First for Local 142
Hawaii labor fed convention greets ILWU

HONOLULU—Delegates representing nearly 90,000 workers met here Septem-
ber 5 for the 13th Biennial Convention of the Hawaii State AFL-CIO. For the first
time in its history, ILWU Local 142 partici-
pated as a full fledged member of the state federation.
The ILWU’s membership adds consider-
able size and prestige to Hawaii’s labor
movement. Local 142, the largest member
union here, was allotted a total of 17 dele-
gates to the convention.
The ILWU played an active and leading
role in the work of the convention. Regional
director Thomas Trask chaired the Consti-
rutional Amendments Committee, and
Local secretary-treasurer Guy Fujimura
headed the Legislative Resolutions Com-
mittee. ILWU officers also served on the
Community Services, Officers’ Report, and
Constitution and General Resolutions
Committees.
Trask, Fujimura and Local 142 officers
Eddie Lapa and Fred Paulino were among
the 22 vice presidents and executive board
members to be elected to the federation.
Gary Rodrigues, director of the United
Public Workers, was elected by acclama-
tion to a second term as president.
The Honorable Danny Kihano, Speaker
of the House of Representatives, gave the
keynote address.
“T see people just like me in the audience,
Kihano said, as he traced his roots in the
 labor movement to his father, Martin
Kihano, an ILWU sugar leader in the late
1940’s.
CHALLENGE TO LABOR
Kihano credited labor with uplifting
workers, establishing strong labor laws,
and bringing democracy to Hawaii. He also
challenged labor to use its considerable
resources, talent and dedication in work-
ing for quality of life issues.
The environment, education, affordable
housing and decent jobs are areas when
organized labor can “write a new chapter of
history in its history,” Kihano said.
The ILWU and the newly formed Hawaii Assn. of
United Way’s fund drive; 12 workers fired
by a local country club and replaced by a
non-union maintenance subcontractor;
the Port of Oakland was not the only scene of
destruction in the aftermath of the Great Quake of
1989. Images of collapsed highways, collapsed
homes and collapsed dreams will forever be
imprinted on the hearts and minds of millions.

For the first time, it seems, the media spotlight is
on labor—labor to the rescue, labor picking up the
pieces, labor at the forefront of efforts to provide
life-sustaining relief to those who need it most.

The ILWU, the AFL-CIO and thousands of union-
ists—from the top leadership to the rank-and-file—are
all doing their part.

As AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland put it, “The
American labor movement has the moral obligation
to respond to the needs of its less fortunate sisters
and brothers.”

The obligation has never been clearer. The
response has never been better. This is truly labor’s
finest hour.

History in the making

ILWU attends first AFL-CIO
convention

WASHINGTON, DC—As we go to press,
a major chapter in labor history is being
written. For the first time, the ILWU is
participating—and playing a key role—in
the AFL-CIO National Convention.

In the December issue of The Dispatcher.

Watch for a full report on the AFL-
CIO Convention.
Reign of terror escalates

Union bombed, leaders killed in El Salvador

SAN FRANCISCO—On October 31 a car bomb ripped apart the headquarters of Salvadoran union FENASTRAS, killing nine union activists and severely injuring 30. The attack has prompted an outcry of protest from unions throughout the world.

Firing off a letter to President Alfredo Cristiani of El Salvador and US Ambassador William Walker, ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Curtis McClain called for an immediate investigation into “the calculated and ongoing attacks against organized labor in El Salvador.”

DEATH SQUADS

Despite the benign rhetoric of the US-backed Cristiani government, the national infamous “death squads” are virtually free to continue their reign of terror against all citizens who dare to dissent. Union leaders are prime targets.

On August 17, Ricardo Lazo of ASTTEL, a telecommunications union, was abducted and tortured. Two days later, union official Cristina Chan Chan and Francisco Massi were reportedly kidnapped by Air Force troops following a demonstration for Labor’s release.

Chan Chan’s mother, Maria Juana Medina, was arrested in September by the National Police for participating in a protest demanding the release of her daughter. Under custody, Medina was viciously beaten and raped, as were several other women.

MILITARY SOLUTION

Maria Julia Hernandez, director of the Roman Catholic Human Rights Office in El Salvador, reported that arrests, abductions and torture have escalated since the Cristiani government was installed in June.

Between June and August, 34 people are believed to have disappeared, and 2 have been assassinated by death squads. In September alone, over 100 trade unionists were abducted by Salvadoran security forces. Many were tortured.

