Pittston pact ratified by wide margin

WASHINGTON, D.C. — After nearly eleven bitter months of strikes, the 19,000 members of the United Mine Workers in three southeastern states have overwhelmingly ratified a new agreement with the Pittston Coal Group.

The strike was won, said UMW President Richard Trumka, "only because our own members were 100% solid, and because of the generous support we had from the rest of the labor movement, from the churches, and from decent people all over the country. It was a re birth of the spirit that built the UMW in the first place."

About 300 people participated in a Mission District march and rally last weekend protesting Cal Foods' refusal to remove Salvadoran coffee beans from their shelves. Actor/activist Ed Asner, left, joined Assemblyman John Burton, center, and ILWU International President Jim Herman, right, in the protest.

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SAN FRANCISCO — Two shipments of "hot" Salvadoran coffee hit the west coast this month; one was unloaded after an expensive delay; the other — after an even more expensive cruise from San Francisco to Vancouver, B.C., and Seattle to Long Beach — never left the hold.

The coffee is object of a nationwide consumer boycott, called by Neighbor-to -Neighbor, a 60,000-member grass roots lobbying organization. The boycott was triggered by the October 31 bombing of FEENASTRA, a Salvadoran trade union federation, the murder of six Jesuit priests at the University of Central America, and other atrocities committed by the government of President Alfredo Cristián — and by government-sponsored "death squads" — over the past six months.

The boycott was endorsed by the December meeting of the IBA as a way to get negotiations going.

SOURCE OF REVENUE

"We want the government and the ruling families in El Salvador to understand that US taxpayers and consumers are not going to continue to subsidize the murder of thousands of people, the intimidation, the mass arrests and torture which keep them in power," said Fred Ross, executive director of Neighbor.

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About 300 people participated in a Mission District march and rally last weekend protesting Cal Foods' refusal to remove Salvadoran coffee beans from their shelves. Actor/activist Ed Asner, left, joined Assemblyman John Burton, center, and ILWU International President Jim Herman, right, in the protest.

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The 19,000 Pittston miners, in Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky, voted 63% to accept the new four-year agreement. Some $33 million in fines assessed against the UMW as a result of thousands of arrests for non-violent civil disobedience are still pending, but Trumka said that the union is confident that the fines would be rescinded on appeal.

HEALTH BENEFITS

The agreement protects UMW health and pension benefits, the key issues of the strike, and makes improvements in job security.

Workers and retirees are now guaranteed health care costs under the terms of the 1988 industry agreement, which Pittston had sought to abrogate. While the agreement provides a $1,000 deductible, the company will pay each worker $500 every six months to offset the costs.

Several provisions are designed to arrest the decline in Pittston's use of union members. Under most circumstances, the company will have to hire UMW members, or subcontractors operating on Pittston property.

Pittston is granted two alternatives to the conventional eight-hour, five-day week. It can require 10-hour, four-day weeks, and five new jobs at new operations of Pittston's which miners might work seven consecutively.

The ILWU backs picket

Caucus meets May 5

SAN FRANCISCO — At this issue of The Dispatcher goes to press, delegates to the longshore, clerks and walking have courses are preparing to meet in San Francisco to begin preparations for 1990 longshore bargaining. The caucus delegates will convene in the Cathedral Hill Hotel, directly across the street from the International office, on March 5 at 9 a.m.

Key Hawaii contracts to expire

HONOLULU — Agreements affecting nearly the entire membership of ILWU Local 142 will be up for negotiations within the next 12 months. Some 22,000 ILWU members in tourism, sugar, pineapple, and longshore will be negotiating new agreements.

The hotel agreements expire May 31 and rank and file representatives from ILWU hotels are set to meet in Honolulu to draft contract demands on March 12 and 13. ILWU's tourism group has grown dramatically since the last contract was negotiated in 1987. Within three years the ILWU's tourism membership has grown by 3,000 to 11,000.

"The ILWU is the largest and leading hotel union in the state," said regional director and chief negotiator Thomas Trusk. "What we negotiate for our hotels will set the standard for the industry."

DOCK CONTRACT

The longshore agreement expires on June 30 and affects over 1,000 workers, including the satellite industries. Since the concept of parity with the West Coast was established by the 1949 longshore strike, wages and benefits in Hawaii have matched those of the mainland.

The Local 142 pineapple agreement, covering 4,500 workers on Lanai, Maui and Oahu, expires November 20 in an atmosphere of general stability and prosperity in the Islands. While contract committee members will begin meeting in August.

