Grain lockout—Coast pact upheld at Peavey

KALAMA, WA. — ILWU Columbia River longshore division locals have turned back the effort of a multi-billion dollar grain exporter to weaken the structure of coast-wide ILWU-PMA bargaining.

Members of longshore Local 21, Longview, clerks Local 40 and foremen’s Local 92, Portland, employed at the huge Peavey grain elevator have overwhelmingly ratified a new 19-month agreement which for the first time places them under the umbrella of the Pacific Coast longshore agreement.

"While the contract covers only a relative handful of members, it protects the integrity of the coast agreement," said International President Jim Herman, "and sends a message to any employer who wants to break the coastwide pattern."

With the Peavey agreement due to expire in September 15, 1989, bargaining began early in the summer.

LARGEST EXPORTER

On the employer side of the table were representatives of Peavey and its multi-billion dollar parent company, ConAgra, Inc., including an end to staggered starts, and a consumer boycott of El Salvadoran coffee.

ILWU delegates were introduced by AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland, along with delegates from the United Mine Workers and other newly affiliated unions.

Solidarity stressed—ILWU attends AFL-CIO convention, backs solidarity at Eastern, Pittston

WASHINGTON, DC. — The concept of solidarity, which AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland called "the oldest and most modern bedrock principle of trade unionism," set the tone for the 18th Biennial Constitutional Convention of the AFL-CIO held in Washington, DC, November 13-16.

"Clearly the labor movement has weathered the storm of adversity and is in fighting shape to meet the challenges of the 1990s," Kirkland said in his keynote address. "At home and abroad there has never been a more exciting time to be a trade unionist."

BACK IN THE FOLD

The Convention was the first attended by an ILWU delegation since it was expelled from the CIO in 1950. (See President’s Report, page 2). Others attending for the first time included delegates from the United Mine Workers, United Transport Association, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and the Writers’ Guild-East.

Recalling that when he assumed the presidency ten years ago he had accepted a convention mandate to "do my best to bring all trade unions under the banner of the AFL-CIO," Kirkland said: "I kept my promise."

Delegates said that the ILWU would work closely with such groups as the National Labor Committee for Democracy in El Salvador to cut off US military aid, and would "do everything legally and constitutionally possible" to assist a consumer boycott of Salvadoran coffee in hopes that such action would "be a dramatic and practical way to push the government back to the bargaining table."

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The Board noted that the boycott had been endorsed by a broad range of El Salvador labor, church and human rights groups—even by the Salvadoran coffee workers union, "who stand to lose the most."

The boycott was initiated by NeighborWorks, the Federation of El Salvadoran Trade Unions, which killed ten and wounded 106; the stepped up campaign of kidnappings, arrests and torture of trade union leaders; and in the wake of the attack which left six leading Jesuit priests dead, along with their cook and her daughter.

These incidents, said the Board are only "further evidence of the bankruptcy of US policy toward El Salvador. Seven billion dollars in aid over the last ten years have neither improved the economic condition of the Salvadoran people, nor helped to create a stable, democratic nation."

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By JIM HERMAN
ILWU International President

ILWU delegates attending the biennial convention of the AFL-CIO last month—the first such ILWU delegation in nearly 40 years—were impressed by the talent and energy within the federation, by the solidarity extended to striking unions, and by the widespread commitment to rekindle the movement. Which is not to say that we found the answer to all of our problems. That certainly wasn't to be expected. But we found some of the information that the ILWU gained at the 1988 International Convention, followed by a secret ballot vote of the membership—along with the federation. Overall, we had a great deal of respect for the history and tradition of the ILWU, and an admiration for what we have achieved. We found that more than a century after its founding as the ILWU, workers averaged only a 4.3% gain which was wiped out by inflation. The gap between executives and workers was actually on the decline between 1963 and 1990. That Ronald Reagan was elected. During his two four-year terms, executive pay in the US sky rocketed to the highest in the world while millions of American workers suffered plant closures, mergers, speed-ups, health and safety hazards, wage and benefit concessions, and union busting.

