Breaking Down the Walls

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH
If you've been feeling a little overwhelmed by all our appeals for contributions and/or volunteers, we understand. Everybody can't do everything. But you can do something. Why not you? Here and elsewhere in this issue are updates on a number of ILWU projects and programs that need your help. Choose one or several. We'll be grateful, and you'll feel good.

Remember Iniki

The ILWU Canadian Area hasn't forgotten our members on the Hawaiian Island of Kauai who are still picking up the pieces in the aftermath of Hurricane Iniki. As reported by Canadian Area Secretary-Treasurer Barry Campbell, "the approximately 3,250 ILWU members in Canada have responded to the needs of Our Brothers and Sisters in Local 142 by sending a check or money order, payable to "ILWU," noting on the bottom that it is for the "Kauai Relief Fund." Bravo, Canada! Now, for those of you who haven't had the chance to contribute, the International is still accepting and asking for—donations. You can send a check or money order, payable to "ILWU," noting on the bottom that it is for "ILWU."" No on NAFTA

The ILWU Canadian Area hasn't forgotten our members on the Hawaiian Island of Kauai who are still picking up the pieces in the aftermath of Hurricane Iniki.
San Francisco: After 76 days of non-stop picketing, the Inlandboatmen's Union, marine division of the ILU, reached a first-time agreement with Harbor Bay Marine, a new ferry service between San Francisco and Alameda. Months before the first passenger stepped aboard, IBU was in hot pursuit.

"Nonunion operators threaten the area standards this union has worked 75 years to achieve," IBU Regional Director Marina Secchitano explained. "That's why we try to iron things out before they get to a point where they've got to get us to operate from the Public Utilities Commission." This next thing the IBU knew, Harbor Bay had hired workers from a nonunion hospitality company.” “We're thinking they'd be inclined to vote for a union,” said Secchitano and was shuttling Alameda commuters to a temporary "float" next to Sinbad's restaurant in San Francisco. The Bay was so hastily constructed that it broke lose at one point. Harbor Bay could not be much worse than this. Another revealing sign of the company's intentions was the hiring of the notorious union-busting law firm of Littler, Mendelson, Fastiff and Tichy, which took over negotiations.

"They came back at us with proposals we had never talked about," said shop steward Dan Marlin. "And we didn't live with that."

Here, the issue of "THINKING ALLOWED"

One proposal would have banned the IBU from bargaining with the parties that had ever discussed or brought this ‘thought about.’ Another, the contract, I have holidays and sick pay provisions and, consequently, removed the union if it happened to logheadgear when Harbor Bay's chief negotiator said the company wouldn't even sign its own proposal because it cost more than originally calculated.

"They were stalling," Secchitano commented. "And we told them so. On December 30, 1992, we said that if we didn't reach an agreement by midnight, we made a mistake— and went. Six hours later, IBU informational pickets set up to greet Harbor Bay passengers in San Francisco, the company was in hot waters. "There were a lot of disagreements," said Local 6 Business Agent Fred Picker, who headed contract talks. "But a strong in-house committee decided that security under a union contract and a union grievance procedure is what they wanted most of all."

"We have a rich history here, one that we've got it, I think, really enjoyed for decades. That's why we try to iron things out before they get to a point where they've got to get us to operate from the Public Utilities Commission."

Organizing proceeded smoothly, according to ILUW International Rep Abba Ramos. "I got one phone call, we followed up, and it just took off with little water," he said. "Management said they wouldn't resist it. We showed them our numbers, and they recognized the union." Bargaining the first contract, however, wasn't so easy. Negotiations for the new 50-member unit went on for about 4 months.

"There were a lot of disagreements," said Ramos, who assisted the negotiating committee, "especially about how much the work was worth. But we came out with something everybody could live with." The members, he noted, ratified the pact by about 85 percent.

Local 9 organizes up a storm

SEATTLE—Organize, bargain, organize, bargain. It's getting to be a routine at ILUW warehouse Local 9—and apparently an excellent strategy. Last month alone, the Local wrapped up bargaining with one brand new unit and organized two more.

Last year's foray into the Seattle/Tacoma International Airport is paying off. As previously reported, Local 9 picked up a unit of "access controllers" there, after a month-long siege of the tug-of-war with the Port of Seattle, which controls the airport.

