Labor ferry workers on board

**Labor locks arms in Alaska**

**JUNEAU**—The IBU, representing 600 unlicensed employees on the state-owned Alaska Marine Highway System, has strengthened its hand by tightening up its relationship with other public worker and maritime unions.

IBU delegates met October 12 with 9 other unions and employee associations representing over 12,000 state workers to form a coalition to educate both the public and the state legislature about the services provided by public workers in Alaska.

At the same time, the IBU and the ILWU have signed mutual aid and strike support pacts with the two unions representing ferry system deck officers, in the event that negotiations fail to produce an acceptable contract.

IBU National President Burrill Hatch led the IBU delegation to the public workers' conference, along with Regional Director Mike Wilson, patrolman Mark Hudson, Regional Executive Board chairman Bob Armstrong and ILWU International Representative John Bukoskey.

The main product of the meeting was a new organization—the Coalition of Public Employees (COPE), which will coordinate union efforts on behalf of public workers.

Participants discussed mutual problems and a number of joint strategies, and pledged full mutual support and assistance. The coalition "recognizes commonality of strategy as a solution to the plight of public employees,” COPE’s statement read.

COPE set simple yet challenging goals at its first meeting: enlighten the public on the value of the service public employees provide; address the failure of state government to reach and fund fair and equitable collective bargaining agreements with state employees; and develop a united political action program.

"The union representatives are united in their strategy to provide more public recognition of the positive effect on the economy by its employees,” the COPE statement said.

The delegates agreed to take their first step, scheduling a December "summit conference" with the state legislature and administration. Participating unions, in addition to the IBU and the ILWU include: Public Employees Association; National Education Association; Alaska State Employees Association; Public Safety Employees Association; Centralized Correspondence Studies Educational Association; Masters, Mates and Pilots Association; Marine Engineers Beneficial Association; and the Confidential Employees Association.

The coalition will meet again in Juneau on November 20.

Earlier, the IBU and the ILWU signed continued on page 4.
The capital gains caper

By JIM HERMAN

International President

There's only one word—"rip-off"—to adequately describe last month's vote by the House of Representatives to lower the capital gains tax. It is a betrayal of promises made, a shameless effort to reward the rich and distort the tax code.

Capital gains refer to income generated by the sale of assets such as stocks, bonds, real estate, and certain raw materials. Under the legislation approved last month in the House of Representatives, and now pending in the Senate, taxpayers can write off a significant amount of all such income for the next 21 months. Income generated from investment, in other words, is to be taxed at a lower rate than income generated by work. Now, consider what this tells us about our values, as a nation, in these Reagan-Bush years.

The capital gains tax reduction was sold in Congress as a one-shot, easy way to reduce the federal deficit—more tax revenue will be generated, advocates say, as the country's wealthiest families rush to sell their appreciated assets before the tax holiday ends. Tax revenue generated by the increased volume of sales will more than make up for revenues lost because of the lower rate. Better yet, the small group of well-to-do folks who receive this tax break will re-invest it and thus generate jobs for the rest of us.

Don't hold your breath. The capital gains tax cut is, first of all, a permanent one. It is probably the only group of people who need it. Families or individuals with incomes of $200,000 or more (0.8% of the population) will get an annual tax break averaging $25,000. The rest of us, who receive almost no capital gains, will get no tax benefit at all. We'll just sit on the tab.

The tax cut is likely to create an even larger budget deficit for our children and grandchildren to pay off. For the next few years, revenues will rise—by about $3 billion per year, according to the Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation—as America's wealthiest families rush to take advantage of the tax holiday. But beginning in 1993, the committee predicts, revenues will fall steadily—by as much as $5 billion per year—and Congress will raise someone else's taxes or agree to slash whatever social programs may have survived.

The capital gains tax cuts betray the bargain at the core of the 1986 tax reform act, which reduced tax rates for the very rich, in exchange for full taxation of capital gains and the closing of nearly all other tax loopholes. Restoring one such tax break betrays that "contract," and opens the door to the restoration of a zillion other special interest tax breaks—remember the oil depletion allowance?—which were eliminated in 1986.

