Spiraling costs
Health care back on front burner

Squeezed by billions of dollars in employer medical costs each year, some US corporations have joined the labor move-ment, seniors organizations and even the dreaded "liberals" in pushing for national health care insurance—proving once again that politics makes strange bedfellows.

Leading the charge is none other than Chrysler chairman Lee Iacocca. With health costs now at $192 million annually, the nation’s third largest auto manufactur-er says it has to add over $700 to each car it produces to cover the expense.

"How would you like to compete without this albatross around your neck?" Iacocca asked at a recent meeting of the National Association of Manufacturers. Noting that Chrysler’s tab for medical is "going up at twice the rate of inflation," he said: "Other countries put those costs in their taxes, but we put them into the price of our products."

The other two of The Big Three are split on the issue of national health insurance. While Ford, which spent $1 billion on employee medical last year, has seen the light, General Motors remains uncon-vinced despite a staggering annual bill of over $3 billion.

Although there is a vast difference of opinion among US companies on how to solve the problem, they generally agree that escalating health costs are wresting the national economy, adding to the cost of products and damaging US competition in the world market.

COSTS SKYROCKET

The nation’s medical bill has sky-rocketed to $590 billion a year—a 41% increase since 1985—with private insur-ance, largely funded by employers, picking up about a third of the cost.

The numbers will look even worse if US companies adopt a recommendation by the Financial Accounting Standards Board to include billions of dollars in liabilities for the future care of retirees.

Employers who provide health insurance say they are subsidizing the rest of the country through payment of inflated doctor and hospital bills. Labor unions generally agree on this point, and contend that, in the absence of national health care, all employers should be required to foot the bill for their employees.

Labor leaders also say medical costs are cutting into the bargaining pie, making it harder to get better wages and other bene-fits for their members. Employer demands for contract concessions, particularly in the area of health and welfare, have added to the problem.

SENATE DELIBERATES

"The health issue is back on the Ameri-can agenda," said Senator Edward M. Ken-ney, chairman of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee. "At last, the cost is hitting the middle class, and Ameri-can business is understanding the effects on the bottom line."

Kennedy, an old-fashioned liberal who has held on in the Senate for over 20 years despite efforts by corporate America and the right-wing to unseat him, has long been a proponent of national health care insurance.

Earlier this month, he began committee hearings on his bill to set minimum health care standards for full-time workers and develop a public program for the uninsured.

please turn to page 3

Export restrictions loom

ILWU moves to defend log trade

WASHINGTON, DC—As this issue of The Dispatcher goes to press, the ILWU is mounting a major effort to short-circuit pending federal legislation which would devastate log ports and communities in the Northwest by restricting log exports.

Two Senate bills, S.754 and S. 755, have been introduced in the Senate by Sen. Robert Packwood (R. Ore.). The companion House bill, HR 119, was introduced by Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Coe Bay).

The key problem, International Presi-dent Jim Herman wrote to members of the various committees which will hold hear-ings on these bills, is that "many in the wood processing community view the restriction of log exports as a way to allev-i ate the problems of decreasing lumber sup-ply." At the same time, he continued, "certain milling interests continue to insist that reducing log exports would produce a greater international market for US fin-ished wood products."

"We in the ILWU have always empha-sized that we prefer to load finished prod-ucts rather than logs aboard ship, since such work is usually more lucrative. We have no quarrel with the natural desire of our fellow workers in the mills to expand the export of finished wood."

INDUSTRY ALREADY SHIFTING

But the evidence shows, Herman contin-ued, that restricting log exports would resolve none of these issues. Recent data indicates that log exports are actually shrinking in proportion to exports of fin-ished lumber.

"The industry is already shifting produc- tion in the direction of exporting fin-ished wood products and fewer logs, without restrictive legislation. The Packwood-DeFazio bills, therefore, would accomplish nothing but the devastation of Northwest port communities which depend on log exports. Thousands of workers, their family members and fami-lies in related businesses, would suffer serious damage."