The problem,” Hernandez said, “is structure. The military and private power are greater than the president.”

Because of the attacks and pleas for assistance have come from the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador. The ILDU is among the Committee’s many union affiliates in the US. “The situation is urgent,” a committee spokesman said.

Responding to the plea, Secretary-Treasurer McClain issued a formal protest on November 8 to various US President’s Cristiani and via FAX to Ambassador Walker expressing the concern of the citizens of El Salvador are an international outrage, an affront to all people of good conscience.

“On behalf of the 50,000 members of the ILDU, I demand an immediate and complete investigation into all matters, and an immediate and complete end to suppression and bloodshed in El Salvador.”

NLRB sides with labor in drug testing case

WASHINGTON, DC—Turning the tables on the Bush Administration, the National Labor Relations Board ruled that employers may unilaterally impose drug testing on workers covered by collective bargaining agreements.

Airing from a dispute between the nationwide union and John-Manley Company in Rwanda, California, the decision affirmed the union’s contentions that the employer acted unlawfully by requiring existing workers to submit to “intrusive and drug testing degrading,” the Board ruled.

The Board said “the job was done to the environment: and thus must be banned.”

The NLRB decision comes after Admin-
istration success in imposing sweeping drug testing programs on federal and transportation employees, with an eye toward expansion to other sectors. As reported in the October issue of The Dis-
patcher, the Inlandboatmen’s Union, marine division of the ILWU, has been negotiating with employers on implement-
ing federally-required drug tests.

In another case, the Board upheld employer drug testing of job applicants. The Board said that since applicants are not employees, the employer has no obligation to negotiate with the union on their behalf.

The decision means that the NLRB has made the duty to bargain over drug testing.

AFL-CIO studies new transportation dept.

WASHINGTON—With 1 million union workers employed in the transportation industry, the AFL-CIO is studying whether to create a new transportation department to give affected unions more clout in negotiations.

Richard Kimsey, president of the Trans-
portation Communications Union and member of the AFL-CIO executive board, said the department would be comprised of 5 sec-
ctions covering maritime, railroads, truck-
ing, unionization and marine. An existing AFL-
CIO’s existing Maritime Department would be merged into the larger transpor-
tation department.

In recent years, increased competition has spurred widespread upheaval in trans-
portation, with labor-management strife rising. As a result, key union leaders have been particularly vulnerable.
PORTLAND — Money matters dominated the IBU Columbia River Con-
cvention held here October 29-30. With union membership across the region
members, business was taken care of in short— and efficiently.

"The convention was our first since we voted to become an autonomous region in
the wake of last February's ILWU convention." Regional Director Jim Dunagan.
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...
ILWU swings into action

"We built this city on rock and roll."  
Jefferson Starship's hit song about San Francisco was never more fitting than in the wake of the 7.1 earthquake that struck the San Francisco Bay Area on October 17.

The indomitable spirit of the citizens here—San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Watsonville and other cities hard hit by the quake—evidenced by this collective will to rebuild their lives.

Rescue workers, firefighters, commu- 

nicators, doctors and nurses, gas and electric workers, engineers, highway workers and thousands of others have worked tirelessly to the occasion. Essential services have been restored, and repair is under way. Relief efforts abound.

Those who escaped the worst ravages of the quake have reached out to the less fortunate, giving freely of their time, energy and money. The Red Cross, the Salvation Army and dozens of other groups have worked tirelessly to provide food, shelter and clothing to the hundreds of victims left homeless by the quake.

Committees have done their part, incorporating emergency public transporta- 
tion and ride-sharing to ease the traffic load caused by quake-damaged high- ways and the partial collapse of the Bay Bridge.

Our grim images of destruction, the vast majority of buildings, bridges and roads in the Bay Area escaped with only minor damage or no damage at all.

Aftershocks continue to jingle nerves from the Bay Area to the East, as sale of homes continues in the cities that ring the San Andreas Fault. This wasn’t The Big One, experts tell us, but it’s just as bad and probably worse—when it does, the people here will do exactly what they are doing now and did after the 1906 disaster: clear the pieces and start all over again.

Bay Area longshore division locals, while shaken, are now fully new operational.

Longshore Local 10, headquartered at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, lost a few phone lines and had no electricity for two days. The building and the hall sur- 
vived in excellent shape, with no structural damage.

The morning after the quake, Local pres- 
ident Tom Lupfer, vice president Law- rence Thibeaux, secretary-treasurer Bill Watkins and chief dispatcher George Gal- arza met with representatives of the Pacific Maritime Association to discuss dispatch procedures. The ILWU promised the PMA a generator to restore power.

