY LINE HARDSHIPS"

All participants reported a general hardening of company attitudes toward employees with new hires, or workers dismissed by a new owner.

For example, the hotel the replaced all the former employees of the hotel of the same name also owned by Nimitz - and imposed the Inlandboatmen's Union against Crowley Maritime and its west coast subsidiaries is nearly 5 months old, and continues to play a terrific role. "The support has been terrific," ILWU Local 24 President Billy Ruiz, said. "The ILWU Local 24, was one of the convention speakers.

"We feel the new contract represents the spirit of cooperation we have with Seattle's" Grivogre said. Another port announcement applauded Local 19's "new production record unloading 14,000 cartons of apples" from a New Zealand ship. Net production averaged 1,503 cartons per day for the month of February, at the 1,627 per hour during one day's work.

Another port announcement continued to increase container crane productivity at Seattle's, when the Port of Seattle's "new production record unloading 14,000 cartons of apples" from a New Zealand ship. Net production averaged 1,503 cartons per day for the month of February, at the 1,627 per hour during one day's work.

"FRIENDS of Labor" hold convention

HONOLULU — Employees of the Air- porter, who here have now officially ratified an agreement giving them back their jobs effective June 1, have been rallied under their ILWU con- tract.

"This victory comes at the end of a five-month battle which began on New Year's Day" with a one-day shut-down by Nimitz, who is now in the process of buying the hotel.

"Local 142 members employees with new hires, or workers dismissed by a new owner."

"With one exception, none of the former Local 142 unit officers or stewards were called back to work."

The ILWU immediately filed unfair labor practice against Nimitz partners charging discrimination against ILWU members and leaders for the purpose of avoiding union recognition and bargaining with the ILWU.

The strike by the ILWU's marine division "has to something extremely tight," said ILWU Presi- dent Bob Liddle. "The support has been ter- rific." The longshore division, in particular continues to play a terrific role.

"The ILWU Local 24, was one of the convention speakers.

"The UFCW grocery clerks and IAM members were morally rallied and their spirits were fortified," Swor said of Herman's remarks. "I personally am very proud to have an officer of my union who will do whatever he could to help those brothers and sisters in unions when they needed it most."

"The Friends of Labor meet on the third Wednesday of each month and "anyone who belongs to a union or is just a friend in support of Labor" is encouraged to attend. For more information call 206-533-3412.

Local signs contract for intermodal yard

"In late September, the agreement was negotiated by our regional director, John分会 We are the leaders of the Working People's Movement, which will pay the difference be- tween the workers' wages and the wages of the new employees."

"WE KNOW IT CAN WORK"

"We know it can work," Lannon said. "Several years ago a number of these unionists informally and defeated an effort to set up a company pro- gram whereby workers were not be rewarded for informing on other workers. We stopped "working the books,"" he continued. "And it is only by working together that we can successfully challenge this multi- national giant which has the ability to play such havoc with the lives of our members, " Lannon said.

"Local 6 signs other Nestle unions in mutual aid plan

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Politics pays for IBU in legislature

SEATTLE — During its first year of op- eration, the Puget Sound IBU Political Ac- tion Committee raised $1,500 in donations from tow -boat and ferry union members and attracted enough volunteers to work in a dozen political campaigns.

This year, they plan to contribute money to more than 50 candidates and members worked for selected politicians by putting up campaign signs, ringing doorbells and attending meetings.

During the 1987 legislative session, PAC members attended committee hearings and presented position papers during lawmaking to influence legislation which af- fected ferry workers and the maritime in- dustry.

WORKED FOUR BILLS

Of the four bills introduced affecting IBU-ILWU members, three were defeated: House Bill 1247, on the definition of a ferry employee; Senate Bill 5740, another bill affecting the ferry industry; and HB 749, on the definition of a ferry employee.

The new law says that any amount of money that union members take out of their wages to pay toward health and welfare will create a new contribution base for the state to pay in the future.