As expected, time-breaking organizing and a solid first-time contract peaked the interest of other local workers. Senior ramp controllers got hit by the union bug, too, organized under Local 9 and just concluded "ex-pedited bargaining" with the Port, reports Local Secretary-Treasurer/Business Elder Agent Tony Hutter.

"And we picked up a third unit: x-ray controllers," Hutter stated. "They don't want to be x-ray equipment, though, that's a code name," he added cryptically.

FIRED BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Code name or no, the workers' intention was to pressure management to terminate all but four of them prior to the election. The Port claimed that the 21 fired workers were all part-timers and not eligible to be included in the unit. The Public Employee Relations Commission disagreed. On January 19, the full unit voted overwhelmingly for the union.

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That's exactly what they got—and more.

"I worked just under full time for about two years and had no benefits of any kind," Marlin said. "Now, with the contract, I have holidays and sick pay and vacation days; and if I don't want full time, I even have pro-rated access to a fourth rate.

Even the skeptics are coming around, Marlin said. "That grievance procedure is pretty powerful. Just the fact that we've got it, I think, really says something."
WHY AFRICAN AMERICANS SHOULD BACK STRIKER RIGHTS

By NORMAN HILL
President, A. Philip Randolph Institute

The ban on permanent replacements not only helps the labor movement, but is one of the single most trustworthy historical allies of blacks for racial equality in America—but it also disproportionately aids black workers.

Black workers constitute over fifteen percent of the nation's unionized workforce, thus benefiting disproportionately from post-labor reform, such as the ban on permanent replacements. Because the vast majority of blacks are working people, we know full well that it's meaningless to say that employers are forbidden by law from "firing" legal strikers, but they can still "permanently replace" their legally-striking employees. In either case, the worker's livelihood has been stolen.

Even closer analysis reveals more benefits. Employers are more likely to replace unskilled or semi-skilled employees, because it's easier to train replacements. Because of historical discrimination, twice as many blacks work in unskilled or semi-skilled occupations as in highly-skilled occupations, thus making blacks twice as likely to be vulnerable to the unscrupulous use of "permanent replacements" and twice as likely to benefit from this legislation.

THE BEDROCK OF LABOR

Freedom of association is simply the right to associate and form organizations with whomsoever you choose. It is the bedrock of the trade union movement, and crucial to racial progress in America.

Blacks are concentrated in three of the four sectors of the American workplace: the South, the service sector, and the public sector.

In the South, so-called "right-to-work" states and an anti-union climate combine to disenfranchise many blacks from the workplace democracy that unions provide. In the service sector, which is over 15 percent black, unions have traditionally encountered fierce employer resistance and obstructionism. And, in the public sector, which is a heavily black workforce, American workers are frequently denied their rights to organize and bargain collectively, and to strike.

A MATTER OF DEMOCRACY

Legitimally, full freedom of association would mean that workers and trade unionists throughout the world could improve their standard of living and contribute to the democratic and more egalitarian social structure of our societies. In Africa, and throughout the third world, free trade unionism would also mean the free participation of the least masses of exploited working people.

International freedom of association would have a very real impact on the labor rights practices by countries and companies that exploit a non-unionized, fragmented and unfree workforce abroad. Support for these objectives are crucial not only to the black community but to the entire American labor movement.

The recent death of Thurgood Marshall, the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court, has evoked many recollections of his outstanding achievements, particularly in civil rights.

As a young lawyer, for example, his 1954 victory in Brown v. Board of Education ended the tainted logic of "separate but equal" and changed the face of public education in America. His legendary devotion to equality and justice remained constant throughout his tenure on the highest court in the land.

Lesser known, however, was that Justice Marshall was also a staunch believer in the power—and necessity—of collective bargaining, as his written opinion for the majority in a 1975 Supreme Court case demonstrates.

The dispute involved a group of workers who, against their union's advice, picketed and later attempted to meet on their own with the employer in right what they believed was an egregious wrong. They were fired for their efforts.

The union, meanwhile, was actively pursuing the workers' grievances against the employer through the procedures defined in the collective bargaining agreement.