ILWU members in the Northwest are asked to communicate as soon as possible with their representatives in the House of Representatives and in the Senate, in defense of their log jobs. In a separate let-ter, Herman asked all ILWU locals to find ways to increase their contributions to the Political Action Fund. "If we are to protect our members and the communities in which we live it is absolutely necessary for the ILWU to have the strongest possible presence in Washington in the current session."

"The integrity of the entire longshore division, and therefore of the entire union, will be at risk unless we defeat these bills."

New pension deal in Canada

VANCOUVER, B.C.—A three-year dis-purse agreement has been reached between the ILWU and the British Columbia Maritime Employers Association may soon come to an end if a new tentative agreement on pensions is ratified.

Membership ratification meetings are expected to be completed by the end of this month. Watch for the next edition of The Dispatcher for details on the tentative agreement, the outcome of the vote, and the facts behind the controversy.
Union approval up

If a recent Harris poll is any indication, the overwhelming majority of Americans believe unions are a positive force for the country. For example, 3 out of 5 people think unions help check the power of big business, and 2 out of 3 say most employers would make "hire" and "fire" decisions local to the plant if there were no unions around to stop them. This week, 2 out of 3 people believe unions are needed to resolve complaints and have said workers need better health programs, unemployment compensation, social security, and other assistance.

So why do unions still seem to get such bad press? Both labor and management must be held accountable.

The oil companies were permitted to open up the North Slope to increased coastal shipping in the summer of 1977 only after they had developed a series of oil spills that they said were false procedures to protect the fragile environment. But almost from the moment the first drops of oil entered the pipeline, the Exxon Valdez was involved in a series of serious accidents that made it clear that the tanker was not ready for service. In 1981 Exxon disbanded a 20-member emergency team prepared for round-the-clock responses to oil spills. On April 24, the Coast Guard and Prince William Sound. A way of life has been destroyed by the local and state government's inability to use their resources in an effective manner. The situation has been aggravated by Reagan-era budget cuts, which have left the Coast Guard incapable of handling the situation. Perhaps more important, the oil industry in general, and Exxon Valdez in particular, have failed to recognize the need to develop a national policy to allow tanker operators to take over because of the tanker's oil spills. Workers say they are not sharing in the boom both American and Korean owned businesses are enjoying. They point out that while they put in 15 more hours a week than American workers, they earn just 11% of the pay—an average of $12 an hour. Furthermore, they say, that even with some labor law reform, the government is turning a blind eye to the violence perpetrated by the corporations.

When US companies first set up shop in South Korea 20 years ago, they found a capitalist's dream: an inexpensive, well-educated workforce and a government willing to keep it. But after years of exploitation, workers started to rebel, even though strikes were illegal.

When public sentiment went decidedly pro-worker and anti-American, the government eased up on some of its repressive labor laws. That was two years ago. Since then, the government has been stuck by thousands of strikes... In 1987 alone there were over 3,700 strikes in South Korea. 1988 saw about the same amount. Companies say the strikes have cost them over $106 million in lost production and another $330 million in lost shipboard equipment—but the economy still registered a

So. Korea torn by strikes and violence

Bolloré will ship the oil from its discharge terminal, parting the hoses used to pump crude oil ashore. Efforts to recover the losses were crippled by the failure of badly damaged onboard equipment.

