Canada labor aligns to protect jobs

VANCOUVER, B.C.—The proposed trilateral free trade agreement among Can-
ada, the US and Mexico was of paramount concern as members of the British Colum-
bia Federation of Labor congregated for their convention November 26-30.

“The minimum wage in Canada is $4.50 an hour,” said ILWU Canadian Area presi-
dent Don Garcia, “but in Mexico, it’s $3.50 a day. We’ve already lost 80,000 jobs here
under the American free trade agreement—they’ve gone mostly to southern
states—and some 32 regulatory statutes have been eliminated. If Mexico becomes part of the equation, it will be much worse.”

PROGRAMS AT RISK

The danger, Garcia pointed out, lies in the combination of “American capital,
Canadian products and cheap Mexican labor” which threatens to drain Canada of
its abundant natural resources as well as jobs. Further, Canadian workers stand to
lose some of the strongest and most innovative labor laws and social programs in the
industrialized world in order to compete in a “free market” economy.

As was the case when the US and Can-
da explored and ultimately signed a bilat-
eral accord in 1988, an agreement bringing
Mexico under the free trade umbrella is
being pushed by political conservatives and
big business, with advocates pointing
across the Atlantic to impending imple-
mentation of the European Economic Com-

PEOPLE FIRST

But what pro-FTA forces don’t say, according to Garcia, is that “many of the
tenants behind the EEC legislate that peo-
gle—jobs for people—must come first.
There’s none of that in what we’ve got here.
It’s a false and misleading way to push free trade.

Garcia was one of almost 20 delegates
from the ILWU at the convention. He was
nominated, and unanimously elected, as a
vice president of the federation, represent-
ing the maritime industry. He will partici-
pate in a commission established by the
convention to explore the ramifications of
an expanded free trade agreement and to
meet with government officials to present
labor’s point of view.

“We have no quarrel with our Mexican
brothers making a good wage,” Garcia
added. “But there’s a real appetite for the
government to get involved in this mess; we
mean to be sacrificed for reasons which will not bear close examination,” the Board stated.

The union called for a withdrawal of US
troops from Saudi Arabia, the establish-
ment of a UN peace-keeping force, and
immediate negotiations to restore the
national integrity of Kuwait.

“The issue is whether or not young Americans are to be sacrificed for
reasons which will not bear close examination.”

In other action, the Board adopted a
statement in support of free-choice on abor-
tion, noting that “the effect of the 1989 US
Supreme Court decision in Webster v. Reproductive Health Services, which per-
mits states to regulate access of women to abortion, will be to undermine the consti-
stitutionally-protected right to privacy, and
equal access to public health facilities.

“We affirm a woman’s right to make pri-
vate decisions regarding reproduction. We
also oppose the use, by the Reagan and
Bush administrations, of foreign aid as a
hammer to bludgeon recipient countries
into adopting the anti-abortion, anti-birth
control policies of a small but extremely
active core of extremists in the US.”

The Board also held a preliminary dis-
cussion on organizing, in the form of an
open workshop. “It was the beginning of a
process,” said International President Her-
continued on page 5

ILWU joins lawsuit

“US out of Gulf,” IEB declares

SAN FRANCISCO—Meeting at Interna-
tional headquarters December 5-6, the
ILWU International Executive Board voted
unanimously to join a federal lawsuit chal-
lenging President Bush’s right to attack
Iraq without a congressional Declaration of
War.

The ILWU will submit a “friend of the
court” brief in support of the suit filed by
Rep. Ron Dellums (D-Cal.) and 57 other
congressional representatives last month.

“The most important issue in the Persian
Gulf is whether or not the lives of tens of
thousands of young Americans are to be
sacrificed for reasons which will not bear
close examination,” the Board stated.

The union called for a withdrawal of US
troops from Saudi Arabia, the establish-
ment of a UN peace-keeping force, and
immediate negotiations to restore the
national integrity of Kuwait.