The following excerpts from Justice Marshall's opinion in this landmark volume about why collective bargaining should remain just that—collective.

"The principle of exclusive representation is not only to the black community but to the entire American labor movement."

The employer to make union membership a condition of employment, thereby imposing its choice upon the minority.

"In the face of such fragmentations—collective bargaining would be minimal."

"With each group able to enforce its conflicting demands—the incumbents—by economic coercion—the probability of strike and deadlock is high; the likelihood of making headway against discriminatory practices would be minimal."

"The union has a legitimate interest in presenting a united front... and in not seeing its strength dissipated and its stature denigrated by subgroups within the unit separately pursuing what they see as separate interests."

"In the face of such fragmentations...the bargaining process that the principle of exclusive representation is meant to lubricate would not endure unhindered."

Thurgood Marshall
on Collective Bargaining

The following excerpts from Justice Marshall's opinion in this landmark volume about why collective bargaining should remain just that—collective.

"Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act] affirmatively guarantees employees the most basic rights of industrial self-determination, the right to self-organization, to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and to engage in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection, as well as the right to refrain from these activities.

"These are, for the most part, collective rights, rights to act in concert with one's fellow employees; they are protected not for their own sake but as an instrument of the national labor policy of minimizing industrial strife by encouraging the practice and procedure of collective bargaining.

"Central to the policy of fostering collective bargaining, the employer to make union membership a condition of employment, thereby imposing its choice upon the minority. The employer confronted with the situation where the unions and their minority groups would not necessarily, or even probably, be able to agree to remedial steps satisfactory to all at once. Competing claims on the employer's ability to accommodate each group's demands, e.g. for reassignment and promotions to a limited number of positions, could only set one group against the other.

"Having divided themselves, the minority employees will not be in position to advance their cause unless it be by recourse seriatim to economic coercion, which can only have the effect of further dividing them.

"With each group able to enforce its conflicting demands—the incumbents—by economic coercion—the probability of strike and deadlock is high; the likelihood of making headway against discriminatory practices would be minimal."

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The following excerpts from Justice Marshall's opinion in this landmark volume about why collective bargaining should remain just that—collective.
In 1923, just before his 20th birthday, Eugene Lasartemay booked passage on the SS President Cleveland, said goodbye to his friends and family in Hawaii, and sailed to San Francisco. It was the first time in his life that he experienced what racism was all about.

"I went immediately to the home of my godmother on Pine Street near Fillmore," he recalled. "After three weeks, I was offered a job at four dollars a day, although I knew the company was paying eight dollars for the same work."

"I did not commit myself but went home to Godmother and mentioned that I was not happy about the four dollars. She sat me down and informed me that in this country when you have this—and she pointed to her check to indicate this—this was normal treatment.

"The next morning I walked from Pine and Fillmore all the way to the Ferry Building in confusion because I had never suffered humiliation on account of my color."

Lasartemay's voyage through the cruel twists and turns of racial prejudice and discrimination ultimately carried him from the role of victim to activist. Today, almost 90 years old, long ago retired as a member in good standing of ILWU warehouse Local 6, he looks back with pride—and rightfully so—on his accomplishments.

'Theory in Kinships

As luck would have it, Lasartemay didn't have to take the four-dollar-a-day job. He found out that the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's Cuba was signing on a crew to sail down the Central American coast. His pluck—certainly not his experience—got him the job.

In 1928 Lasartemay quit the sailor's life to spend more time with his wife, Ruth, and their two-year-old son. His hunt for a job took nine months. "Wherever I applied, it was a curious sort of experience for a man of my color to be looking for a skilled job as an engineer. Even when an employer seemed willing to consider me, the union was not." After "nine months of frustration," he found a job through CIO Local 96 in Oakland at Colgate Palmolive. He had already applied there as an engineer, but the only job he was offered was as a porter. "I reported to Colgate, wondering why a soap company would need a pantryman."

From victim to activist

to keeper of the record

Local 6 pensioner Eugene Lasartemay and spouse, Ruth, took time out from their duties to pose for this 1981 photo in front of the East Bay Negro Historical Society, which they co-founded.

