OSHA needs a total facelift

Two decades after Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) to curtail workplace injury and death, labor leaders today say OSHA's efforts have failed.

Nearly 7,000 union safety representatives gathered in Milwaukee last month for a three-day AFL-CIO National Conference on Occupational Safety and Health. They came to address such measures as Right-to-Act legislation that would guarantee workers the right to act on information about job hazards and universal protection for all workers under safety and health laws.

In his keynote address, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Tom Donahue said it would take a monument the size of the Vietnam Memorial with 58,175 names on it—every eight months—to pay tribute to the thousands who die or are disabled each year at their workplace.

Donahue quoted the practice of occupational disease and injury never stop,” said Donahue. “They happen day in and day out, year in and year out.”

The AFL-CIO estimates that each year 10,000 workers are killed on the job, 70,000 permanently disabled, millions injured, and thousands fall victim to disease.

“There is no law of nature or economics saying that so many people have to lose their lives,” Donahue said.

Union leaders called for a total restructuring of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, which should include the following provisions:

• Right to Act: workers who earned the right to know about hazards on the job now need the right to act on information already available. The law would require employers to have a worksite safety and health programs and a committee, including management, to earn the right to act.

• Protection for millions of workers not covered by current safety and health laws, including public employees, agriculture, and Department of Energy nuclear workers.

• A law that directs OSHA to act speedily on serious hazards and subjects them to legal challenges if OSHA fails to set new standards.

• Tougher enforcement of existing OSHA penalties and increased criminal fines; OSHA should have the authority to shut down jobs operating in imminent danger.

• Changes in the laws that protect construction workers, including assigning clear responsibility for safety and health on multi-employer worksites, giving OSHA authority to shut down dangerous construction operations.

• Establish new and better ways to report injuries and illnesses; require employers to report fatal and serious injuries to OSHA immediately.

• Making it easier to unionize credible campaigns and give OSHA the right to enforce federal laws in cases where states fail to enforce their own laws.

• Increase funding for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to increase research on serious workplace hazards.

• Set up a national safety and health training, education and research fund paid for by a percentage of workers compensation premiums, to reduce workplace injuries, illnesses and compensation costs.

—Northwest Labor Press

Local 142 organizing win

Third time's the charm at Coco Palms

WAILEA, H—Some 230 hotel workers employed by the Coco Palms Resort here voted 5-1 in November 9 to join the growing family of ILWU Local 142. The vote culminated a 1989-90 organizing drive that failed to establish a new unit dating back almost 20 years.

“This organizing success has special significance because proponents [by these workers] were all turned back,” said ILWU regional director Tommy Tr weapons.

“Each time, management won with sophisticated campaigns and labor maneuvers. This time we put it all together. Our organizing committee was formed by a number of efforts, including ILWU in Washington, DC to overturn the order on appeal.”

SELEDIN '86

Thirteen years later, disgruntled workers from the 280-room hotel prevailed on Local 142 to try again. The campaign fizzled in a 1986 election, which, in addition to the usual run of employer promises, was complicated by a challenge from Hotel and Restaurant Workers Local 5.

But by the time 1989 rolled around, management “promises” failed to materialize. The workers were ready to talk union.

“The right combination was there,” said ILWU international rep. Leonard Hoshij, a local organizer.

“There were leaders ready to step forward from the union. At that time, union officials had nurtured contacts over the years, as had organized unionists with the National Labor Relations Board; and the workers themselves had learned the hard way—they had open minds.”

In the summer of 1990, Local 142's long game plan was in full swing as workers, organizers, business agents and officers squared off against Coco Palms in yet another battle over representation rights. Thanks to AFL-CIO procedures clarifying jurisdiction, Local 5 was out of the fray.

Local 142 had a clear shot and was right on target. The government-supervised election yielded a final vote of 120 in favor, 65 opposed.

But, as Yogi Berra said, “It ain't over 'til it's over.”

There's no guarantee that Local 142's victory will automatically translate into a repeat performance at the bargaining table. And with rumors of the hotel's sale blowing in the wind, the union negotiating committee isn't taking anything for granted, preferring to be both pragmatic and prepared.

