It was we who plowed the prairies, built the cities where they trade...

UNION PROUD
LABOR DAY 1993
NAFTA WATCH
Experts back-pedal

Despite what you read in the business press, NAFTA, in the long run, will not result in job losses.

The Bush Administration and several trade magazines broadly publicized the conclusion of two NAFTA "experts" that the trade pact would result in a net loss of 175,000 American jobs by 1995. In February, however, the experts released data in which a predicted gain would be evaporated—and then some—by 2010.

The experts, Gary C. Hufbauer and Jeffrey J. Schott, work at the Institute for International Economics. Their initial projections of job losses were based on NAFTA industries where the plants have relocated to the Mexican market could be identified. But, according to the Center for Public Integrity, CPI also reported that, in the last year, no agreement was reached with the Mexican government to ensure the protection of labor rights to all workers involved in NAFTA's maquiladora plan. The agreement addresses these rights as a "shared goal." Each country remains responsible for enforcing its own labor laws and only the obligation to issue "publication of labor laws and regulations, procedures, etc., and to promoting awareness of and compliance with them."

Little protection for workers in NAFTA side deals

By LINDSAY MCLAUGHLIN

With a great deal of fanfare and media attention, US Trade Ambassador Mickey Kantor announced August 13 that the governments of the United States, Canada and Mexico had reached an agreement on supplemental accords on labor and the environment to NAFTA. Kantor proclaimed that these agreements fulfill promises made by President Clinton to the American people that economic growth in Mexico will not come at the expense of the environment and that the trade agreement addresses issues of basic workers' rights.

The truth, however, is that President Clinton has only created a facade which will do little, if anything, to raise the standard of living of our Mexican neighbors and will not stop the export of jobs and devaluation of living standards here at home.

OURS VS. THEIRS

To understand the problem, let's look at the first principles of basic worker rights found in the ILWU's "No on NAFTA" Petition: freedom of speech and association, the right to organize and bargain collectively, and the right to strike. In comparison, the Clinton side agreement addresses these rights as a "shared goal." Each country remains responsible for enforcing its own labor laws and only has the obligation to issue "publication of labor laws and related regulations, procedures, etc., and to promoting awareness of and compliance with them."

NAFTA Watch

UNITED ON NAFTA

More than symbolic is this demonstration of solidarity among union leaders at a recent public forum on NAFTA. From left: Frank Martinez del Campo, Field Rep., SEIU 790; Ken Meek, Vice President, ILWU; Ariel Valdés, Executive Board, STNTE, Mexico; Daniel Lara, Vice President, SEIU; and David Arián, President, ILWU.

ILWU and Teamsters honored at NAFTA event

By NANCY SNYDER

SAN FRANCISCO—The ILWU and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters were recently honored at a fund-raising dinner organized by LCLAA (Latin Council for Latin American Advancement) and the Instituto Laboral de la Raza. The two unions were recognized for their leadership in opposing the North American Free Trade Agreement. Accepting the honors were ILWU International President David Arián and IBT Vice President Ken Mee.

To guarantee workers' rights on both sides of the border, Arián said, the ILWU recognizes the necessity of bringing "the fight against injustices into the political arena." Arián, who served as an international observer in last year's elections in the Mexican state of Michoacán, underscored the strategic importance of forming political ties with Mexican leaders. Without political democracy in a trade agreement, he said, workers' rights internationally are in jeopardy of being irresponsibly compromised.

IBT Vice President Ken Mee emphasized that it's not the foreign workers who are our enemies, but the multinational corporations which are pitting one against the other under the influence-engendering government policies in order to protect and maximize profits.

CONTACT LEGISLATORS

Now is the time to contact your elected representatives to let them know that, since the side agreement on labor standards is weak and unenforceable, NAFTA must be defeated. Even a reliable Administration source admitted, "the labor agreement is the weaker of the two agreements."

Following is a list of members of Congress who have stated they are waiting for the side agreements before making a decision on NAFTA. It is imperative that you contact these members first to ensure they know you support the ILWU's position on this issue. If you prefer to call your member of Congress you can reach his or her office at (202) 225-3121.


