Vancouver session

IEB backs strikers, and seniors

VANCOUVER, BC — The ILWU International Executive Board, meeting here August 8-9, unanimously adopted statements of policy supporting strikers at Pittston Coal Co. and Eastern Airlines, and urging reconsideration of the funding mechanism for the medicare catastrophic health care coverage program. (Full text on page 2)

The statement on the troubled catastrophic health care program noted that the ILWU "strongly opposes adjustments which do not deal with the basic problem—that the entire financial burden of the catastrophic health care coverage program remains entirely on the shoulders of older Americans. Such benefits, like Medicare or any other social program, should be funded by across-the-board taxation."

The statements on Pittston and Eastern were coupled with a report on ILWU contributions to both strike funds, and appeal for continued support (See page 4).

International Secretary-Treasurer Curt McClain, after presenting a detailed financial statement, reported on his attendance at the convention of the convention of the Mexican longshore union federation—the Union Nacional de Organizaciones Puertorriquenas—convention in Vera Cruz last month. Both he and Local 29 President Timmy Chavez were invited as fraternal delegates.

Closer relations with the Mexican longshoremen, McClain said, would be necessary because the proximity of certain Mexican ports to those in Southern California has prompted foreign shipping interests to explore the establishment of West Coast operations outside the jurisdiction of the ILWU.

Delegates also heard reports on the new pension agreement negotiated by the ILWU in British Columbia, on organizing in Hawaii, and in Northern and Southern California. Both International President Jim Herman and Vice-President Randy Aikin, reported on the new northwest grain agreement and on the ILWU longshore division's efforts to deal with the impact of computerization of the longshore industry.

Board members include the International officers along with: Hawaii—Rudy Arias, Eddie Fazio, Juan Francisco, all Local 142; Canada—Don Garcia; IBU—Burrill Hatch; Puget Sound—Jimmy Dean, Local 19, Seattle; Ron Thurlow, Local 32, Everett; Columbia River—Bill Ward, Local 40, Portland; Northern California—Joe Lucas, Local 10, San Francisco; Jim Ryder, Local 6, San Francisco; Pete Fuller, Local 54, Stockton; Southern California—Luisa Gratz, Local 26, Los Angeles; David Arias, Local 13, Wilmington.

Solidarity
see page 4

Bridges honored
see page 6
Union membership pays off

WASHINGTON, DC—Imports grew
reaching $66.7 billion in June, accord-
ing to a recent report from the Commerce
Department. The increase pushed the US foreign
trade deficit up by about $11.9 billion to
$32.6 billion for the month of May alone.
Predicting a trend to a monthly high of $40.7 billion, according
to the Commerce Department. The increase pushed the US foreign
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International Executive Board members in session in Van-
couver August 8-9, from left, International Secretary-Treas-
urer Curt McClain, President Jim Herman, Vice-President
Randi Vekich, Don Garcia (Canadian Area) Dave Arian
(Southern California), Jim Kehr (Thornberry (Puget Sound), Burrill Hatch (IBU), Bill Ward (Columbia
River) Eli Miura, Rudy Ari and Juan Francisco (Hawaii).

Pittston Coal

The United Mine Workers Union (UMW) is in a struggle for survival, and Pittston Coal is the reason where the first battle is being fought.

For many years, Pittston was part of a multi-employer bargaining relationship with the UMW—which in exchange for high productivity and stable labor rela-
tions—had provided decent wages, pen-
sions and health care. Collective bargain-
ing and legislative action had produced at least some protection from the disasters which have made this industry the most dangerous in the world.

In 1984, Pittston began to seek increased profits at the expense of workers and the communities which built the wealth of the coal industry. In 1987 Pittston refused to be party to the master co-labor contract between the UMW and Coal Operators Association. Just before talks began, Pittston laid off 4000 miners in an effort to weaken the union's bargaining position.