“The success of the IBU-PAC has come from membership involvement and count- less hours of hard work,” said Beach, IBU-PAC Committee Chairwoman Jennifer Cicch. “The PAC is the foundation of our members’ involvement in bargaining and ratifying agreements. Without it we will lose the standard of living that we have acquired and have taken for granted the last few years. Charity begins at home, and with the PAC we can help our industry we must get political or lose.”

Besides Cicch, members of the IBU- PAC committee are Mike Wistrand, Secre- tary; Burrill Hatch, Larry Mitchell, Dave Frisvold, District 31, and Madeleine Pelter, of Communications for Labor Leader- ship Authority.

Special Saturday and weekend classes include “Steward and Leader- ship Development,” “Effectiveness in Alternative Tactics,” and “Assertiv- ity and ‘Bashing’.

Class cost $55 up to five units and $45 per unit after five units with tuition grants available. The program is approved for GI benefits.

For more information contact the Labor Studies Program, SF Community College, 33 Gough Street, SF 94103, (415) 231-3509.

SF City College sets fall labor classes

SAN FRANCISCO — The Labor Studies Program of the City College has announced that it will start its fall evening classes at August 17.


This summer’s biggest project is to assist restaurant workers during the lunch day off of fog, but was built by a hard working, courageous 100% union crew — including the ILWU members who handled the steel shipped from the east coast.

Six years after PATCO

Air traffic controllers get a union, promise to work within system

WASHINGTON, DC — Air Traffic con- trollers voted overwhelmingly October 16 into their first union since 1981, when President Reagan crushed their old organi- zation by firing more than 11,000 control- lers who staged a strike, the Federal Labor Relations Authority said last week.

The authority said that approximately 12,800 controllers eligible to vote cast ballots that were tallied on June 11. The vote was 7,494 in favor of selecting the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) to 3,275 opposed.

“Today marks a victory for controllers and for organized labor,” said Kathy Caudill, an organizer for the NATCA. “This shows labor’s ability to come back from a terrible defeat to build something new and constructive.”

WILLIAMSON

John Williamson, national coordinator of the new union, said that NATCA’s success “will be measured by our ability to work within the system, not by confronting it.

“We offer to the FAA our good will and support in the rebuilding of the nation’s air traffic control system. What the controller asks in return is to be heard and to be recognized.”

Thorton said the union’s number one priority will be to press for the hiring of more controllers for a system he described as “stressed to the limit.”

The controllers who now work for the FAA are the successors to the thousands who were fired by President Reagan when they walked off the job in 1981. They are the original union, the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO). At one time, the PATCO strike was huge, despite a heavy workload. But in the last few years complaints about stress, over- time and poor equipment have grown louder as the skies have become more crowded.

According to a recent count, 13,655 con- trollers are employed today, compared with 10,170 before the strike.

SF Bay Labor plans ‘summer of support’

San Francisco — In the face of a de- teriorating negotiating climate, the San Francisco Bay Labor Council announced a campaign called a Summer of Support (9036) to aid unions which face difficult and protracted contract negotiations this season.

Already this spring, department store workers were joined on their informational picket line at Macy’s by representatives of the hotel and restaurant workers, the gar- ment workers, communications workers, teachers, printers and hospital workers.

This summer’s biggest project is to assist the hotel members of Hotel and Restau- rant Employees and Bartenders Union Local 13, who continue their strike against the Marriott Group in San Francisco; the service workers signed pledge cards indicating their availability for assistance for various other labor unionists.

Support activities range from participa- tion in a speakers’ bureau to “creative ac- tions,” such as a massed march “every hour,” according to an SOS organizer.

9036 got started when Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer Walter Johnson ap- proached San Francisco community organizers, Jose Martinez and Kevin Watters, in San- francisco, asked them to help the Council build support among union members in a field rep for United Public Employees Local 780 of the SEIU and Sempervirens pro- fessor of social work at San Francisco State. For more information, contact the San Francisco Labor Council at (415) 543-2599.
WASHINGTON -- After a decade of crusading for companies to withdraw their employment code for doing business in South Africa, Rev. Leon H. Sullivan said he sees no progress companies still doing business there — call companies.