ILWU Titled Officers

DAVID ARIAN
President
BRIAN McWILLIAMS
Vice President
THOMAS TRASK
Vice President
LEON HARRIS
Secretary-Treasurer

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SAN FRANCISCO—Dredging of San Francisco Bay came to an abrupt halt August 3 when the Inlandboatmen's Union (marine division of the ILWU and District No.1 of the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association) went on strike against Dutra Construction, the company handling the dredging project.

The strikers—about forty IBU towboat deckhands and MEBA towboat operators—are united, according to IBU Regional Director Marina Secchitano. "We know we did the right thing."

"NO CHOICE"

In a joint statement sent to port officials in San Francisco and Oakland and to members of the Bay Area Dredging Coalition, Secchitano and MEBA District Executive Vice President William B. Langley explained the reasons for the union's action:

"As you know, we have been extremely supportive of the dredging project for many years—it is, as we all know, vital to the economy of the Bay Area. However, Dutra has given us no choice but to exercise the only weapon we have in protecting our jobs and our families: the right to withhold our labor.

MUCH IS AT STAKE

"We do not take this action lightly. We realize much is at stake. But Dutra has demonstrated time and again that it simply is not interested in reaching a fair settlement with either the IBU or MEBA.

"As we attempted to bargain, the company was assigning our work to non-IBU employees. The company has consistently rejected our proposals to resolve points of contention through neutral and binding arbitration. And, now, after years of labor peace, the advent of new technology.

The final vote, certified by the division's bargaining committee August 19, showed the contract passing by 63.23 percent (see chart right). In its report to the locals, the balloting committee noted that it had received no challenges to any local's vote tally or procedures.

Details of the new, three-year agreement will be told to all longshore division members prior to the ballot in their respective locals. Key features of the agreement are:

- Standing contract altogether in favor of bargaining on a project-to-project basis. This hardly provides the stability the Bay Area needs to get the job done.
- "The IBU and MEBA have established picket lines at a number of locations throughout the Bay, and we are supported in these efforts by the area labor councils. We are prepared and ready to use whatever legal and peaceful means are necessary to resolve this dispute in a fair and equitable manner."

1993 PCL&CA Contract Vote

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Anti-Immigrant Hysteria Infects U.S.

Byrian McWilliams

August 24, 1993

We’re blaming the victims while the policies—and perpetrators—behind our problems are left off the hook.

A favored administration with regard to China. This group sought political asylum for Chinese refugees based on China’s family-planning laws. Yet none of the “pro-lifers” seem to care about the massacre of the living in Tianamen Square; or the ongoing oppression, imprisonment and disappearance of dissidents; or the well-documented exploitation of China’s forced prison labor.

FREE TRADE, NOT PEOPLE

Despite all these abuses, both the Bush and Clinton administrations granted China “most favored nation” trading status. Now, with little or no pressure on or reform of Chinese refugees have made their way to our shores—and citizens here are up in arms.

Americans are also alarmed about immigrants from Mexico—a nation which, under the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), will be little more than a cheap labor pool for wealthy industrialists in the US and Canada.

The real criminals

The fact is, capitalists—American and foreign—are making a bundle off immigrants. Harold Erez, for example, a high-ranking immigration official under the Reagan administration, set up shop as a consultant to wealthy foreigners seeking entry into the US. For a small fortune (the price of admission to America) Erez uses his government contacts to clear the path for the privileged few.

Meanwhile, importers and employers of illegal labor reap enormous profits taking refugees from one form of slavery to another. Chinese refugees, for example, pay $30,000 to be smuggled into the US then hemmed in by indentured servants of sweatshop owners who work off the debt. With the threat of deportation hanging over their heads, they have little choice but to tolerate miserable working conditions, meager wages and inhumane treatment in jobs no one else wants.

