Grievance process defended

See page 3

Warehouse local set to bargain

OAKLAND—Over 200 delegates from ILWU production, distribution and health care facilities all over Northern California met at ILWU Local 6's 46th Annual Convention all day Saturday, February 23 to prepare for critical joint bargaining in the Northern California warehouse industry, as well as to deal with major internal issues.

The overview for bargaining was set by International Secretary-Treasurer Curt McClain who described how ILWU and Teamster locals, under the Northern California Warehouse Council have, since 1986, successfully negotiated joint agreements. "Unity is a formula which has worked time and time again," said McClain, "and we know it will produce for us this year as well." McClain and IFT Local 831 Al Costa co-chair the Warehouse Council and serve as co-chairmen of the warehouse negotiating committee.

DEMANDS SET

An overall bargaining resolution submitted by the officers of Local 6 and adopted by the delegates focuses on maintenance of health and welfare, increased pension benefits for both current and future retirees, and economic gains for the active workforce.

"We look forward to very successful and productive bargaining, based on the real needs of the membership and a realistic appraisal of the situation," said President Jim Ryder.

Delegates also heard pledges of support in bargaining from International President Jim Herman, International Vice-President Randy Vekich; Local 14 President Eddie Lago; Local 21 President Richard Cavalli; and Local 26 President Luisa Gratz. Ray Kristoff, President of warehouse local, which also participates in joint bargaining.

"Warehouse negotiations are at the top of the agenda of the International Union," said International President Jim Herman. "Your problems are no different than problems throughout the industry, but we are making book that this local will come out at the end of this bargaining process in good shape, with a decent agreement."

REPORT ON ORGANIZING

As to the issues faced by the local, delegates heard a frank report by President Ryder, on behalf of the local-wide officers, focussing on the range of problems involved in membership service and organizing.

"Our last ten years "we have consistently organized 7 to 10 new houses each year," he said, "but we have suffered an equal number of plant closures, with larger numbers of union members being lost than gained."

"If we do not continue to organize, targeting larger, stable workforces in industry and seeking in which we will not close or move the next day, we will continue declining in membership." Ryder cited a number of large organizing projects coming to a head soon, suggesting that "with hard work and a few breaks we will see several hundred continued on page 8

Five months bargaining

New dock pact voted in Hawaii

HONOLULU—Longshore members of ILWU Local 143 have overwhelmingly ratified a new dock agreement which took a record five months to negotiate. Talks between the union and the employers began on July 15 and ended on December 13 when the committees signed the memorandum.

Highlights of the agreement, which covers approximately 1,000 members, include:

• A total wage increase of $2.15 over the life of the agreement. The base longshore agreement will be $20.32 by July 1, 1992.
• A wage guarantee will be a minimum of 38 hours paid weekly.
• Pensions to increase by 38 per month per year of service over the life of the agreement; past retirees will receive a pension increase of $3 per month per year of service in each year, for a total increase of $3; the employer will pay the entire cost of medical plan premiums for pensioners who retired before 1974.
• 3 X 28th ILWU Convention set

of the

International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

June 3, 1991

28th ILWU Convention set

This is a replica of the Call to the ILWU's 28th Convention, to be held in Seattle, Washington beginning June 3.

The International Convention is the ILWU's highest decision making body. Aside from making policy decisions on all matters affecting the ILWU, it also has the authority to amend the constitution, and receives nominations for Titled Officers and members of the International Executive Board.

In order to send delegates with voice and vote, locals must have their international per capita paid up one month prior to the convention. Local representation is set on the basis of one vote per 100 members—averaged for the calendar year prior to the year in which the Convention is held—and one additional vote for each additional 100-paid up members.

Delegates to the Convention are elected by the entire local membership. Each delegate must carry a certified credential. Delegates' wages and expenses are paid by the members of each local.

The Call also requests all locals to send credentials to International Headquarters no later than May 10. Resolutions or amendments to the International Constitution which a local wishes to propose should also be received at the International office by the same date.

The Convention will take place at the Seattle Hilton.

Pine contract is ratified

HONOLULU—Local 142 pineapple workers have ratified a new three-year agreement which provides for a number of wage, benefit increases and cost-saving changes necessitated by increased medical costs.