‘War will cause massive bloodshed. More than 30,000
young Americans, by all accounts, are likely to lose
their lives in a land invasion, to say nothing of hun-
dreds of thousands of civilian casualties. War with
Iraq will create political chaos and violence in an
extremely unstable region of the world, and grinding
economic hardship everywhere else.’

Please turn to page 5

AFL-CIO transport dept.

Memberousts
drugpushers

Continued on page 6
Soak the Rich II

WASHINGTON — The din from the 1991 holiday season that period of widespread budget deficits and the Bush administration's slash-and-burn approach to entitlement programs is now being drowned out by the revels of Yuletide and the profusion of festivities. The news this Christmas is that you can't have your cake and eat it too. Despite the December 9 tax cut passed by President Bush and his Republican colleagues in Congress, the country still faces a grim fiscal situation.

The last quarter of 1990 was marked by a budget agreement that increased spending for the size of the economy, and the Federal Reserve's attempt to curb inflation. But the economy was not strong enough to sustain the increased spending, and the Federal Reserve's policies were not aggressive enough to prevent a recession.

The budget agreement was a major factor in the stock market downturn in the last quarter of 1990. The agreement increased spending by about $150 billion, which was about half of the increase in GDP. The increase in spending was financed by a large increase in the deficit, which was about $120 billion.

The budget agreement was also a major factor in the increase in unemployment. The unemployment rate increased from 4.8% in December 1990 to 5.5% in January 1991.

The budget agreement was also a major factor in the increase in inflation. The inflation rate increased from 3.8% in December 1990 to 4.6% in January 1991.

The budget agreement was also a major factor in the increase in the budget deficit. The budget deficit increased from $120 billion in December 1990 to $150 billion in January 1991.

The budget agreement was also a major factor in the increase in the budget surplus. The budget surplus decreased from $120 billion in December 1990 to $90 billion in January 1991.

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ILA ratifies pact 9 to

NEW YORK — New agreements covering members of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) working on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts have been ratified by a better than 9-1 vote.

"Both the ILA and management were happy with the agreement," said ILA President John Bowers. "ILA members will receive increases in their salary and fringe benefit plans while employers got a reduction in container gangs that will help them remain competitive.

The new master agreement went into effect December 1 at ports where agreements were reached on local conditions. It went into effect in other ports as local pacts were headed down.

WAGE INCREASES

The new three-year-and-ten-month master agreement, expiring October 1, 1994, provides annual wage increases of $1 per hour that will bring the basic longshore hourly straight time rate to $22 during the last year of the agreement. The current straight time rate is $18 per hour.

The new agreement also calls for increases in the employers' contribution to welfare, pension and other fringe benefit plans.

The union also agreed that local ports or districts may institute flex-time systems at waterfront terminals for the continuous receiving and delivery of containers. Details of first-time will be worked out on a local basis. ILA employers also obtained a phased two-man reduction in container gangs.

In South Atlantic bargaining, covering the Carolinas, Georgia and several Florida ports, a new four-year agreement phases out the guaranteed annual income plan in exchange for higher wages and job security.

The only shut-downs occurred in Philadelphia and Baltimore. The Philadelphia agreement went into effect after a four-day strike, gives management new shift options for loading and unloading in exchange for a minimum level of health and benefit funds. In Baltimore, fringe benefits and jurisdiction over certain container operations were worked out after a two-day strike.

Veteran status granted to WWII Merchant Mariners

WASHINGTON — Forty-four years later, the Department of Defense has granted veteran's status to Merchant Mariners who served during World War II.

The long-awaited decision comes on the heels of a 1988 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals that merchant seamen are entitled to veterans' benefits.

The decision will serve as the AFL-CIO research and lobbying clearing house on transportation issues. It will be headed by Richard Kiley, who is also President of the Communications and Transportation International Union, Walter Shae, Vice President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, will be treasurer.