In San Francisco recently, one sweatshop operation, under contract to trendy dress designer Jessica McClintock, shut down without warning, and the owners flew the coop with millions of dollars. The “liberal” McClintock denied any responsibility, even though her business thrived on the sweat of slave labor. Not one politician deriding the alleged “fool” of illegals called her to task for her complicity.

The same sorry scenario exists almost everywhere undocumented workers are employed: big profits, low overhead, no accountability, capital gains—and that, like it or not, we’re all in the same boat.

...and we know how that worked.

I say that if Clinton is so hot to use wire taps and other gizmos, let’s install them in the boardrooms and executive suites of multinational corporations.

Let’s find out who wants to ship jobs overseas, exploit foreign labor, bust unions and oppress workers here and abroad. And when those traitors have been ferreted out, let’s throw their capitalist keesters in the clink.

For a better world

It’ll never happen, of course. The fix is in. But there are a lot of things we can do to make a better world.

First off, we can accept the fact that we can’t have it both ways; that we can’t go on creating chaos around the world and refuse to deal with its consequences. We can’t just say, “I’ve got mine and screw everyone else” because, ultimately, we only end up screwing ourselves.

Next, we can actively promote fair labor standards enforcement for all workers everywhere. We can insist that our government support democratic and human rights movements and oppose dictatorships and military regimes. We can invest in humanitarian aid for developing nations—a hand-up, not a hand-out—that they can exercise true self-determination. We can make every effort to promote justice and fair play for all the citizens of the world.

Lastly, we can remember that we are a nation, indeed a planet, of immigrants—and that if it or we, we’re all in the same boat.

---

For a better world

Cos

The anti-Immigrant hysteria was crafted by the press and the politicians completely repugnant. It smacks of sensationalism at its worst. The effects on the community of labor is chilling: as long as employers get away with it—and they do—everyone’s standard of living is jeopardized. I ask you: who are the real criminals here?

CLINTON BOWS TO PRESSURE

Unfortunately, Bill Clinton has, once again, demonstrated an abysmal lack of leadership. Instead of telling the truth and coming to grips with the root causes of immigration, he has proposed “solutions” that, while satisfying the bloodlust of some of his constituents, nonetheless miss the mark.

He wants immigrants to submit to instant hearings without legal representation to determine the merit of their application for entry. He wants to expand the use of wire taps and other hidden electronic contraptions to trap illegals and the people who bring them in. He wants to increase border patrols, increase prison terms, and tighten up requirements for immigration and asylum. In short, he wants the same kind of half-baked plays the law-and-order crowd screamed for to solve our burgeoning crime problem—more cops, more jails, more penalties, etc...

---

Foreign

The Afghan

The Serbian authorities are continuing to fire large numbers of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo and to hire ethnic Serbians and Montenegrans in their place.

According to the independent BSPK union, more than 230 workers from two factories in Ferizaj and Istog were fired on April 28, and their work places were surrounded with armed troops.

The workers were dismissed because they refused to agree to a new collective contract imposed by the Serbian regime.

Kosovo II

Seven officials of the BSPK were arrested on May 23 on charges of having sold police radios to the union’s headquarters in the province’s capital, Pristina.

During the raid, the police smashed computers, and confiscated the union’s fax machine and photocopier. Five of those arrested were apparently released after three days and were reported to have been beaten during detention.
UMW strike spreads to six states

By JAMES B. PARKS
AFL-CIO News

The Mine Workers blasted the nation's coal operators for "misleading and inflammatory public statements" as the union continued its selective strikes to try to force a new contract. About 2,000 more miners joined the strike June 16 at additional mines owned by the two largest coal companies, Peabody Holding Co. and Consolidation Energy Inc. The union said 14,000 workers in six states are now on strike. Included in the expansion is Peabody's Camp No. 1 mine in Union County, Ky., where 163 miners were suspended after chanting at company president George Shiflett.

The strike against companies in the Bituminous Coal Operators Association was expanded because of stalled negotiations and "the coal companies' misleading and inflammatory public statements" about the UMWA and its members, the union said.