Workers in poverty

The working poor of the US labor force comprise about one-third of all those who are living in poverty. In 1987, as in earlier years, many of them were unskilled women who head families. Of the 112 million people who spent at least half a year in the labor force in 1987 (either working or looking for a job), about 6.4 million were members of poor families, resulting in a poverty rate of 5.0% among workers. About 13.2% of black workers were poor, compared to 4.4% of whites.

Nearly half of the working poor experienced unemployment at some time during 1987, while only 1 in 4 of the non-poor did so. And the median number of weeks unemployed was much higher for the poor than non-poor workers. Non-poor workers were also four times as likely to be “involuntarily” working part-time, reflecting a proposed stimulus but not finding such employment.

Full- and part-time workers steadily gained more work, with hourly earnings and the number of hours worked both rising. But average weekly earnings of $314 or less, weekly hours of less than 30, and the equivalent of earning the minimum wage of $3.35 for a 40-hour week are playing in these monumental changes.

Bush's speech was a calculated insult. Not once in his 30-minute testimonial to organized workers in Eastern Europe was there even a hint that he was interested in the future of the labor movement in his own country.

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Columbia River locals uphold dock coast contract, beat back huge grain company's concession drive

—from page 1

tightening of longshore jurisdiction.

ConAgra, on the other hand, made it clear from the outset that it wanted substan-
tial concessions—largely in order to get
Peavey to bring in the 20% rate of return which the company had set as a stan-
dard for its subsidiaries. Early on, the company also said that ships would be lost with ILWU labor if no agree-
ment were in place by September 15.

PERMANENT REPLACEMENT

The employer also took a run at the 29 members of Local 21—non-members of the
registered longshore workforce—who per-
formed all landside operations at the giant
Peavey Grain Elevator in Kalamazoo. Early on, Peavey representatives met with mem-
bers of the in-house unit and "asked" them if they were prepared to walk through a
picket line should it be established by long-
shoremen, clerks and bosses. Hanging in the
discharge, were recent Supreme Court Decisions allowing "permanent replacement" of striking workers.

In early August, the company came up with its bottom line proposal, demanding that all longshoremen, clerks and bosses covered by Peavey go to work on a
steady basis for the company. Peavey would
register 150 new longshoremen, 200 new
employees in pension and health and welfare plans, and a separate plan would be established.

The "hundred and three" хозяйств that other
Pacific Coast shippers on the west coast have been members of PMA for the last 55 years and they have done "OK," re-
plied committee spokesman Rich Austin. "For most members, this has been here with the promise that that arrangement is not work-
able flies in the face of what's been going on
here for more than a hundred years."

FULL OF FISH HOOKS

While appearing lucid on the sur-
face, "the ConAgra proposal is full of fish
hooks," said Local 21 in an published in the local Longview newspaper. Projected
benefits based on high volume were exag-
gerated "to appear enticingly attractive,
but in actuality are projections full short."

The single most important flaw in the
proposal is that it would have the effect of requiring our members to give up their
improvement in the company's position. A September 21 ConAgra proposal would have eliminated the eight hour guarantees as well as travel time.

"We were being asked to accept a 50% redu-
tion in labor costs. That was just not going
to happen."

On the night of October 5, Peavey super-
visors loaded a ship without using ILWU
liberal picket lines. Two weeks later, when each of them received the expected letter threatening to replace them perma-
nently unless they returned to work, they voted by the same margin to stay out.

These grain handlers, said Herman, "are on the picket line to support the registered
longshore workforce."

Critical support also came from the
members of the Columbia River Bar Pilots, who voted to respect the ILWU's picket line. Within days, sailing was down 70%. And when the Coast Guard ruled that no vessel could move from the
dock without a pilot on board, Peavey was paralyzed. Grain cars began to back up—3,500 of them were backed up across the
country. The company obtained the usual tempo-
rary restraining orders, drastically limit-
ing ILWU land and water pickets. But without pilots, the grain ships couldn't
move.

