"Right to Know"

Labor wins hazard standard

WASHINGTON, DC—Under Court order, the Labor Department last month vastly expanded the federal "right-to-know" worker safety law, allowing an additional 59 million US employees to demand information from their employers about hazardous chemicals in the workplace.

The department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) will include virtually all private sector workers under the law, which has been restricted to about 14 million manufacturing employees until now. The move was made in response to a federal appeals court order to expand the scope of the law, formerly titled the Hazard Communications Standard.

TRAINING

Expansion of the standard requires thousands of non-manufacturing employers to establish hazard communications programs that will provide information to their employees through labels on containers, written materials and training programs. The expanded regulations require all employers falling under OSHA's jurisdiction to inform their workers of any hazardous substances on the job and train the employees on proper safeguards. Willful non-compliance can result in fines of up to $10,000.

The ruling, said Margaret Seminario, an AFL-CIO health and safety expert is "extremely significant." One out of every four workers in the US is exposed on the job to some substance that can cause death or serious disease, she said.

Workers in construction, hospitals and a number of other settings would be better protected as a result of the change. "This ruling fills the gap on what we've been trying to do since 1973. It's too bad it's taken the action of a court and the threat of contempt to get OSHA to act."

Labor and public health advocates began to demand greater access to information about hazardous substances from employers in the 1970s, as thousands of new chemicals that most workers knew little about were coming into use.

One study by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health showed that in 5,200 plants surveyed, workers were exposed to 95,000 trade-name substances. At 90% of the plants, neither workers nor employers knew what chemicals were contained in the trade name products.

SLOW PROCESS

In OSHA's 16-year history the agency has set standards limiting exposure to only 15 hazardous chemicals. A Labor Department source said the agency has been unable to study most of the hundreds of thousands of others used in the workplace and that the process of setting standards for those it has studied had been slow.

OSHA first proposed a "right to know" standard in 1981 at the end of the Carter administration, but the proposal was withdrawn after President Reagan came into office. Chemical manufacturers and a variety of other employers had asserted that the law was unnecessary.

Cities and states began to enact their own laws in response to demands from unions and community activists who were concerned about hazards in the workplace and chemical spills with broad impact on communities. OSHA proposed a new hazard communication standard in 1982 but limited it to manufacturing workers. The

—continued on page 4
The author of this article, Jim Wright, is the Commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture. The profession of being a Commissioner is distinct from that of being a legislator, and it is interesting to note how that profession attracts a large number of people to enter the political arena.

But what we do not often hear about this profession is the level of difficulty that it presents. Many of these people are highly educated and have extensive experience in their field, but they are still struggling to make ends meet.

A federal court has ruled that the state of Texas must provide reasonable accommodation for disabled workers. This is significant because it means that the state must provide reasonable accommodation for disabled workers who are unable to perform their job duties.

The President of the United States has announced plans to increase spending on education and infrastructure. This is good news because it means that the government is willing to invest in the future of the country.

The United States Congress has passed a bill to increase the minimum wage. This is good news because it means that workers will have more money to spend and will be able to afford basic necessities.

The United States Supreme Court has ruled that the government cannot claim intellectual property rights over publicly funded research. This is good news because it means that researchers will be able to freely publish their work and share their findings with the world.

The United States Senate has confirmed the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. This is good news because it means that the country will have a strong and independent judiciary.
Seattle warehouse union

Local 9 wins key pension and welfare improvements

SEATTLE — After several months of extremely difficult and complex negotiations, members of ILWU warehouse Local 9 have unanimously ratified a new two-year agreement on their health and welfare and pension benefits.

In the past, Local 9 members at each of the union's seven warehouses negotiated their wages and conditions separately. Health and welfare and pension benefits were negotiated jointly, but only after the basic economic agreements were in place, with no right to strike. Under these conditions, we had very little economic strength by which we were allowed to demand health and welfare pensions, said Local 9 secretary/business agent John McRae.