The 120 delegates represented a million workers involved in all phases of surface, air and maritime transport, and were represented by International President Jim Herman, Coast Committee member Richard Austin, Local 133 President Eddie Lapa and IBT President Burtz Hatch. Local 6 president Jim Ryder was unable to attend because of union business.

Department staff will push legislation to repair and enhance the nation's deeply troubled transportation infrastructure. The department will also work for stronger transportation safety legislation, the restoration of collective bargaining rights, development of effective safeguards for transport of hazardous materials, and, of course, do everything possible to make sure that skilled union members build, maintain and operate the transport network.

"Prestressed competition is leading us into an era where transportation companies are increasing their use of the multi-modal approach," said Kiley, addressing an issue of particularly serious concern to the ILWU delegation. "They are creating a whole new ball game, and we must be on the playing field from the outset if our needs and concerns are to be taken into consideration. These companies are forming new subsidiaries — and subsidiaries of subsidiaries — with the clear intent of shutting the door on organized labor.

UNION FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

"When intermodal yards open they must be union from top to bottom," Shae added.

Contractualization will also be focused on support for the ban on "permanent replacement" of strikers now before the Congress. The new Department also set in motion a new legislative system to keep track of the Senate and House members on transport and labor issues. The rating system will be developed under the direction of Edward Hanley, President of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees, who will head the legislative committee.

Delegates gave a particularly chilly response to US Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner. Bay Area Teamster official Chuck Mack asked sarcastically if it was merely an oversight that the Bush administration's much ballyhooed national transportation policy makes no mention of collective bargaining rights for transport workers. Skinner also ran into severe criticism of the Federal Aviation Administration and its permit policy concerning the Eastern airways and the lack of attention to the American maritime industry.

"The Transportation Department has the potential to become a major voice on behalf of people who work in an industry that has been left in a state of disorder by the policies and practices of the recent past," said AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland in his address to the delegates.

"The rampant neglect of the public interest and the social fabric in the name of efficiency and productivity in the name of life, and the nation's complex communication network has not been immune to this. Bridges and highways crumble, public transport systems are in disarray, and needed airports remain unbuilt — to say nothing of the havoc that excessive and imprudent deregulation has wrought on the quality and reliability of transportation service.

ILWU International President Herman was named to the Department's executive committee.

The Department will be funded by a monthly per capita tax of six cents per member.

Come in from the cold

If you or family member has a drug or alcohol problem, please call one of the following ILWU-sponsored employee program representatives. They are trained to offer referrals for substance abuse, personal and family counseling, and other services — all on a confidential basis.

Jackie Cummings
ADRP—South California
505 W. Pacific Coast Hwy, Ste. C
San Pedro, CA 90734
Phone: (213) 549-9056

Steven George Cobb
ADRP—New York
400 North Point Street
San Francisco, CA 94113
Phone: (415) 776-8363

Jim Copp
ADRP—Oregon
3034 N.E. Gilsen, Ste. 2
Medford, OR 97504
Phone: (503) 231-4882

Richard Borshom
ADRP—Washington
506 2nd Avenue, Rm. 2212
Seattle, WA 98104
Phone: (206) 621-1038

Anne Root
ADRP—Northern California
28 ship anchors to stabilize the bridge. By November, the new bridge will be open to westbound traffic, with the proviso that, if winds exceed 30 miles per hour, it would be closed.

Meanwhile, wreckage from the sunken adjoining bridge tightened to inflict even more damage on the I-90 bridge. Shells of the 56 cables connected to anchor blocks on the bottom of the 200-foot-deep lake were also sustained some damage when at least a dozen of its cables were severed in the storm.

Massive gridlock ensued when some 50,000 daily commuters were turned away from the bridge. The Washington State Department of Transportation grappled with solutions. State engineers devised a plan to haul boats with tow lines to hold the span in place until seven temporary anchor barges were in place. Then the bridge was opened to westbound traffic, with the proviso that, if winds exceeded 30 miles per hour, it would be closed.