BAY BRIDGE
Dispatch of Local 10 members was interrupted when the quake brought down a portion of the Bay Bridge, severing a major artery of transportation between San Francisco and Oakland. Alternate routes to the dispatch hall proved unsatisfactory for many members living in the East Bay.

The Apostleship of the Sea at the Port of Oakland came to the rescue (see story page 6). The Local is dispatching members from there, in addition to its normal dis- patch out of San Francisco. Both the PMA and Local 10 have agreed this is strictly an emergency measure, and will return to the “status quo” when bridge repairs are completed.

Local 34 President Richard Cavalli said the Local's building on the San Francisco waterfront came through in good shape. The building also houses gatemen’s and watchmen’s Local 75, and working bosse's and foremen's Local 91. With a hall also in Oakland, Local 34 dispatch was not seri- ously affected by the bridge closure.

PORT DAMAGE
Ports in Oakland and San Francisco suf- fered millions in damage, but continue to function, ensuring a smooth flow of cargo in and out of the ports for ILWU members.

The Port of Oakland, damaged, was estimated at $75 mil- lion, was sustained by the Port of Oakland. Its 7th Street Pier, built on landfill, was ruptured out of commission. Shippers using the pier—Hanjin, Mitsui OSK, Ital- ian Amico, Star—were quick to accommo- date other berths. Damage to the Port of San Francisco was not sufficient to shut down the Port's remaining 8 piers.

The Port of San Francisco fared consid- erably better. Power outages presented a
Clean up crews pick up the pieces of Interstate 880 in Oakland which collapsed on dozens of travelers, including ILWU clerks Local 34 member Buck Helm.

Local 10 member John King, hearing of the quake, was moved to action to piers, terminals and cranes. Three days after the quake, the Port was almost 100% operational. No injuries have been reported. Two of the work is new. IBU members if the deal goes through. The AFL-CIO has already contributed $10,000. The fund, established and administered by the state federation, disburses contributions based on recommendations from central labor councils in the counties hit by the quake Labor is responding generously. Nearly $50,000 was raised within days of the appeal from local electrical workers, plumbers and steamfitters, carpenters, marine engineers and others. State labor federation Treasurer John Hein said donations are continuing to roll in.

The Center for Workers Information in San Francisco's Cathedral Hill Hotel

The local will also use some of the money to aid the forgotten people who were homeless before the quake. Remain

The response has never been better. This is truly labor's finest hour. As Lane Kirkland put it, "The American labor movement has the moral obligation to respond to the needs of its less fortunate sisters and brothers." The obligation has never been clearer. The response has never been better. This is truly labor's finest hour.

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Grim was the picture at the Port of Oakland as ILWU longshore Local 10 vice president Lawrence Thibeaux, left, surveyed the damage caused in the October 17 earthquake. The Port's 7th Street Pier was shoved out of commission as the quake ripped through northern California. The Local will also use some of the money to aid the forgotten people who were homeless before the quake. Remain

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MILES OF SMILES were seen at The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House when ILWU clerks Local 34 secretary-treasurer Brian McWilliams presented a donation of $1121 from the Local 34 Community Fund. The amount includes 50-cents-on-the-dollar matching funds from the McKesson Foundation. Shown, from left, are McWilliams, Neighborhood House director Enola Maxwell, and Local 34 retiree Joe Passel, a frequent visitor to the center.

Passenger "in trouble"

IBU members to the rescue in shipboard emergency

STITKA, Alaska—IBU members aboard the M/V Columbia were quick to respond when a passenger fell unconscious in the cafeteria of the vessel on a trip to Petersburg, Alaska.

Twenty-year IBU member Bob Armstrong, who is chief steward aboard the ship at the time, witnessed what happened.

"It was all very instantaneous and automatic," said Armstrong. "You see someone in trouble and you react immediately.

IBU MOVES CPR

The passenger, a woman about age 57, had difficulty breathing. Armstrong said, "No one knew what was wrong, so chief purser Tore Lynn, an IBU man with about 15 years of experience, was called for help. Ben Arnce, an IBU steward for 3 years, admin-istered CPR.

Responding to Lynn's call was junior purser Ted Shaw, who has been an IBU for about 8 years, and two members of the shipboard emergency team: four doctors and three nurses. The two doctors rejoined the vessel at the Port of Oakland has been a haven for seamen from all over the world for the past 16 years.