On October 24, at the request of Federal Mediation, negotiations resumed, conclud-
ing at 3 p.m. the following day.

The first agreement in 1990, the first time, places the longshore division members at Peavey under the PUCLD, which also cov-
ers the Northwest grain agreement. Stag-
greed starts are eliminated, jurisdiction is improved, along with numerous other improvements.

"This is true that we did not get the whole enchilada," Austin said, "this agree-
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Docker gets 10 years

ILWU tackles controversial drug law

SAN FRANCISCO—The ILWU Northern California District Council is taking on a 1986 law that imposes stiff prison terms on people convicted in drug cases. It is a large-scale effort involving several years on the Oakland docks and no prior conviction.

Richard Anderson of ILWU longshore Local 10 was the wrong person in the wrong place at the wrong time. For a few hours, he was waved down on an East Oakland street by a burly fellow who quickly jumped in a car and drove to a Burger King a few miles away. For $5, Anderson agreed to take him to a warehouse. At the fast-food restaurant, Anderson sold 100 grams of crack cocaine—worth about $2,500—to an undercover federal narcotics agent. The agent bustled both Anderson and his acquaintance, who later escaped on a bus.

“(Anderson) was not guilty of the rule of law,” Judge Schwarzer said, “but in this case the law does anything but justice.”

MINIMUM SENTENCES

The law in question is the outgrowth of the 1983 crack epidemic and its targeting of drug dealers. Since 1986, federal judges have imposed mandatory prison terms on many convictions related to drug trafficking, regardless of the degree of participation or role in the transaction, with some judges saying the courts “force an innocent defendant to share the fate of his co-defendants.”

As a result, mandatory prison terms have been vacated or reduced in several cases. But in some cases, mandatory prison terms have been vacated or reduced in several cases. But in some cases, mandatory prison terms have been vacated or reduced in several cases. But in some cases, mandatory prison terms have been vacated or reduced in several cases. But in some cases, mandatory prison terms have been vacated or reduced in several cases.

“ILWU tackles controversial drug law”

In each of these cases, Watson said, “the judge had the discretion to consider the circumstances of the case and the existence of a sentence below the recommended minimum.

In such cases, Watson said, “the power of judgment to weigh the merits has been taken away.”

“In each of these cases, Watson said, “the power of judgment to weigh the merits has been taken away.”

“The problem,” she explained, “is that the Machinists only have about 40 Eastern members at SFO, it’s impossible for them to cover the picket lines 24 hours a day themselves. So, we asked our affiliates for help.”

The ILWU has more than 200,000 members and is one of the largest unions in the country. It represents workers in the airline industry and other sectors.

“Local 6 members joined other unions at San Francisco Intl Airport to urge passengers not to fly Frank Lorenzo’s Eastern and Continental Airlines. Picture from left are: John Fungi and Jim Gundy from Cal State Auto; and Anne Groves, Doug Lees and George Matsu° from Hiram Walker.”

Local 6 members pull pull picket duty to help California machinists

WASHINGTON—IF you have a college degree and are interested in politics, you might want to check out the California State Senate Fellow Program. Sponsors of the program, including state senators Dianne Feinstein (D-Gilbert), William Craven and Nicholas Petris, will select 14 college graduates—recent, mid-career and re-entry—into the program on a competitive basis.

To apply, send a letter of interest in applying for the program, including a statement of career development goals, and 12 graduate credits from CSU, (916) 278-6906.

The filing deadline is February 14, 1990. For more information, contact Beth L. nettie Suhailian at the Senate Rules Committee, (916) 223-5314 or the Senate Budget and Fiscal Analysis Office at (916) 223-5125

The contract incorporates terms of an economic adjustment package of $19.3 million. In exchange for continued company funding of health insurance, wage increases would be lower than originally offered by NXYEX—3% in the first year, 4% in the second, and 5% in the third. In exchange for continued company funding of health insurance, wage increases would be lower than originally offered by NXYEX—3% in the first year, 4% in the second, and 5% in the third.