"But do you think I invented the electric light? Thomas Edison? Yes, but if not for Henry Latimer, a black man, Edison wouldn't have done it. Latimer invented the filament."

The Society, he said, highlights the contributions of black inventors, educators, religious figures, politicians and even cowboys. "It especially helps black kids to feel like somebody," he said.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

In 1981, the Society's treasures were housed in a cramped, three-room storefront location on Grove Street in Oakland, where Lasartemay and spouse were the Jack and Jill of all trades—curator, bookkeeper, librarian and tour guide. Somehow he found time to be a much sought-after lecturer at local schools and institutions.

Today, Lasartemay says he's "too old" to keep the pace he managed before. Yet, in just a few minutes of phone conversation, it's easy to detect the wit, the spunk and the intelligence that served him so well all his life.

The Society, he says, is now in the competent hands of Executive Director Dr. Lawrence P. Crouchett and Assistant Director Robert L. Haynes. It also has a new name and a new address: Northern California Center for Afro American History and Life, 5606 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland, CA 94608; phone (510) 658-3158.

The Center is usually open afternoons and has a wealth of documents, artifacts and photographs depicting the Black experience in America, particularly Northern California.

You are invited to visit. Just tell them Gene sent you.
The room was packed, the company was great, and so was the music and food. LeRoy King’s retirement bash won’t soon be forgotten.

Fols and pals party down at King send-off
SAN FRANCISCO—It was a party to match the man. People from all walks of life, from all over the city, from midnight basketball players to big-time politicians, came to say thanks and aloha to LeRoy King for more than forty years of dedicated service to the ILWU and the community.

It was the kind of retirement party LeRoy wanted—hanging out, a casual bash, speeches kept to a minimum, scarcely a plaque. Just good music, good food, good friends for a good cause: the music and arts programs of San Francisco’s public schools.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY
An old friend, Speaker of the California Assembly Willie Brown, hosted the party for LeRoy. Another old friend, retired Local 6 President Keith Eickman, welcomed guests.

Speakers were brief. ILWU International President Emeritus Jim Herman testified to LeRoy’s decades of commitment to social justice. Current International President Dave Arian spoke about what an asset LeRoy had been. State Senator Milton Marks presented a framed Senate Resolution. And LeRoy’s friend, the late Ella Hill Hutch Community Center, cited LeRoy’s many contributions to the entity.

But the highlight of the party was the eldest of LeRoy’s three children, Rebecca Rose Murray, who recalled how “Dad taught us about the move- ment and our views.”

BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS
Indeed, LeRoy King has touched literally thousands of lives in ways many of them will never know. He was part of that generation of young African-American workers who came home

Local 46 member on port commission
PORT HUENEME, Ca.—Belated congratulations are in order for Jesse Ramirez, 48, of longshore Local 46 here, who won a seat on the Oxnard Harbor District Board of Commissioners in November.

“T hey say I won because my campaign signs were cute,” he told a local newspaper. “But there had to be more to it than that. He came in second out of six candidates for the five-member board.”

“I think we made history,” he said. No one in the area can remember the last time the people elected a longshoreman to the district board. The win goes to the working people in the community who, he says, “want to see somebody like them—a working person from a working background—in office.”

He loved... His Family His Friends Peaches and Grapes His Work and Politics His Pasta His Garden His Grand Kids And Life
These words on the program for Nate DiBiasi’s funeral service last month almost said it all. But few who knew him could refrain from elaborating. There is, after all, so much to say about the man.

Nate, a longtime leader in longshore Local 13, was practically an institutional figure in the San Pedro/Wilmingon Harbor Area: a legendary fighter for what he believed—and he believed in so much; a tireless activist; a friend, a mentor, a fighting man. He was united to the bond and ILWU to the core.

When Nate was 12, he emigrated to California from Italy. He worked his way through high school, and, later, while working in the canneries, he met his future mate-for-life, Donna. They married in 1942. That same year he enlisted in the Army Air Force to fight in World War II.

In 1946, Nate went to work on the waterfront and began what was to become his lifelong passion: serving the ILWU and its members.