"If the president had taken the same interest in black South Africans as he does in GE, General Electric, and the companies we have in South Africa," Sullivan said, vowing to make South Africa a key issue in the presidential campaign.

Following through on a threat he made two years ago, Sullivan called for all US companies to leave within nine months. He also urged trade sanctions against the country, the end of all South African imports by the US including gold and diamonds and the cutoff of all diplomatic relations until apartheid is abolished.

Sullivan, a member of a Reagan administration advisory committee on South Africa, was invited to consult with trading partners, such as Japan, that move to take "business left behind by US companies." 

Sullivan principles asks US companies to follow the South African apartheid regime, the Rev. Leon H. Sullivan, a longtime civil rights activist, had warned two years ago -- that would sound the call for a corporate exit if apartheid didn't end by May 1987.

ILWU trustees back divestment

SAF VANCH -- The Joint Trustees of the ILWU-PMMA Longshore Local 142 chose to follow the policy of voting on stockholder proposals that are consistent with the policies and programs adopted by the membership of the ILWU, have recently cast votes at several US corporations.

At 3M, Squibb, Schering-Plough, Unisys, and Ford Motors, the trustees voted in favor of proposals that would oblige the character of their operations in South Africa. Further, at Ford, the trustees voted in favor of a proposal that would "terminate forthwith the sales of all motor vehicles and components for use by the South African military, police and any of their agencies or instrumentalities until the Government of South Africa officially commits itself to the termination of apartheid and takes meaningful steps to achieve political and legal equality for its black majority population."

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Court backs closure law, successor clause

WASHINGTON, DC -- The Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that companies using employers to pay severance benefits to workers laid off as a result of plant closings.

In a second pro-labor ruling, the court said the federal appeals court, ruled that Fall River is about 30 miles from Shell in several countries and the coal Shell mines and exports from South Africa.

Royal Dutch/Shell, the largest corporation in the world based on assets, in jointly owned or controlled by Dutch Petroleum (60%) in The Hague, a British Corporation, Shell Transport and Trading Co., based in London.

Sullivan's announcement may affect shareholder resolutions and investment policies now pegged to the Sullivan code. Some 127 shareholder resolutions were filed by anti-apartheid groups in the current annual meeting season, compared with 78 the previous year. And 80 of them urged out-right withdrawal instead of merely asking companies to follow the Sullivan code. According to the Council on Economic Priorities, a research group, the resolutions are being defeated, and some have gained support: proposals received only an 8% positive vote a year ago but average 13% and in cases such as Dresser Industries Inc. topped 20%.

In the past year, companies that withdraw from South Africa to sell their properties to companies that promise to continue fair-employment practices, bring blacks into management and give blacks an equal opportunity to participate in the business. As much as 20 years' experience. The company argued that the state law governing employer benefit plans does not apply.

The case began in 1982 when an unprofitable Massachusetts textile company called Sterlingline was closed and liquidated in 1983. The company argued that the state law governing employer benefit plans does not apply.

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Rosco Craycraft, 82, helped build a 'new kind of union'

SEATTLE — Rosco Craycraft, a 1934 strike veteran and former ILWU International Vice-President died on May 21. He was 82 years old.

A longshoreman since 1922, Craycraft was "part of that generation of rank and file heroes who helped create the ILWU," said International President Jim Herman in a letter read by Coast Committee member Randy Veikich at the memorial service.

"A GREAT TEACHER," he said. "He gave this union everything he had. Rosco Craycraft was a good man, a dear friend to many of us, and a great teacher. The continued existence of the ILWU as a strong democratic union will be his most appropriate memorial." Craycraft began his career on the west coast waterfront loading logs at Rainier, Oregon, moving to Portland in 1929. He was one of the leaders of the drive to organize the International Longshoremen's Association on the west coast in 1931, and served as chairman of the Northwest Joint Strike Committee during the '34 strike.