Other improvements include cost-of-living adjustments to compensate for inflation. For each of the first three years, higher pension benefits, and additional employee medical benefits. For each of the first three years, higher pension benefits, and additional employee medical benefits.

New family-care provisions would provide 200 hours per quarter to 144 hours, and from four consecutive weekends to two.

Life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance benefits increase from $18,000 to $20,000, and home health care and hospice care benefits are improved. Other gains include revision of a pension formula to provide $30 per month for all years, with a $250 lump-sum payment, and $22 to $26 per month. In addition, a company-funded health insurance program is linked to health care costs.

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New labor legislation, the delegates said, needs to be written to protect workers' rights to choose representation without employer interference, accord workers the right to bargain over all issues of concern, and guarantee that once a labor agreement is reached, its provisions be enforceable for its term to prevent employers from dodging their contractual obligations.

Because the AFL-CIO is "not so naive as to believe that the Bush administration will support such legislation, the delegates pledged to fight to secure the election in 1990 of a Congress and of state officials committed to enacting fair labor legislation."

Organizing: The delegates geared up to intensely the AFL-CIO's organizing efforts in the face of labor laws "riddled with weaknesses" and massive employer campaigns of fear, harassment and intimidation.

The organizing resolutions noted that unions which put extensive resources into specific organizing goals and use innovative techniques in support of more traditional methods of organizing "are finding success in areas of the country that have been typically portrayed as anti-union." A common element in these efforts has been the expansion of the effort to include volunteer rank-and-file members in the organizing effort.

National Health Care: The delegates approved a grass roots health care campaign to press for legislative reforms to control costs, expand access and improve the quality of medical care in the US. Comprehensive health care reform is "desperately needed" and "must come from the US Congress rather than from the bargaining table," said SIEU President John Swearingen who spearheaded the campaign.

The convention adopted a resolution that would control the rate of increase in health care costs and eliminate wasteful procedures, and guarantee all Americans access to a package of basic health care benefits.

Constitutional convention speaker Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) predicted that Congress would pass health care legislation and set up a commission to study an alternative approach to national health care reform.

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After considerable discussion, a number of resolutions on reproductive rights and abortion were referred to the Executive Council.

ILWU RESOLUTIONS

Two of the four resolutions carried by the ILWU were calling for a mass petition drive for the freedom of Soviet trade union leader Nelson Mandela and another calling for a 5000 anniversary celebration of the first May Day—were "folded in" to other resolutions on the same subject. Two others—calling for increased contacts with Soviet trade unions, and for broader contacts with trade unions in the Philippines—were defeated in the resolutions committee by the ILWU delegates, including one article indicating that all four resolutions had been adopted was in error.

Lane Kirkland and Tom Donahue were unanimously re-elected President and Secretary-Treasurer. Twenty-eight vice-presidents were re-elected, and five new vice-presidents were named: Susan Bianchi-Sand, Flight Attendants; Moe Biller, Postal Workers; George Kiffmen, Musicians; John Sturdivant, Government Employees; Richard Trumka, Mine Workers.

The final count from the credentials committee included 765 delegates representing 80 national and international unions, 48 state labor federations, 176 central bodies, 4 directly affiliated unions and 2 fraternal organizations.

ILWU delegates included International President Jim Herman, Vice-President Rand, Secretary-Treasurer Curt McClain and Local 142 President Eddie Lapa.

Alternates were IBT National Secretary-Treasurer Tom Darcy, Local 142 President Frank Kubat, and Local 142 Vice-President Frank Galla.

US-Canada pact "bad for workers"

The US-Canada Free Trade Agreement (FTA) proposed by President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney will be "bad for Canadian and American workers." Canadian workers know that "considerable numbers of their associates do not share this hope in the United States," and fear that they will be "driven out of business by the FTA." Since the agreement was implemented, "the unemployment rate has been substantially higher in Canada than in the US," and "the Canadian economy has been more sluggish than the US economy." The US-Canada FTA agreement "will have a negative impact on both the American and Canadian workers' standard of living.