Finally, the capital gains bill does nothing to encourage the kind of stable and long-term investment the US needs if it is to regain its economic strength. There is no evidence, according to economists such as David Ellwood and George Bush's new science adviser, that the application of tremendous pressure by corporate lobbyists, the securities industry, and a small army of special interests and tax attorneys will yield enough Democrats to make it work. At the same time that they are turning the screws in the Senate, the Nixon parties are also mounting a campaign to make the capital gains tax cut, now scheduled to expire in 1992, a permanent one.

The rest of us have been relatively silent. It has been drumming up a great deal of opposition to cutting taxes—anonymously. But this capper needs to be stopped, and I would urge every local, every district council and every member of the ILWU to write or call your Senator immediately and let them know that you understand the game that's being played. The issue will come before the Senate this month. Please act immediately.

Big business challenges state safety enforcement

In a surprising turn of events, the Supreme Court rejected an employer's appeal early this month that the business community has been watching with bated breath.

The case involved Chicago Magnet Wire Corporation in Illinois, a unit of the North American Philips Corporations, and five top officials who were indicted for "aggra-vated battery" against and "reckless con-duct" toward employees. The state attorney had charged the company and its execu-tives with failing to provide necessary safety equipment and repeatedly exposing workers to highly toxic chemicals.

That was four years ago. The case has yet to go to trial.

QUESTION OF ENFORCEMENT

So do the Supreme Court's decision leave the issue with it? Seems the employer isn't claiming that the state shouldn't be involved at all. They're saying they don't think the legislation is constitutional. They're apparently waiting to appeal to the Supreme Court and see what they think of that. The employer wants to appeal to the Supreme Court and see what they think of that. The employer wants to see if they can win their case against the state.

Although the case does not involve the securities industry, and a small army of special interests and tax attorneys will yield enough Democrats to make it work. At the same time that they are turning the screws in the Senate, the Nixon parties are also mounting a campaign to make the capital gains tax cut, now scheduled to expire in 1992, a permanent one.

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PROTEST PREMATURE

In turning down the company's appeal, the justices gave no reason, but speculation has it that they may have been persuaded by the states' argument that a review of the case would be "premature" because the trial hasn't even yet held.

All this means is that after the case goes to trial, the losing party could appeal what-ever decision. And even if this case doesn't make it in the Supreme Court, there are hundreds of others like it in the courts.
Agricultural － Hit with layoffs, union-busting and demands for contracts, unionists from Iowa, Missouri, Pennsylvania and the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Area gathered here September 28 to share ideas and information about countering the common employer, Quaker Oats. Their goal: a united front in dealing with the huge, multinational corporation which has undermined a spate of divestitures, acquisitions and plant closures in the last 5 years.

Conferences of this sort have been going on all over the country since the unions formed their joint council of Quaker Organized Plants-ILWU Warehouse Local 6, which hosted this year’s meeting. Recently came into the fold when Quaker purchased Golden Grain, a pasta producer based in East Bay.

An informal workshop at the Hilton Hotel near the Oakland Airport, the conference delegates had plenty to talk about.

Put on a happy face
Despite its somber image—the other, white-haired gentlemen smiling benignly from a box of oh-so-good-for-you breakfast cereal—the company has been increasingly aggressive in undermining gains made by its workers through their respective unions. Attempts at union organizing have been met with stonewalling. The local had been deserted by some union members, is in a state of flux, and management continues to undermine the union at the bargaining table.

ILWU International rep Abba Ramos, the first guest speaker, noted that dealing with the hospital workers is probably all the more challenging because of court-backed and conservative and foot-dragging at the National Labor Relations Board.

“At every turn, labor’s bargaining rights are being eroded,” he said. “With recent court decisions, the only weapon we have left—the right to strike—is being stripped away.

BEATING THE RATE
Plant workers continue to plague the union as Quaker finds ways to “beat the rate.” Facilities are shuttered here, respected there. Throwing long-term employees out of work as new lower-paid workers are hired. “It’s a losing battle,” he said, “and we can’t continue to stonewall the union at the bargaining table.”

On September 22, Canadian Area President Don Garcia and Local 517’s negotiating committee met with management and members Jim Schaffer, Bill Bell, and John Forest to discuss job security, in particular, the huge conglomerate are all the standard fare at the bargaining table.