A NEW UNION

After the strike was won, Craycraft became deeply involved in the process of continuing the victory. "We were trying to create a new kind of union," remembers former International Representative Jim Fantz. As one of the first secretaries of the local "Rosco created a much better relationship between the leaders and the rank and file, and to handle things was accessible. He wanted the members to be involved. He worked to deal with their problems on the job, and to give them the information they needed. He set up a little office in the hall where every morning where he was available to the men to answer questions, he set up a union newsletter.

"Before you knew it, we had built a completely different type of union from what we had in the past."

Craycraft also played a critical role in organizing the first round of the ILWU, particularly on the Columbia River, according to Columbia River Pensioners Secretary Jessie Stranahan. "He was a real full-time activist, no matter where he was. He was a real union man. He played a major role in building solidarity among the locals despite the truculence of the ship's officers to split the union.

He was a delegate to conventions of the Maritime Federation of the Pacific and took part in all the early ILWU conventions. In the late 60s he was on the International Executive Board and served two terms as International Executive Vice-President during the war. Rosco transferred his membership from Portland to Seattle in the early '70s, and was active in the local over the years. "He was particularly involved in the political end of things, with the Democratic Party," remembers Martin Jugum. "He would be on the phones, pushing to get people registered, and then getting them out to vote.

After his retirement in November, 1965 he became active in the ILWU pension movement, and was among the organizers of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association in 1969. He was a member of the ILWU's Executive Board for many years, and served as chairman of the pension committee at nearly all PCPA conventions.

Memorial services were held in Seattle on May 27 at the ILWU Local 24 headquarters. Lila Boyce, Seattle, and Alvira Pillette, Port Angeles, were great grandchildren of Rosco. His wife Nettie, a longtime activist in the ILWU auxiliaries died in 1985.

Coast Committee member Randy Veikich delivered a eulogy at the service, remembering the "good man, a dear friend to many of us, and a great teacher."

Dispatcher honored

The ILWU Dispatcher was honored last month by the Western Labor Press Association, winning second place in the "best over-the-counter reporting" category held at the WLPA's biennial convention.

The Dispatcher also took third place in the "best longshoreman of the year" category, an article on corporate buyouts called the "Leveraging of America," which appeared in the January, 1986 issue.

Rudolf C. Van Baron, Local 12 Rudolf Cornelis Van Baron, recently honored as the oldest retired member of ILWU Local 12, died April 17. He was 89. He spent his entire life — literally from birth — on jobs related to the sea. He was born February 5, 1898, a passenger freighter off the West Coast of Africa, near Cape Naz.

His father was an engineer who had been in charge of building docks in Argentina, and when the work was completed he and his wife were returning to Amsterdam when their child was born enroute.

At age 14 Rudolf started working as a deck hand on barges against the Rhine in Germany. From there he started manning English sailing ships, sailing around the world many times. He spent World War I on ships carrying iron ore and other material, and three times was a crew member on a ship torpedoed by Germany. After the war, he was on the Merchant Marine on the steam schooners as a Boatswain.

In the 1920s Rudolf concentrated his work on the west coast from southern California to Alaska, and was shipped in Maryland, now Coos Bay, in 1944, where he was forced aboard a German freighter. He retired in 1968 at the age of 68.

Taco mansioners hold annual dinner

TACOMA — The Pensioners Club of ILWU Local 23 held a very successful dinner May 21 at the Eagles Hall here.

Keynote speaker was T.A. (Tiny) Thronson, who was followed to the podium by James Renton, ILWU Secretary-Treasurer, Terry Sweeney, President of the Seattle Pensioners Club, Don Nyssen, PCPA Executive Board member and Auxiliary #35 President Claudia Rade.

Other guests included John Waddell, area welfare director, Martin Jugum, chairman of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association, and Terry Renton, Secretary of the Seattle Pensioners Club.