"That was their 'good will' gesture," Devine said. "We had known about this for some time, so we called them by name when we arrived. They're mostly from rural areas and strangers in a strange land," Devine said.

To take them shopping or for medical treatment. They're mostly from rural areas and strangers in a strange land," Devine said.

Wrecking ball threatens seamen's home away from home

OKLAND—For 16 years, the Apostleship of the Sea at the Port of Oakland has been a haven for seamen from all over the world for the past 16 years. The facility is the best means of passing time, relax, or get help in making their way to the metropolitan sprawl of the Bay Area.

But, if Port has its way, the center will soon be reduced to rubble and replaced by a high-rise warehouse as part of an overall plan for Port expansion.

STRICTLY BUSINESS

"The Port's god is the dollar," said Father Paul Devine. He serves as chaplain and director of the Apostleship, a ministry of the Catholic Church. "The Port has admitted it's strictly a business decision."

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The Apostleship owns the land and leases it to the facility for a token $1 a year. "They could charge us for the demolition," Devine said.

"We would not be responsive to any further postpone-ments sought by the tenants. The building's expected to be largely vacated by the end of the month. The trial is expected to last at least 6 months.

Members of the CBJ believe the trial will expose the full horror of the Marcos regime, from repression in the Philippines to vicious attacks reaching the shores of the United States.

"It is important for the trial to proceed," said Bennett McRae, who was born in the Philippines and now serves IBU ILWU Region 37 as regional director. "This is the first case against Marcos to get this far in the legal system. This trial can be the first step in bringing justice, not just for Silme and Gene, but to all victims of the Marcos dictatorship."

A stricken passenger was whisked away by a US Coast Guard helicopter after IBU members and others onboard the M/V Columbia called for help.

The doctors administered CPR until tou-ching down in Sitka, where the fire depart-ment there whisked the passenger away to the hospital. In the emergency room, the passenger's pulse was restored; she was quickly evacuated to Seattle for intensive care. The two doctors rejoined the vessel at Petersburg.

Although the Apostleship has put the Port of Oakland, 600 Terminal Street, Oakland, CA 94609, on notice that it intends to seek the "good will" of the the Port of Oakland, 600 Terminal Street, Oakland, CA 94609, on notice that it intends to seek the "good will" of the

Port's god is the dollar," said Father Paul Devine. He serves as chaplain and director of the Apostleship, a ministry of the Catholic Church. "The Port has admitted it's strictly a business decision.

"We wake her from the waterfront federal credit union 23 years ago," McRae recalled. "She really took care of people, answered their questions and made sure they understood. We got all the benefits because she was entitled to. She was like everybody's mom.

She went out of her way to learn sign language so she could help the several hearing-impaired members in the Local," said Devine.

"That was their 'good will' gesture," Devine said. "We had known about this for some time, so we called them by name when we arrived. They're mostly from rural areas and strangers in a strange land," Devine said.

The Maritime Trades Council initiated a petition urging the Port to reconsider. The petition is currently being circulated by ILWU longshore Local 10 and clerks Local 34. Support was just taking form as the Bay Area geared up for the World Series. Then the earthquake hit.

The 7.1 shocker knocked out a portion of the Bay Bridge, a key link between Oak-land and San Francisco. Local 30, head-quartered in San Francisco, is using the Apostleship on an interim basis to dispatch members to the East Bay.

"Everybody's mom" retires from Local 9

SEATTLE—ILWU warehouse Local 9 said goodbye to Marigürte Brandt at her 70th birthday party in honor in her home in September.

The decision to demolish the building came as a shock. "We had known about expanded missions for years, so we kept talk-ing with various people at the Port. Each time they told us we had nothing to worry about. Then, about 6 weeks ago, they dropped the bomb," Devine said.

"No lease, no building, and no compensa-tion. "The Port said we should consider ourselves lucky that they weren't going to change us for the demolition," Devine said. "That's their 'good will' gesture.

RALLYING THE TROOPS

With the threat of the wrecking ball looming over the facility, Devine and other staffers jumped into action, spreading the word among maritime unions and commu-nity groups. "We didn't go to the media because we wanted to rally our own troops first.

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NOTE: Any member who has not voted at a work site may vote at the Union Office no later than Friday, November 24, 1989. Mail Ballots to: Guards, Saybolt Inspectors and Desser Tire. Ballots must be received at the Union no later than Friday, December 8, 1989.