BACK TO THE MAIN TABLE

But under the new agreement, health and welfare and pension benefits will be at the main table when the current collective bargaining agreement expires in December. By making all the gains that are being negotiated at the bargaining table, Local 9 will be able to add to the strength of the ILWU, which, in turn, will create a strong negotiating position at the bargaining table.

The new agreement contains several significant new provisions, including:

- Increased health and welfare benefits for members with dependents.
- A new early retirement plan for members age 55 and over.
- Increased pension benefits for members with 30 years of service.
- A new multi-employer plan for members working in multiple employers.
- A new leave of absence program for members who are sick or injured.
- A new worker assistance program for members who are facing financial difficulties.

These provisions are the result of the union's successful negotiations, and they represent a significant step forward for Local 9 members.

PENSION IMPROVEMENTS

The committee also negotiated pension improvements which are "simply outstanding," Silverman said. "We have negotiated what is very likely the largest-ever increase in benefits for Local 9 members, and a modest improvement in the pension benefit structure."

- The accrual rate for all service is increased from $25 to $28 per year for members who retire before June 30, 1989 forward will be credited at $27 per year of service.
- Effective January 1, 1989, participants will be able to accumulate credit for 30 years of service.
- Participants will now be able to retire at any age as early as age 55, instead of 62 — but those retiring early will have to wait until they obtain age 62 to qualify for retiree health and welfare benefits.

In addition, retirees will receive an extra pension benefit of $25 per month beginning on December 1, 1987, and again on December 1, 1988.

Along with Silverman and McRae, the negotiating committee consisted of Local 9 President Randy Campbell, Ron Edison and Bernhardt Schwartz.

PAPER SHUFFLE SUSPECTED

As to the pullout of Salmon Terminals, Local 9's second-largest employer, union officials suspect a mere paper shuffle.

"We haven't been able to find anything on the sale filed with the Attorney General's office," McRae said.

Local 9 has filed unfair labor practice charges with the present bargaining process between the employer and the union.

The company is also accused of failing to negotiate to soften the impact of the sale on its 46 employees, and failing to pay severance pay, as required under the old agreement.

Local 9 has filed unfair labor practice charges with the Attorney General's office, regarding the failure to negotiate to soften the impact of the sale on its 46 employees. The company is also accused of failing to pay severance pay, as required under the old agreement.

ですし、月の音楽は、青い海と緑の森に響いた。
"All the right instincts"

San Francisco — Assemblyman Art Agnos, a consistent and effective voice for working people from the state legislature for the last 11 years, is in a dead heat with Supervisor John Molinari in the race to determine who will be the next Mayor of San Francisco. Agnos enjoys the unanimous support of the ILWU Joint Legislative Committee.

"Art has a truly outstanding record," says International President Jim Herman. "He’s got all the right instincts — to keep San Francisco as a place where working families can live comfortably, where they can have decent jobs and affordable housing. He wants to help preserve our unique neighborhoods, to encourage small and mid-sized businesses.

... And he’s got the political experience and know-how to make it happen."

KEY ISSUES
Jobs and housing are the keys to the Agnos campaign. He has worked to organize a division of the Mayor’s office devoted exclusively to business and economic development. Agnos’s Economic Development Committee works to promote the interests of business, labor, neighborhood groups and city agencies, will focus on helping existing San Francisco businesses expand, modernize and develop. Agnos is actively working to attract new businesses to San Francisco, to create more affordable housing.

Agnos also is committed to the protection of maritime activities at the Port of San Francisco. "The San Francisco waterfront is an outstanding San Francisco real estate, but also because it provides jobs and maintains a diverse employment base for the city," he says. "We propose to develop a new approach to city planning with an emphasis on maritime-related job opportunities, and to seek out cooperative ventures with the Port of Oakland, replacing parochial competition with regional cooperation.

A UNION TOWN
Agnos vows that as Mayor he would "thoroughly examine our policy on the kind of security and stability which union members have traditionally enjoyed in this city. As Mayor, my leadership will be made in a clear, unequivocal statement that this city respects, understands and values what the trade union movement means to working people in the state legislature."