The deal came just in time. Fed up after 16 months without a contract, Local 517 members—who perform documentation and computer work at the company’s first offer was only a nickel an hour raise retroactive to June 1, 1988.

Almost everyone got an additional $1.05 hour raise retroactive to June 1, 1988. Sounds a little complicated, but the first year increase of 3% with wage improvements we made.”

Local 200 members perform wide variety of tasks at Bartlett Memorial Hospital in Juneau, Alaska.

Indianapolis hospital workers
Local 200 wins second contract at Bartlett—“it makes a difference”

JUNEAU—Members at Bartlett Memorial Hospital in this city have ratified their second three-year contract since joining the union in 1985.

“Negotiations were lengthy,” said ILWU Northwest International Representative John Bubolz. “They took 14 months to complete.”

The agreement was ratified 40 in favor, 6 against, 6 abstaining. The vote was taken by secret ballot. The bargaining committee with Moreno and Seniff.

San Francisco Treat’ will now be manufactured in midwest. “What they advertise as ‘The San Francisco Treat’ will now be manufactured in the Midwest. ‘The Bay Area’ will be coming out in the East Bay, Karen Stumpf, Sue Birza, David Whitlock. “He was easy to get along with and has a real can do attitude. We all really liked him. Your resume should show your accomplishments and how you have contributed to the company. ‘The San Francisco Treat’ will now be manufactured in the Midwest.

Workers, and Mort Friedman and Leanna Cabrales reported on events at Golden Grain.

Layoffs loom as the company goes forward. Ryder said, “It’s glory at one end, but the right to strike is being stripped away, and the only weapon we have left is the right to strike.”

During the conference, which featured a variety of speakers, including Local 6 President Jim Ryder, delegates held a free-wheeling discussion on joint strategy and gave reports on recent contract talks.

Union strategy
Ryder pointed out that, while Quaker has tentacles reaching into the far recesses of the global food industry—i.e., any one single firm, an Achilles heal publicity. Can the company be spared due to spotty efforts by workers toward unionization? A consumer boycott? Political pressure? Many unions, the ILWU included, have successfully employed similar tactics with other employers, Ryder said.

A delegate from “St. Joe” said his Local 200 is working with other locals in the area to beef up their joint Labor Day Picnic. “We’ll bring in 5,000, then 10,000, then 50,000 union members and pretty soon the politicians will be begging to come talk to us,” he said.

Delegates raised the issue of coordinated bargaining, with the long-term objective of a joint master contract. “Quaker’s idea of a master contract,” one delegate said, “is when one union gives, the other does too; but when one gains, they say that’s different.”

Local 6 unit does homework, wins new contract at Bacaar

SAN JOSE—Persistence paid off recently for ILWU Local 6 warehouse workers who worked at Bacaar, a distributor of housewares and hardware in San Jose, California. After a hard-fought battle, Local 6 negotiated a new three-year contract which provides many improvements and benefits for the workers.

“Local 6 members have done it if the members weren’t behind us,” said Local 6 business agent Robert Moreno. “They gave it everything they had.

A key point of contention between the union and the company was wages. “The company’s first offer was only a nickel an hour,” said chief steward Dan Smiff, “but we forced them up.”

Two days before reaching a tentative agreement, longshoremen walked off the job, and management walked away from the bargaining table. A 100% strike vote from the members and contacted the National Labor Relations Board for a mediation.

The unit’s investigating committee had obtained a financial report which showed a lot of new business coming BACAR way and increases in earnings of 5% each year for the last three years. “When they kept saying ‘no way’ to our wage demands, we slid the report across the table. That broke it,” said Smiff.

The final agreement reached with BACAR boosts hourly rates $1 over three years. Health and welfare benefits will be fully maintained by the employer. The employee-paid life insurance was doubled: $5,000 to $10,000.

New seniority rules were also implemented. Truck drivers can now pick routes based on date of hire, and all members can bid for shifts within their classification.

The new deal also calls for “liberated” vacations. Moreno said, “We want more people to take off in busy summer months. And, other employers, Ryder said, “What they advertise as ‘The San Francisco Treat’ will now be manufactured in the Midwest.”