The company's response looks an awful lot like negligence. Cleaned up, the oil operation, oil leaked out of the grounded ship for two full days before any action was taken. And the federal government. President Bush waited for two weeks before deciding that perhaps the resources of the US government might be put to work in the summer of 1987 only after they had developed a series of oil spills that they said were false procedures to protect the fragile northern environment. But almost from the moment the first drops of oil entered the pipeline, the Exxon Valdez was involved in a series of serious accidents that made it clear that the tanker was not ready for service. In 1981 Exxon disbanded a 20-member emergency team prepared for round-the-clock responses to oil spills. On April 24, the Coast Guard and Prince William Sound. A way of life has been destroyed by the local and state government's inability to use their resources in an effective manner. The situation has been aggravated by Reagan-era budget cuts, which have left the Coast Guard incapable of handling the situation. Perhaps more important, the oil industry in general, and Exxon Valdez in particular, have failed to recognize the need to develop a national policy to allow tanker operators to take over because of the tanker's oil spills. Workers say they are not sharing in the boom both American and Korean owned businesses are enjoying. They point out that while they put in 15 more hours a week than American workers, they earn just 11% of the pay—an average of $12 an hour. Furthermore, they say, that even with some labor law reform, the government is turning a blind eye to the violence perpetrated by the corporations.

When US companies first set up shop in South Korea 20 years ago, they found a capitalist's dream: an inexpensive, well-educated workforce and a government willing to keep it. But after years of exploitation, workers started to rebel, even though strikes were illegal.

When public sentiment went decidedly pro-worker and anti-American, the government eased up on some of its repressive labor laws. That was two years ago. Since then, the government has been stuck by thousands of strikes... In 1987 alone there were over 3,700 strikes in South Korea. 1988 saw about the same amount. Companies say the strikes have cost them over $106 million in lost production and another $330 million in lost shipboard equipment—but the economy still registered a
When Peffer returned to work, the employee at Pabco Gypsum, submitted to a Drug and Alcohol Recovery Program rehabilitation program under the Local 6 jurisdiction for the duration of the agreement and reimburse the Local for some $3,000 in lost wages.

One burned, twice shy. In March of last year, Ensenada had the wherewithal to send advance notice canceling the then effective April 30, 1988, Regional Director’s order the company issued an overall drug policy claiming the authority to impose random drug tests, without evidence that he or she had used drugs since his return to work.

At the company’s suggestion the drug policy was submitted to arbitrator Jon Kagel, began: “I advised them that, since their intended cancellation affected all of our Local 29 members, the Union wanted to enter into immediate negotiations,” Barra said. “They told me it was not possible to negotiate the job, but that the Port cares about is collecting rents. Calling Port officials ‘corrupt, anti-worker and short-sighted,’ Barra said: ‘They want to turn all the port property into tourist traps. If that happens important jobs will be lost. The Port’s been very callous about the effects their actions have on their employees.”

Furrow, Barra said, the Port’s refusal to even discuss the Port’s San Diego waterfront, and has not been justifying kickbacks from companies doing business with the Port, Barra said, “What do we have to do to get a meeting? Pay him off.”

Other attempts to resolve the feud with the Ensenada Express have also been fruitless.

“Not many companies would let a parallel longshore union in Ensenada, Mexico to discuss joint strategy,” Chavez said, “but they couldn’t help us. They said their jurisdiction problem was out of their reach.”

Chavez, a longshore mediator assigned to the dispute has thrown up his hands. After meeting with Ensenada management, he informed the Union that there was no way the company would be persuaded to bargain.

“What burns me,” said ILWU International Vice President Nick Pacich, “is that the company is crying poverty, yet they refuse to open their books. They in a day, but they’ve hired a new general manager for $55,000 a year. Doesn’t sound like they’re poor.”

More than 200 ILWU active and retired members—most of them from the LA Harbor Area, but including others from all over the state—joined San Diego Worker’s Memorial Day demonstration.

Local 29 President Timmy Chavez describes ILWU’s beef with Ensenada Express to participants at San Diego Worker’s Memorial Day demonstration April 29.
Congress efforts to protect pension funds

BY MIKE LEWIS
Washington correspondent

When unions first began negotiating pension plans, the idea was to provide a secure retirement. What you've likely taken up-front as a wage increase, you choose to forego. The funds go into a pension fund instead, so the money could be tied up for a long time to come.

This trade seems, as long as the money stayed there. To fix your invest-
ment, it's profitable. That's exactly how Congress intended it when passed the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Most pension funds have performed well financially over the last 20 years, making higher earnings and amassing more assets than most experts predicted. This has resulted from US economic expansion – and also from a benefit incentive for many retirees haven't even kept pace with inflation.