The candidate speaks for himself
(from "Getting Things Done: Visions and Goals for San Francisco," by Art Agnos)

"It’s never what you do for people that matters, but what you do with them ... what makes a difference — so everyone can have the opportunity to realize the strength that already lies inside us but that most people may not know about or feel until they reach for it."

San Francisco’s survival as a world class city is tied inextricably to the mix of people who have managed to find a home within their own economic means. But we are going to remain a cosmopolitan city if the only people who can afford to live here are upper middle class and wealthy professionals who come predominantly from one background and one economic status."

Agnos and his supporters are hoping that on November 3 the voters of San Francisco will join with him in providing a clear answer to that question.

Now 48 years old, Art Agnos is one of two children of Greek immigrants. He was raised in Springfield, Mass. Arriving in San Francisco 21 years ago, he worked for four years in the social work division of the San Francisco Housing Authority, and was a member of the Service Employees International Union. He then became an aide to Assemblyman Leo Paramore, then ran for the new Lieutenant Governor. Agnos was elected to the State Assembly from San Francisco in 1976 and was re-elected to unbroken service. He is the outstanding record, not only in terms of legislative achievement, but also in using the power of his office to solve tough citywide problems.

A CLEAR RECORD
Even before he was sworn into office in 1976 he battled strong opposition to Proposition B, which provided for the dismissal of striking workers.

Over the years, the Agnos has compiled a 97% "right" voting record on labor issues. Among the bills he has authored, have been signed into law are:

• A bill which strengthened the state’s ability to enforce the prevailing wage law on public work contracts;

• A bill which established which allowed California Workers’ Accounts for workers who were affiliated with an asbestos

• California’s landmark welfare reform legislation, known as GAIN, which includes education, job training, child care and other support services. California’s plan includes guarantees that social security workers who were working to resettle workers.

OSHA sets new right-to-know standard

—continued from page 1

standard was formerly adopted in November, 1983. Early in 1984 the United Steelworkers of America and other labor unions sued the agency in federal courts in an attempt to broaden and strengthen the standard.

In May, 1985 the US 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the unions’ suit and ordered OSHA to include non-manufacturing employees unless the agency could demonstrate it was not feasible to do so.

The court ruled also that OSHA must limit the kind of information that an employer might withhold from workers on the ground that it might expose the employer to the threat of a lawsuit.

CONTEMPT THREAT
But the agency did not comply to implement the 1985 ruling, and in January, 1987 the unions returned to court seeking a contempt order. On May 19 the 3rd Circuit Court gave OSHA 60 days to extend the Hazard Communication Standard to non-manufacturing workers.

In late June, the Labor Department asked the court for a rehearing, contending that the appeals court ruling conflicted with an earlier Supreme Court decision. The court procedures OSHA had to follow in setting safety and health standards. That request was denied in mid-August.

ILWU backs Agnos for Mayor of San Francisco

The San Francisco ILWU recommendations follow are the recommendations of the ILWU West Bay legislative committee for the November 3 San Francisco municipal elections.

Mayor
Art AGNOS
District Attorney
Michael HENNESSEY

A UNION TOWN
Assemblyman Agnos meets with San Francisco neighborhood constituencies.

Agnos's Economic Development Committee works to promote the interests of business, labor, neighborhood groups and city agencies, will focus on helping existing San Francisco businesses expand, modernize and develop. Agnos is actively working to attract new businesses to San Francisco, to create more affordable housing.

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Reagan's Labor Board turns back clock, sets tough curbs on pickle line action

BY LORRIE GRAY
International Counsel
Leonard, Carder & Zuckerman

In yet another area of labor law, the pro-management majority of the National Labor Relations Board (the Board) has reversed its policy of allowing workers unfair labor practice charges to go unchallenged. In Clear Pine Mouldings, 286 NLRB No. 173 (1984), the Board adopted a new definition of what constitutes strike misconduct, which in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection. Thus, the Board has held that strikers can be permanently and permanently replaced, they cannot be discharged. However, strikers who are guilty of "strike misconduct" lose their protection under the Act and can be lawfully discharged.