The agreement was ratified 40 in favor, 6 against, 6 abstaining. Tina Cabrales and Rene Gardner served on the negotiating committee with Moreno and Smiff.
SACRAMENTO—After years of deals gone sour, vetoed bills and other disappointments, the California legislatures finally approved a bill which will improve workers' compensation benefits over the next four years. The absence of any major improvements in the last decade, benefits for the fourth lowest in the nation.

The bill increases in maximum weekly temporary disability benefits from the current $224 to $296 effective Jan. 1, 1990, and $336 on Jan. 1, 1991, a 50% increase. Some changes were made in medical legal requirements, vocational rehabilitation and stress claims. For a summary of other changes, see below.

DIFFICULT PROCESS

"It's a modest package," said ILWU Northern California District Council legislative representative Don Watson, who monitored the bill's progress since its introduction last spring. "The final product was much less controversial than any legislative package at the beginning of the session."

"It was a difficult process to get a right- ing Governor, the insurance industry, lawyers, doctors, employers and various interest groups to agree on a package," Watson said. "I'm pleased to see the negotiating skill of Assem- blyman Burt Margolin, who met for many hours with each union and state employer group, and met individually with every union leader to bring about a fair package that is acceptable to all sides."

"All in all, we've opened the door. We'll be back for more," said Watson who was joined in Sacramento by Mayor Norberto, California ILWU-PMA Benefit Funds area director Jim Santana.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Other legislation of interest to the ILWU in the recently adjourned session included the following.

Workers' Comp highlights

Here are some of the provisions of the new law.

- Maximum weekly temporary disability benefits go from the current $224 to $296 effective Jan. 1, 1990, and $336 on Jan. 1, 1991, for a total increase of 50 percent.
- Maximum weekly partial disability benefits increase by 7.5 percent. This is done by increasing the maximum weekly dis- ability benefits from $140 to $148 in 1991 and by in- creasing proportionate disability ratings in 1992. These in- creases apply to more severely injured workers, those with disability ratings greater than 25 percent.
- Vocational rehabilitation temporary disability benefits rise from $224 to $246 next Jan. 1.
- Disability increases from $950 to $1150 for multiple dependents to $1150 to $950 for one dependent, while burial benefits increase from $4350 from the present $2000 to $6500.
- An injured worker's waiting period for the first three days compensation is reduced from 21 to 14 days from the time of the injury.
- To establish compensability for stress, it must be demonstrated that ac- tual events connected with employment are responsible for at least 10 percent of the percentage of disability.
- An Industrial Medical Council, made up of physicians and the workers' compensation system of setting rates for compensa-
- Workers represented by attorneys are limited to one injury evaluation report per medical specialty, and the evaluating doctors will be chosen from the list of hundreds of QMEs. Employer- ers are similarly limited as to repetitive evaluations.
- Employers are required to keep adequate records, post its workers' compensation information and make them available upon request.
- Employers must pay the workers compensation insurance rates that are established by the workers compensation commissioner, and employers must pay the workers compensation insurance rates that are established by the workers compensation commissioner.
BU seeks fair implementation of drug test rules

SEATTLE--As this edition of The Dis- patch goes to press, the Interna- tional Longshoremen's Union, marine division of the ILWU, is locked in critical negotiations with West Coast log and barley employers over the most sweeping and controversial drug- testing program ever to be implemented in the United States.

The ILWU comes to the bargaining table with its agenda set. As the December 1989 deadline for federally-mandated drug testing regulations draws closer, union leadership is in the uncomfortable position of hav- ing to negotiate with employers over the mandatory aspects of the regulations already implemented.

"It's either to get the best possible protections we can for our members or the employers are going to have their way," said ILWU National President Prentiss Hatch. "One way or the other, we'll have to abide by the law." 

THREE-PROGENDED ATTACK

The law is the outgrowth of a three- pronged attack by the government on drug and alcohol use in the workplace.

The first salvo was fired last year with the passage of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1989. The Act required all employers to implement clear policies prohibiting the use and distribution of illegal drugs; establish drug awareness programs; take disci- plinary action, including termination, against drug-abusing employees; and ensure that new employees are drug- and alcohol-free through pre-employment drug testing.