The Canadian labor movement has responded with a program which includes "working with community networks and coalitions to generate public opposition to the conservative agenda, and to promote solidarity within the trade union movement by coordinating assistance of those workers affected," he said.

At left, International President Jim Herman has a few words with Richard Trumka, President of the United Mine Workers; center, Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer Leon Harris with Cesar Chavez, President of the United Farm Workers; at right, Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) promised to lead congressional effort for a national health care plan.

ILWU delegates attend first AFL-CIO Convention

continued from page 1
NO TURKEYS HERE—Local 19 longshoremens and mechanics employed at Terminal 5 of the Port of Seattle donated their gift certificates for holiday luncheons to a local annual “Kids-for-Kids” was Santa presented a check for $2,000 from Eagle Marine to Local 19 member Dave Vigil, Kids-for-Christmas chairman. Participating were: left— Hank Bynaker, Eagle Marine; Jim McDaniel; Mike Veitlik, Eagle Marine; Ray Reinhardt and Mel Donaldson, ILWU; Bob Alexander and Jerry Schrenk, Eagle Marine; Bill Crossdale and Pete Kalapa, ILWU; Ross Warner, Eagle Marine; Dave Vigil, ILWU; John Blaue, Eagle Marine; Bob Almer and John Flood, ILWU; Bob Rawlings, Eagle Marine; Santa Claus, North Pole (aka Joe Wenzl, ILWU); and Jim Dean and Joe Wenzl, Jr., ILWU.

Moonlighting in Maui
ILWU painter leads symphony
For ILWU Local 142 member Jerry Martin, juggling two separate and unlikely careers is nothing out of the ordinary. Since 1983, he has served as conductor and music director of the Maui Symphony Orchestra while working full time as a painter in the maintenance department of the Maui Eldorado Resort.
Martin came into the ILWU in 1977 shortly after he and his family settled in Maui. He worked under the ILWU contract at the Kapalua Bay Hotel there, then joined the Maui Eldorado in 1980. In 1978, Martin, who was active in the local music scene, helped form the Maui Symphony Orchestra with founder Don Alton and other dedicated members, volunteers and musicians.
Alton, who had formed a small chamber ensemble, believed that Maui’s musicians needed the opportunity to perform in groups larger than duets and trios. He recruited Martin as the orchestra’s principal French horn player. After graduation, he discovered swing and rock. But Beecher was interested, “You need to be a very good musician and have a great deal of luck to make a living as a musician,” Martin said. “First, you need an instrument. Second, you need passion. Third, you need to have some talent.”

I have been a clerical worker for over 40 years of which were spent in union offices. I am proud of the work I do. I am truly that the writers of the present newspaper trivialize the work that women do.

Letter to the Editor: The newspapers we used to read, story after story in 1949 ILWU warehouse Local 6 strike all came from the ILWU archives. Those stories contained either partial information or no information at all to the names of the individuals in them.

Welfare for lawyers
Let’s hear it for the stupid actions of Los Angeles County.

Toughing It Out
Studying music at California State University in his home town of Fresno, Martin was an accomplished violinist and French horn player. After graduation, he performed with several orchestras and smaller ensembles in Central and Northern California. But being a musician and earning a living at it were two different things. For years, he budgeted his personal time in order to make a living as a musician,” Martin said. “First, you need a good skill. But you also need to meet the right people at the right time.

After his discharge from the Navy, he became an artist, and eventually passed on his passion to his children. He is now a retired artist and lives in the beautiful town of Maui.

Jim North retires
WILMINGTON—After 30 years as president of the ILWU’s Local 13, Jim North, a native of North Carolina, was chosen by his local at the San Pedro Elks Club on September 20, 1969 —the longest such term in the history of his local. He and his wife Gloria (also a long-time local resident) moved to this area and enjoy Jim’s gourmet cooking.

Jim North served as he did in the opinion of the ranking firms in the area, “They have no right to do this.”