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In the 1920s Rudolf concentrated his work on the west coast from southern California to Alaska, and was shipped in Maryland, now Coos Bay, in 1944, where he was forced aboard a German freighter. He retired in 1968 at the age of 68.
Important notice on ILWU Political Action Fund

Delegates to the 26th Biennial Convention of the ILWU, meeting in San Francisco, California, April 15-19, 1985, amended Article X of the International Constitution to read as follows:

"SECTION 2. The International shall establish a Political Action Fund which shall consist exclusively of voluntary contributions. The union will not favor or disadvantage any member because of the amount of his/her contribution or the decision not to contribute. In no case will a member be required to pay more than his/her proportionate share of the union's collective bargaining expenses. Reports on the status of the fund and the uses to which the voluntary contributions are put will be made to the International Executive Board.

"The voluntary contributions to the Political Action Fund shall be collected as follows:

- Sixty cents (60¢) of each September's per capita payment to the International Union shall be diverted to the Political Action Fund where it will be used in connection with Federal, state and local elections. This 60¢ deduction is a suggestion only, and individual members are free to contribute more or less than that guideline suggests. The diverted funds will be contributed only on behalf of those members who voluntarily permit that portion of their per capita payment to be used for that purpose.

- Each June, July and August, each dues paying member of the union shall be advised of his/her right to withhold the 60¢ payment or any portion thereof otherwise made in September. Those members expressing such a desire, on a form provided by the International Union, shall be sent a check in the amount of 60¢ or less if they so desire, in advance of the member making his/her dues payment to the local union for the month of September.

"FORUM encourages every union to either the Political Action Fund or to their local union, may do so in any amounts whenever they wish."

"Members of the ILWU who wish to contribute more than 60¢ may do so by sending a check in the desired amount, made out to the ILWU Political Action Fund, to the International Union.

More than 60¢

I wish to contribute more than the minimum voluntary contribution of 60 cents to the ILWU Political Action Fund. Enclosed please find my check for $ ____________

signature
name
address
Local # ____________
return to: ILWU
1188 Franklin Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

Less than 60¢

I do not wish to contribute the entire 60¢ to the ILWU Political Action Fund. I will contribute ____________. I understand that the International will send me a check for the difference between my contribution and 60 cents prior to September 1, 1987

signature
name
address
Local # ____________
return to: ILWU
1188 Franklin Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

No contribution

I do not wish to contribute to the ILWU Political Action Fund. In order to ensure that no portion of my dues payment is allocated to the Fund, and recognizing that I have no obligation whatsoever to make such a contribution, the International will send me a check in the amount of 60¢ prior to September 1, 1987

signature
name
address
Local # ____________
return to: ILWU
1188 Franklin Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

BLOODY THURSDAY

Bloody Thursday

In Wilmington

WILMINGTON — ILWU Southern California locals will hold their 3rd Annual Bloody Thursday Parade and Picnic July 5 at Peak Park. Assembly time for the parade is 8 a.m. The main parade begins at 9 a.m. After the parade the picnic begins and will include a softball tournament and many other games and recreation.

Additional information contact chairman A. David Arias, Local 13, at 213-830-1130, or Patty Ferguson, Local 65, at (213) 830-1963.

In SF Bay Area

Local 10 will sponsor its traditional Bloody Thursday rally in Justin Herman Plaza, at the foot of Market Street on Sunday, July 5 at 11:30 a.m. The brief memorial will be co-chaired by Local 10 President Joe Lucas and Pensioners' president Bob Robatcher.

But this year there's a new wrinkle — a picnic at Oakland's Knowland Park, at 1 p.m. Take I-580 out to 98th Avenue. They promise great food, music, games and a good time for the entire family!

FORUM meets

The Freedom of Retired Union Members (FORUM) will hold its annual conference June 23 at Teamsters Hall, 70 Hegenberger Road, Oakland, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Invited speakers include Al Lennon, ILWU Local 6 President, Richard Holober, of the California AFL-CIO and Chuck Mack of the Teamsters.