Many pension funds now have more than enough funds to cover their retirement liabilities. They now pack so much financial weight in the stock market that in recent years their labor analysts have thought that pension funds might be the new muscle for organized labor to exert some clout in the American arena.

ERISA LOOPHOLE

But in reality, there's nothing that belongs to workers. Free. What to us is earned savings and capital, perhaps to use socially useful projects for employers a tempting pool of dollars to raid for their own purposes. And ERISA allows them to do just that.

Until 1985, the IRS had protected pension plans from being raiders. Then, in an attempt to recover only those excess amounts that reasonably could be attributed to ERISA, under Reagan, loosened this restriction. And in 1986, ERISA was amended to allow a portion of a pension fund that exceeded the plans accrued benefit liabilities up to the date of a termination, as "surplus." By term-
inating the plan, the employer could skim off the surplus. And they've been doing it ever since – to the tune of more than $19 billion from more than 1,800 plans, at the expense of nearly two million workers. A time at when high-
level executives and the corporate America, billions of new dollars are being skimmed off for new acquisi-
tion gimmicks. A healthy pension fund makes a company particularly attractive to a raider, or it can be used to finance the takeover itself.

Some employers who terminate – almost 30% of them in 1986 – don't even create a second plan to replace the first one. Others create a new plan, providing inferior benefits. Last year only 25% of those who terminated pension plans set up a new plan comparable to the old one.

That's a far cry from providing a better standard of living for retired workers, and it's all the more outrageous when you consider that Congress now gives employers a $40 billion tax break each year just to encourage them to provide plans for their workers.

Efforts in Congress to put a stop to this massive piracy came to no good. The Labor-Finance Amendments, 1988, and the key labor subcommittee chairmen.

The bills – S 665 and HR 1661, respec-
tively – would have required all employers who have contributed to an identical replacement plan, the new plan, to provide benefits to retirees equal to 125% of benefit liabilities. Retirees would also receive a one-time benefit increase, calculated by the Labor-Health Services, not adjust-
ated for inflation.

If plan was a terminated plan with an inferior one, the new plan would offer just 135% of benefit liabilities. And if no replacement plan is set up, no assets could be taken whatsoever.

Northern, Southern California ILWU Councils in joint session

Delegates swing weight in Sacramento

SACRAMENTO—Over 50 delegates from ILWU Northern and Southern Cali-
ifornia District Councils held a highly productive and legislative conference May 8-10 here. The union members treated extensive dis-
cussion of critical legislative issues and lobbying of legislators from ILWU dis-

While most of their time was spent dis-

ters on the US Federal Reserve. In addition, the Fed's tightening of money supply has raised interest rates, which has led to increased bank lending, leading to higher inflationary pressures. This has resulted in increased costs for businesses, which then pass these costs on to consumers in the form of higher prices.

The Fed has been raising interest rates in an effort to cool off the economy and prevent further inflation. However, this has led to increased uncertainty in the marketplace, as businesses and consumers are unsure of what the future holds.

The Fed's actions have been met with mixed reactions. Some argue that the Fed is doing the right thing by curbing inflation, while others believe that it is overly aggressive and causing unnecessary economic pain. Regardless of one's opinion, it is clear that the Fed's decisions have far-reaching implications for the economy and for society as a whole.
CAL/OSHA up and running again

SACRAMENTO—After almost 2 years in limbo, CAL/OSHA, the state worker health and safety agency, is up and running effective May 1 with 21 full-time officers. CAL/OSHA International Vice President Ralph Crawford, representing locals in California containing details of the new program.

He said that 14 of the offices have the same street address and phone number as before, but have added in temporary quarters until permanent locations are found and would take place within the next several months. Nearly 140 of the 214 inspectors CAL/OSHA will eventually have are already on the job.