LOCAL 13 SPARKPLUG
At Local 13, Nate worked with numerous committees—officially and unofficially—and in his eleventh year was elected to promote safety on the docks and business for the port. He was elected Local 13 Vice President and Welfare Officer. He wrote editorials for the Local’s newspaper, The Bulletin, was a convention and caucus delegate, assisted contract negotiations, and was essentially knee-deep in almost every Local endeavor.

Nate loved the challenge of politics and was instrumental in the success of the ILWU Southern California District Council, which elected him Legislative Representative and President.

While advancing the ILWU legislative agenda, including the passage of important longshore safety regulations, he made friends and acquaintances among some of the most powerful people in California. Governors Pat Brown and Jerry Brown, Senator Alan Cranston, Representatives Glen Anderson and Augustus Hawkins, Assemblies Ralph Dills and Dick
Labor party advocate draws interest—and members—at ILWU

By SUZANNE FORSYTH
SAN FRANCISCO—Former Mazzochi, ILWU Local 34 and Worker Advocates (LPA) and Presidential Assistant for the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW), addressed over 300 ILWU (LPA) and Presidential Assistant for Labor party advocate draws chi, founder of Labor Party Advocates country. There’s no question about United States and “agitate for a new rank and file,” said Eddie Gutierrez, a Local 34, members took the, floor for Local 34 member and delegate to the working people in America are looking Mazzochi emphasized the need for either the Political Action Fund or their local union, may do so in any amounts whenever the financial condition of the International warrants suspension. “The voluntary contributions to the Political Action Fund shall be collected as follows; R. Holzman; vice-president, James H. Cormack. Elected to the grievance Mazzochi said that the Labor Party will be addressed is by forming a Labor Party. Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee won’t do it.” Upon receipt of your letter, Norman Leonard will write to the son or daugh- ter giving him or her all of the informa- tion needed to make a formal applica- tion if you need more information before writing to Norman Leonard, you may phone him at (415) 771-6400.

Important Notice

On ILWU Political Action Fund

Delegates to the 28th Triennial Convention of the ILWU, meeting in Seattle, Washington, June 3-7, 1991, amended Article X of the International Constitution to read: "The International shall establish a Political Action Fund which shall consist exclusively of voluntary contributions. The union will not favor or disadvantage any member because of the amount of his/her contribution or the decision not to contribute. In no case will a member be required to pay more than his/her pro rata share of the union's collective bargaining expenses. Reports on the status of the fund and the uses to which the voluntary contributions of the members will be put will be made to the International Executive Board. "The voluntary contributions to the Political Action Fund shall be collected as follows;

- The $10 and Twenty Dollars ($1.20) of each March and August's per capita payment to the International Union shall be diverted to the Political Action Fund where it will be used in connection with federal, state and local elections. These deductions are suggestions only, and individual members are free to contribute more or less than that guideline suggests. The diverted funds will be contributed only on behalf of those members who voluntarily permit that portion of their per capita payment to be used for that purpose. Other International Officers may suspend this, if, in their judgment, the financial condition of the International warrants suspension.

- For three consecutive months prior to each diversion each dues paying member of the union shall be advised of his/her right to withhold the One Dollar and Twenty Cents ($1.20) payment or any portion thereof otherwise made in March and August. Those members expressing such a desire, on a form provided by the International Union, shall be sent a check in the amount of One Dollar and Twenty Cents ($1.20) or less if they so desire, in advance of the member making his/her dues payment to the local union for the month in which the diversion occurs.

- Those members who do not wish to have any portion of their per capita payment diverted to the Political Action Fund, but wish to make political contributions directly to either the Political Action Fund or their local union, may do so in any amounts whenever they wish.

- No contribution - i do not wish to contribute to the ILWU Political Action Fund. I understand that the International will send me a check in the amount of $1.20 prior to March 1, 1993.

- Less than $1.20 - I do not wish to contribute the entire $1.20 to the ILWU Political Action Fund. I will contribute... I understand that the International will send me a check in the amount of $1.20 prior to March 1, 1993.

- More than $1.20 - I wish to contribute more than the minimum voluntary contribution of $1.20 to the ILWU Political Action Fund. Enclosed please find my check for $.