EMPLOYER LIES

Peabody on June 16 bought a one-page ad in the Wall Street Journal charging the UMWA with choosing to "strike, conduct slowdowns and commit acts of violence" instead of negotiating.

"The BCOA is trying to distract attention from the real issue in this strike — jobs," said UMWA President Richard L. Trumka. "They are misleading the public about their bargaining position and slandering UMWA members and their communities. We will not let these lies go unchallenged."

Trumka said the BCOA lied about honoring the 1986 contract that provided the first 60 percent of new jobs to UMWA members. The threshold was never reached," he said.

They also lied about their latest offer providing more jobs than the previous pact, Trumka said. "It's just not true.

The BCOA offer would provide only 36 percent of new jobs to UMWA members. It's clear that the BCOA doesn't understand basic math or the meaning of job security.

Trumka also disputed BCOA claims that the strike is designed to keep the union alive.

JOBS SECURITY "BEDROCK"

How other issues such as productivity are handled depends on how the jobs question is resolved, Trumka said. "Job security is the bedrock of increased productivity," he said. "When workers have that security, then increased productivity benefits everyone, but without it, "the company gets the benefits and we get unemployment."
‘Hogs for Hunger’ On All-American Union-Made Trek Across U.S.

SEATTLE — Two members of the International Association of Machinists, Dennis K. Minor, Local 751, and motorcyclist to all four corners of the United States, are looking forward to the “Hogs for Hunger” 12,000 mile trek. They’re taking this all-American ride on union-made Harley Davidson motorcycles.

With pledges of a penny a mile and more, the two hope to raise thousands of dollars for the food bank that serves unemployed families in the Puget Sound area through the King County Labor Agency, a United Way Agency. They’ve already managed to raise pledged donations of more than $2,000. They hope to raise at least $1 for each mile they ride for the food bank. During summer months food bank donations decline, and the Labor Agency’s budget was recently cut when United Way reduced its share 19 percent because general fund raising was down.

Local 91 member celebrates 49th & 50th anniversary

By OSBORNE HILLS

ALAMEDA, Ca.—Local 91 walking boss By Samuel P. Clifton, Jr. and his spouse celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and his 49 years as an ILWU member, earlier this month.

Clifton’s seven children hosted a dinner in the couple’s honor at the Alameda Naval Air Station on August 1. Thanking all in attendance, Clifton stressed the importance of family, union and friends.

Those of us in the ILWU family wish Mr. and Mrs. Clifton many more happy years.

Retiring Local 10 records clerks Clarence Livingston and Al Geron flank PMA’s Art Chu who was on hand to present them gifts of appreciation.

Local 10 records clerks retire

By SUE CHIN

SAN FRANCISCO—Well-wishers enjoyed Chinese food and a huge cake as they assembled in Local 10’s records office July 1 to present retirement gifts for popular joint records clerks Al Geron and Clarence Livingston.

The two buddies have worked together for many years. PMA’s Art Chu gave both of them identical jackets and plaques in recognition of their services. Local 10’s Frank Cresci and Bobby Costa, in behalf of the union, presented gold-plated Chinese fortune plagues and ILWU jackets. Other gifts included baskets with goodies.

Kauai Relief

Thanks to the generous contributions of ILWU locals and several international unions, the International was able to disburse a total of almost $55,000 to help ILWU Local 142 members in Hawaii recover from Hurricane Iniki which literally devastated the Island of Kauai.

Above, ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Leon Harris (second from right) presents the final installment to Local 142 officers Fred Paulino, Eusebio Lapaena and Guy Fujimura; also on hand is Hawaii-based international Vice President Thomas Throckmartin.

SEPTEMBER PCPA convention set

The Pacific Coast Pensioners Association (PCPA) invites all ILWU retirees, spouses and widows to attend its 26th annual convention in Redding, Ca. Here’s a tentative schedule.

TUESDAY, SEP. 21: Committees report. Other speakers. Afternoon: nominations and election of PCPA officers and Executive Board. Hotel hosts cocktail party, 5-6 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEP. 21: Committees meet in afternoon. Banquet starts 6 p.m., with entertainment.