• Wage: the agreement provides wage increases of 3/4%, 4% and 4% each year: journey workers receive an additional 30 cents, 25 cent and 25 cents on top of the 35 cents paid.
• Holidays: Intermittents and non-regulars will earn paid holidays as regulars. The union also won an additional holiday.
• Medical: HMSA Plan 4 for active employees will now include a first visit deductible, except at the Dole plantation on Lanai. The deductible applies to the first office visit for each separate illness, except for injuries, well baby care, or when the company requires a doctors certificate. Spouses eligible for similar medical coverage at their jobs will not be covered by pine-apple plan.
• Dental: Dental plan improved to include benefits for family members.

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Volunteers for Eastern Europe

The International Transport Federation is putting together a list of current or recently retired trade union officials interested in participating in collective bargaining and educational assistance to East and Central European transport unions for periods of 2-3 weeks at a time. Anyone who fits this category should contact IFT General Secretary, Harold Lewis, 133-135 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 1PD.

Local 21’s simple message

The following message is being broadcast on radio station KBAM, Longview, Washington. It speaks for itself. Cost: $218.

[The fine members of the ILWU Local 21 have helped to ensure that the union's activities benefit local businesses and provide a valuable service to the community. Their dedication to the union's ideals and their commitment to the local community make them a shining example of the values that we all need to uphold. Thank you for your support.]

Strike replacements

The Bureau of National Affairs, a Washington-based publisher of labor-related publications, has commissioned a study of replacement workers in the context of the 1981 PATCO strike. The study, which examined the impact of the strike on the union’s finances and the economic implications of replacement workers, found that the strike cost the union approximately $10 million.

The study also found that replacement workers were paid significantly less than regular union members, and that this was a major factor in the union’s decision to call the strike. The study recommends that unions take a more proactive approach to strike planning, including the development of contingency plans for replacement workers.

The high cost of raising junior

If there’s a baby in your future, sit down before you read this.

The Department of Agriculture estimates that a family of an income of $50,000 or more raising a child today will spend $325,249 on the basics—food, clothing and shelter—from birth to age 22. And this doesn’t include education, or extra costs such as summer camp, or piano lessons. Four years at an Ivy League college, for example, will cost about $80,000 for a child born in 1990.

Another study reveals that a baby’s first year will cost parents $10,783. The three most expensive items are medical care (including delivery and birth) and clothes ($4,334), daycare care (over 50 percent of mothers work) at $4,000, and clothing (infant and baby wear) at $875.

World grocery bag

Tokyo’s grocery bill is the highest in the world, according to the US Department of Agriculture in a recent survey of 16 major cities throughout the world. A sample 15-item grocery bag cost $314 in Tokyo; in Washington, DC, it came to $53; the survey average was $580.

Prices for individual items were literally all over the map. Tokyo’s boneless sirloin steak was $58, but Buenos Aires’ was $14. A dozen eggs cost $1.06 in London, $1.22 in Washington, and $1.24 in Tokyo.

WASHINGTON, DC–The AFL-CIO reported to Capitol Hill on its campaign for national health care as “deplorable,” urged fundamental reform of the system in a January 29 news conference attended by Senators Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass) and Donald W. Riegle Jr (D-Mich) and Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif).

“Medical costs are rising faster than any other price in the economy,” said Committee Chairman James Wright (D-Dallas). “The cost of health care insurance is soaring, while the quality of care is declining.”

The AFL-CIO heard from 94 witnesses at hearings last fall in Providence, RI; Chicago; San Francisco; Louisville, KY; Detroit; New Brunswick, NJ; Birmingham, AL; Austin, TX. They included labor union leaders, health care professionals, elected officials, union members and insurance industry representatives.

“MUST READING

In his remarks, Kennedy actually cited the 488-page transcript from those hearings “must reading for every member of Congress” and thanked the AFL-CIO for the work in developing a complete transcript.

“This document is powerful for all workers—Americans are just a pink slip away from no health insurance,” said Kennedy.

“I believe that this is the year for action. Labor, business, and health care professionals and consumers are mobilized as never before, and it is time for Congress to act,” he said. He added that the 102nd Congress would be known as the “health insurance Congress.”