NEW STANDARD

The Board's new standard for what constitutes strike misconduct, as set forth in Clear Pine Mouldings, is an "objective" test that requires it to look beyond the particular circumstances, that it may reason-ably be expected to be safe for workers to engage in the targeted conduct while protected under the Act, namely the right to refrain from engaging in a strike. Thus, the Board abandoned its prior case-by-case ap-proach and adopted a heightened standard, the "seriousness" of the alleged conduct.

Perhaps more importantly, in addition to adopting this new "objective" test, the Board in Clear Pine Mouldings rejected a long line of decisions that had held strikers to be "willing" or "ready" to be discharged. Instead, the Board has added another "objective" test for strike misconduct, which some employees elect to voluntarily "rejoin" the plant. The strike ended, the Board concluded that the striker, by "repeatedly confronting" his supervisor while in "enormous possession" of a "potentially offensive weapon," reasonably tended to threaten the supervisor with bodily harm and, therefore, forfeited any right to further employment by the Employer.

Recently, the Board's anti-union sen-sation was again recurred in the case of GMS, Inc., 284 NLRB No. 22 (June 10, 1987). There, the Board found the discharge of a striking employee of Clear Pine Mouldings. One striker kicked a scab's car and another striker slapped the back of a child's baseball bat, but did not lift it from his side. The Board concluded that the striker, by "repeatedly confronting" his supervisor while in "enormous possession" of a "potentially offensive weapon," reasonably tended to threaten the supervisor with bodily harm and, therefore, forfeited any right to further employment by the Employer.

STEWARDS WORKSHOP-As a first step in preparation for Northern California warehouse bargaining next year, some 50 Local 6 stewards from all over the Bay Area devoted Saturday, September 19 to an intensive workshop on such issues as contract enforcement, workplace strategies, and recent shifts in labor law. Speakers and panelists included Local 6 President Al Lammon and Secretary-Treasurer Leon Harris, attorney Lorrie Gray, BA's Joe Lindo, Jim Ryder, Robert Moreno, David Schermerhorn, Victor Pamirony and Mort Newman.

World dock survey

LONDON — The International Trans-port Workers' Federation has released a new survey, charting waterfront working conditions in countries from around the world. The Federation's "Survey of Dockers' Working Conditions" is based on responses from dock workers in 26 countries to a comprehensive questionnaire sent to all TFW affiliated dockers' unions early in 1987.

Richard voinich
Following are recommendations of the Labor Board's National Maritime Trans- portation Committee for the November 3 general election.

Richmond City Council
David McDARDIM
John MARQUEZ
Beverly Y. VARE
Lonnie WASHINGTON
Richmond School Board
Barbara ALEXANDER

BORON -- ILWU chemical workers Local 30 has initiated an important unfair labor practice case before the Labor Board, ruling against the right of its employer, US Borax, to impose a new job application form without reference to an existing union contract.

In early August, the company, without holding any discussions with the union, began requiring the workers to:
• sign an agreement that the employer has the right to administer any test on or cause to notice at any time, that no com-pany representative other than the presi-dent has authority to make any agreements for employment for a specified period of time or condition of employment; that any such agreement for a specified period of time or condition of employment must be reduced to writing and signed by the applicant and the presi-
dent of the company; and
• to undergo invasive drug testing at a facility to be chosen by the company.

After company representatives were unable to resolve the issue through the grievance procedure, the federal labor board charged, accusing US Borax of violating provisions of the National Labor Relations Act which impose obligations to bargain in good faith.

"This was something we should negotiate, and not just do off the top of someone's head," said Local 30 President Paul Wilkerson. "Once you have a union in place, a company is not permitted to go one-on-one with an employee to negotiate terms and conditions of their work. And that's why we took this case, because as we're concerned, a new applicant has the same rights as an employee."