Nate Dillquist, President
Pacific Coast Pensions Association
ILWU Local 13, retired

Local 26-0, Wilmington
New officers of chemical workers Local 26-0 are President, Michael Beller; vice-president Don Capes; recording secretary, Gary L. Siler; treasurer, Dwayne Bridges; assistant treasurer, June Lunde; executive director, Jeff Andrade; guide, Mike Lard; Southern California District Council, Arnold Bash and Michael Diller.
In San Pedro
Dockers fight for families, community, jobs

SAN PEDRO—Prevailing wages are the issue. Communities need them. Employers load them. And workers—and their families—depend on them. They are also the reason members of ILWU Local 13 are handbilling patrons of two dinner cruise lines which recently started up operations.

Ibarra also chastised the commission for failing to develop an ongoing relationship with the ILWU that is “common in ports up and down the coast. For example, in Los Angeles and Long Beach, we have regular meetings to express our concerns. Sometimes, we don’t get a hearing. It’s really a drag.”

In stark contrast was the delegation from an auto import/export concern—which, according to ILWU Local 29 president Timmy Chavez, at podium, spoke about the commission that the union was considering to the ILWU to his successor who will be “very available next January.”

The Port’s “solution” is to develop a tourist/trap. “They didn’t say yes, but they didn’t say no, either,” he concluded. “It will be interesting to see what happens when we take them up on their offer in January.”

With an ILWU all-ports meeting set for December 15, 1989, at 4 Berry Street in San Francisco, to be held at the ILWU Clerks Local 34 hall at 4 Berry Street in San Francisco, ILWU clerks Local 34 assisted members of the ILWU and the Sailors Union of the Pacific, 450 Harrison Street, all workers will be represented. The ILWU longshore Local 29 president Tommy Chavez, at podium, spoke about problems with the Port of San Diego at the ILWU All Ports Meeting held there early this month.

There were suitse everywhere. Mostly gray—it seemed to be the uniform—with white shirts, colorless ties and the inevitable gray—it seemed to be the uniform—with white shirts, colorless ties and the inevitable

PTO TUG OF WAR

Several communities adjacent to the port have become bitterly divided in the tug-of-war between industrial and tourism developers. For example, a shipbuilder and an auto import/export concern—which, between them, could create approximately 1,000 jobs—have been blocked by tourism interests wanting to turn waterfront areas into upscale hotels, restaurants and “village-type” shopping complexes, all noose for minimum wage jobs.

Roundup and location, Wolfshimner insisted, are more suitable to the area. Meanwhile, workers and other citizens wonder how many good-paying jobs will be generated by private yachts and tourist tramps.

With an ILWU all-ports meeting set for December 4-5, Local 29 president Tommy Chavez

It’s tourism vs. jobs in the battle for San Diego Bay

San Francisco—As reported in the September issue of The Dispatcher, ILWU clerks Local 34 assisted members of the Port of San Diego Workers’ (FFWV) Local 788 on strike against Bud of California for refusing to receive containers of lettuce harvested by scale in Salinas, California, and shipped to the Port of Oakland.

Although the effort greatly helped the strike, the Port of San Diego, according to the commission, is in a state of transition. Known as “San Pedro” to handle big cargo containers, it has recently been targeted by investors seeking development for tourism. The Port has spent millions to increase high-paying service jobs, “San Pedro” to the speaker’s podium. “You have five minutes,” Ibarra said. “The suits” looked a little nervous. “And I’m not so sure the citizens of San Diego is more and more

Chavez said there was opportunity to fail the pro-union motion. He called for the union to remain low on the list.

Representatives of the ILWU longshore division, about 60 in all, travelled from as far away as Seattle, Portland, Eugene and Los Angeles to San Francisco to attend this meeting. The bulk of their discussion focused on upcoming coast-wide contract negotiations, mechanization, and jurisdictional issues. Many of them came off their trip with a visit to the San Diego Port Commission.