Kirkland pointed out that “medical costs are rising faster than any other price in the economy and we are putting basic health care beyond the reach of a steadily increasing number of Americans. As many as one in four Americans has inadequate health insurance or none at all.”

Labor is a key health care player, said Riegle, who emphasized the need for sweeping health reform and said that in his state of Michigan alone “there are 400,000 children with no a penny of health insurance—and that’s not right.”

There are at least 37 million Americans action in the country without health insurance, and at least 50 million more who are underinsured.

Congress pushed on anti-scar bill

During the 1980s, and, thus far, into the '90s, the use of "permanent replacements" has created chaos. Literally thousands of workers have lost their jobs; strikes are lasting longer and longer and becoming fewer and fewer; wages and benefits have been systematically eroded; the rich get richer; the poor get poorer; and the working class is losing ground.

The questions arise: what inducements do employers have to bargain in good faith—as the law still requires?...how can one ever know whether the end product of years of labor legislation on its head? what good does it do society at large when workers who lost jobs because of engaging in a legally-sanctioned strike? who will be left to buy the employers' products or services if the rest of us are driven to lowest common denominator?

Fortunately, some members of Congress are asking these questions too. Rep. Bill Clay (D-Mo.) and Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio) have sponsored bills to ban permanent replacements, and, further, prevent employers from giving preferential treatment in work assignments to their own picket lines. It's going to be an uphill battle.

That's where you come in.

Call, write, telegram, or FAX your members of Congress now. Tell them S 2112 and HR 3936 must be passed to restore reason and balance to the collective bargaining process. Let them know there is more at stake than the rights of workers to seek redress. Make sure they understand that employers, too, can be "permanently replaced."
Students at IBU seafarers school near Astoria learn basic maritime skills.

New job prospects for IBU school grads

The story involves the truck shop at the huge US Borax open-pit borax mine, at which about 700 members of Local 30 are employed. Among the duties of the 75-truck shop employees is maintaining the "No. 1 shovel," a huge earthmover that travels on tank trucks and maintains the edge of the mine pit, powered by more than 4,000 volts of AC current carried to it by a transmission line from a substation at the rim of the mine, about 1/2 mile away. The first step in such maintenance, of course, is to kill the power to the shovel—a procedure known as a lockout.

THE TWO METHODS

The lockout is accomplished in two ways:

1. By throwing a switch at the oil pots on the shovel. The procedure is by hand three large fuses from a nearby panel. This procedure is widely known to be subject to malfunction and human error;

2. By disconnecting the "limit amp" at the substation at the rim of the mine. This is the "more standard" method of performing the lockout. While it requires a more substantial amount of time to stop the flow of current to the rim of the mine, it is reliably and safely. There is some evidence, however, that those who perform the lockout, the procedure has sometimes been lax.

On September 1, 1989, the truck shop electrical foreman instructed a three-man crew of mobile equipment electricians to perform the lockout, and members of the crew, John James, protested vigorously.

The foreman apparently rebuked James, saying, "You know how about little compete around here," he asked, finally throwing him out of the room then went on, "I don't care how you do it, just make sure nobody gets hurt," he said.

After following the testimony of union and company witnesses, NLRB Administrative Law Judge Timothy Nelson concluded that "virtually every other bit of circumstantial evidence points to the conclusion that when the assignment meeting broke up everyone concerned believed—and reasonably so—that the foreman had effectively communicated his intent to perform the lockout in the more dangerous".

James immediately met with Local 30 stewards Larry Munsee and, invoking procedures in the Local 30-US Borax agreement, asked that the job be stopped, and that the company's safety department look into the situation. But the time by any of these steps could be taken, the lockout had been made at the oil pots, and the job was completed.

NO DISCIPLINE

On the following day, Munsee, Munsee and another Local 30 President Alan Bernhardt, with the electrical foreman and his supervisor, informed James that he did not want to impose any discipline, but would settle the matter by simply reaffirming in writing the approved procedure for performing the lockout. At no point in this conversation, however, did Local 30 agree to give up its right to grieve the issue.