FORUM encourages every union to send at least two retirees to discuss strengthening pension plans, Social Security and Medi-Cal, and fighting against the Reagan administration's billion dollar military buildup.

FORUM is located at 7992 Capwell Drive, Oakland. (415) 632-6424.

OFF THE DECK — Al Campbell (center) of ILWU Local 505, the winner of a local fishing derby in Prince Rupert, BC, stands at center with his 47.3 lb. spring salmon. The fish was caught from the deck of gearbulk vessel "Lista" on May 2.

LOCAL 26 SLO PITCH

LOS ANGELES — The first ILWU Local 26 Slow-Pitch Softball League kicked off May 17 at Carriage Crest Park with six teams representing 11 shops.

Local 26 President Luisa Grotz threw out the first pitch.

Although teams from Local 26 have played in various ILWU tournaments over the past few years, this is the first Local 26 league, according to veterans.

Teams comprising the league are: Balance-Dynasty, Ryerson-Henry, Thrifty-LA, Cal-Avitrion and Clean Steel-Alpert & Albert-Garsten-A.T.X.

Local 8 Golf Tournament

PORTLAND — ILWU Local 8 has scheduled its golf tournament for July 23 at the Columbia Golf Course here, and the deadline for applications is June 30. For details contact Jerry Bittz at (503) 224-9310.

Local 34 Golf Tournament

ILWU Ship Clerks Local 34 will sponsor its annual Invitational Golf Tournament July 5 at the Franklin Canyon Golf Course with starting times between 10:30-11:30 a.m.

The tournament is limited to the first 80 players so entrants are urged to register now. Total cost per golfer, which includes dinner, golf cart and awards, is $60.

Make checks payable to Clerks Golf Tournament and mail to Tom Lucas, 1213 Castro St., San Leandro, CA 94577. For additional information, contact Tom Lucas at (415) 483-8585 or Frank Silva at (415) 531-4927.

PORT ANGELES — ILWU Warehouse Local 9 invites union members and retirees to its annual Fishing Derby on Saturday, July 25. Cost per person is $50 with a two-rod limit on king salmon. For more information contact the local at 2800 First Avenue, Room 201, Seattle, Washington 98121.

Destroying US economy

Although I do not make it a practice of quoting Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, I am in total agreement with his recent allegations that Reagan has destroyed the US economy by design.

Reagan's motives are crystal clear. In creating a huge cadre of unemployed and homeless, he has engendered a political atmosphere of anti-unionism and thus, a tool with which to neutralize organized labor, the greatest bulwark against his avowed goal, complete control of every American's life by big business. (Fascism).

In bankrupting the economy, the certain subsequent economic crisis will create the atmosphere, wherein the American people will be susceptible to the call for a "strong man" to carry out the Reagans' avowed goals.

This is precisely how Hitler came to power in the early 30's and Reagan's agenda is leading us down the same path.

Every working person should remember this when they go to the polls. Let that read: Every working person should remember this when they go to the polls.

Counter to popular belief, it can happen.

Dick Moor
Local 19

Bay Area ILWU Pensioners

The following officers were reelected by members of the San Francisco Bay Area ILWU Pensioners Association:

Robert Rohatch, President; Tylie Sylvia, Vice President, Mike Samaduroff, Secretary and Sylvia South, Welfare Director.

Jack Orchid, Tony Gomez and Corinne Massey were re-elected to the Board of Trustees.

LETTERS

Page 7
Some old song on US budget

By MIKE LEWIS

IT'S summertime in Washington again—time for more budgetary scolds from the Great Communicator.

The federal budget deficit is still far larger than under any other president—at least $817 billion this year. That's $817 billion in added demand on the private reserve accounts and other lenders who come to the government's rescue, and that hurts the capital available for productive economic development. This is largely what's been keeping our economy in the doldrums.