The sugar agreement, covering around 5,500 members, expires January 31, 1991, but bargaining will begin in December. Both Senator Daniel Inouye and Representative Danny Akaka are confident that the present price supports will be continued.

Trade agreements banning quotas may pose some problems for the sugar industry, but Hawaii sugar workers are still the most productive in the world. "What we can negotiate in sugar depends on politics," said Trusk, "but as far as our union is concerned, sugar has a future in Hawaii."
Turning guns into butter

By JIM HERMAN
ILWU President

Since the end of World War II, US taxpayers have spent a trillion dollars on "defense." The military budget doubled in the first four years of the Reagan administration, then rose more gradually to where it's pushing $300 billion. Today, fifty cents of every dollar spent by the federal government goes to "defense." The Pentagon school of accounting that's really a decrease—measured against the war that took place after the Reagan era—battled for military supremacy. Japan— which spends a mere 1% of its output on defense—ran away with the economic prize. We've now entered a second class industrial power, with standard of living—as measured by yardsticks as instant mortality, or the level of real wages— rapidly falling behind other industrial democracies.

The roads, bridges, railroads and harbors that make the economy run, are in disrepair. A recent congressional study of "must" items includes $365 billion for repair of highways, $12 billion to clean up and modernize nuclear weapons plants which are leaking toxic waste into the environment. $25 billion to update the air traffic control system, and so on. That's without even looking at homelessness, public health, the epidemic of drug addiction, and the pitiful state of public education.

While the US once led the world, we now have a choice—we can either borrow some more to keep the Pentagon's party going on, or we can throw the freeloaders out and start taking care of the real problems. That's the so-called "peace dividend"—the money that will be saved with the evaporation of the military threat, which provided the excuse to start the party in the first place.

How big a dividend? And what should we do with it? Those two questions will dominate American politics for the rest of this decade. The unmet needs are enormous—we will have absolutely no problem funding constructive ways to spend the money. We can save from the military budget, expenditures that will provide more jobs, and more productive and more stable jobs than the military-industrial complex can provide. And employees in the defense industry have legitimate right to be concerned about their livelihood and the social order as a positive obligation to develop programs and legislation—such as those sponsored by the Machinists and Auto Workers—for extraterritorial implementation in the process of conversion to a peacetime economy.

But such concerns are far from the mind of George Bush, who carries on as though nothing has changed. He proposes a military budget increase—from $287 billion for the current fiscal year to $292 in the next fiscal year and to $305 billion in 1995. According to the Pentagon school of accounting that's really a decrease—measured against the war that took place after the Reagan era.

The budget for the Environmental Protection Agency has been frozen. The education budget goes up by a whopping 1%.

There will be major Congressional truce on this issue. Robert McNamara, secretary of defense under Kennedy and Johnson, and Lawrence Korb, assistant secretary of defense under Reagan, have presented congressmen with the un- ftory that the US military budget can be cut by a minimum of 50% over the next decade, without any sacrifice in security—even if Gorbachev should launch the most ardent expansionist. The Soviet threat which precipitated this spending orgy, they say, was always wildly exaggerated.

Today, it does not exist at all. The American people cannot afford to let this opportunity pass by. We are simply not wealthy enough to forgo a savings of at least half a trillion dollars over the next ten years. The $52.4 billion which the president proposes to spend on Trident II submarines and missiles would fund two years worth of repairs for our roads, bridges, water and sewer systems; the $35.4 billion earmarked for the C-17A heavy transport plane would pay for the first four years of pre- nital care for the poorest mothers. It's time to turn on the lights and announce that the party's over. It's time to rebuild America.

"We can either bor- row more to keep the Pentagon's party going on, or we can throw the freeloaders out and start taking care of some real business."

The Army's behind us. I can do whatever I want.

The American Federation of Steelworkers and the ILWU auxiliaries set convention date

The Northern and Southern Californi a ILWU auxiliaries will meet for their 19th Biennial State Convention in Oakland, California on March 3-4; the first session starts at 9 a.m. ILWU warehouse Local 6 plays host at its East Bay hall, located at 99 Hegenberger Road.

For more information contact North- ern ILWU auxiliaries vice president Cydrena Austin at (415) 531-5000 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Fri- day, or at (415) 648-6583 on evenings and weekends.