Since 1978, there has been an exchange of views has been successful. The working class hadn’t been here in awhile.

The commission—seven well-behaved white males—looked as pale as developers stepped forward to promote their respective enterprises. ILWU Southern California regional director and designated hitter Joe Ibarra raised his hand.

“We’re running late,” committee chairman Louis Wolfshimner said after calling Ibarra to the speaker’s podium. “You have five minutes.” There was so much history behind the union’s presence here—so much accumulated frustration, so much at stake. How to convey it all in one-seconds?

Butteheadings

For years, the ILWU and the San Diego Port Commission have been locked in a tug-of-war over the future of the harbor—and the future of longshore jobs. ILWU Local 29 membership has dwindled; shipping is down. What the port’s "solution" is to develop the harbor for tourism.

Construction between fire unions, communities and employers will continue. Wolfshimner said it has done everything possible to accommodate the locals, pointed to the claim, anywhere from "hundreds of thousand" to "millions," depending on whose position one takes. The ALRB supported the employer, filed charges against the ILWU, and placed it on the books. The citizens of San Diego want another Hong Kong harbor. Like in Hong Kong, there are huge "profits" to be made. But there is a price.

We’re asking passengers not to patronize either line because, inevitably, the money they pay for their dinner cruise only worsens matters. And that’s how the commission will ultimately be affected by the Port’s change from a working port to a tourist trap.

As reported in previous issues of The Dispatcher, the Port is under fire from unions, community groups and longshoremen, wearing ILWU hats and gray—it seemed to be the uniform—with white shirts, colorless ties and the inevitable longshoremen, wearing ILWU hats and gray—it seemed to be the uniform—with white shirts, colorless ties and the inevitable

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Responding for the commission, Wolfshimner led the SD Port Commission in a tug-of-war over the future of the harbor—and the future of longshore jobs. ILWU Local 29 membership has dwindled; shipping is down. What the port’s "solution" is to develop the harbor for tourism.

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Port commuters get an earful

Contract talks

Chalk up two for IBU on the river

PORTLAND—Members of the IBU Columbia River Region have ratified two major contracts which call for significant improvements in wages and other provisions. Regional director Jim Dunnigan gave The Dispatcher a “blow by blow” of each agreement.

DIVISIONAL MEETING—Some 50 delegates from all longshore divisions local

The controversy centers on how to pay the workers who incurred on-the-job injuries, a common category of "suckers" who perform unwholesome work.

Skippers, previously considered manpower, was raised. Towboat workers will receive improved “maintenance and perks.”

Wages were as mixed as the classifica-

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cessor in process.

Admission to the concert is $10. Proceeds will go to striking Pitton miners and other workers in need. For more information about the concert or the festival, call (415) 426-4890 or (510) 543-2099.

The concert, to be held at the ILWU Clerks Local 34 hall at 4 Berry Street in San Francisco, will culminate the 3-day festival.

The Festival brings together unions from all over the country in celebration of labor music, prose and poetry, theatre and film. Several work-able writers, film makers and anyone else who is interested in labor.

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Pete Seeger set for concert at labor festival

San Francisco—Folk singer Pete Seeger, performing with hisWeaver Labor

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ILWU Board backs El Salvador coffee boycott

The following statement of policy was passed unanimously by the ILWU International Executive Board, meeting in San Francisco December 12-13.

On October 31, a powerful bomb exploded at the offices of FENESTRAS—the federation of El Salvador unions—killing 10 people instantly and wounding 100 others. Two weeks later six Jesuit priests at the University of Central America—along with their cook and her daughter—were brutally murdered by men in the uniform of the El Salvador army. And over the last few months hundreds of trade unionists, human rights activists and church workers have been detained, tortured by right-wing death squads, Treasury Police and other military units.

The ILWU has been on record for many years opposing US aid to the government of El Salvador. Seven billion dollars over the last ten years have neither freed Salvadoran people, nor helped to create a stable, democratic nation.