The UMW sought to negotiate a separate agreement with Pittston but the company has refused. Since then, Pittston has cut jobs, eliminated benefits, cut wages, pensions, work rules and the right to strike. Since then, Pittston has cut jobs, eliminated benefits, cut wages, pensions, work rules and the right to strike.

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Joint union strategy yields solid pact with Domtar

LOS ANGELES—"It was fantastic," said Ed Logue. "We hung together and we hung tough.

The "we" Logue talked about are the negotiators from the International Brotherhood of Seamen, House Local 65, and the multi-national manufacturer of drywall and gypsum products, Coveralls, Local 6 in the Salinas Valley, a short distance in California from San Francisco.

The two sides have been negotiating for months, and Logue said the union is pleased with the result.

"We've made a very, very good agreement," said Logue. "I think it's a giant step forward for the IBU and Coveralls."

The agreement was reached after 14 days of negotiations, and the union members will vote on the pact in the next two weeks.

Logue said the agreement covers a wide range of issues, including wages, benefits, and working conditions.

He said the union is pleased with the outcome, and he thanked the members for their hard work.

The agreement is due to be ratified by the union members, and Logue said he is confident it will be approved.

"I think we have a very good agreement," he said. "I think the members will support it."
Donations pour in for strikers

As Mine Workers at Pittston Coal and Machinists at Eastern Airlines continue their valiant battles against corporate greed and arrogance, the ILWU has mobilized support from several unions to provide substantial financial support for the strikers.

In April of this year, the longshore division caucus voted an assessment of $85 per member for five months to contribute to the AFL-CIO's "Fairness at Eastern Fund." Later that month, the AFL-CIO's Shore Division authorized $10,000 of the fund.

In April, the AFL-CIO's "Fairness at Eastern Fund" provided $10,000 to each of the two unions, Local 142 in Hawaii, for the effort to negotiate a contract settlement. Local 142 is part of the AFL-CIO's "Fairness at Eastern Fund," which was established to provide financial support to the longshoremen and machinists on strike against Eastern Airlines.

More donations are coming in every day, but more is still needed. The members of both unions are fighting for their jobs.

PITTSTON COAL

Now in its fifth month, the strike at Pittston Coal was called after a year and a half of fruitless attempts by the UMW to negotiate a contract settlement. The strike was called out of a multi-employer industry agreement, and through a series of minor labor disputes, set up a complex web of non-union subsidiaries and fringe benefit plans.

The UMW offered cost-saving proposals and a no-strike agreement if the company agreed to the "industry pattern." Pittston responded with demands for onshore break benefits and an unpaid five-day work week, which were rejected by the company.

In June, the unions and an investment group led by Joseph Ritchie met with a multi-employer industry committee to discuss the terms of the strike. The unions proposed a new contract that included the restoration of the five-day work week and an increase in wages.

The agreement was not reached, and the strike continued. The strike vote was a respectable 92%, and Local 6 members were in a strong position to demand fair treatment from the company.

Employers, on the other hand, were "feeling pretty cocky," as then-International Secretary-Treasurer Lou Goldblatt would recall many years later. "Some of the bigger employers in the Distributors Association were thinking about Taft-Hartley. Some of them felt that because the Hawaii strike was already underway that we would have an awful lot of trouble fighting a two-front war. The Bridges indictment had come down. All these things combined pre- sented a fairly good picture from our point of view."

And so DANC president J. Hart Clinton said no.

Local 6 made additional proposals—offering, for example, to extend the existing contract for two years and to submit wage issues to arbitration. But, as Clinton told an employers group, "our association does not believe in arbitration of wage issues. We think we can get more by economic action than by peaceful action."