TUESDAY, SEP. 21: Conventions reg- istration will be in the Maramor Room.

Dockers, widows on pension list

SAN FRANCISCO—Following is the August 1993 listing of dock- workers, retired under various ILWU-PMA pension plans:

Local 8, Portland: Alfred Cox, Robert G. Holder, Joseph Jargiase, Russell Ivan Rollins, Harold E. Wirt- hill (Local 6, Portland); Local 63, Wilmington: Raymond Arnold, Raymond G. Chu, John Richard; Local 13, Wilminton: Jack D’Amaro, Gordon L. Gaskin, John T. Ortiz, Paul P. Parra, Robert C. Porter, Ralph A. Nezzar, Edward Valdez; Local 18, West Sacramento: Donald Lee Beachyer, Roy D. Hayes; Local 21, Longview: Bill Lloyd Brister, George Derrick, Norman Hauge, Raymond H. Jesser, Magmar Knutsen, Floyd Rankin, Clinton Rasmussen; Local 34, San Francisco: Vivian Chavez-Larkin (Kenneth). The widows are: Local 4, Van- couver: Florence K. Rowland (Jack); Local 8, Portland: Rose Gibbons (Richard); Velma M. Jones (Harold); Dyana Printz (Gail); Local 10, San Francisco: Louise Figlia (Augustine); Anita Hardy (Al); Edith A. Jenkins (David); Lucretia Laurenzen (Harold); Frances Morotta (Anthony); Local 13, Wilminton: Joe Arne Cornoja (Joe); Flissie Pierson (Charles); Mollie Trujillo (Philip); Local 19, Seattle: Naomi Counts (Robert); Anna Furlong (Francis).

Local 21, Longview: Daroles Ash- burn (Warren); Local 23, Tacoma: Mauritie Bergman (Leonard); June E. Best (Timothy); Local 49, Aberdeen: Lucine J. Windisch (Fre- derick); Local 54, San Francisco: Raye F. Johnson (John); Local 50, King County: A. Raggio (William); Local 56, Auburn: Astoria Christina Zoske (Dick A.); Local 52, Seattle: Elizabeth Kaul (Minton); Local 63, Wilmington: Vivian Chavez Larkin (Kenneth).

Names in brackets are those of late husband.

W.W. “Bill” Fairbanks, Seattle pension club officer

By DICK MOORK

W.W. “Bill” Fairbanks, secretary-treasurer of the Seattle Pension Club and a longtime ILWU stalwart, passed away in his sleep on the morning of June 21.

Bill joined ILWU warehouse Local 6 in the 1930s and worked out of that local on the San Francisco waterfront for several years. Eventually, he moved to the Puget Sound area, where he worked on the Seattle waterfront and later met his wife, Thelma. They married in 1950. Realizing where their bread was buttered, Bill and Thelma became deeply involved in the ILWU, Bill in Local 19 and Thelma in Auxiliary 4.

Bill’s death leaves a tremendous void in his and Thelma’s quite large extended family of natural and adopted children, in the Seattle pensioners club, and in the community.

However, as a living legacy, Bill’s widow Thelma is honoring his request to send any memorabilia to the Harry Bridges Chair for Labor Studies at the University of Washington 4544-11th NE, Seattle, WA 98105.
In unions we’ll prosper, the evidence shows

By DAVID MORRIS

The United States now has the dubious distinction of being the most anti-union of all industrialized countries. The economic restructuring of the work force that bargains collectively with management has plummeted from 30 percent in the mid 1960s to 12 percent in 1990.

At this long, long decade’s end, private sector unions will be just a memory. Many Americans, counseled by the business community and the White House might say good riddance. No unions means higher productivity, more innovation, greater competitiveness. Right?

Wrong. “The most competitive national economics,” a recent Harvard Business Review article concludes, “are far higher levels of unionization than in the United States.” Our competitors know a good thing when they see it, and they are plenty of them.