The next pre-emptive strike came from the industry, through the US Coast Guard in November 1988. Armed with a 60-day grace period, "each issued a series of regulations calling for mass drug testing of over 130,000 maritime employees," DOT broadened its scope to encompass 4 million workers in the transportation industry, including airlines, railroads, trucking and shipping.

Response from the opposition was immediate. Some 22 lawsuits have been filed to prevent the federal program from going forward. Unions and other inter- ested parties have challenged the govern- ment on the legitimacy, constitutionality and need for such all-encompassing lawmaking.

Conflicting legislation grinding through the courts is the backdrop against which the issue is being fought. The Senate is seeking to expand and strengthen the law, while members of the House have offered bills to water it down. Inevitably, experts say, the whole matter will end up in the Supreme Court.

LETTER OF THE LAW

Under the provisions of the maritime companies are required to adopt stringent "letter of the law" policies to ensure a drug- free work environment onboard their ves- sels. Maritime workers responsible for the "safety and security" of people and prod- ucts on US waters, will be forced to submit to at least one of 3 different drug tests: pre-employment, post-accident, periodic, reasonable cause, and random.

What the law doesn't require is unifor- mity. Each company may set its own pol- icies and procedures as long as the basic elements of the federal law are enforced. While some employers are "confused" by what the "letter of the law" means, others have made proposals that everyone in transportation is a drug addict. Further, Hatch noted, the union's approach "some employers and the Coast Guard is proposing.

"If an accident occurs, they want to administer drug tests to the entire crew," said Hatch. "I can understand testing of individuals directly involved in the acci- dent, but not for everyone who happened to be onboard at the time. That's simply ridiculous."

Another problem, Hatch said, is that some employers want to test workers who "look funny or act funny" while at sea.

"There's no one on board with the educa- tion or training to make that judgment. Conceivably, the 'suspect' could be sent off for testing as soon as the vessel makes port, and while he's going through the process, the vessel departs. Even if he tests clean, he's beached. That's unjust and unfair."

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

While negotiations have proceeded in earnest, some employers have jumped the gun. Crowley Maritime and Foss Maritime recently hired PIIon and Associates, a national screening firm, to conduct random searches for illegal drugs on their vessels. ILWU members in the Puget Sound region have reported incidents of security personnel converting on vessels with trained dogs to "sniff out" controlled sub- stances and forcing seamen to perform "self-searches," emptying of pockets and the like.

For the IBU; search and seizure, random drug testing and other aspects of the law will become a part of union policy, all points on the central issue of the constitutional rights of workers.

"You won't find the Coast Guard or pri- vate security forces barging into corporate offices to search for marijuana, to search body searches on the off-chance that drugs or alcohol might be present. They'd get thrown right out. But, now, that's the normal course of action for maritime workers—even though there's never been any indication of an industry- wide drug problem."

"The ship is a seaman's home for half of his life, and we're going to fight the same protec- tions as any other citizen."

Random drug-testing, said Hatch, is another example of "the government going way beyond the law" to pursue "the government's drug-reform bulldozers"

GOVERNMENT BULLDOZERS

While the challenge to the IBU is to safe- guard the rights of its members as it formu- lates policies on drugs in the workplace, the road to resolution has been pitted by the government's drug-reform bulldozers and littered with the varied and sometimes contradictory interests of individual employers.

"In the absence of clear and consistent federal guidelines, a group of employers are founding to come up with what they think is appropriate," said Hatch. "And some of them are going way above and beyond what's required."

"Some want to go further than indiri- mitate and inconsistent policies is a single most serious general problem in the maritime industry," Hatch said. "What we are trying to do in our negotiations is to narrow the issues to what direction, bearing in mind, of course, comple- ments of workers and the law and the need for such all-encompassing lawmaking."

New members of longshore Local 500 in Vancouver, BC go through joint safety program.

In Canada

Joint longshore safety program wins rave reviews

VANCOUVER, BC--New longshoremen here will start their careers with a clear understanding of waterfront safety thanks to a new Longshore Safety Orientation Program developed jointly by ILWU Local 500 and the British Columbia Maritime Association.

Local 500 vice president Mike Isinger said the idea sprang from a similar pro- gram implemented by ILWU longshore Local 13 in Los Angeles with the coopera- tion of the Pacific Maritime Association.

"Basically, we plagiarized the system they used and adapted it to our needs," Isinger said.