“Specifically for the new unit, one spokesmen said: ‘The workers held the conviction that the union had the strength and the resources to better to face the future together—with the ILWU behind them.’
Labor show features Mandela’s US tour

Actor Dave Clennon of ABC’s hit series, “Thirtysomething” will host the February premier of labor’s TV magazine, “We Do the Work.”

The show, which is a segment on Nelson Mandela’s US tour, particularly his meeting with auto workers and the River Rouge plant in Michigan. Other segments include interviews with farmers trying to keep their land from the US Army, and a look at the former Los Angeles Dodgers Gino Cimillo who now works for UPS.

The show is scheduled to air as follows: San Francisco, KQED, February 14, 7:30 p.m.; San Diego, KPBS, February 14, 11 p.m. and February 15, 3:30 p.m.; Los Angeles, KCET, February 15, 6 p.m.; San Mateo, KCSC, February 5, 8:30 p.m.

“We Do The Work” is broadcast nationally, so check your local listings for other times.

Behind S&L “whitewash”

Foking fun at the likes of Charles Reztig and Neil Bush, San Francisco Chronicle’s laborbeat chief, Jack MacLean came up with one reason why “white male” union officials are such a non-event in American culture, from narrative and graphic trade unionism.

Said MacLean through her alter ego April Corpse: “There may be some subtle pattern in which, if you’re following this screaming practice that is giving young white males the message that they can only win approval from their peer group by spending very large amounts of other people’s money.”

Wealthy pull the plug on charity

The nation’s wealthiest Americans are driving a hard bargain. George Bush’s “thousand points of light.”

By June 1989 and 1990, people earning $500,000 to $1 million annually slashed their charitable contributions by more than 60 percent. The wealthier, earning over $1 million, cut contributions by 65 percent.

On the upswing, however, were donations from middle-income Americans, earning from $100,000 to $500,000, including union contributions during the same period rose 62 percent.

ILWU hosts conference on maritime culture

“Waterfront Soundings,” a conference on west coast maritime history and culture, is scheduled to be held Saturday, January 26, 9 a.m., at the ILWU clerks’s conference center.

Sponsored by the Labor Archives of San Francisco State University and the Bay Area Labor History Workshop, the conference will explore all manifestations of the ship and shore maritime culture, from narrative and graphic art, to the movements of resistance and trade unionism.

Local 34 president Richard Cavalli will be the keynote speaker. ILWU International President Jim Herman is scheduled to speak, along with labor’s Union of the Pacific president Gunnar Lundberg, and Bruce Nelson, author of “Workers on the Waterfront.”

The conference will be followed by a panel discussion.

Information: Don Watson, ILWU NW Local 34, California District, (415) 775-0533.

The NY Daily News strike

By Jim Herman - ILWU International President

As this is written, the owners of the New York Daily News have announced that they will fold up shop, and which has served New Yorkers for 75 years, rather than settle with their unions. Like the owners of Eastern Airlines and Greyhound, they have chosen to put their profit and civic institution out of nothing more than an obsession with wealth and power.

The story of the New York Daily News tells us a lot about the times we are living in. Formerly a solid, locally-owned family business, the News has become the property of the Tribune Company, a coast-to-coast chain with an eye on the news business, a short-run balance sheet, and a distinct lack of loyalty to the community they have helped to operate.

The pattern, developed during the eighties, is to pay workers to expire, to engage in only superfluous bargaining practices and strike break and strike with unions by hiring permanent replacements. This strategy, with a wink from the courts, and the congress, created a fantastically profitable enterprise.


The workers had not been demanding higher wages or better benefits—we despaired any talk of a possible profit at a time when dollars worth of concessions in previous years. Nor had the unions refused to bargain over any issues management considered outside the union’s jurisdiction.

The workers’ response was to avoid a strike. Their members had worked through months of harassment and intimidation. They had looked the other way when armed guards, with watchdogs, taunted and intimidated them to allow easy solutions.