There’s Wayne Ctrya, the family farmer who defied the government and went to jail to protect his and other farmers’ soybean crop from confiscation. There’s Diane Wilson, who’s under attack from big chemical companies and her own neighbors for trying to save the Gulf of Mexico fishing industry from pollution. And there’s more.

Political humorist Will Durst hosts the program which also features MacNeil-Lehrer News anchor Charyline Hunter-Gault, Texas populist commentator Jim Hightower and musician and filmaker Reed Fromer.

Over 100 PBS stations will carry the show, but not all air times were available when we went to press. Check your local listings. In the meantime, here’s a partial schedule: San Francisco, KQED-Channel 9, Monday, September 6, 9 p.m.; San Mateo, KCSM-Channel 60, Saturday, September 4, 11 a.m.; We Do The Work Mara- thon, commercial time, Saturday, September 4, 3 p.m.

Public tv station to run Labor Day marathon

KQED-Channel 9, San Francisco, will air labor programs all day long on Labor Day, Monday, September 6. Here’s the lineup:

11 a.m., We Do The Work Marath- on: Past episodes from labor’s own tv show, the drywallers strike in Los Angeles; homeless workers; the UMW/Pittston Coal dispute; on the job discrimination; and more.

7 p.m., Working in the 90s: A one-hour program about the effects of economic restructuring on the work environment.

8 p.m., Harry Bridges: A Man and His Union: The controversial founder and longtime president of the ILWU talks about the events leading up to the West Coast Work Day Special: The focus is on working “Heroes” and there are plenty of them.

9 p.m., We Do The Work Work Day Special: The focus is on working “Heroes” and there are plenty of them. Brings to mind the book Whiter Feather and the Rise of the UAW: A documentary about the early challenges of auto workers and their leader.

At this rate, by decade’s end, private sector unions will be just a memory. Many Americans, counseled by the business community and the White House might say good riddance. No unions means higher productivity, more innovation, greater competitiveness. Right?

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Political humorist Will Durst hosts the program which also features MacNeil-Lehrer News anchor Charyline Hunter-Gault, Texas populist commentator Jim Hightower and musician and filmaker Reed Fromer.

Over 100 PBS stations will carry the show, but not all air times were available when we went to press. Check your local listings. In the meantime, here’s a partial schedule: San Francisco, KQED-Channel 9, Monday, September 6, 9 p.m.; San Mateo, KCSM-Channel 60, Saturday, September 4, 11 a.m.; We Do The Work Mar athon, commercial time, Saturday, September 4, 3 p.m.

Public tv station to run Labor Day marathon

KQED-Channel 9, San Francisco, will air labor programs all day long on Labor Day, Monday, September 6. Here’s the lineup:

11 a.m., We Do The Work Marath- on: Past episodes from labor’s own tv show, the drywallers strike in Los Angeles; homeless workers; the UMW/Pittston Coal dispute; on the job discrimination; and more.

7 p.m., Working in the 90s: A one-hour program about the effects of economic restructuring on the work environment.

8 p.m., Harry Bridges: A Man and His Union: The controversial founder and longtime president of the ILWU talks about the events leading up to the West Coast Work Day Special: The focus is on working “Heroes” and there are plenty of them. Brings to mind the book Whiter Feather and the Rise of the UAW: A documentary about the early challenges of auto workers and their leader.

In the United States now has the dubious distinction of being the most anti-union of all industrialized countries. The economic restructuring of the work force that bargains collectively with management has plummeted from 30 percent in the mid 1960s to 12 percent in 1990.

At this long, long decade’s end, private sector unions will be just a memory. Many Americans, counseled by the business community and the White House might say good riddance. No unions means higher productivity, more innovation, greater competitiveness. Right?

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Peavey Declares War on ILWU

Union files charges with NLRB

SAN FRANCISCO—ILWU attorneys, on behalf of longshore Local 21 and ILWU longshoremen, have filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board early this month alleging that Peavey Company, Inc., and ConAgra, Inc., is engaging in unfair labor practices. “Peavey and ConAgra have declared war on the ILWU,” said International President David Arain. “They don’t want to bargain, they want to browbeat.”