"The whole issue has been brought up at the bargaining table."
AIDS at work— a rational approach

BY RUSS BARGMANN
ILWU Health and Safety Coordinator

Second of a series: AIDS. Perhaps the scarcest four let-
ters of our generation. The following arti-
cle, by ILWU Health and Safety Coordi-
nator Russ Bargmann, is the second of a series which will attempt to sort out hysteria from reality, to address the medical and ethical issues involved, and to deal with the implications of the spread of AIDS as they apply to the workplace.

The September issue of The Dis-
patcher focused on the AIDS virus, how it is transmitted from person to person, and what the AIDS antibody test can and cannot tell. This article will deal specifically with AIDS in the workplace.

The fear of transmitting AIDS from one person to another has resulted in discrimina-
tion against persons with AIDS. AIDS Related Complex and discrimination against those who are suspected of car-
rying the AIDS virus. People have been fired from their jobs, evicted from their homes, denied insurance, and prohibited from entering schools. In almost all cases, the fear of AIDS, which is unfounded, and the actions themselves are often illegal.

As mentioned in "AIDS at Work— Hysteria and Reality" (The Dispatcher, September 9), fear of spreading AIDS are sexual contact or skin contact with open wounds. These infections have occurred as a result of needles sticking into skin and as a result of exposure to infected blood and having an open cut or sore; having ex-
tensive contact with uninfected skin or a mucous membrane; or following the recommended safety pro-
cedures.

In this case, AIDS infected body fluids had a direct means of entry into the health care workers' blood. The fact the more health care workers have not been in-
fected with the virus further supports the view that this is a rational approach to AIDS prevention in the workplace.

Miss Weisberger was 80—years—old.

Local 10 scholarships

SAN FRANCISCO — The daughters of three ILWU Local 10 members recently received $800 Jefferson Memorial Scholarships. They are Edith Zelaye, daughter of Harry Zelaye, Unit Manager; Laura Martinez, the daughter of Vicente Martinez, President of the ILWU Local; and Beatrice Barrigher, the daughter of Fred Barrigher, former Port Commissioner, and was instru-
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He is survived by his wife Ann, his son

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imental in establishing in 1963 the Seafarers’ Mission in San Francisco.
Workers threatened by 'spy computers'

Computers that can monitor rest breaks and productivity, sometimes by counting individual typewriter keystrokes, are keeping track of more than seven million American workers, according to a government report.

The report said that computer monitoring might add to the stress of level of many jobs. The introduction of more frequent illnesses, for example, could lend themselves to employee turnover. The report said that computer monitoring might add to the stress of level of many jobs.

The report is part of a new labor education curriculum, students at Oakland Technical High School will soon be grappling with the economics of negotiating a contract in their math classes, and in their science classes with the hazards faced by workers on the job.

A coalition of the ILWU, the AFL-CIO, the TEAMsters, and the Teamsters, will assist the Oakland Tech faculty by developing curriculum materials on organized labor, organizing field trips, and teaching specific classes.

Oakland Tech counselor Dodie Lindsay, is coordinating Labor Week at Oakland Tech, which will actually take place February 22-28. "We want to teach students about the real world, and one of the big holes is the story of organized labor. The labor movement is basically neglected in school curriculum. Corporations have had a tremendous impact in the schools, but the other side of the coin is the people who do the work."

LONG RANGE PLAN Labor Education Week is the first step in a long range plan to integrate labor studies into the curriculum and experience of students at Oakland Tech and to build an effective partnership between the school and the union.

Ms. Lindsay is assisted by an advisory committee consisting of Al Rossi, United Teachers of Oakland, Local 1771, AFT; Owen Marron, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer of the Alameda County Central Labor Council, AFT-CIO; Gabe Ybarra-loza, Business Agent for Teamsters Local 70; ILWU Information Director Danny Beagle; Marty Morgenstern, Director of the University of California Center for Labor Research and Education; and Al Browning, Director of the Meritt College Labor Studies Program.