On September 1, 1989, Local 30 filed a grievance, charging the electrical foreman with circumventing the established procedure, questioning the company's commitment to safety, questioning the validity of all previous discipline of employees for safety infractions, and asking that the foreman's suitability for supervision be reconsidered by the company.

Several days after the grievance was filed the supervisors in question met with James, Munsee, Local 30 President Walt Palmer and two other stewards. By all accounts, things got pretty hot, and the supervisors threatened that the filing of the grievance would result in suspension and then termination. The company representatives were told, would rally around the electrical foreman, and then a third grievance would result in widespread dismissals. Other foremen, the Local 30 representatives were told, would rally around the electrical foreman, and then a third grievance would result in widespread dismissals.

Seven months later, after a painstaking review of the record, Judge Nelson concluded that "the company's "professed reasons for disciplining James (and other members of the crew) were entirely a pretext. The reason James and his fellow crew members received discipline was to punish James for bringing a formal grievance issue over his foreman's repugnance to the improper lockout on August 30, and, more generally to deter employees in the future from using the grievance procedure to raise such claims..."

He ordered US Borax to rescind and expunge from the record the warning notices against James and the others, to cease and desist from discriminating against employees for filing grievances under their collective bargaining agreements.

"It's an extraordinarily important ruling for us," said Palmer, "because it reaffirms the integrity of the contract and the grievance procedure. It's a victory for safety, and it's a victory for IBU to use the mechanism in a responsible way.

Overall, we have a very positive relationship with the company," the chief Steward said. "But some of these supervisors still think it's 1930s, when war was the name of the game. That's why effective use of the grievance machinery remains so important."
WASHINGTON, DC—The AFL-CIO has placed continuous renewal of a potentially disastrous US-Mexico free trade agreement high on its agenda for the 102nd Congress.

In one of the first battles of the new session, the Senate will soon vote on the trade agreement off the "fast track," and force US lawmakers to negotiate with Mexico, not in private, but in public, at the behest of labor unions. Senate hearings began February 6.

The AFL-CIO legislative agenda contains a broad range of workplace, family, social and trade issues. Many of the issues, such as health care reform, family and medical leave and civil rights are carryovers from the last session.

**BROAD-RANGING GOALS**

Other key concerns, as congress reconvenes, include health care legislation, major OSHA reforms, the revision and reauthorization of the nation's high-speed transit system, and free trade agreements.

A free-trade agreement with Mexico would allow complete access for Mexican-made textiles and apparel and certain agricultural products. These items are often manufactured by Mexican workers, most making less than $1 per hour. Low-wage products flood the American marketplace, thousands of US construction workers would lose their jobs, the AFL-CIO said.

In addition, free trade could allow Mexican contractors to bid on American construction projects and allow them to use Mexican workers to build thousands of US construction workers out of an already slimming union industry.

A fast track pact, which was created under the 1988 Trade Act, means the administration has already drafted the specific legislation and left Congress with only a simple yes or no vote and no amendments allowed. However, the fast-track authority runs out on June 1 and the administration must seek an extension before March 1. Then either house has until June 1 to disapprove the extension.

The administration has announced its intention to seek a two-year extension of the fast-track authority, for both the US-Mexico free trade negotiations and for further talks along the lines of the Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which broke down in December.

**FAST TRACK FIGHT**

Meanwhile, the AFL-CIO has written to key senators, including Majority Leader Robert Dole, urging that he oppose President Bush's request to negotiate under fast-track authority.

The process also could be short-circuited through a vote to revoke fast-track authority, which essentially is merely a rule-making exercise in both the House and the Senate, and which could be challenged at any time with a vote to change the rules.

During the last session of Congress in November, 37 senators co-sponsored legislation that would remove the existing fast-track authority, for both the US-Mexico free trade negotiations and for further talks along the lines of the Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which broke down in December.

**Funds needed for Harry's chair**

At University of Washington

SEATTLE—A volunteer committee of Puget Sound ILWU members is hard at work raising the funds to establish a Harry Bridges Chair of Labor Relations at the University of Washington.

The committee was formed shortly after Bridges' death last year to put together a suitable memorial for the union's founder. "We felt that the most fitting memorial would be a program to educate young people in the history and accomplishments of the labor movement," said committee secretary Bob Duggan, a member of Local 34, who is also an ILWU attorney in the northwest.