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Longshoremen join solidarity efforts

Two-tier wage dispute fuels Paper Workers "equal pay" strike

SAFETY AT THE DOCK

Greyhound strike: We’ll fight till we win

SAN FRANCISCO—Amalgamated Transit Union members on strike against Greyhound appealed this week for financial support to help sustain them in a fight that involves all workers.

The core question in the Greyhound strike is simple, legend of ATU Local 1225 in San Francisco declared.

"Can a business replace its skilled union workers with lower paid, less-skilled scabs and still operate profitably?"

If Greyhound is successful, thousands of businesses with union contracts will consider such a course.

"If we win this strike, American business will be sent the strong message that hiring scabs is the first step on the road to bankruptcy."

"In our own case, the strikers have learned to live with lower pay in order to protect our jobs and stop the company from putting union members on contract work."

"We'll fight till we win" said Local 1225 president Glen Ramiskey.

"The back pay bill was estimated by the NLRB to total $89 million at the end of September, and the meter is still running."

"It may seem harmless at the time, but if we are successful in this strike, the workers will know they have to fight to keep their jobs."

The appeal comes as a crucial point in the 10-month strike against the now-bankrupt company.

A national Labor Relations Board trial on the Greyhound's alleged unfair labor practices is scheduled to begin next month. If the charges filed by the NLRB general counsel are sustained, the company will have to fire any and all employees who crossed the picket line at the dock when ATU members made an unconditional offer to return to work.

"The back pay bill will rise to at least $130 million by the time the trial ends in March."

"We'll have to raise $1.3 million to pay off the workers who have participated in the strike."

"If the strikers win this case, we'll have to find $3 million to pay the workers who have supported the strike."
The following statements of policy were unanimously adopted by the ILWU International Executive Board, meeting in San Francisco December 5-6, 1990.

The IEB Statements of Policy

Persian Gulf

The most important issue in the Persian Gulf is whether or not the lives of tens of thousands of young Americans are to be sacrificed for reasons which will not bear close examination.

The ILWU International Executive Board, without reserve or qualification, condemns the Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait. We support the imposition of UN sanctions. But a US invasion of Iraq is unacceptable, indeed, unthinkable.

President Bush's policies also have raised profound constitutional issues. The US Constitution explicitly and unambiguously vests in Congress the sole power to declare war, assume the role of world policeman. Nor does the US have the desire to stifle criticism. We hope that these discussions will prove fruitful before the House and Senate.

If US troops should be withdrawn from Saudi Arabia, this will confirm that such a step will not be lightly taken by those directly representing the American people.

We welcome President Bush's offer to begin an exchange with Iraq, however much it may be maneuvered simply by his desire to stifle criticism. We hope that these discussions will prove fruitful before the United Nations have the opportunity to communicate with their governments.

The ILWU International Executive Board hereby instructs the International Officers to file a "friend of the court" brief in support of the federal lawsuit filed by Rep. Ron Dellums and 57 other members of Congress, challenging the right of the President to engage in military action without a Congressional declaration of war. The Board also urges all ILWU locals, district councils, etc. to communicate with their representatives in the Congress urging a full debate on the Persian Gulf issues, and assertion of the legitimate authority of the Congress in these matters.

Reproductive Rights

Recognizing and respecting the diverse views of our members on the issue of abortion and birth control, the ILWU International Executive Board shares with the large majority of Americans the belief that such choices are essentially private and individual in nature. We oppose efforts to inject the political and judicial process into these most personal decisions.

The effect of the 1989 US Supreme Court decision in Webster v. Reproductive Health Services, which permits states to regulate access of women to abortion, will be to undermine the constitutionally-protected right to privacy, and equal access to public health facilities.

A particularly tragic result of the Webster decision is that restrictions on access to legal and safe birth control and abortion will jeopardize the lives and health of teenagers and the poor, with a concentration of negative effects among minorities in our increasingly multi-cultural society.