ARM'S RACE, TAX GIVEAWAY

How we got to this point is familiar history. The Reagan arms race has tripled the government's annual spending on hardware and wage-setting with money that used to be spent on domestic programs. Tax giveaways to the rich since 1981 have also cost untold billions in revenue.

In the meantime, our old bridges are crumbling, our schools are decaying, and our domestic industries are becoming less competitive—while other countries with different budget priorities pull ahead of us in productivity and quality of life.

Almost everyone on Capitol Hill knows this, of course. That's why you've heard plenty of rhetoric about closing the deficit, even though it has been with us at about the same size for six years. The White House's approach has been to find a way to save money by wiping out more programs that benefit working people in education, mass transit, community development, housing, farm programs, legal aid, health, and nutrition.

THE SOLUTION

Since the problem hasn't changed, neither the correct solution cut unnecessary arms spending and make corporations pay something like their fair share of taxes. But neither the votes nor the guns have been there in either house to face down the administration.

The Pentagon's so-called "defense" figure for 1988 will again be between $290 and $300 billion, or close to 30% of all federal spending. (This doesn't include Social Security, which we pay for in a separate tax bill and which could be cut somewhat by cutting funding for Star Wars, for construction of additional warships and homeports, for lethal chemical weapons, and for other weapons systems.)(The government's annual spending on hard-

jobs for 24 hours, but to participate in a complex "cross-picketing" strategy to keep employers from singling out individual employees for punitive action. Carpenters have started supermarkets, secretaries picket pulp mills, and longshoremen picketed 6 a.m. Monday, the morning of the strike, longshoremen and members of other maritime unions manned the Maritime Center in Vancouver, dispatching pickets to job sites all over the city as they were needed. The picketing was extremely effective.

The New York Times reported that admitting that he had no power against the demonstration, Premier Vander Zalm, vowed another such "illegal" general strike would never be allowed to happen. On the afternoon of June 1 the government asked the provincial Supreme Court for an injunction against any such protests in the future, claiming that the labor movement was "advocating the use of force... as a means of accomplishing governmental change."

The government's writ, which named top BC labor leaders and their organizations as a companion Social Credit proposal, Bill 19, would break up the 30,000 strong BC Teachers Federation and fragment the teachers into a mixture of small union and non-union associations.

Illegible text appears June 1 in front of most major workplaces.

"There can be no doubt about how longshoremen feel about these issues, no matter whom they are aimed at."

Additional proposals are expected to take effect at the end of June.

EIGHT-POINT PROGRAM

The BCFL, with the support of the ILWU, has embarked on a program of continuing opposition including:

1—A complete and total boycott of the Industrial Relations Commission.
2—A public letter to the Premier asking him to withdraw the legislation and cooperate with labor and business in developing fair and balanced labor legislation.
3—Resignation by labor leaders from any joint committees on which they currently serve, exclusive of health and safety committees or jointly trusted health and welfare or pension trusts.
4—An ongoing media campaign in opposition to the legislation.
5—A direct mail campaign, targeting constituents throughout the province where Social Credit legislators are concen-
6—Provision of full support to any work- ers disciplined because of their participation in union activity.
7—Visits by BCFL officials to labor coun- cils throughout the province to discuss future strategy.
8—The holding of a conference of all BC labor in the fall to tighten up its work to rule and no overtime campaigns, and plan future strategy.

"Advocating or circulating any writing advocating the use of force, including:"

"to work stoppages, slowdowns, study sessions, breaking and inducing breaches of the labor relation laws and agreements, breaches of collective agreements, intimidation, picketing, strikes, general strikes, as well as the wrongful inducement of same as a means of accomplishing a governmental change in the province, including:"

"...with court costs awarded to the BCFL."

"Under this injunction, - according to: 1) Advocating or circulating any writing advocating the use of force, including: ..."

"...1) Advocating or circulating any writing advocating the use of force, including: ..."

"...advocating the use of force... as a means of accomplishing governmental change."