The committee hopes to raise $1 million in donations to benefit the professional positions who occupy the Bridges chair. "We've already got $200,000 on hand or in pledges," Duggan reports. We're hoping to raise $500,000 from Washington state ILWU rank and files before we seek help from out-of-state members, to foundations, employers and others. We want to show what we can do at home."
Disaster at fault as airlines crash

Blame for the current financial crisis in the US airline industry should be laid squarely on the full-scale deregulation of airlines in 1978, said Richard Kilroy, president of the AFL-CIO Transportation Department.

"Today, major air carriers are distributing and the administration is looking for foreign carriers to fill in. The US industry was taken under the wing of global carriers, and our safety and our economic well-being," said Kilroy.

The January shutdown of Eastern Airlines was just the latest jolt to the now financially strained airline industry. Of the major US carriers, only Pan American World Airways and Trans World Airlines are scrambling for cash, while the fate of regional and smaller lines also is up in the air.

Many airlines—including TWA, US Air, Hawaiian, Midwest, America West and Northwest—are struggling under, in some cases, billions of dollars in debt under taken during the wave of leveraged buyouts in the 1980s.

"The situation has been compounded by an increase in foreign ownership of US airlines," said Kilroy. "I don't see any sign of our airlines returning to the US. That's why the US industry needs to be restructured, not all the blame for the US industry. We are now in a position to sell our products to other countries. That's what we need to do," he added.

The 1977 AFL-CIO convention predicted that "small carriers and workers would be wiped out." Eastern Airlines, which is the oldest airline, was in bankruptcy court in 1989. The airline was the first major airline to go into bankruptcy.

"Negotiate or Liquidate" had been the words of the AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland that the nation would need if it were to compete in the global marketplace.

To protect our carriers we must act now. This is the only way to save the US airline industry," said Kilroy.

"Supporters of deregulation promised us unprecedented competition; lower prices and benefits for the traveler," Kilroy said. "Instead, we got monopolies and price gouging, hundreds of thousands of lost jobs, determined service, the oldest aircraft in the world, and the added opportunity of less competition." MONOPOLIES, PRICE GOUGING

During the height of the recession in the 1980s, the US airline industry came under critical scrutiny. Analysts estimate that the airline industry lost more than $2 billion in 1987 alone. In 1988, US Air went into bankruptcy.

Airline balance sheets show that the major US airlines are in a critical situation. Analysts estimate that the airline industry lost more than $2 billion in 1987 alone.

In many cases, airlines have overextended themselves by expanding routes to Europe and the Far East, but suffered financial losses. The falling value of the dollar has also made airline operations more expensive. Airlines have been forced to cut costs by laying off employees, and they have had to find new sources of revenue. In some cases, the cost of salaries and benefits for employees has been reduced. As a result, airline employees have had to work harder and longer for less money.


"We need to act now to save the US airline industry," said Kilroy. "This is the only way to save the US airline industry."
Joe Figuereido, 80, was Local 6 BA

SAN FRANCISCO—Joe Figuereido, a member of Local 6 since the early 50s, and a dedicated and eloquent spokesman for trade unionism, peace, and social justice, died on January 11. He was 80 years old.

"Joe was one of a kind," said Local 6 President Michael Logue. "He was an able organizer during the 60's without his presence during all these years. His commitment to the ILWU came from the heart, and he was a source of tremendous inspiration and wisdom to those of us who came after him.

Born in Boston in 1910 to Portuguese immigrants—his father died when he was an infant—he was forced to leave school at age 13 in order to help support his family. At age 17 he took an active role in the New Bedford, Mass. textile strike, organizing younger workers to prevent scabs from taking their jobs. He was jailed nine times for his activity during that six-month strike.

After the strike he was recruited into the Young Communist League, beginning a lifetime of activity in the Communist movement. After a heart attack as a result of a hangover, he returned to his work for the ILWU, serving on the executive board, on the grievance committee, and as a steward at the Baker-Hamilton warehouse. He was elected to the local executive board, and as a delegate to the California District Council and as an International Convention delegate.