Stewards take note

SACRAMENTO — The Labor Studies Department of City College of San Francisco is offering a short course in "Advanced Steward Training" to help union members get better at their work. The class covers: techniques for han- dling complicated grievances; how to solve problems between members; deal- ing with difficult members; and dealing with "problem supervisors," and reviving the steward system. Sessions will be held over three Satur- days, March 3, 17 and 31, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A nominal fee of $5 will be charged. Successful completion earns one unit credit. Instructors include Linda Gregory, associate director of AFSCME's District Council 57. To regis- ter, call (415) 241-2259.

Lefties rejoice

Left-handed people live longer than they used to, a new study reports. According to researcher Max G. Anderson of Vancou- ver, Canada, the secret is a positive explanation: the easing of social prejudice and pres- sure. The study also makes life longer for "southpaws." A recent study that made headlines, which concluded that lefties die younger, reports re- flections of the decades-long efforts of labor rights activists. In the just-published Labor Rights in Haiti, Fund researcher Lanos Corn- duff and a colleague report on a mass firing of workers who try to organize and bargain, blocking of union activists, armed intervention by military forces against workers, and rampant mini- mum wage and health and safety violations. American multinationals have continued to organize a labor rights fund which provides $3 million. These multi- nationals are in Haiti include clothing, garment, sporting goods, electronics, metals processing and other manufacturers. The Texas-based Haggar pants manufacturing company's Haiti workers told union officials requesting negotiations: "We have a mil- itary government here! We don't want to make life worse for you anymore. I can do what I want. Haggar doesn't want a union. You are all fired as of now." A band of armed thugs forced the union committee from the factory.

Workers rights in Haiti

"The army's behind us - I can do whatever I want"
New Local 6 members ratify pact in Steel Town West

Kevin Nicholas mans the controls at the LOOPCO slitter which cuts flattened "coils" of steel according to customer specification. The coils look like huge rolls of steel sheeting—but, we are corrected, "rolls are for toilet paper."

ILWU scalers in danger from oil spill, OSHA says

SAN PEDRO, Ca.—As we go to press, members of ILWU ship scalers Local 56 are engaged in clean up efforts in the wake of one of the worst oil spills to hit the California coast. On Wednesday, February 7, the American Trader, a British Petroleum oil tanker, ran over its own anchor as it attempted to moor at Huntington Beach, causing a huge rip in its hull and spilling nearly 400,000 gallons of crude.

Some of the spillage was cleaned up by floating oil booms. Favorable breezes kept the oil offshore until late Thursday; then the winds turned, and substantial amounts of the oil began to wash ashore near the beaches to help with clean up efforts. At press time, the expanding oil slick covers some 70 square miles and is inching northward along the coast.

The initial stages of clean up came to a halt on Saturday, February 10, when federal inspectors determined that clean up efforts would have to be resolved by an arbitrator.

"We started with meetings in June at a local park," said Steve Gear, Local 56 business agent, "and every day that's been Mostly small harbor spills—what we're engaged in now is clean up efforts in the wake of one of the worst oil spills to hit the coast."

"The American Trader, a British Petroleum oil tanker, ran over its own anchor on Wednesday, February 7, and the laws of physics and the laws of nature conspired to cause a huge rip in its hull and spilling nearly 400,000 gallons of crude."

"We are mostly concerned about exposure to hazardous materials, especially how to dispose of them properly," said OSHA district supervisor Jack Rhodes. "It appears that some of them have received no training at all."

"OSHA regulations, Rhodes said, require at least 24 hours of training for all workers involved in clean up toxic chemicals."

"The rank-and-file negotiating committee, assisted by Ron Heath, head shop Local 6 business agent, Victor Pamiroyan, warehouse Local 6 business agent, and hospital workers Unit 2201, Rep Abba Ramos on the organizing drive. "From there, the educational process began."

"Actually, our organizing went pretty smooth," said Larry Morrison. "The company came out with some promises and promises—that kind of stuff—but there was no line on union busting. They wanted to show they were the good guys."

"In September, the workers demonstrated they wanted more than promises; they voted 28 to 7 to join the ILWU. The rank-and-file negotiating committee, assisted by the firm, wrapped up contract negotiations three months later."

"With pay rates balanced to offset inequities, workers got raises of 25 cents to $2.25 an hour and clauses on grievance procedures and seniority rights were established."

"We settled the big issues," Morrison said. "It's a foot in the door, and, next time, we're going to knock it down."
New ILA pact halts cutbacks

BALTIMORE—Members of five ILA locals here overwhelmingly ratified a revised local agreement with the Port of Baltimore.