But in the middle of the night, the News launched its attack. On the night of October 26, the company fired 60 Newpaper delivery workers. Within 20 minutes the strike was on.

Gravy train still on track at Pentagon

Twenty-five of the largest Pentagon contractors have been found guilty of procurement fraud. These contractors, on which the Pentagon relies to compete for contracts, on which the government for several years. But the large contractors, that they could safely destroy the union by using permanent replacements, is so critical. It is not a “special interest” union but that the workers had the right to belong to a union. The News strike has also highlighted the most wretched tactic of the past ten years—the firing of long-time loyal workers and the hiring of so-called permanent replacements.

Condemnation of The News for hiring strikebreakers has been widespread. New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, New York City Mayor David Dinkins, Rev. Jesse Jackson and Cardinal John O’Conner have all publicly denounced the company’s practices.

The News strike has pushed into the spotlight the issue of permanent replacement.

Both city and national labor leaders marshaled support for the striking unions. The News strike launched a circulation and adver- tising boycott that caused the News’ readership to plunge, and all of its major advertisers to drop their business.

The owners of the Daily News made the choice to drive an important local institution into the ground, to destroy it, rather than deal with trade unions. They did so in the secure knowledge that they had the support of the government and the legal framework, that they could safely destroy the union by using permanent replacements.

On one hand, US trade unions have shown their employers at Eastern, at Greyhound, and now at The Daily News, that they can be simply and the strength to raise their voice against the unions.

The News strike has one basic, overriding issue, the right of the employees of pretext, the company fired 60 Newpaper delivery workers. Within 20 minutes the strike was on.

Gravy train still on track at Pentagon

Many members of Congress and some prosecutors, however, are increasingly arguing that companies barred from Pentagon contracts for several years, or similar sanctions, is a sufficient deterrent.

Rep. Charles Schumer (D-NY) has proposed that courts be required to appoint an outside representative to oversee the activities of a contractor convicted of fraud twice within a specified period. The “special master” would have broad authority to ensure the company was operating ethically and that it made full restitution for past crimes.

Another alternative under consideration is to allow existing contracts to be completed but to bar any new contract awards for a period of several years if a company is convicted or found not to be cooperating fully with a government investigation.

Small contractors are often barred by the Pentagon from doing business with the government for several years. But the large contractors, on which the Pentagon relies for the vast majority of its defense spending, are able to avoid the hiring of permanent replacements, and to pay their workers reasonable wages while temporary suspensions of their right to contract for contracts.
Local 23 Business Agent Jim Norton, in plain shirt, accepts plaque honoring members of Local 23 for saving the cargo aboard the “Great Land” from TOTE Vice-President Bob Magee. Looking on, from left, are: Port Commissioner Ned Shera; Local 23 Vice-President Phil Leli; Port Commissioner John McCarthy; Sea Star Stevedoring General Manager Rod Carlson; Sea Star Employment Manager Local 98; Magee, Norton, Bill Roberts, Local 23; and Port Commissioners Pat O’Malley, Robert Earey and Jack Fabulich.

CALL THE HALL

Longshore Local 23 who rallied to the resisted valve in the engine room was recently by the Tacoma Port Commission. Loading of the Great Land was proceeding smoothly at around 10:30 p.m. on the night of July 6 when an electrically toed valve in the engine room powerfully tripped while work was being done on another compartment. A flood of water from the open condenser was sent cascading into the engine room rising to about 30 feet, shorting out all electrical and steam power. Water began to leak into adjacent compartments, and the ship was in serious jeopardy.

“Not only was that in order to stop additional flooding we had to discharge the ship as quickly as possible,” recalls Rod Carlson, general manager of Sea Star Stevedoring.

Removal of the valve was extremely painstaking, said Carlson. “There was very little time available because the pumps were out—we had to rent some lights and turn on auto and truck headlights. There was no steam, no blowers to keep away the cold. As we were moving around, because of lack of steam and electricity.”

“We have the best contract in the industry”

“People who have been in the longshore trade for many years have told me that it was an outstanding demonstration of courage and good longshoreing,” Carlson concluded.