Throughout all those years he was active in movements for peace and disarmament, for civil rights, and against the anti-war war at the end of World War II he followed his brother to New York—where he established long police records in Virginia and North Carolina and in the state of Maine.

In 1962 he was named by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) to the United States Senate delegation to New Zealand and Australia.

After his retirement in 1975 he continued his work for the ILWU, serving as President of the Bay Area Pensioners' Club beginning in 1978, as a member of the executive board of the ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners' Association, and as a delegate to the ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners' Association in 1983 and 1984. As an active member of the Communist Party of California and California Seniors, he frequented the halls of the state capitol, lobbying and testifying on senior issues.

He is survived by his wife of more than 50 years, Melanie, and is the father of Robert A. Robatch, Belmont, California; a sister, Dorothy Blanchini, Daly City, and two grandchildren.

Bert Donlin, Local 10 activist

SAN FRANCISCO—Bert Donlin, a local 10 pensioner, former congressman, and 1960s activist, died on February 15.

Beginning in the early 1960s, Donlin was repeatedly elected to the United States House of Representatives, and was the local 10 pensioner, serving as a member of the Congress of California Pensioners, as the president of the California and the United States Senate delegation to New Zealand and Australia.

He was also an officer of the Bay Area Longshoremen's Union, a member of the ILWU, and a member of the Communist Party of California. He was particularly active in coordinating efforts to support social security and Medicare. He was active in the presidential campaign of Jesse Jackson, in the anti-apartheid movement.

New labor history resources available

"Do We Do the Work," the public television series about working people, rebroadcasts Strikers of 1934 on PBS, a documentary about the Pacific Coast Maritime Strike of 1934 and its lasting impact on the country next month.

Columbia has released a Golden Apple from the 1990 National Film and Video Festival last year, and a Gold plaque from the 1989 International Film and Video Festival of Chicago. It is a "rewind" film, looking back at the film industry's history.

"We Do the Work" is a PBS series about the working class, produced by the East Group, Inc., and is sponsored by the Film Art Foundation.

American Labor History West are as follows:

San Francisco, KGSD-Channel 9, March 5, 9:30 p.m., March 8, 9:30 p.m., March 15, 9:30 p.m., March 22, 9:30 p.m.

San Mateo, KGSM-Channel 50, March 5, 9:30 p.m., March 8, 9:30 p.m., March 15, 9:30 p.m., March 22, 9:30 p.m.

Surf City will also be broadcast in such cities as Washington, DC; Flint, Michigan; Nashville, Tenn.; Kansas City, Missouri; Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Chicago, Buffalo, NY, and other areas.

ILWU NEWSMAKES

"Out of Darkness: The Miner Workers' Story" is an exciting new video by Academy Award-winning director Bill Loeb. Queensland coal miner "Fig" is featured in the film.

"Greystoke" is a feature film and photo exhibit about the UMWA Centennial Convention last year.

The price is $30. Send your check or money order to Labor History and Cultural Foundation, PO Box 66500 Washington, DC 20005.

ILWU HISTORY

An informative book on the history of the ILWU is currently on sale for a reasonable price through the ILWU Anne Rand Library.

"The Big Strike," a pictorial history of the 1934 San Francisco General Strike, is an inspiring new book published in 1984 on the occasion of the strike's fiftieth anniversary. It contains an introduction by Harry Bridges, concluding remarks by International President Jim Herman, and, by San Francisco journalist Warren Hinckle. An outstanding collection of text and photographs, it is available by cash or check to Anne Rand Library, ILWU, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, 94109.
Local 26 seeks new water policy initiative

LOS ANGELES—ILWU Local 26 has weighed in with a demand for creativity and innovation as part of state officials dealing with California's catastrophic drought situation.

"Many of us believe that it is high time the elected leaders of our state join hands with the local, business, and labor unions to use our resources as needed," says Walt Palmer, president and IA.

"Water rationing is not a solution. Procrastination is not a solution. We Californians, with industry, agriculture and a growing population have a particular stake in our water future, and we demand action for now and in the future."

In order to face the serious, the scientific expertise, technological research and development and financial resources to develop stable water supply sources. California as a coastal state is strategically located for innovation and desalination facilities. Such a project would also provide much needed employment for California's thousands of unemployed workers and professionals."