Picking up where it left off in July 1987—when Governor George Deukmejian signed off on CAL/OSHA’s funding of private sector oversight—CAL/OSHA will resume enforcement of various health and safety regulations as required with the passage of Proposition 97, in November.

The two safety agencies will be working together to coordinate activities during the transition period which is expected to last until about September 20 of this year. They have already agreed that in cases where standards of both agencies collide, the more stringent of the two will be enforced.

Vekich noted that Federal OSHA’s presence in the state “will be used to monitor CAL/OSHA’s performance and conducting inspections of workplaces which are part of the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government, such as vessels on navigable waters.

Health and Safety Director Russ Bargmann should be contacted for further information on Proposition 97, (415) 775-0533.

New bill would up OSHA penalties 300%

WASHINGTON, DC—Employers who violate federal OSHA health and safety standards may be subject to triple the amounts of fines that they pay under California’s OSHA. A new federal bill introduced by Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) becomes law. The legislation was established almost 20 years ago.

Noting that the maximum fines OSHA can levy haven’t been increased since the agency was created in 1970, Lautenberg said, “Existing civil penalties are petty. People only start taking the law seriously when they can lose their livelihood.” He said current remedies are clearly “inadequate” and that heavier fines might persuade employers to take the proper steps.

Unions for years have sought a more substantial increase in the amount of fines the agency can now impose on employers. The bill proposed by Lautenberg, however, calls for only a threefold increase, to between $2,000 and $20,000 respectively above current levels.

The legislation George Deukmejian signed off on if a new bill introduced by Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) becomes law.

Lautenberg noted that if a new bill introduced by Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) becomes law.

Last month, shortly after the disastrous oil spill in Prince William Sound, the IBU rejected Local 6’s contract offer and San Francisco Harbor issued the following statement of position on water transportation of hazardous chemicals.

Each year millions of tons of hazardous cargoes traverse the San Francisco Bay and its adjacent waters. Carried in vessels in vast quantities, these cargoes are an environmental time bomb capable of destroying the ecology of the San Francisco Bay and the thousands of jobs dependent upon the Bay.

The San Francisco Bay has thus far escaped the tragic environmental destruction that is now occurring in Alaska as a result of the grounding of the Exxon Valdez and the release of its hazardous cargo. Such a catastrophic scenario, given the size of the cargo, the bridges and other obstructions, and the minimum maneuverability of these large vessels, is an event that all possible precautions must be taken to prevent.

Many of these vessels carrying hazardous chemicals have only a single means of propulsion (single screw). A failure of the propulsion system could result in the loss of control of these vessels at the mercy of the wind and tide. Thus, it is essential that those large vessels be piloted by skilled persons familiar with the local waters, tides, obstructions, and channels. It is equally important that such vessels have sufficient capability for rapid response in the case of release or propulsion failure.

Some states have taken action to reduce the likelihood of a disastrous marine spill. Single screw tankers using the Puget Sound in the State of Washington are required to employ a licensed pilot and be escorted by a tug or tugs with adequate horsepower to respond to any emergency. The Inlandboatmen’s Union of the Pacific believes that aesthetic, recreational, and occupational attributes of the San Francisco Bay must be preserved.

The tanker escort bill presently being considered in the State Legislature is a sound piece of environmental legislation to protect and preserve a true natural resource—the San Francisco Bay.

SA drops treason charges against Mayekiso

In a move hailed by labor, legal and civil rights advocates throughout the world, the South African government has dropped treason charges against union leader Moses Mayekiso and four co-defendants who have been under arrest for the last three years.

This is a major legal victory that calls into question the apartheid government’s whole case against Mayekiso,” said United Auto Workers president Owen Bieber. “But me caution that the charges of subversion and sedition still remain and conviction on these counts could carry lengthy term.”

The UAW has spearheaded a campaign to free Mayekiso since his arrest in 1986 after he returned to South Africa from a series of meetings with trade union leaders in Europe. As the head of the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA), Mayekiso has been an outspoken critic of the apartheid regime, who make to destroy the lives of the country’s black majority.