GUTTING THE WORK FORCE

Peavey, the union charges, has refused to bargain “in good faith” over wages and working conditions at its Kalama, Washington, grain elevator, and has unilaterally imposed standards of its own and terminated at least half the longshore work force—all in violation of federal labor laws.

Implementing its own contract July 19, the company immediately set about to disrupt, intimidate and even terrorize its employees. Management has installed video cameras at the work site, bussed in and billeted scabs, and threatened to fire workers across the picket lines—even though none have been established.

“Those actions were completely unprovoked by the ILWU,” said Arain. “We’ve made every attempt to be reasonable, even when Peavey wouldn’t budge in negotiations. Apparently management,” Arian concluded, “but, unprovoked by the ILWU,” said Arian.

Video cameras at the work site, bussed scabs to terrorize its employees. Management has installed security guards and standard conditions of its own and unilaterally imposed substantial reductions in personnel and terms without disciplined negotiations. It seems fairly safe to conclude that company intentions, especially if the proponents of fair contract to compromise.

“We can understand normal, adversarial behavior from management,” Arian concluded, “but, this time, Peavey has crossed the line.”

The Mexico Connection

In a recent interview with Pacific Slipper, Peavey spokesperson Gary Austin said, “Mexico is a major labor market for American longshores; to do business with them is a necessary tool for survival.”

According to the August 4 testimony of Federal Grain Inspection Service acting administrator David E. Gallant before a joint hearing of two House agriculture subcommittees, federal law requires that “almost all grain exported from the United States must be officially weighed and inspected, unless it is exported by grain or truck to Canada or Mexico” (emphasis added).

To what extent Peavey will go to great lengths to continue to do this is not known. It seems fairly safe to conclude, however, that any serious effort to expose this operation could have debilitating effects on the repu-

tation of the company. Consequently, the workers, farmers, communities and industries that rely on it to survive.

Protest—or victory rally—really scheduled

ILWU rank-and-file and officials will gather in Kalama, Wash., August 28 to protest or party or both.

At the press conference, a demonstration and march was being planned by longshore Local 21 and clerks Local 40 over Peavey Grain Company’s unilateral implementation of a sub-standard contract proposal and unfair retaliation against ILWU members.

Union officials, however, continue to hope that Peavey will come to its senses and avoid a fair and reasonable agreement with the ILWU.

“We will either be a protest rally or a victory rally,” said Peavey. “If the company reneges or agrees to proposed North American Free Trade Agreement means, the statement raises questions about the company’s actions against the ILWU. “In Mexico, they use one to water and the US becomes law. The Paulina facility handles pre-

pared cargo across the Pacific, while Peavey’s facilities: $1,512,000 in rail and $2,000,000 in ocean, $3,400,000 in vessel leases, fuel and other related expenses.

The “bottom line,” according to Coast Committee member Rich Austin is: “If it’s so much cheaper to ship “wet” to overseas companies, “They ship the grain wet, sear the vessel, and it sits there for about 15 days across the Pacific in sweltering heat, growing mold, germs...some of it spoils. The foreign importers complain about this all the time,” the source said.

The Department also learned from another source that Peavey pays customers over $2 million per year to grain from farmers “dry,” then sells it “wet” to overseas companies. “They ship the grain wet, seal the vessel, and it sits there for about 15 days across the Pacific in sweltering heat, growing mold, germs...some of it spoils. The foreign importers complain about this all the time,” the source said.

Feds seek watering ban

On the heels of its controversial investigation of Peavey, the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) of the US Department of Agriculture announced August 4 that it wants a rule that would ban Peavey and other companies from adding water to grain. Peavey and parent company, ConAgra, say they are only using the water to control grain dust which poses a health hazard to workers; they continue, however, to deny the press access to the facility to observe the watering system.

The company also continues to deny that Kalama was even under investigation, a contention that has been dispelled by USDA deputy assistant inspector general Richard Allen. A report of the investigation has been forwarded to the US Attorney general who is considering whether to prosecute criminal charges against top company executives.