We do to women who elect to have abortions will be to secure adequate, if illegal, medical care. Those without such access will face the bitter choice between carrying to term pregnancies for which they are entirely unprepared, or subjecting themselves to unsafe, unregulated medical practices.

The ILWU opposes any restrictions on the right to privacy and access to public health care. We affirm a woman's right to make private decisions regarding reproduction. We also oppose the use, by the Reagan and Bush administrations, of foreign aid as a hammer to bludgeon recipient countries into adopting anti-abortion, anti-birth control policies of a small but extremely active core of extremists in the US.

We will, with an increasing number of unions and other community groups, work for legislative action at the national level to protect fundamental constitutional rights of women from being taken away state by state.

Leonard Hoshijo, Jim Ryder and Guy Rybrid led the ILWU's organizing workshop.

continued from page 1

man. "We need to begin to have a sense of what the real possibilities are and to look at the legal, political and financial problems involved. We're going to continue this discussion in the months leading up to the International Convention."

The workshop featured a discussion by Board members, regional staff and local officers on their own organizing experiences. The workshop was led by Hananu-based International Rep Leonard Hoshijo, Local 142 Secretary-Treasurer Guy Fujimura, and Local 6 President Jim Ryder. Also participating were Regional Directors Lebbe King, Northern California; Joe Barra (Southern California); and International Representative John Bokosky (Page Sound-Alaska).

The Board also heard a preliminary budget and financial report from the finance sub-committee established at the August Board meetings considered reports from locals and heard details of finances.
BATTLING BOYERS—IBU member Bob Boyer, right, and family have joined the fight to rid their neighborhood of drug houses. With Boyer are daughter Keylah and son Chuck.

By Gene Klare

Robert Boyer of northeast Portland brings the same seasoned leadership and activism that motivated him for years in the labor movement to the drug war that's currently raging in his community.

The member of the ILWU, Boyer has worked 22 years at Western Transportation, Boyer was a union-member -shop steward at Western Transportation and earlier put in a six-year stint as chairman of IBU's Columbia River Region. He has also served as a delegate to the IBU Local 34, Columbia River District Council.

A decade ago, Boyer and his wife, Judy Knawls, helped to form the organization that has become known as the Concordia Neighborhood Association. "As a result of the Concordia Neighborhood Association's activities, I've come to realize how important it is to communicate with each other and looking after each other," said Nate Jacobson, a member of clerks Local 34 until his retirement in 1972. He was born in New York City, Jacobson slipped out in the 1960's as a member of the Marine, Cooks and Stewards Union and was active in that union for many years. In the mid -1970's, he and many others were purged out of the MUS because of their political beliefs, he found a home in the ILWU.

A memorial service held November 27 at Local 34, one speaker after another got up to eulogize Nate Jacobson as a man who never wanted anything for himself who wanted only to work quietly, efficiently and consistently for better conditions.

"People like my father built and maintained the unions that protect us and allow us to earn good wages and better conditions. He dedicated his life to that and I'll try to do the same," said Arlington "Archie" Brown, Local 10 activist.

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Election 90: Labor makes a difference

Seven of every ten union members voted for labor's candidates, the AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education (COPE) election-day survey showed, as voters ousted — or scared a way into — many incumbent, allied with President Bush's tax and economic policies.

"Economic fairness is well understood by the American voters," the AFL-CIO said. "The election results would have been even more decisive if economic issues had continued to dominate the final week of the campaign."

According to a report in the AFL-CIO News, key to victory were the voters who will gain House seats as a result of next year's redistricting, labor-endorsed candi- dates won in Florida and Texas. Union members also helped Democrats increase their margins in both the House and the Senate.

In all, 73.8 percent of COPE-endorsed candidates were elected in the House, and 60.1 in the Senate.