Local 23 represents workers who handle and load cargo at the Pacific Coast docks. The union is part of ILWU, which represents workers at ports across the United States.

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Ethics vs. politics in S&L debacle

By Mike Lewis
ILWU Washington Representative

The Senate Ethics Committee is about to wind up its hearings on the "Keating Five"—the five senators who lobbied the Federal Home Loan bank board on behalf of Charles Keating Jr. suggesting that the Senate might have two issues into focus: the proper role of money in American politics and the influence of money in American politics.

As the senators have pointed out, there's nothing unusual about members of Congress trying to muscle regulators. It gives the Congress the power to carry the policy out. The issue is one of interest groups from having too much power. But it's quite natural for the legislators to meet with the regulators and understand the laws and enforce them properly. If a senator can vote to pass a law, he ought to be able to say what he thinks it means, and even use the help of his office to make sure it's listened to.

But not every effort by a senator to influence an agency is wrong. When legislators lean on an agency, they're supposed to be doing it in their sincere belief that it's in the public interest, not because they've been bribed. When they take action against the general welfare to satisfy a high-rolling campaign contributor, they've violated Senate ethics and their most basic duty as representatives of the people.

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Several things make the Keating Five scandal stand out. First, the direct involvement of five senators on behalf of one contributor. Second, the amount of money involved—at least $1.3 million in contributions to the Senate ethics and their most basic duty as representatives of the people.

Third, and most important, the nature of the pressure these senators put on the regulators. This isn't the typical lobbying around the edges of a program, or special help to get a favorite constituent included in the federal grants. It was an attempt to stop an agency from carrying out its function. The Senate Congress had given it to: to put a major and crucial institution out of business before it could become an even greater hazard to depositors and taxpayers.

When the senators put the arm on Keating, they learned that he was not out on a limb to enrich himself that the FHLB regulators were calling in the Department for a criminal prosecution. The figures they had made it clear that industries had ended the life of the bank.

Senators, like most other people, tend to take advantage of loopholes and gray areas, but they believe that the law should be enforced. So what was motivating these senators when they tried to stop the agency following the law in such a fundamental way? The answer: the dollars Keating had involved in their lives.

The pressure to raise money affects every member of Congress, and it will continue to enrich himself that the FHLB regulators were calling in the Department for a criminal prosecution. The figures they had made it clear that industries had ended the life of the bank.

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US. Mexico put legislation on front burner

EMPLOYERS ON THE WAR PATH

The California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, said it will make lobbying a key element in its efforts to protect workers from the fall-out of the new free trade agreement among the United States, Mexico and Canada.

"No one's against trade, per se," said ILWU International Vice President Brian Mulroy—stoking the engine. The Mexican senate has already approved an agreement, which is being pushed fast and hard in the US.

Opponents fear that the pact will be signed, sealed and delivered before sufficient debate and public scrutiny, with virtually no opportunity to correct a series of problems.

The union's long-distance lobbying effort is focused on expansion of international trade, yet could be threatened if shippers abandoned west coast ports in favor of cheap labor ports in Mexico.

The warehouse division, already suffering from a succession of plant closures and runaway factories under existing conditions, could well be placed in even more serious jeopardy. On the other hand, the fulfillment of union job security promises for a stepped-up trade could mean increased membership for the ILWU.

Like their American counterparts, ILWU locals in Watsonville and Santa Cruz have seen their job security threatened. Like their American counterparts, ILWU locals in Watsonville and Santa Cruz have seen their job security threatened. Like their American counterparts, ILWU locals in Watsonville and Santa Cruz have seen their job security threatened. Like their American counterparts, ILWU locals in Watsonville and Santa Cruz have seen their job security threatened. Like their American counterparts, ILWU locals in Watsonville and Santa Cruz have seen their job security threatened. Like their American counterparts, ILWU locals in Watsonville and Santa Cruz have seen their job security threatened. Like their American counterparts, ILWU locals in Watsonville and Santa Cruz have seen their job security threatened. Like their American counterparts, ILWU locals in Watsonville and Santa Cruz have seen their job security threatened. 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THERM AL RIGHTS THREATENED

Another challenge to the ILWU, shared by all organized labor in both the US and Canada, is the potential for massive loss of union jobs in both countries currently in place in both the US and Mexico.