Labor Education Week got off to a strong start on Thursday, September 17, when about 100 students, labor officials, staff and parents attended a kick-off reception at Oakland Tech. The ILWU was represented by Joe Luera, President of Longshore Local 10. The reception was promised the union's full support. ILWU Longshore division members will lead a tour of the container facilities at the Port of Oakland as part of Labor Education week.

ELECTIONS

Local 63, Wilmington

Local 63, ILWU, Wilmington, California, will hold its mail balloting to fill the offices of president-Ba, vice president, sergeant-at-arms, board of trustees (6, council) convention delegates and two regular dispatchers as well as two relief dispatchers 26 month terms. Nominations open from October 15 through November 15, 1987. Nominations will be accepted until November 15, 1987.

Local 27, Port Angeles

Local 27, ILWU, Port Angeles, Washington, will hold its primary mail balloting December 10 to fill the offices of president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, recording secretary, dispatcher, assistant dispatcher, sergeant-at-arms, three trustees, four safety committee members, council/convention delegates as well as Puget Sound delegate. Seven ex-officio board members will also be elected. Nominations will be accepted until November 12, 1987 at the regular stopwork meeting at 608 Marine Drive, Port Angeles 98362.

Local 40, Portland

Clerks Local 40, ILWU, will hold its primary mail ballot during November. The elections will be conducted by mail.

Local 13, Wilmington

The results of the fall run-off election for new officers are: Secretary-Treasurer, Dwight Stinnett; Recorder, Virgil Alling; Recording Secretary, Bruce Kringer; night business agent, George Vose; business agent, Larry Swanger; Business Manager, Mike Pulseich, Rudy Negrete, Anthony R., Luera, John Espinosa Jr.; night dispatcher, Norman J. Jorgensen; sergeant-at-arms, Marshall L. Herrera Jr.

Caucus delegates are Lou Leveridge, A. "Tony" Salcido, Steve Bebich, Mike Yelovich, Anthony J. Luke, Mike Yelovich, Tom Schofield, John Pandora, Andy "Suitcase" Simich, David Arian and John Toussue. District council delegates are Linda Palacios, David Arian, Buzz Hay, Lewis Wright, Johnny Espinosa, Sr. and Roy Ortiz.
ANDERSON, CA - Most of the actions taken last September 21-23 at the 20th anniversary convention of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association (PCPA) amounted to a reaffirmation of the retiree group’s position at the 1968 session: "To coordinate the activities of all pensioner groups on the coast, to express our interest in political and social programs, Social Security, Medicare, to take a stand on some of the questions of labor and others that affect ourselves and our children."

Faced with a 1968 convention resolution demanding an end to the Vietnam war, delegates at this year’s meeting protested the sending of US war ships into the Persian Gulf. They also renewed their support for the sending of troops to defense of the Nicaraguan Contras. And the convention called on President Reagan to sign legislation providing for apologies and reparations for Japanese-Americans wrongly incarcerated in concentration camps during World War II.

NATIONAL HEALTH CARE

On the domestic front, a convention resolution urges all ILWU pension clubs to become members of the National Council of Senior Citizens and the labor-supported National Health Action Coalition.

The National Council is seeking millions of signatures on petitions to make National Health Care a reality in the 100th Congress and in the 1986 presidential campaign. The Health Care Coalition is circulating post cards and writing to Congress asking for support for health insurance for all workers through Medicare improvements. Medicare coverage for prescription drugs, and, particularly, Health Care for everyone as a human right. Many delegates took petitions and post cards home with them.

In a companion resolution thanking Bill Hildred, retiring Executive Director of the National Council of Senior Citizens, for his 25 years of service to seniors and labor, the delegates urged continued ILWU pension club participation in the work of the National Council and state senior councils in California, Oregon and Washington.