The program involves six hours of class- room instruction which includes a 44-min- ute training video. The course is divided into six segments: bulk operations, forest product terminals, container handling, log loading, Re-No vessels, and general water- front safety. Students must pass a written exam before they are eligible to work.

The video is considered to be among the best quality industrial training videos in North America. Local 500 and the BCMMA acted as "co-directors" and prepared all the required information and written mate- rial. The Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia handled the production.

Isinger said the program is specifically designed for new hires because they have not had the benefit of extensive on-the-job training. "The guys are really responding because we're investing time and effort in their futures and they already feel like they're a part of the industry."

The next cooperative safety project will be a pocket-sized booklet listing information on hazardous materials used on the waterfront. The booklet will be distributed among union members and management alike.

OSHA sets AIDS hearings

SAN FRANCISCO--The federal Occu- pational Safety and Health Adminis- tration has scheduled a hearing in San Francisco to present proposed stan- dards for protecting workers exposed to the AIDS virus and other bloodborne pathogens.

The hearing, set to last four to be held throughout the country, is set for 10 a.m., October 24 in the Crystal Ballroom of the San Francisco Hotel in San Francisco.
Local 24 dock 24 member Daryl Graham in clinches pensioners pole Climbing event at Local 24 dock. ILWU retirees take the lodge's As prize in labor art contest

Local 13 retiree is sparkplug

San Francisco — The ILWU Interna- tional Officers have appointed Russ Bargmann, who currently serves as ILWU Health and Safety Coordinator, as Re- search Director. He also continues to be responsible for the ILWU's health and safety activities.

"Russ has been with the ILWU Interna- tionally for nearly eleven years," said Inter- national President Jim Herman in a letter to all ILWU locals. "He has solid experience in bargaining and is familiar with most aspects of the job. We are confident that he will be able to handle his increased respon- sibilities, including research and paper work, the concept that we have no doubt that he can capably handle the additional responsibilities," Herman said. Both personnel shifts were made in the wake of former Research Director Barry Silverman's resignation. (See Dispatcher, September 10.)

"The idea expanded into not just Vietnam, which has been expounded on extensively as of late, but to the end result of all wars. Wars start for many reasons, but always end up the same." — Ric Delugo, artist

"An idea dawned on me," he said. "I've always had a problem digesting the fact that 58,165 lives were wasted for absolutely zip. Why not bring them all back in the form of living trees?" — the most perfect, harmless and beneficial forms of life on the planet — reanimate them all, if you will," Delugo said thanking his family and friends.

Local 13 retiree is sparkplug

ILWU pensioners back war memorial

In the woods at the base of Mount Shasta California, the Living Memorial Sculpture Garden pays tribute to those who died for their country. Sculpt- oric artist and Vietnam veteran, Ric Delugo says, "I don't want to win them. Like Speed Climbing, I was only looking for a third place finish. And there are a lot of people that helped me." Graham said thanking his family and friends.

Local 24 member Daryl Graham in Pole Climbing event at Loggers Playday.

Local 13 member takes prize in labor art contest

LOS ANGELES — "I wasn't really plan- ning anything," said ILWU longshore Local 13 member Herman Moreno. "I'm not really familiar with the Federation and features awards in Sculpting; over 58,000 ponderosa pines have never came back from Vietnam.

"This project is very close to my heart," said ILWU pensioner Roy Thiel. Now the mayor of Moreno, California — the state's northernmost city — Thiel has been using his influence and connections to garner support for the Memorial for well over a year.

"We're doing it all through private dona- tions," Thiel said. "We didn't have to go through Congress. When they started arguing about it, we decided the be with it, we'll do it ourselves."
In San Francisco, IBU seeks bar to sale of Red and White

SAN FRANCISCO—flowing to vigorous protests from members of the Islandboatmen's Union employed by Crowley, Maritime's Red & White Fleet, the Public Utilities Commission agreed September 27 to hold a gathering on plans to sell the famous bay commuter-cruise line to an avowedly non-union line.

Just the day before, IBU San Francisco members rallied in force outside Crowley's headquarters meeting in preparation for the sale. Aircular to PUC approval, Red & White would be sold for $30 million to Blue & Gold Cruises, a subsidiary of the Texas-based Base Brothers Corporation.