And the buck doesn't stop there. Mexico's wage "right to work" states in the southern United States—chronling the flight of American manufacturing and full warehouses. Legislation to set a North American free trade zone, according to the ILWU, may be at risk.

So far, talks among the unionists have been fruitless, conducted in the spirit of competition and understanding. But, when it comes down to labor and capital, they're all learned—the hard way—who really calls the shots in the "free trade zone."
Thanks from the Olveras
The following letter, issued by a member of the Long Beach, CA, police department, was published in a Day Area newspaper in response to a previous letter the paper ran blaming unions for not doing anything about foreign competition, to child labor laws that "stopped kids from learning how to work."

"Blame it on unions? Oh, no! Blame it on greed. Unions do not transport jobs offshore to other countries. Unions do not go around the world looking for cheap labor. It's greed. Other countries have restrictions on foreign labor.

This country's businessmen only want more profit. Unions have changed the way the world looks at us. We won't accept coffee breaks, eight-hour day, overtime, sick leave, health and welfare, and Social Security. In short, we'd like to have a $25,000 salary and we'd like to have a home. Your comment about child labor is misleading.

We, the people, don't like the label, "Made in the USA." We prefer foreign names.

I say, recycle union wages in the United States. From now on, speak kindly of unions. As an offspring of labor, I wish there had been unions in 1819.

Osborne W. Hills
Local 10, San Francisco

Persian Gulf
I am shocked, no, angered by the statements of Congressman Robert Hunter of California, who was interviewed in the February issue of The Dispatcher.

I hope that you have all shown to our Bob this past year your prayers, thoughtfulness and generosity that you have all shown to our Bob this past year.

We again wish to thank the entire ILWU membership for all that you have done. As you know, our numbers have dwindled, and our financial aid is needed more than ever.

We received a report from the Los Angeles Labor Relations Board. MABIT Local 11 president John Clark said: "It looks like they're making a concerted effort to move senior workers. The company hopes they'll be frustrated and that they'll leave."

Joe Figueroed

San Francisco—Longshore Local 6 business agent Joe Figueroed died on January 11. He was 80 years old. A full account of his years with IWLU will be published in the February issue of The Dispatcher.

Dockers, widows on pension list
Following is the January 1991 listing of dockworkers retired under various ILWU-PMA plans.

Local 4, Vancouver: Keith D. Clabough (Local 10, San Francisco); Stanley Aronowitz (Local 13, Bellingham); Charles Dacus, Otis Glenn, Donald Hayden; William Jensen, W. T. Johnson; Alfred V. Landawecz, Patrick D. Mc Huff, Francis Malizia, Leonel S. Medreros, Manuel Sevillano, James Welch, Robert H. Wood, Jacob Pichecio, Elvin R. Thorsen.


The competition was tough. "I went up against some real heavyweights in the movie industry. This is a genuine honor, not just for me but for the ILWU.

The event draws a large crowd of art aficionados—as well as competitors—every year. Its purpose is to honor union artists who deliver "labor's message and the plight of workers through the arts."

This year, the exhibitors opening night cer- monies included performances by John Hancock of the Western Workers Labor Her- itage Festival, Mary Steiger of Gavitas Stories Never Told, and members of the Theatre Workers Project.

"There was a big feast, music, all kinds of food. I want to remember the feeling of the old and the new," Moreno said.
Jim Meadows and Skip Knutsen tied for gang boss and will be in the run-off election with Hauge, Roger Teeters and Glen Osborn. Loyed Rea, Jim Cadwell Sr., Leonard Grizzle is the (Northern California), Bob Forrester (Hawaii). The Safety Committee men are: Gary Guinn is the relief dispatcher. Labor relations committeeman is Robert Reed and retired ladies.