All requests for Absentee Ballots must be in writing and received at the Union Office no later than Friday, November 24, 1989 to fill the offices of president, vice president, 2 labor relations committee members, 2 labor relation committeemen from each of the stevedore, deck, bull and truckers boards, two (2) janitors, shop steward chairman and one (1) secretary-treasurer. The primary elections will be held December 13, 14 and 15, 1989. Final elections will be held at the December 16, 17 and 18, 1989 to fill the offices of president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, chief dispatcher/secretary-treasurer, relief dispatcher, public relations vice chairman, finance vice chairman, head of the 50th anniversary of "Bloody Thursday," and the site of the 1934 "Hot Boxcar" strike by ILWU warehouse Local 6.

To get a map for a self-guided tour or to arrange for a guided tour, contact the Labor Archives at 480 Wadsworth, San Francisco, CA 94132, (415) 564-4010.

ILWU-PMA Welfare eligibility verification

The 1987 Memorandum of Understanding between the ILWU and PMA provides that the Trustees will verify the eligibility of all dependents enrolled for coverage under the ILWU-PMA Welfare Plan, for the purpose of preventing abuse. At the direction of the Trustees, the Beneficiaries have been notified that one or more dependents may be asked to verify their current enrollment eligibility. Each local will be notified in advance when dependent eligibility verification packets are scheduled to be mailed to the local.

During November, eligible members of Locals 40, 82 and 92 will be receiving Dependent Eligibility Verification packets. In October packets were mailed to all eligibles of Local 8.
The Local 6 hall in Oakland was packed to the rafters during the stewards training seminar held September 16. Local 6 president Jim Ryder (at head table, left) introduced instructor Joanne Jung, Regional Representative for the Engineers and Scientists of California, AFL-CIO.

"It's a thankless job, but somebody's got to do it. Anyone who is or ever has been a union representative has said, or thought that at one time or the other. But — although the rewards of serving the membership may seem, at times, to be outweighed by the sheer frustration and magnitude of the responsibility — people do it nonetheless."

"One thing I want to make a difference. Maybe they know that, unless someone puts the concerns on the line, everything the union has fought for will be lost. We, the stewards, without whom the union would cease to function."

"The membership, officers and staff of ILWU warehouse Local 6 understand this thought that at one time or the other. "Outweighed by the sheer frustration and the membership may seem, at times, to be overwhelming the vital role Local 6 East Bay BA Joe Lindsay noticed at their annual convention. "Usually what all too well. At their annual convention, in their presidential address, they were数目 of goals to organize internally and externally, placing a greater emphasis on the vital roll played by first line Local shop stewards."

Training is the first step.

"What we need to do is return the union back to the work place," said Local 6 secretary-treasurer Leon Harris. "Usually what happens is, when there's a problem on the job, the first call is the business agent and the business agent handles it."

"It was so high-energy in that room, that we didn't even realize we were running an hour over," said Mary Riddell. "We had two-and-a-half hours to do it."

"It's part of everything," Riddell said, "it's a neophyte. But she learned many years under her belt as a steward at Teachers (CFT), in his opening remarks to the San Francisco Labor Council. He said that bringing unionists into the classroom to talk about their work and what it means to belong to a union. ILWU Leadership Week at the school, with the assistance of principal Dennis Chacones and others.

"Labor education is all the more challenging because "So many young people are apathetic," said Barbara Ryden, the captain of the Oakland Community College. The college is well-known for its Labor Studies program, which has earned high marks from labor and education professionals.

"The problem," Byrd said, "is that students are getting a one-sided exposure to how American society works. They graduate with no knowledge of how to negotiate, no skill to protect themselves — they’re trained to do a job, but not how to live day by day."

Oakland Technical High School saw the dilemma and did something about it last year. Teacher Dede Lindsay organized Labor Week at the school, with the assistance of principal Dennis Chacones and others.

"Labor education, like all education should, strives to teach our children to think for themselves. Does it work? You be the judge."

"The eyes of the future were on the California Federation of Teachers "Labor in the Schools" conference held in San Francisco October 28. Here, a pre-preschooler watches the goings-on while Mom studies conference materials."

"Aside from discussing ideas, sharing experiences, and pouring over pages of reference guides, the teachers also saw a couple of color videos and engaged in a little "role-playing." Using the 1934 General Strike as its backdrop, the students were divided into small groups representing striking longshoremen, waterfront employers, farmers, the unemployed and the labor council. The exercise was for each group to decide how and with whom to build alliances.

"It's a direct route into their consciousness," Bigelow said. "Getting them a broad test of experience, effective in quite a different action. It's a different kind of history. It's the history of choice."