JOBS IN JEOPARDY

IBU fears that crews will lose their jobs and has offered to buy the fleet of nine bay tour and commuter ferries. The union has been notified that all Red & White employees would be terminated and that Blue & Gold would have no obligation to rehire them or honor Red & White's union contracts.

Some of the 70 employees represented by the IBU have been with Red & White for over 30 years. The union represents ferry deck hands, ticket agents and groundkeepers.

"We have worked hard, along with Crowley and Bass Brothers, to make the Red & White Fleet the successful business it is today," said a leaflet distributed by the IBU. "If Union 40's employees are allowed to work with Red & White, the flyer concluded, "If they are allowed to try to hold on to the jobs they like, we would like an opportunity to continue doing what we do best."

The sale is also receiving opposition from competitors who fear being squeezed, and from commuters who worry about schedule cutbacks and ticket price increases.

"The purchase will place a substantial financial burden on Blue & Gold which inevitably will result in a reduction in service or increased rates at the fare box," the IBU complained in a letter to the PUC commission. The public hearing the PUC promised will be held December 12 through 14.

Lawmakers oppose curbs on log suits

WASHINGTON, DC—More than 100 lawmakers have signed a letter rejecting a proposal by Senators Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., and Brock Adams, D-Wash., to severely restrict court challenges to federal timber sales.

The letter was delivered late last month to Representative Sidney Yates, D-IL, chief House negotiator for the conference committee that will reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions of the Interior appropriations bill.

The measure is aimed at providing certainty for the timber supply in the North-west by preventing the kinds of temporary injunctions that have blocked logging on thousands of acres of federal land this year.

ILWU-PMA Welfare eligibility verification

The 1987 Memorandum of Understanding between the ILWU and PMA provides for the verification of eligibility under the ILWU-PMA Welfare Plan, for the purpose of preventing abuse.

At the direction of the Trustees, the Beneficial Office will conduct dependent eligibility verification in stages. Both active and retired members of all locals will be asked to verify their current enrolled dependents. Each local will be notified in advance when dependent eligibility verification packets are scheduled to be mailed to its members.

During October, eligible members of Local 6 will be receiving Dependent Eligibility Verification packets. Dependent eligibility verification packets were mailed to all eligibles of Locals 1, 2, 9, 11, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 50, 52; Alaska Locals 5, 6, 19, 20; British Columbia Locals 20, 21, 55, 120, 121.

The plan for office distribution of these packets will be reported in future issues.

Are we next?

Enclosed is a copy of the United Mine Workers of America "Journal" issue of June, 1989. The photo on the back cover haunts me and has my blood boiling, I go to bed thinking about it, a few nights ago.

This photo shows UMWA members who have been on strike at the Northern California Warehouse (a joint PMA and ILWU facility) for over 5 months. For using civil disobedience tactics they were arrested and handcuffed. Par for the course so far. Not good enough. The "kinders", gentler" government has been forced to gunpoint their boats so they could not go fishing in this desk job that while forced to watch coal ships roll by. Leo Rafferty

Membership in a "standup" union like ours, the UMWA and others brings with it certain hard-won "goodies"—pride, dignity and a voice for the union on the job, decent wages and conditions. For any member who cares about and stands up for their union in the fight for a better life there can be other "goodies" such as physical safety by the pike or hoe, goons, jailing, blacklisting, long hungry days and nights on picket duty. Add the long, hungry days and nights up. When they go to sleep their dreams are in all of the above "goodies" and you've described my personal "45-year" history as a union member.

No heroes—that's not my bag. I am only one of the 38,000 people who were through all those struggles. The only reason I mention any of this thinking about it, a few nights ago. Not good enough. The "kinders", gentler government has been forced to gunpoint their boats so they could not go fishing in this desk job that while forced to watch coal ships roll by. Leo Rafferty

Alcohol P.I. items?