He was indicted along with four others for the allegedly “treasonous, subversive and sedition” acts of organizing boycotts and other peaceful protest activities. His trial has been ongoing since 1987.

Hair salon pact "a first"

HONOLULU—A hair salon located at Pearl City Beach Park, Shinta’s Hair & Nails, signed a one-year contract with the ILWU last month to build the first establishment anywhere in Hawaii to have a union contract.

The agreement, covering the 18 employees at the shopping center’s Com- mon Sense Hair Salon, calls for 5% to 5 1/2% back pay increase for an additional 25 cents per hour, an increased vacation allow-

Local 6 units gives thumbs up

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS

SALINAS, CA—Members of ILWU ware-

Local 6 unit gives thumbs up

 Sailor’s strike

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is

Telling it like it is
**Alcohol Problems?**

*If you are a longshoreman, clerk or boss with an alcohol or drug problem, contact your Alcoholism/Drug Recovery Program representative, listed below by geographical region. They are trained to offer personal and family counseling, referral and other services—all on a confidential basis.*

**ILWU-PMAlcoholism/Drug Recovery Program**

**Northern California**

George Cobb  
No. 1 North Point St.  
San Francisco, CA 94313  
Phone: (415) 776-3835

Columbia River & Oregon Coast Area

Jim Copp  
5050 North East Gilstead, Suite 2  
Columbia River, OR 97213  
Phone: (503) 239-6862

**Southern California**

Jackie Cummings  
505 W. Pacific Coast Highway  
Columbia Beach, CA 90744  
Phone: (213) 549-9066

Puget Sound/Washington Area

Robert Boreham  
Smith Tower Building  
P.O. Box 2192  
Seattle, WA 98112  
Phone: (206) 621-1038

**Northern California Warehouse**

Gary Atkinson  
228 North Point St.  
San Francisco, CA 94313  
Phone: (415) 621-7228

**British Columbia/Canada/Amercian**

British Columbia/Canada Area  
Bill Bloore  
745 Clark Drive, Office Suite 205  
Vancouver, BC V3L 0L2  
Phone: #000 524-7911

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WAREHOUSE**

Fred Storti continued. "I couldn't stay under the supervision of the probation department counseling troubled people. I realized this was a demand that wasn't being met," Storti said.

"People who heard me speak kept telling me I should write a book. I thought that, if anything, I should get it down in print so my family would know what I did."  

**EIGHT-YEAR "MIRACLE"**

After about 6 years of intensive investigation into "the whole world of chemical dependency," Storti established himself as an intervention specialist, receiving wide recognition in the process. "People who heard me speak kept telling me I should write a book. I thought that, if anything, I should get it down in print so my family would know what I did."
LIWU pensioners well-represented at Cal Seniors convention

LONI BRACH — Bob Rohatich, president of the San Francisco Bay Area LIWU Pen-
sioners, said that between 30 and 40 LIWU Pensioners convention held here early last month was anything but a vacation. "We did a lot," Rohatich said.

"Fifty resolutions were passed. The main purpose of this convention is a national convention program which is critically needed in this country. Over 30 million Americans have no health coverage," Rohatich said. "There are many young people need care and the seniors need both medical and long-term care."

The LIWU was well represented by dele-
gates from both northern and southern California. From the Bay Area, Rohatich attended along with Erben Dennis from the Local 6 Pensioners.

Local 13 pensioners delegates Ruben Negrete, George Bowers and Brother Katoani, said Rohatich. "They sponsored Luau Night with a Hawaiian smorgasbord and music.

Rohatich noted that LIWU Pacific Coast Pensioners Association president Nate DeFlaata was unable to attend due to a recent heart attack. "He was certainly missed," Rohatich said. He noted that Local 6 pensioner delegate Joe Figueroa was also absent as a result of illness.