Local 30 attorney

BOBON, Ca.—Local 30 attorney David Finkel, a former judge of the Monterey Municipal Court, and has therefore given up his private practice. "David has been a great help, both legally and philosophically. He is a part of the family, in every sense of the word," says Walt Palmer, president and IA.

Local 30 will renew its relationship with Neil Herring, a former member of Finkel's firm. "We will miss David Finkel and wish him the best in his new adventure, and look forward to a renewed relationship with Neil Herring," said Palmer.

Local 10, San Francisco

Bay Area longshoremen elected the following officers for 1991: President, Larry Wring; honorary vice-president, George Romero; secretary-treasurer/welfare director, William "Bill" Watkins. The business agents are Andrew Dulaney and Steve Paich. Dispatchers are Joe Lara Jr., Robert "Bobby" Costa, Guy Whitaker, Lawrence "Night Gang Boss" Magee, Ralph Rookey, Harry Simon and Charlie "West Coast" Wells. SAU is the hiring hall sergeant-at-arms. The sergeant-at-arms for meetings is Amile Ashley.

Caucus/Convention delegates will be Joe Larkin; Larry Wring; Lawrence Thibaud; George Galarza, Frank J. Guzzo, Charly "West Coast" Wells; William "Bill" Watkins; Alan Halley; Michael Disick; Larry Fowler; Cliff Rabey; Pete Peterson; Bob Lindsey; Tom Dufresne; Howard Old; Mike Mullen; Paul McCabe. Ron Stickler and Jim Vukich is the 2nd dispatcher. Robert "Bobby" Costa and Larry Wring. Elected as trustees are Tony Winstead, Frank Creos; Tom Lusher, Steve Paich, George Romero. A 35-member executive board was selected also.


BALMA officers elected on February 8 are: President, Frank Creos; vice-president, Mike Mullen and secretary-treasurer, George Romero. Trustees will be John Dishkin; Paul McCabe; Dale Kelly, E. Magee and William "Bill" Watkins. Joe Mosley will be the trustee representing the pensioners.

Southern Cal IUBU meetings

Meeting dates for the Southern California region of the Longshoremen's Union of the Pacific have been changed to the first Thursday of the month—3:30 for executive board, 7:30 p.m. for general membership.

Participants in recent ILWU drug and alcoholism coordinators meetings were, from left, Bill Aviles, Local 10; John Andrews, Local 10; Norman McDowell, Local 10; Henry Pelham, Local 10; Mike Mullen, Local 14; Jim Devoe, Local 10 (standing); George Cobbs, director of ILWU-PMA Drug and Alcoholism Program, Israel Mobley, Local 34; John Fiemester, Local 10; Ernie Guerrero, Local 17; William Whitaker, Local 91; Kirk Allen, Local 10; Steve Barlow, Local 10. Not shown: Robert Ruiz, Local 54, Lou Gibbons, Local 34, Jerry Johnson, Local 10. — photos by Jim Victor, Local 18.

Alcoholism coordinators brush up

SAN FRANCISCO—Volunteer coordinators for various joint ILWU drug and alcoholism programs in the San Francisco Bay Area held their annual training session last month at the headquarters of clerks Local 34.

The three-day session featured outside speakers and discussion of such issues as drug testing, care and treatment, dangers of new "designer drugs," family involvement and relapse prevention.

The session also featured visits to area facilities.

"These volunteers are the guts of the program," said George Cobbs, director of the ILWU-PMA Drug and Alcoholism Program—"they are out there on the job every day, they are a model for what the program can achieve, and they are available at any time, day, night, to help people who are ready to clean up.

"It's absolutely critical that they get together once in a while to learn of the latest treatment techniques, and the latest professional thinking on these diseases."

ILWU Welfare Plan Eligibility Verification

During the month of March, eligible active members and retirees of Local 10 will be receiving Dependent Eligibility Verification packages. In January, packets were mailed to all eligible members of Locals 34, 75 and 91.

The Plan office schedule for this project will be reported in future issues.

Local 514, Foremen

President, Doug Sigurdson; 2nd vice-president, Bill Beck; 3rd vice-president, George Wright.