New ground was also broken this year’s convention when the delegates amended the PCPA constitution to provide for a second Vice President, and then elected their first woman officer, San Francisco Bay Area’s Tilly Sylvia, to that position. Sylvia is also Vice-President of her own local club, SF Bay Area Pensioners. The delegates also urged the federation to let clubs not yet admitting wives to welcome them into their ranks.

Other convention resolutions and actions:

- Supported enactment of HR 1186 to protect medical and hospital coverage jeopardized by corporatization bankruptcy proceedings.
- Opposed the appointment of Robert Bork to the US Supreme Court, saying his appointment would be bad news for unions and seniors, for anyone not a part of big business.
- Called for re-education of the FCC “fairness doctrine” for TV and radio stations on controversial issues and “reasonable opportunity” for labor, seniors, minorities and others to present opposing views on the airwaves.
- Urged the Dispatch to establish a permanent “Old-Timers” column to report PCPA and local pension club activities.
- Granted PCPA affiliation to the ILWU Waterfront Pensioners, Port of Honolulu.
- Mailed a letter to the IUB pledging full support its seven-month-old strike against Crowley Maritime.
- Endorsed the concept of an Independent Labor Party in the United States and requested a report on such action by next year’s ILWU International Convention.

Convention speakers included ILWU Vice-President Rudy Rubio, Coast Committeeman Randy Veldick, International President Emeritus Harry Bridges, ILWU Local 10 President Joe Lucas, and Toby Jones, Assistant Executive Director, ILWU-PMA Pension Director.

Rubio, Veldick and Bridges reviewed the history of the longshorewareh Mile and pension program contracts, politics and voting procedures. Toby Jones answered questions concerning some of the health and medical programs experienced under the Welfare Plan coverage. Lucas described a Local 10 program to get labor history taught in the public schools. A letter of greeting, congratulations and best wishes was read signed by International President Jim Herman, Secretary-Treasurer Curt McClain and Vice-President Rudy Rubio. The Columbia River District Council sent greetings in the form of an illustrated brochure detailing some of the highlights of the PCPA’s 20 year history. Clara Fambro, President of the ILWU Federaled Auxiliaries, delivered greetings on behalf of the federated groups, and described some of the work of local auxiliaries on behalf of the ILWU and pensioners.

POLITICAL ACTION

The overriding convention theme of the need for stepped up political action by every ILWU pension club and retiree was forcibly expressed by PCPA National Vice-President Rudy Rubio, front and center.

On stage are some of the charter members of ILWU local 6 who joined over 100 other old-timers on Thursday, September 24 for a luncheon celebrating the 50th anniversary of the chartering of warehouse Local 6 by the ILWU. Pension Club President Keith Eickman was MC.

Cannery strikers need assistance

SAN JOSE—Once again, striking can- ney workers from the Bay area need help. This time there are 600 on strike in Salinas and 200 in the bricks in Modesto. Both groups are on strike against United Foods, a large food processor with headquarters in Tennesses, a plant there, and two more frozen food processing plants, one in Minnesota and another in Ogden, Utah.

The issues are essentially the same as those there in Watensville, where over 1,000 workers struck last year for over a year in a successful effort to save their union contract. These workers were supported for many months by the support of Bay Area unions, who organized food caravans on a regular basis.

The United Foods workers in Modesto struck against a management-imposed pay reduction to $5.05 per hour and other cut-backs in health and welfare, attacks on seniority, and a gutting of the grievance procedure. The Modesto strikers have been out since June 15, Teamsters Local 690 in San Jose have been without a contract since July 1.

The locals are asking that once again food processors be urged to stop the bloodshed and the back-breaking work. Food can be dropped off at: Teamsters Local 187, 1342 North Fourth Street, San Jose, CA 95112; 1444 6th Street, CA 95110; 1900 Almaden Road, San Jose, CA 95129; and 1200 Gilman Blvd, CA 95125 (800-266-2790)

The locals can be made to the United Food Workers Support Committee, c/o Santa Clara County Labor Council at the above addresses.