The local agreement, tied to the ILA's master agreement with East Coast shipyards, was approved by a vote of 98 to 142 after two days of balloting.

The union termed the revised local agreement a "significant victory" after months of negotiations.

The agreement includes provisions for wage increases, employer health and welfare contributions, and a new pension plan.

The revised agreement also includes a new vote on the proposed master contract, which expires in 2020.

Safety the issue as dock locals aid LA pilots' strike

LOS ANGELES — The Port of Los Angeles was paralyzed when pilots refused to proceed with a single-engine approach to the Port on February 11-13, when the pilots who steered huge tankers on their own, understaffing, running into me. An oil spill is one thing. How about a ship collision, a sinking in the main channel? That scares the hell out of me."

Amoco sets pattern for oil industry

The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers have ratified a new contract with Amoco, a three-year agreement that provides a wage increase of 90 cents in the first year, with percentage increases in the second and third years totaling 9.5%. Unions officials expect the agreement to set the pattern for settlements with other major oil companies.

The agreement also calls for increased employer health and welfare contributions of $55 per month in the first year, $45 per month in the second year, and $25 per month in the third year.

Labor Hall of Fame honors labor leaders

Getting out the vote—Don Watson, far left, followed Erben Dennis to the door of an "occasional voter" who was apparently glad to see them.

Bob and Ross had been walking Modesto precincts for the last two days, but none like this. By noon they were tired, ready to go home, and had second thoughts about working after dark. They speculated on reasons for the watch dogs, the guns. Talk like that scared me. If these big, strong, muscular males are nervous, I thought, I should be petrified. My social conscience talked back: this is about protecting our "occasional voters," and mangling their names.

As directed, we immediately went to the ship Baptist Church. We were in luck: "doing pretty well" considering hundreds of voters took other jobs after Deukmejian blue-penciled the budget. He also blamed the October 17 earthquake for disrupting operations at San Francisco headquarters.

Back at MLK Park, precinct coordinators gave us flashlights, several "atta-boys," and time off for dinner. Tabasco on my French fries was the closest I'd come to a meal.

About an hour later, we were back at the polls. Don's eyes lit up as he closed off names in rapid succession. "We got 5 more," he announced. We were hot to trot. Gloria and Serena, two sisters who lived a few houses apart, still hadn't come in yet, even though they promised they would. We reminded them again. "We're going, we're going, OK?" Serena said testily. I wrote them off.

Julian was the mystery man. On try number one, a family friend insisted Julian had already voted. Our list said otherwise. When we went back, the friend said, "He gets home before the polls close, I'll take him there myself." We counted on it.

Roger, who had been gone all day, came to the door shirtless, rubbing his eyes. We woke him up. "Hey, I'm really sorry, but I just got in from San Francisco and in two hours I have to take off for L.A. I really need to sleep." He was a trucker. We recommended an absentee ballot for the next election—and he thanked us.

Cecilia was our last call. She seemed sincere the first time we talked to her. On our second visit, she said, "I'm leaving in 30 minutes." Great, we'll meet you there. It was 7:30. "She'll make it," Don predicted.

Back to the polls. We'd gone as far as we could go. As we pulled up, a car with two young women and a horde of bumbling children were leaving. It was Gloria and Serena. I felt guilty for doubting them.

Inside, the poll watchers greeted us warmly. No one else was there. "Do, Julian where are you? Cecilia hurry up!"

A best up, old pickup truck chugged into the parking lot, brakes squealing as it came to a stop. Terry went outside and came back within seconds. "It's Julian! They found him," Julian brought his brother and his father with him. One to go.

Five minutes later, Cecilia rushed in, not a little astonished to be welcomed with hugs by Erben and Terry. Don beamed from ear to ear. We did it! Our 36 occasional voters, 34 came to the polls; Roger's son had to sleep, after all, and the other one got away and moved out of town.

We beckoned Julian and Cecilia over for another opportunity. He asked her quizzically and muttered, "I don't understand. We are people. Why are we so important to them?"

Back at campaign headquarters, the answer was clear. Sal Cannella—the undertog, the union man—won by 4,900 votes, with some 9,000 "occasional voters" casting their ballots. We didn't know it that night, of course. The final tally was hours away. But as Sa'l took the lead early and widened the margin, we knew our mission was accomplished.