Local 6 struck at 12:01 a.m. on June 16 after two months of trying "everything in the book" to settle. Certain houses were exempted to assure the community a supply of basic necessities, especially medical goods. Army and Navy goods were handled. And independent contractors agreed to abide by the strike.
A month before the strike, Local 6 East Bay business agent Chili Duarte, far right, warned employers that continued refusal to consider union proposals would shut them down. With Duarte, from left, are: ILWU International Vice President Bob Robertson; an unidentified note taker; Local 6 President Paul Heide; union negotiating committee member Frank Maxie; and San Francisco BA Swede Carlson.

remembers former Local 6 President Keith Eickman. "The fight over the endorsement of Henry Wallace in the 1948 presidential endorsement had been very divisive. And Eickman. "The fight over the endorsement of Henry Wallace in the 1948 presidential CIO and the Teamsters."

uted money and groceries to needy striking hold off landlords, banks and other credi- ding up untold quantities of donuts. And friendship of DANC customers—neighbor-

many of these small merchants—like Many of these small merchants—like Duarte, from left, are: ILWU International Vice President Bob Robertson; an unidentified note taker; Local 6 President Paul Heide; union negotiating committee member Frank Maxie; and San Francisco BA Swede Carlson.

Pensioners set annual convention
The Pacific Coast Pensioners Association (PCPA), now in its 22nd year, invites all ILWU, sponsor, spouse, and widows, to attend your annual convention starting Monday, September 18. Officers include the late Shasta Inni in Redding, California.

The PCPA executive board meeting, set for Sunday morning, September 1 at 9:30 a.m., will be held at the Days Hotel. Any pensioners on hand are welcome to sit in.

Here's our tentative agenda:
Monday, September 18—Beginning at 9:30 a.m., the band will play. At 9:30 a.m., the convention will be called to order, the keynote address will be delivered by the PCPA president. Any other speakers pre- sent will be heard. Volunteer committees will be assigned: Resolutions, Constitu- tion, Credentials, Ways and Means, and Organizing. Between 12 noon and 1 p.m., the convention will recess and the commit-tees will meet.

Tuesday, September 19—The commit-tees will report, and any other speakers on hand will be heard. After the afternoon, nominations and election of PCPA officers for the next 12 months will take place.

Wednesday, September 20—Any off- er business will be taken care of, with adjournment around 1 p.m. or earlier.

On Thursday morning, a special event for a new longshore division contract, effec-
ture.

The PCPA urges you to have your input on what is negotiated. This will be the last convention before the board's report to the International for Good Sam members—including all ILWU retirees, spouses and widows who have their input on what is negotiated.

Wednesday, September 20, 1-4 p.m., the band will play. At 1 p.m., the convention will be called to order, the keynote address will be delivered by the PCPA president. Any other speakers pre- present will be heard. Volunteer committees will be assigned: Resolutions, Constitu- tion, Credentials, Ways and Means, and Organizing. Between 12 noon and 1 p.m., the convention will recess and the commit-tees will meet.

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California Assembly Speaker Willie Brown remembered Bridges' support early in his career.

PCPA President Frank Reichi was MC.

The council is just one of many organizations Kipnis has recruited for endorsement of Save-A-Life Saturday. A letter he received from DC. Nancy Bohannan addressed one reason why she backs the event.

"As you are well aware," she wrote, "30% of all heart attacks in diabetes are silent, i.e. not associated with chest pain, and the danger of sudden death outside the hospital is thereby increased. I believe that Save-A-Life Saturday is an excellent way to reach those people who would otherwise not have an opportunity to learn CPR. Thank you for your efforts...."

SF Mayor Art Agnos spoke of ILWU's role in the city's public life.

Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of California Labor Federation, recalled Bridges influence on the statewide labor movement.

PCPA President Nate DiBlasi and '34 strike vet Pete Grissel flank "Bridges bust" at unveiling at Local 13 hall prior to its installation at International headquarters.

Dockers, widows on pension list

SAN FRANCISCO—Following is the listing of dock workers retired under various ILWU-PMA pension plans.