LOCAL 10, San Francisco

Results of the election for 1993 offi- cers for this longshore local are: presi- dent/business agent, George Romero, secretary-treasurer, Lawrence Thibeaux; sergeant-at-arms (hiring hall), Rudy Garcia; business agents, Fred J. G. DeLarios and George S. Romo, Jr.

The delegates are: Joe R. Clay, Josep h Beachum, Ralph Rooker, George Galarza, Robert Costa, Joe Lara, Jr. and Richard Estrada. The Conven tion delegates are Ralph Rooker, George Romero, Andrew Dulany, La rry Wing, William Watkins, Frank J. Guzzo, Leonard Magee, Tony Wins tead, Steve Paich, Bobby J. Guillory and Mike Simpson.

Northern California District Coun cil delegates will be Ralph Rooker, Wil liam Watkins, George Galarza, Larry Wing, Leo L. Robinson and Lawrence Thibeaux. Elected as members of the Board of Trustees are Frank Creoci, Joseph Beachum, Leonard C. Magee, David Stewart and Tony Winstead.

TheXențe delegates are: G. Claudio Frattini, William Watkins, George Galarza, Larry Wing, Leo L. Robinson and Lawrence Thibeaux. Elected as members of the Board of Trustees are Frank Creoci, Joseph Beachum, Leonard C. Magee, David Stewart and Tony Winstead.

Following are the committees: Grievance—Steve Paich, David Banks, William Watkins, Roy Overton, Mike Simpson and James Bonds. Areas of expertise—Mike Simpson and Peter F. Bissell. A 35 - member executive board was elected.

Local 23, Tacoma

Membership of this local is by virtue of the following:

- The name and address of the col- local president and treasurer are Daryl Hemdan, Chair Wheeler.

Robert Coleman, Doug Johnson and Art Jackson.

The dispatchers include: #1-Ted Ellis, #2-Tony Kavanagh, #3-Jerry Skiffington; #4-Harvey Wilson. Tom Toma is the relief dispatcher. Caucus delegates are Ben Kenah, Phil Bill, Dick Marzano, Roger Skiffington and Lee Bransford. Caucus members are: Hold—Pat Facer; Lift—Marty Kiilsgaard; Ditch—Becky Anderson and Anthony De Paul. Labor Relations Committee are Jim Miller, Lee Head, Lawrence S. Safyan, Sonja and Aub render. The Area Labor Relations committee is Jim Norton. Duke Perino is Chairman of the Checkers Committee. The four mem bers are Jim Lapenski, Jack Kamel, Jim Ullman and Bob Spang. A 15 -member executive board was selected by membership.

Local 40, Portland

Former ILWU Executive Director and member of Local 40, Portland, is elected to the joint board of trustees. Aldo C. Homan, executive director of the ILWU, is elected to fill the position of the late James Brown, who died in 1979.

The other members of the joint board of trustees are: John W. Simpson, secretary-treasurer, and Robert T. Homan, executive director of the ILWU.

The joint board of trustees is composed of seven members, four of whom are elected by the ILWU and three of whom are elected by the U.S. Maritime Commission.

The ILWU and the U.S. Maritime Commission have a joint board of trustees to administer the fair share of the federal maritime fund, which is used to pay the wages and benefits of longshoremen.

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A delegation of twelve members from the All Japan Dockworkers Union visited ILWU Longshore Division Locals in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Honolulu. Left, they observe morning dispatch at the Local 13 hall; right, it's a tour of American President Lines' container freight station near LA/Long Beach.

Japanese Dock Union Officials Visit ILWU

by SEAN ARIAN
ILWU International Department

From January 6 through 16, a 12-member delegation from the All Japan Dockworkers Union (Zenkowan) visited the West Coast and Hawaii, signaling a new era of cooperation with the ILWU.

The delegates' first stop was San Francisco where, despite the cold weather, they received a warm welcome from their counterparts in Local 10. They were a big hit in the dispatch hall, one Zenkowan member, Syogo Kawahama, sketched cartoons of many Local 10 members.

The delegates' time in the Bay Area included tours narrated by Local 10 President George Romero and Local 34 President Richard Cavalli. Two female dockworkers explained to the Japanese the role of women on the waterfront. During a tour of the American President Lines terminal in Oakland, the delegation had an important meeting with API executives.