Now, I thought, if I can just stay awake at the wheel...
Carl Damaso, blacklisted in sugar, was longtime president of Local 142

HONOLULU—Carl Damaso, retired president of Local 142, died of complications from treatment to build the ILWU in the Islands," said International President Jim Herman. "He was a true labor leader. Every day he was at work fighting for the rights of workers."

Damaso and eight other leaders of the Mill Workers Industrial Union, bringing raises and recognition of their union, were arrested and charged with var- ties, had a free hand. Suspected union members were arrested, listed, arrested or deported. "It was during that time that Carl realized that organizing Filipinos who, under the law, could not succeed," said Ab Qhan McIlraith, a longtime friend and exiled Local 142 social worker. Vibora Luviminda was the first time a sugar company recognized and bargained with union members.

"He would tell me stories about going to high school in May/June 1939. He earned all of $20 a month. White workers were paid seven times that amount."

Born in San Felipe, Zambales, in the Philippines in 1916, Damaso came to Hawaii in 1931. He was initiated into the cargo handlers' local in 1916. When asked last year what he would like to see accomplished, he said International President Jim Herman. "He was a fine person, a good friend, an amazing leader," said current ILWU Hawaii Regional Director Tommy Trask. "He never backed down from a fight; he was a very strong individual. And he always kept his word."

"Carl Damaso was one of that group of visionaries who built the ILWU on the Islands," said International Secretary-Treasurer Curt McClain, speaking at a memorial service organized by Local 142.

"He was a good organizer, a hard-working and competent union official who helped build Local 142 into the democratic, multi-racial and union-operated Local it is today," McClain said. "It was his generation that laid the groundwork, and built the first few floors. We will go on from there, on the solid foundation Carl built.

Damaso is survived by his wife Charlotte, sons Alfredo and Carlton, daughters Althea and Marilyn Gandy, grandchildren, nineteen great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Johnny Now fought shape-up, worked 50 years

Johnny Now, the grand old man of the Tacoma waterfront, passed away January 14 at the age of 94. He remembered his first shape-up until his dying day.

In 1912, the 17-year-old Now stood with a group of longshoremen in front of a Millinocket dock foreman, hoping to be picked. The work was grueling: for 10 hours he hauled and pulled up his money at the Nonpareil Saloon—then a gin joint and bar—and went drinking.
Local 10, San Francisco

Results of the February 9 ran-off election are: President, Larry Wing; vice-president (honorary), Steve Paich, secretary-treasurer, Reg Theriault; Business Manager, Jim Moore. The business agents are Andrew Plotzker, Jerry A. Flitter, and Robert Costa. The dispatchers are George Galarza, Tom Perez, Robert Costa, Ralph Rooker, Guy Whitaker, Joe Robert Clay and Charlie "West Coast" Wells. Rudy Garcia is the hiring hall personnel officer.

The Committees include: Grievance - Louis MacGregor; Executive Board - William Peters, Dale Kelly, Eric Williams, Steve Paich, Robert "Bob" Rose and other democratic unions, is rank-and-file participation. It doesn't tell us (maybe he doesn't know) that the UAW was the first union in the country to open itself up to outside observers, to test the methods of other democratic unions, to rank-and-file representation. It doesn't say that the UAW, like other democratic unions, is rank-and-file participation, that members accept or reject contracts, run for union office and call the shots.

Moore seems sincere enough. He's a native of Flint and, to tell the town's story, he sold his house and his furniture, and ran hobo through the streets. But, in saying it, he should have realized that Flint is a town with more than one side to it. The UAW like other democratic unions, is rank-and-file participation, that members accept or reject contracts, run for union office and call the shots.

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Herman blasts Feds on dredging cost plan

Continued from page 1

containers of El Salvador beans. After addressing the question, ILWU International President Jim Herman met with PMA officials who agreed not to attempt to offload the containers in Canada. After the remaining San Francisco-bound cargo was worked, the ship was released.

When the ship arrived in Canada on Monday, February 12, "the employers and agency officials, that their intention was to unload the cargo in an American political dispute," said ILWU International President Jim Herman.

Corps officials, Huerta said, admitted that the Corps would not have the necessary permits to unload the cargo in Canada. They said that the Corps would require a permit, which is issued by the Department of Labor, to unload the cargo. The Corps also said that the Corps would not be responsible for any costs associated with the permit.

Herman said that the Corps' decision to unload the cargo in Canada was unfair because it was an American political dispute, and the Corps had no jurisdiction to make that decision. "The Corps is not in this business to make money," Herman said. "It is in this business to provide a safe and efficient navigation system for American citizens."