July 1989


* The widows are: Effie Bee (Willie), Local 10; Imogene Burchett (Edward), Local 33; D. C. Cox (Louis), Local 40; Homer Hansen (Edward), Local 94; Mary Hobbs Wheeler (Local 34); Grace Jackson (Essie), Local 10; Marguerite Keeble (Clifford), Local 51; Zeva McFarland (Glen), Local 96; Bernice McHorney (Gregory), Local 29; Effie McNaas (James), Local 47; Marjetta Newby (Mack), Local 10; Marsha Nickoli, Local 41; Alice O'Dell (Lloyd), Local 21; Bernice Olsen (Malcolm), Local 19; Helen Provence (Boy), Local 63; Amelia Ramsay (James), Local 24; Mildred Simmons (Kenneth), Local 19; Virginia Somma (Michael), Local 21.

August 1989:


* The widows are: Effie Bane (Charles), Local 9; Hazel Baum (William), Local 52; Mary Jane Bauhammer (Otto), Local 34; Pearl Chilton (Guy), Local 10; Mary Davis (George), Local 30; Evelyn Granger (Whitney), Local 10; Edna Green (Leonard), Local 13; Cecilia Grigs (Steve), Local 19; Lillian Guillory (Clifton), Local 30; Mildred Hendricks (Richard), Local 8; Jacquelynkiernan (Owen), Local 34; Eugene stephens (Leon), Local 10; Mari- ann Scott (Anton), Local 13; Edith Taylor (Frank), Local 24; Kathleen Vogel (William), Local 19; Fala Washington (Oliver), Local 10.

* Names in brackets are those of deceased husbands.
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: all per capita payments (including International Union) shall be directed to the Political Action Fund where it will be used in connection with Federal, state and local elections. This $1.20 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 these members who voluntarily permit that portion of their per capita payment to be used for that purpose.

"Each June, a payment made by member of the union shall be advised of this right to withhold the $1.20 per capita 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 $1.20 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. Local union members in early this month may wish to make political action contributions directly to either the Political Action Fund or to their local union, may do so in any amounts whenever they wish."
Local 10 service heals old wounds

SAN FRANCISCO—The traditional San Francisco Bloody Thursday memorial service for the MFOW, took the occasion to eliminate the usual program in front of the old IHLa, of course, but with the addition of a well-attended program (a lunch) at the Local 10 hall, and an emotional healing of old wounds.

The highlight occurred when Whitey Disley, president of the Marine Firemen (MFOW), took the occasion to eliminate the usual program in front of the old IHLa, of course, but with the addition of a well-attended program (a lunch) at the Local 10 hall, and an emotional healing of old wounds.

The meeting had been recessed and the alert Willapa Harbor delegates completed their applications before many of the smaller locals got around to it. Local 1 was merged into Local 34, Aberdeen, when ocean shipping ended here in 1976.

Two old-timers who were banished from the MFOW during the red scare of the early 1950s.

TAPS FOR NICK & HOWARD

Also featured was Jose Mazariego, a hall in Raymond after the dedication. The meeting had been recessed and the alert Willapa Harbor delegates completed their applications before many of the smaller locals got around to it. Local 1 was merged into Local 34, Aberdeen, when ocean shipping ended here in 1976.

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Local 1 pensions dedicate longshore statue at city park

RAYMOND, Wash.—ILWU Local 1 pensioners attended ceremonies at the Raymond, Wa. city park to dedicate the beautiful cedar sculpture of a longshoreman.

PORTLAND—More than a thousand ILWU members, their families and friends enjoyed a pleasant afternoon at this year’s OIAF convention over July 5 Bloody Thursday memorial service and picnic.

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The statue is the work of Dow Thompson and Lance Graham of Westport who fashioned it from a single block of cedar, using chisels, grinders, chain saws and sanders. Sparkplugs of the two-year project were pensions club president Jack Spurrell of Raymond, longshoreman, and friends in the Longshore and Harbor Workers Union.

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