Local 18, West Sacramento

The following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Richard Kahoali Sr.; vice-president, James Victor; secretary-treasurer/business agent, sergeant-at-arms, dispatcher, assistant dispatcher, trustees, executive board members, NCDC delegates and caucus/convention delegates.

Local 21, Longview

Newly elected officers for 1991 are: President, Paul Edging; vice-president, Harold Dubke; secretary-treasurer/caucus delegate, Ralph Rider. Dispatchers are Hank van den Berg, Bill Brister Sr. and Clint Van Peterson. Labor relations committeemen are Dick Perrin (Chairman), Jim Kroeger; Lift—Marty Kiilsgaard; Deck—Daryl Hedman, Bob Taylor, Russ Eriksen, John Young Jr. Trustees are John Mcdak and Joe Rice. 

Gary Firth, John Curtis, George Zdilar, Ron Dalgarno, Gary Carson, Wayne Cabral was elected for three years in the board of trustees. He will serve along with Maynard Brent and Wayne Bevin. Guards are Mike Robinson, Chick Ford and Garth Wheeler. Leonard Grizzle is the marshal. The gang bosses are Jan Searling, Loyed Basa, Jim Cadwell Sr. Leonard Grizzle, Walt Raapanga, Jerry Ford, Norm Haugaard, Roger Terstiege and Glen Osborn. Jim Meadows and Skip Knutsen tied for gang boss and will be in the run-off election with Hauge, Roger Teeters and Glen Osborn. Loyed Rea, Jim Cadwell Sr., Leonard Grizzle is the (Northern California), Bob Forrester (Hawaii). The Safety Committee men are: Gary Guinn is the relief dispatcher. Labor relations committeeman is Robert Reed and retired ladies.

Local 23, Tacoma

Officers for 1991 are: President, Dick Marziano; vice-president, Phillip Leili; secretary, Rodger Skiffington; treasurer, Daryl Hedman, business agent, Jim Wells. Following are the dispatchers: Dispatcher #1 — Ted Ellis; Dispatcher #2 — Rodger Skiffington; Dispatcher #3 — David Kanter; Dispatcher #4 — Robert Brown. Roy Gun is the relief dispatcher. Labor relations committeeman is Robert Reed and retired ladies.

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

Longshore Division

Jackie Cummins
ADRP—Southern California
505 W. Pacific Coast Hwy. Ste. C
Wilmington, CA 90744
Phone: (213) 549-9066
Gary Cobbs
ADRP—Northern California
400 North Point Street
San Francisco, CA 94111
Phone: (415) 770-8363

Jim Cogg
ADRP—Oregon
3054 N.E. Glisan. Ste. 20
Portland, OR 97232
Phone: (503) 238-4882

Richard Borsheim
ADRP—Washington
506 2nd Avenue. Rm. 2121
Seattle, WA 98104
Phone: (206) 621-0138

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ADRP—Southern California
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Gary Cobbs
ADRP—Northern California
400 North Point Street
San Francisco, CA 94111
Phone: (415) 770-8363

The results of last month election are: President, Donald R. Holstein; vice-president, James Byrne; secretary-treasurer/business agent, Larry M. Clark; dispatchers, Clarence Nelson and Richard A. Ross. James L. Blankenbaker is the relief dispatcher. Recording arms is Mark Klug.

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Phone: (503) 238-4882

Richard Borsheim
ADRP—Washington
506 2nd Avenue. Rm. 2121
Seattle, WA 98104
Phone: (206) 621-0138

warehouse Division

Gary Atkinson
DARE—Northern California
255 5th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
Phone: (415) 621-7326

Jim Cogg
ADRP—Oregon
3054 N.E. Glisan. Ste. 20
Portland, OR 97232
Phone: (503) 238-4882

Richard Borsheim
ADRP—Washington
506 2nd Avenue. Rm. 2121
Seattle, WA 98104
Phone: (206) 621-0138

Canadian Area

Bill Bloor
EAP—British Columbia
745 Clark Drive, Ste. 205
Vancouver, BC V5L 3J3
Phone: (604) 254-7911
At American President M&R facility

ILWU mechanics ‘keep this place running’

Local 10 committee members at APL maintenance facility are chief steward Huey Glover, Manuel Jardin, Augie Jardin, Adgie Willis and alternate Jack Giusto.