The City of Long Beach made the dele-
gates welcome, designating it "Seniors Week" during their stay. The Mayor gave a speech and sent greetings from the city fathers, who followed with a luncheon and current Lt. Governor Leo McCarthy also addressed the convention.

Among other business, delegates elected new officers and wished a fond farewell to Colorado delegate George Sandy who served for eight years. "George was an inspiration to all of us," Rohatich said. "He taught us to fight for ourselves.

The next president is Howard Owens who is an international director of the United Auto Workers for many years. Speaking on behalf of the LIWU pen-
sioners, Rohatich said, "We wish him the best of luck in his new duties, and hope he can be a model for us in the way he handled his.

Local 504 annual golf tourney set for June

VICTORIA, B.C. - LIWU longshore workers have set aside its 24th annual golf tour- nament for June 22 at the Gorge Valley Golf Club in Victoria. The tournament was a great tour- nament a year ago with the stays from locals in the Pacific North-
west of the San Francisco Bay Area.

There will be four divisions; Net, Gross, Callaway and Seniors (age 55 and over). Entry fee is $25 for the four divisions. The first week in May.

"In order to qualify, 144 golfers," said local 504 tourney organizer W.B. Haddow, "as these interested should send in their forms as soon as they can.

For more information, contact W.B. at 4097 Cedar Hill X Road, Victoria, B.C. 202-322, or call (604) 479-4133.

AFRICAN LABOR LEADERS VISIT LIWU INTERNATIONAL — On a recent tour to San Francisco from the African nation of Zaire met with LIWU International Officers to exchange ideas and information on training pro-
grams to keep their members up to date with new technology in the shipping industry. Representing the Zaire delegation, are Zaire labor department secretary-treasurer Cour McClain; National Union of Zairian Workers (UNTZA) regional secretary Abdu Mobutu; Leather and Textile National secretary Basbial Kour Kori; and Belo-Kambala liungi, UNTZA's national secre-
tary for cooperative and savings activities and principal advisor to UNTZA's general secretary.

National health care on front burner

Natural history is an important feature of the San Francisco/Oakland Bay Area by visiting the LIWU International Office, meeting with officers and staff, and hand-
ing out signed prints of his famous work "Welcome Home, Boys.

The visit culminated a busy schedule that included many receptions, luncheons and other events promoting a campaign by a coalition of community and labor organi-

tizations to purchase the painting. The group wants the work permanently dis-

played in the Bay Area at a location acces-
sible to the public.

For more information, contact W.B. at 4097 Cedar Hill X Road, Victoria, B.C. 202-322, or call (604) 479-4133.
Members of ILWU Puget Sound locals gave standing ovation to 1934 strike veterans, at left, who were honored at the Tacoma Propeller Club, May 11, Center, Local 23 BA Jim Norton and President Dick Marzano presented plaque to T.A. "Tiny" Thronson, who led Local 23 during the strike. 1934 vet Earley Douglas stole the show with his accompaniment to "Solidarity." To his right, Local 23 member Charles Smith.

Retired ILWU Vice-President Gerry Bulcke, who presented Local 23 with its ILWU charter in 1958, shares his reminiscences with younger members.

New book examines day-to-day life on Los Angeles Harbor waterfronts

By Eugene Dennis Vrana


It has apparently taken an outside, a tourist in the ranks of longshore, to provide an unblinking if somewhat distorted look at the ugly side of modern labor relations on the waterfront.

William Finlay's Work On The Waterfront, after taking us through a general history of mechanization and containerization on the West Coast, argues that the new era of technological change has created a tolerance of "extracontractual rewards" for crane operators and others willing to step up productivity and sidestep compliance with the longshore contract.

The results, he says, have satisfied the employer's goal of reducing a ship's time in port. But they have also undermined the standards and protections of the Pacific Coast Longshore Contract by either bribing (in the form of paid payroll hours) or allowing gang members to work "four on four off," which makes it virtually impossible for a crane operator to work during the shift.

There is a major, although not always acknowledged, void in the history of the ILWU. The ILWU, what they were up against and what they achieved. It deserves to be seen.