If you are a longshoreman, clerk or boss with an alcohol or drug problem, contact your Alcohol/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-PM Alocoholism/Drug Recovery Program

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

George Cobbs
400 North Polk Street
San Francisco, CA 94133
Phone: (415) 776-8363

Columbia River/Oregon Coast Area

Jim Copp
5655 North East Gilsen, Suite F
Seattle, Oregon 97213
Phone: (503) 231-4802

Southern California

Jackie Conner
500 W. Pacific Coast Highway
Suite C
Wilmington, CA 90744
Phone: (213) 549-0966

Puget Sound/Washington Area

Richard Borchers
Smith Tower Building
Room 2121
BROAD AVENUE
Seattle, Washington 98101
Phone: (206) 621-5158

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WAREHOUSE & BRITISH COLUMBIA/CANADIAN AREA

Northern California Warehouse
2593 North Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 611-7291

British Columbia/Canadian Area

B.B. Alphonse
745 Clark Drive, Office Suite 205
Vancover, B.C. V5L 3J3
Phone: 604-254-7911

October 13, 1989
PCPA holds 22nd convention

ILWU International Vice-President Randy from PCPA President Nate DiBiasi and tough negotiations are in store next year,“ rough times between now and next July 1 to ILWU efforts to negotiate a new coast-

sions could be some of the toughest since

HEALTH CARE RESOLUTION

The convention Health Care resolution called

- Implementation by the US Dept. of Health and Human Services of a 1987 law intended to improve care and treatment in nursing homes;

- Enactment of a National Health Care Plan which at a minimum must include: (a) comprehensive coverage for every American, regardless of age; (b) long term care coverage; (c) strong cost containment provisions; (d) consumer participation in administering the plan.

Another resolution reaffirmed PCPA support for separating the Social Security Trust Fund from the nation’s unified budget and making the Social Security Administra-
tion “an independent agency to help protect the program from political exploitation.” Legislation was also supported to get the cut back on spending for Social Security offices and staff which has caused

striking union members when the strike or lock-end.

San Francisco City & County

City Attorney

SP City & County

Treasurer

Mary L. CALLAHAN

CITY PROPOSITIONS

A— Public Buildings Safety Improvement Bonds

B— Special Transportation Vehicles Bond

C— Equipment Lease Financing

D— Board of Supervisors Salaries

E— Police & Fire Retirement Benefits

F— Retired City Employees Retirement Benefits

G— Prevailing Wages of Workers, including Laborers, which discriminate against dis-

Senior Citizens.

The convention Health Care resolution was no exception. “Our patch-work, band-aid non-system of health care is in deep crisis. The good news is that a growing number of physicians as well as some employers are calling for a national approach to the problem and that all recent polls show that the majority of the Ameri-
can people are supportive of a National Health Program.”

EXXON OUTRAGE

PCPA delegates expressed their outrage over the Exxon oil spill and its aftermath, and their support of a joint Congress-

sion defense, the delegates:

- Supported the Pepper-Royal Home Health Care bill which was defeated in the last Congress strictly for procedural reasons;

- Encouraged the ILWU to continue its efforts to negotiate an acceptable contract, whether in negotia-
tions or by the strike action at the port for conversion from war budget priorities to peacetime priorities, such as housing, health care, education, and a massive environmental cleanup.

G— Prevailing Rates of Wages

H— Sick Leave Transfer for Catastrophic Illness

K— Sheriff Duties

L— Vacation Credit Transfer for Catastrophic Illness

M— Sales Tax for Transportation

N— Conduct municipal elections by mail

P— Downtown Ball Park

Q— AIDS Research

R— Utilities Commission

S— Domestic Partnerships

T— Candlestick Park Improvements

W— Conduct municipal elections by mail

actions, the delegates:

- Recommended to the 1990 Longshore Negotiating Caucus “that the maintenance of present and improved benefits be prior-
tion one when negotiating in behalf Pen-
sioners and widows.”

- Referred to the longshore division locals the suggestion that a portion of any settlement be set aside to establish some ILWU nursing homes on the Pacific Coast.

- Condemed “corporate pension fund raiders” and endorsed the Employee Pen-
sion Fund Protection Act of 1989, spon-

- Urged ILWU District Councils to join the PCPA in supporting Congressional legis-

- Reaffirmed a resolution adopted in 1985 on the subject of worker participation in the nation’s system of guardianship.

- Supported HR 1702, introduced by the late Claude Pepper, aimed at correcting widespread abuse and neglect in the nation’s system of guardianship.

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