Supervising foreman Matt Long, Local 10, checks out the days schedule at APL’s Oakland maintenance and repairyard.

Jose Bento replaces chassis valve.

Labor hall of fame inducts four more

SAN FRANCISCO—ILWU warehouse Local 6 has passed a resolution supporting the Pico Korea Labor Union, a determined, albeit theoretically-defunct, organization.

The union was formed in 1999 by 300 workers employed at Pico Products, a US-based manufacturer of cable TV components, which closed its business in South Korea six years earlier. Facing union bargaining demands for improvements in health and safety and a 30-cent raise in the minimum wage, Pico management quietly packed up their bags and snuck back to the US with all of the company’s funds and assets just before pay day in February, 1989. The workers they left behind were suddenly vanished one morning without being paid. A last-ditch effort to peacefully reach an agreement is being made through a federal mediator.

Involved companies are United Grain, Cargill, Continental, Bunge, Columbia Grain and Louis Dreyfuss.

The negotiating committee is co-chaired by International Vice-President Randy Vekich and International Representative Dick Wise. Other members are Dick Ran- core, Jeff Bridges and John Rapp, Local 19, Vancover, Wash., Bill Mildenberger, Michael Cork, John Evans and Steve O’Neill, Local 5, Portland, Bob Brown, Bill Roberts and Jim Smith, Local 23, Tacoma; Bob Frazier, Arnold Gunderson, Local 19, Seattle; and Jim Breddlove, (observer), Local 21, Longview.

Korean workers get hosed

San Francisco, CA—United Steel Workers Local 10 has passed a resolution supporting the Pico Korea Labor Union, a determined, albeit theoretically-defunct, organization.

The union was formed in 1999 by 300 workers employed at Pico Products, a US-based manufacturer of cable TV components, which closed its business in South Korea six years earlier. Facing union bargaining demands for improvements in health and safety and a 30-cent raise in the minimum wage, Pico management quietly packed up their bags and snuck back to the US with all of the company’s funds and assets just before pay day in February, 1989. The workers they left behind were suddenly vanished one morning without pay- ing the wages and severance pay due them.

“We did not come here to fight,” the union delegation stressed. “Even more, we did not come to beg. But we did come to demand what is due us and to contribute to a better relationship between our two countries by correcting the actions of Pico Products, Inc.”

If you want to express your support for the Pico workers, you can send Hitchcock a nasty-gram at Pico Products, 103 Commerce Blvd., Liverpool, NY 13088. (Local 6 is currently circulating a petition demanding that Hitchcock settle the dispute “in a way that represents ethical business practices.”)

Donations are also needed. Send checks to the Pico Workers Support Committee, c/o Nora Choi, Guardian, 33 West 17th Street, New York, NY 10011.

Trainee Mark Collins gets ready to repair beat-up chassis.

Grain talks break down

PORTLAND—As this issue of The Dis- patcher goes to press, negotiations for a new grain elevator contract covering mem- bers of Local 4, 8, 19 and 23 have broken down. A last-ditch effort to peacefully reach an agreement is being made through a fed- eral mediator.

Involved companies are United Grain, Cargill, Continental, Bunge, Columbia Grain and Louis Dreyfuss.

The negotiating committee is co-chaired by International Vice-President Randy Vekich and International Representative Dick Wise. Other members are Dick Ran- core, Jeff Bridges and John Rapp, Local 19, Vancover, Wash., Bill Mildenberger, Michael Cork, John Evans and Steve O’Neill, Local 5, Portland, Bob Brown, Bill Roberts and Jim Smith, Local 23, Tacoma; Bob Frazier, Arnold Gunderson, Local 19, Seattle; and Jim Breddlove, (observer), Local 21, Longview.