Pugent Strike: ILWU Puget Sound locals celebrate 34 veteran's history

In our culture, history is a peculiar commodity. We are very present-minded. We say, "that's history," to mean that something is irrelevant, gone, finished. We have children history rather badly. We have them memorize names of presidents, say, "that's history," to mean that something is irrelevant, gone, finished.

Finlay argues that these men did not use the strike weapon as a romantic exercise. They did not strike for the sake of striking. Their strike was not based on hatred or revenge. It was simply a struggle made necessary because there was no other way to achieve dignity and respect for their families. "As much as we may honor and celebrate the achievements of the ILWU's founders," Herman continued, "this union is not a museum. It is a living institution. We are facing a very long road ahead and we are going to have to combine the lessons we have learned from our history, with the lessons we learn in the process of creating a new history."

T.A. "Tiny" Thronson, who led the local during the strike, also remembered the conditions which produced the events of 1934—painting a richly detailed picture of the bad conditions, overwork, hiring abuses and other conditions which led to the strike. "Basically, it was hungry kids. In the middle of the depression kids were hungry at home to make these men sick."

Music was provided by Local 23 member Charles Smith and his combo, but the show was stolen by retiree Earley Douglas whose singing before the 55 years. Douglas Duggan presented his own recollections of 1934—"a lot of fights of the day, but by the time you got them cleaned up they weren't very good."

Waiter, international Local 23 presid-ent, put it most simply: "For everything you've done for me, for my family, thank you."

Strike vet honored included: J. Alfred Knopp, Ivan Stevens, Clifford A Thompson (Everett); Finn M. Baker, Herman G. Davis, James Pavlik Jr. (Olympia); Virgil Bauman, Carl Bjornson, Harold Bjornson, Benny Craft, Alfred DeLoa, Earley Douglas, Dugger Duggan, Montra Davis, Richard Davis, Oppy Davis, George M. Hanna, Richard Haverty, Benji Jackson, Philip Jackson, Howard Krant-son (checkers); Carl Lott, Waino Moisio, George Munho, Lou Nelson, George Niemi, Romey Orie, Alphonse Orie, Louis Simmons, Kenneth Simmons, Harold Spurrell, Rudolph Stver, Charley Throp, Walt Williamson, Rudolf Wag-ner, Gordon Wylie (Seattle);


Phil Lelli chaired the committee which put the evening together. Other members included volunteers Rob Custenada, John Cusson, Frank Reichl, Local 23, Tacoma, Dallas Hogset, Local 16, Seattle, Bill Knis-tle, Local 47, Olympia; Gig Larsen, Local 32, Everett; Albert McCullough, Local 62, Bellingham; Paul Magpie, author of two soon-to-be-published books on the history of Local 23 and Local 19.

California Working: the laborcom-munity television program, has a par-ticularly special lineup for May and June.

This month, "No Way to Repay," the critically acclaimed half-hour documentar-y on the workers' camp crisis, is being carried for the first time by two major public TV stations in Northern California. "California Working," on KQED-Chanel 9 and KCET-Chanel 26, will air on May 31 at 11:30 p.m. The following night, May 31, KQED-Chanel 9 in San Fran-cisco—which broadcasts as KCET over the Bay Area—will show the program at 8:30 p.m.

TV show air comp and '34 strike stories

KQET-Channel 26, the big public TV station in Los Angeles, has agreed to show "No Way," June 1 at 12:30 p.m. Both KQET and KQED are considering California Working for permanent slots in the Fall.

"Strikestory," the film by Rhian Mill-er about the Great Strike of 1934 (see page 1), will be featured by Cali-fornia Working on Bay Area stations in June. In San Francisco, June 1, 11:30 p.m.; RCRB-Channel 22, Santa Rosa; June, 5, 7:30 p.m.; KQED-Channel 9, San Mateo; June 7, 8:30 p.m.; KQED-Channel 32, San Francisco.