MOVING EXPERIENCE

At ILWU headquarters, the delegation met with International Officers to discuss the form that closer relations would take. They also discussed the possibility of co-sponsoring an International Conference of Longshore Unions this April in San Francisco.

After an incredible experience in the Bay Area, the delegation flew to Los Angeles to meet with the Southern California membership. Ray Familathe, business agent for the Local 33 Allied Division, recounted how Southern Pacific "railroaded" ILWU members out of the intermodal yard near Long Beach. Visibly moved, the Zenkowan delegates pledged solidarity and presented the Allied Division with a red banner symbolizing brotherhood. They promised to take any action they could to prevent this from happening again.

"I couldn't believe how much they really cared," Familathe said.

Local 13 President Joe Cortez and Southern California District Council President Gene Bandy gave the delegates comprehensive tours of the LA/Long Beach Harbors, including the ITS on-dock facility, the M&R shop at NRY, and the CPS at American President Lines.

The Zenkowan delegates finished off their time in Los Angeles with a blow-out dinner at Trani's Restaurant, which included steak, mozzarella and a tequila drinking competition.

Hiroshiro Kaku of Osaka was declared the winner, just beating out Local 13 member Rene Herrera. When asked about the night, BA Tom Hebert replied, "Kuru-kuru-pa"—Japanese for "crazy."

HOSPITALITY HAWAIIAN-STYLE

After sleeping in the next day, the delegation packed their bags again to fly to Honolulu to meet with members of Local 142. They were overwhelmed with Hawaiian hospitality.

Particularly interested in non-longshore industries, delegates took tours of the Del Monte Fresh Fruit Operation with BA Ligorio Nono. They also visited some of the marine terminals with longshore BA Tyrone Tahara.

The delegates attended a huge party in their honor at the Local 142 hall, where they met with Local President Bobo Lapania, other officers and staff, and International Vice President Tommy Trask who answered numerous questions about the unique position of Local 142 and the Islands.

By all accounts, the trip was a resounding success.

Suekichi Kawamoto, the head of the delegation, said he was "overwhelmed" by the generosity and brotherhood shown to his delegation by every member of the ILWU. They met. He also extended an invitation for an ILWU delegation to attend Zenkowan's convention in September and to learn more about Zenkowan and Japanese longshoremen. Though the Zenkowan delegation expressed sadness about leaving, they were eager to return home and educate their brothers about all they had learned.

Hands across the border

In effort to strengthen ties with workers across the border, the ILWU is seeking volunteers for its Mexico Liaison Committee.

In the last six months, several ILWU members have worked diligently—on their own time and at their own expense—to establish and maintain positive relations with Mexican workers. With "free trade" looming in our futures, as well as a number of other issues, joint activities among workers in both countries are extremely important.

If you're interested, call Sean Arian at the ILWU International Commission, (415) 770-0823.

Pacific Rim Dockers Conference

The ILWU and Zenkokukowan, the Japan dock union federation, are jointly sponsoring a Pacific Rim Dockers Conference to be held April 22-24 in San Francisco.

Invitations signed by the two unions' presidents, David Arian and Toshio Kamezaki respectively, were mailed earlier this month to all longshore unions with jurisdiction in Pacific Rim ports. The conference, the presidents announced, will focus on four topics:

1. Technological advances and redundancy on the waterfront.
2. Movement of non-traditional workers (seafarers, rail workers, etc.) to traditional dock work.
4. Improving health and safety.

The official language of the conference will be English, with translation provided in Japanese and Spanish. The conference has the full support of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF).

Down Under

Former ILWU International Executive Board member and Local 63 officer Al Perisho, left, travelled to Melbourne, Australia, recently for the retirement party of his longtime friend, Tas Bull, General Secretary of the Waterside Workers' Federation.

Bull, who was a seafarer before he became a "wharfer," held the post of General Secretary for about nine years, during which he maintained close ties with the ILWU. He was succeeded by John Coombs.

Perisho has known Bull since the late 1960s, when Bull was a federal organizer. Since then they've been close friends. "It's been a long, good association on my part," said Perisho, "and tremendous association for the ILWU and the Waterside Workers." Above, Perisho presents a plaque to Bull (right) on behalf of the ILWU.