Local 517, 

President, Lylli Ellip; vice-president, Michael Gorman; 2nd vice-president, Betty Perzovor; financial secretary, Joan Lo.

Local 518, Vancouver 

President, Barry Holloway; vice-president, David O'Reilly; secretary-treasurer, Dave Cochrane.

Local 519, Stewart

President, Len Watson; secretary-treasurer, Ken Kulcum; dispatch, Rick Kasam.

Local 520, Vancouver Pilotage

President, Barry Lary; 1st vice-president, Eric Neth; 2nd vice-president, Peter King; secretary-treasurer, Laura Johnston.

Local 521, North Vancouver

President, Harold O'Kane; secretary-treasurer, June Hammond.

Puget Sound District Council

New officers elected by delegates to the ILWU Puget Sound District Council are as follows: President, Jim Forbes, Local 4, Vancouver, Wa.; Vice-President, Ken Bob banner, Local 521, Tacoma; Secretary-Treasurer, Bill Lassiter, Local 19, Seattle. Trustees are Sherman Will, Local 47, Olympia, Mike Case, Local 52, Seattle; and Larry Mitchell, IBU District Council delegate to the Governors Advisory Safety Committee is Michael Forbes, Local 52, Seattle.
Local 6 delegates prepare for master contract

Over 200 Local 6 delegates spent all day Saturday, February 23 in preparations for Northern California warehouse bargaining.

Bay locals rush aid to USSR

OAKLAND— ILWU longshore division members are taking the lead in a unique people-to-people effort to get needed emergency food and medical supplies to the USSR.

The program is being coordinated by the Center for US-USSR Initiatives, a non-profit organization focussing on citizen efforts for world peace.

According to Steve Barlow, a Local 10 member spearheading the effort, "paralysis and famine are spreading rapidly. Millions of Soviets are already below daily subsistence and Soviet children are suffering because of lack of nutrition and medicine.

A new class of poor:

While the number-crunchers of the Reagan and Bush administrations hail America's "unprecedented economic growth" in the last ten years and boast their button over statistics pointing to an increase in jobs, the gloomy reality is that legions of part-time workers are being condemned to the ranks of the poor.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, an alarming — and growing — number of involuntary part-time workers are trapped in jobs offering low wages, few (if any) benefits, and less chance for promotion.

As many as 5.4 million of the nation's 117.9 million workers are employed part-time. Between 1957 and 1986, part-time jobs have increased by 29 million and currently account for 18 percent of all jobs. Three-quarters of part-time workers say they would prefer full-time work, but report they have no choice due to depressed economic conditions, such as slack work or the unavailability of full-time work.

Part-time workers are forced to live under the cloud of economic insecurity, the Institute contends, noting that many forms of social insurance "tacitly or explicitly discriminate against part-time workers." In most states, unemployment insurance requires a minimum earnings threshold that excludes many part-timers.

To alleviate the problems of part-time work, the Institute recommends that health insurance be made available to part-time workers. In most states, unemployment insurance requires a minimum earnings threshold that excludes many part-timers.

In some areas, there is no aspirin.

A 24-ton container, loaded by ILWU members on their lunch hour has been at the Maerak CFS station in Oakland, thanks to the help of Capt. Olson, and loaded with medical supplies donated by the Rotary Clubs in Southern California, as well as individual food boxes.

"It's a real part of the ILWU tradition of using our strength to help others," said Barlow.

The cargo is expected to reach Leningrad by the end of March. For further information, contact the center at 2268 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, CA 94115, (415) 346-1875.

Involuntary part-timers

Local 6 trustee Louise Dalton, left, presents plaque to Richard Moore for his 27 years of continuous service on the local's Board of Trustees. Looking on, Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer Leon Harris and International Vice-President Randy Vekich.

Nikki Bridges charmed delegates with anecdotes from the life of her late husband, ILWU President Emeritus Harry Bridges.

Local 142 President Eddie Lapa brought pledge of solidarity from Hawaii, described issues faced by islands' sugar workers.

Organizing report

AFL-CIO union organized 250,000 new members in 1990, but total union membership fell by 15,000, thanks to continued plant closures and union-busting.