A MILITARY MACHINE

These funds have, on the other hand, created a military machine which, however well-equipped, is incapable of winning the war and unicornized in negotiating a peaceful settlement. American funds are being used to arm death squads who have engaged in a largely unreported campaign of terrorism against unions, churches, and human rights groups. 60,000 noncombatants have been killed by the government in the last ten years.

Claims by the Reagan and now the Bush Administration that the U.S. Government is supporting “democracy” in El Salvador can no longer be taken seriously. The current government was elected by some 15% of the electorate. And recently enacted “anti-terrorist legislation” has repealed all civil liberties, making it impossible for unions and other groups to demonstrate, to petition, to advocate or negotiate with the guerrillas.

The ILWU International Executive Board hereby reaffirms its opposition to any further US assistance to the Christian government, and will work closely with such organizations as the National Labor Committee for Democracy in El Salvador for such a cessation when Congress reconvenes next year.

The ILWU also hereby endorses the national boycott of El Salvador coffee sponsored by Neighbor to Neighbor to get its employers—Folgers, Hills Brothers and MJB—to voluntarily cut off purchases of Salvadoran coffee.

NEW BUDGE

In other board business, a financial report from International Secretary-Treasurer Curt McClain, the Board adopted a 1990 budget, encompassing the merger of the Health and Safety Research and Education budget, encompassing the merger of the Health and Safety Research and Education

The delegates also heard reports from each of the titled officers and from the various divisions of the union, with a focus on the need for increased organizing and educational work. Discussion in these areas will continue at the April, 1990 meeting.

Members of the Board include the three titled officers, along with Joe Lucas, Local 10, San Francisco; Pete Fuller, Local 54, Stockton; Jim Rydor, Local 6, San Francisco; Luisa Gratz, Local 26, Los Angeles; David Arrias, Local 13, Wilmington; Bill Ward, Local 40; Portland; Ron Thornberry, Local 32, Everett; Justice, Local 19; Seattle; Rudy Araiza, Eddie Faye, Juan M. Acosta, Local All 142, Don Garcia Canana; Pat and Burtie Hutch, MBU Marine Division.

Canadian members protect jurisdiction

SQUAMISH, B.C. — Vigilance and mutual cooperation paid off recently when the ILWU and representatives of the International Woodworkers Association met here to discuss a jurisdictional dispute.

This summer the ILWU received reports that IWA members were loading log barges for a St. Helens Company. ILWU officials initiated talks with representatives of IWA Local 3-171 in Courtenay, B.C. and found that work — now under IWA jurisdiction — had been previously performed by the ILWU at the employer’s facility in Lakeview. The IWA subsequently agreed that the work belonged to the ILWU.

The next step was the employer. The ILWU met with Wildwood management and came up with a formal agreement establishing ILWU jurisdiction for the loading work. The agreement calls for a crew of four, plus a foreman.

Washington labor honors Local 24 docker

ABERDEEN, Wa. — ILWU longshore Local 24 member Max Vekich put on his other hat recently to be honored by the Washington State Labor Council.

As a member of the Washington State House of Representatives, Veikich joined the Council’s Legislative of the Year Award presentation ceremony. He introduced farm worker protections to a pesticide bill needed by the agricultural industry, and for his strong leadership on issues affecting the welfare of injured workers.

Representing District 51, Vekich also got high marks from the Council for his 100% “correct” voting record.

At an awards dinner held during the Council’s convention in Everett, Vekich shared the limelight with four other state lawmakers who were also honored: Senator Patsy Murray, Senator Bill Smithmier, Representative Shirley Rector and House Speaker Joe King.

Vekich championed the bill, HB 2222, which provides the state farm workers — for the first time in history—unemployment insurance, protections against pesticides and industrial warfare coverage.

The bill passed after years of intense lobbying by the Labor Council and local union leaders.

Vekich, working with Margarita Preh- tis-Dill, helped restructure the measure after negotiations between labor and growers collapsed. hammering out a compromise that labor leaders felt was the only possible solution. The final product passed the Senate on the last day of the 1989 regular session.