Union members' high level of support for endorsed candidates "demonstrate that union registration, information and get-out-the-vote programs work," said COPE's director, John Breen.

"The heroes of our effort are the hun- dred of thousands of men and women in the labor movement who volunteer their time and effort to encourage fellow union- ists to participate in the democratic pro- cess," he said.

Bridges bust for So. Cal pensioners

WILMINGTON — The Southern California Pensioners Group, ILWU, held its annual dinner October 14, with 550 people attending.

The high point of the affair was sculptor Henry Aronson's presentation of his bust of Harry Bridges, which is now on display at the Local 33 Memorial Hall, 231 West C Street in Wilmington.

"We can't say enough to convey our thanks and appreciation to Henry Aronson for the bust," the pensioners said.

Awards for the evening were bestowed on Frances Sierra Teran, John Luera, Elmer Gutierrez, Pete Greenwood, Henry Gaiton, George Bowers, Chuck Dillion, Dick Jones, Joe Ortega, Sam Clark, Ed Thyden, Ruben Negrete, Art Kanastra, Helen Kanastra, Pete Grasso, Louise Lovern, Kirk Wilson and the full dinner committee.

ILWU Welfare Plan eligibiliry verification schedule

SAN FRANCISCO — During December, eligible pensioners for ILWU Locals 34, 75 and 91 will be receiving Dependent Eligibility Verification packets.

In September, these notices were mailed to all eligibles of Locals 14 and 54.

Local 6, All Divisions

Warehouse Union Local 6 members elected the following officers for 1990-1991: President, Jim Ryder, secretary-treasurer, Leon Harris.

WEST BAY

West Bay business agents — Joe Jasen, Mort Newman, District Council delegates are Rob King and David Schermerhorn.

Jeff Bonneville and Fred Pecker are the board of trustees and a Convention delegate.

Mort Newman is the 27th trustee, and a Convention delegate.

Jeff Bonneville and Fred Pecker are the San Francisco Labor Council delegate.

San Mateo Labor Council delegates include Mort Newman and Jeff Bonneville.

EAST BAY

East Bay board of trustees — Joe Lindsay, Roberto Flotte, Jr., and Victor Pamiranyon.

NC District Council delegates are Rob Ramos, Lee Lohr and Louise Dalton.

Mort Newman, Daniel Talley, Abby Sul- livan and Abbe Ramos comprise the per- sonal executive board. The members of the board of trustees are Joe Lindsay, Robert Lofaro, Louise Dalton, Alfred Flotte and John Lopes. International Convention dele- gates will be Victor Pamiranyon, Rob Ramos, John Lopes, Tina Cabrera and Louise Dalton.

Alameda County Central Labor Council delegates are Daniel Talley and Joe Lindsay.

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Emphasis on education at Local 142 forum in New York on October 22. Chang’s management Policy Studies, which is connected with the Graduate School and the Hale Nanea Center, expressed it clearly: “We are an ohana (extended family), and I can appreciate—will continue to be a major part of Local 142’s education program.”

CLASS ON THE GREEN—Student-delegates work on assignments during breaks at Local 142’s Labor Institute.

Union women hand tough at Safeway

"They're some of the strongest union women I have ever met. They've committed, they're tough and they know what they want."—Maria Díaz

Making the rounds at the Safeway Prototype Plant in San Lorenzo, California, ILWU Local 6 business agent Victor Panagopoulos takes obvious pride in his union sisters. In the sanctum sanctorum of the women's locker room, they greeted him after the break. "Hey, everybody decent?"—the union members said.

Some of the women were just getting off work. The echo of hangers bouncing bounced around the room as they worked, the chatter was loud, the laughter was good-natured.

"We're the card-carrying members of the ILWU," Díaz said. "We've been here a long time. We're a very strong union."—Maria Díaz

Tracy Kerlin, a gutsy 18-year-old, is one of the newest—and, probably, the youngest—shop stewards Local 6. She came to Safeway from the East Bay hiring hall in March. After months later her co-workers made her their rep.

"People asked me, 'so did it?'" Tracy said in cut-to-the-chase style that apparently landed her the job.

Victor elaborated. "There were some problems on the swing-shift production line, but no stewards in the immediate area. Tracy has exceptional leadership qualities; she's outspoken, energetic and isn't afraid to make waves. The members saw that and encouraged her to step up."

Tracy’s abilities were evident as she showed Victor her first written grievance. "I'd rather settle things by talking it over first," she said, "and that's the way it's been—until today."

While the facility—which processes, packages and warehouses a variety of products under Safeway and other labels—isn’t exactly riddled with labor strife, it has its difficult moments. After just a few short months, Tracy’s got them pegged.

"The biggest grapes are over job assignments and cross-training. Management wants to pick and choose, we want it done quickly and the members depend on us for help. They're really something, aren't they?"—Maria Díaz

As one student put it: "The learning never stopped." Emphasis on education at Local 142 forum in New York on October 22. Chang’s management Policy Studies, which is connected with the Graduate School and the Hale Nanea Center, expressed it clearly: “We are an ohana (extended family), and I can appreciate—will continue to be a major part of Local 142’s education program.”

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AFL-CIO education director Susan Washington gives the keynote on how to get members active in the union. Center, Gabriel Jose listens intently. The Institute—much to everyone’s appreciation—will continue to be a major part of Local 142’s education program. Chang and the five other grant winners were chosen from a field of 35 applicants.

"This type of program is something altogether new in American unionism. It promises to be a real contribution not only to our union but to all other progressive unions. This is a milestone, perhaps the first of its kind, because it's a strong, knowledgeable and they take care of one another."

Meanwhile, The Dispatcher interviewed two stand-out practitioners of the credo: “A woman’s place is in her union.”

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A few yards away, Maria Diaz diligently monitored a steady stream of jelly jars as they headed down a clattering conveyor belt to an even noisier labeling machine. With an OK from the supervisor, Victor summoned Maria to the locker room.

But for a strike at Gallo Salami, Maria would not be here. In April, she and other members of the Butcher’s Union took Gallo on over the company’s demands for contract concessions. Maria walked picket lines, manned phones, stood her ground. And when Gallo issued a return-or-else ultimatum, she refused—even though her husband was out of work and they had two kids, ages 10 and 5, to feed, cloth and shelter.

The Dispatcher takes honors in competition

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Announcing the results of its annual Journalistic Awards Contest, the International Labor Communications Association has honored The ILWU Dispatcher for its performance during the calendar year 1990.

In the category of General Excellence, The Dispatcher competed in a “very strong field,” according ILCA judges of union newspapers of less than 100,000 circulation. Based on two consecutive issues, The Dispatcher came in second behind the official publication of the Newspaper Guild, The Continuing Saga of Captain Straight. No. 3 was The ILWU Journal, which has the highest circulation in the nation.

"ILWU members are well served by a proudly newspaper that has such professional competence with strong identification with the trade union movement," ILCA judges noted.

In a even larger field of entries, The Dispatcher earned the second award for Best Original Cartoon. Competing with international, national and regional newspapers and magazines, "The Continuing Saga of Captain Straight" was selected for the ILWU Journal for its "excellent original art, clearly presented in the form of a comic strip, and for its valuable contribution to the cause of labor." The award was presented at the ILWU Jour- nalist’s convention in Seattle.

"The biggest gripes are over job assign- ments and cross-training. Management wants to pick and choose, we want it done by "seniority," she said with a firmness that belied her youth. Where does that come from? "Well, my mother was a union member; she worked for an electrical company on the east coast. I believe in having rights, and I like helping people out. That’s what I’m here for."

"I lost a lot of friends, but I have new ones now. Here, there is respect. Everything is growing, the climate is changing, the conditions."—Maria Díaz

"I decided not to go back. They broke the