Canada dockers strike!

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—3,500 Canadian ILWU dockworkers were forced back to work after a 13-day strike that effectively shut down the country’s seven main western ports.

The government passed legislation barring a strike or lockout, and on Feb. 9 ordered final arbitration of the longshore contract. The dockworkers will continue to work under the old contract, which expired Dec. 31, 1992.

The employers and the union were ordered to choose an arbitrator within a week or the government would appoint one. In a final round of “poker,” each side will submit sealed proposals and the arbitrator must choose one. No modifications are allowed.

Until the government stepped in, as it has in four previous lockouts and strikes, tremendous solidarity had completely shut down cargo movements in western Canada. The strike was costing shipping companies an estimated $15 million a day as grain elevators filled to capacity, trains backed up and container ships diverted to U.S. ports.

The ILWU had agreed to major changes in shifts and working conditions in return for wage increases. But the employers’ last offer fell 10 cents an hour short of the ILWU proposed 75 cents an hour increase in each of the contract’s first two years.

The strike began when longshoremen at the lumber port of Chemainus went out in protest the next day. They were forced back to work after a 13-day lockout. All the ILWU ports were forced back to work after a 13-day strike that effectively shut down the country’s seven main western ports.

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Longshore caucus debates new directions for ILWU

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

"No man has ever been born a Negro hater, a Jew hater, or any other kind of hater. Nature refuses to be involved in such suicidal practices."

—Harry Bridges
The right to dissent

By DAVID ARIAN, ILWU International President

On Jan. 29-30, I was at the University of Washington for the dedication of a new Harry Bridges bust. The university’s Harry Bridges Chair, which was formed over two years ago with contributions of $1.3 million—mostly from pensioners, old-timers and members—has already brought rewards.

After the dedication of the bust, Prof. David Olson, who sits in the chair, addressed a seminar on “The Tradition of Dissent in the ILWU.” The speakers list was impressive, with Nikki Bridges, Prof. Robert Cherney of San Francisco State University, pensioners board member Jesse Shanahan and others.

It was interesting to hear the long history, not only of the ILWU as a dissenting voice within the American labor movement, but of the right of individual members to dissent within the union itself.

The conclusion was that, on a national level, Harry and the ILWU challenged the basic inequalities of American capitalist system and its treatment of workers.

On a union level, the program concluded that internal dissent has always been acceptable part of the ILWU structure. I personally came out of this tradition in 25 years on the waterfront in southern California. I came to this time after challenging the international and local leadership over the direction of the ILWU. In fact, at the last Convention, myself and Luisa Gratz of warehouse Local 15—members in December filed a minority report on the ILWU’s activities.

A recent example of the type of constructive dissent I support is the formation of the African-American Longshore Coalition, which is beginning to examine perceptions and realities of discrimination in the union. The coalition formed to ensure democracy, job security and fair treatment of all.

The Teamster’s seminar ended the debate and everyone was happy to return to the negotiating table.

A local Republican congressman tried to find the Labor Department to mediate the dispute.

Walking tour of The City tells Bridges, ILWU story

A one-hour walking tour of the statues and murals in the neighborhood of the Justin Herman Plaza at the foot of Market Street in San Francisco is conducted each Sunday at 1 p.m. by poet-historian Peter Gariland.

The tour features a Harry Bridges, the ILWU, the Big Strike and other stories of San Francisco’s rich history.

The tour starts in front of the Ferry Building—look forth, scan in the gauchito hat. The cost is $1. For more information, call Gariland at (510) 623-1988.

Black history in March

Because of early deadlines this month, reports on the various Black History month activities of ILWU branches throughout the country, such as the celebration in Tacoma, will be included in the March issue. Please mail any such written material and photographs to our offices by Feb. 28 for publication.

DISPATCHER

February 15, 1994

U.S. ends 18-year-old Vietnam embargo

The 18-year-old embargo against Vietnam was lifted by President Bush on Jan. 29, unleashing a flood of investment.

The embargo, instituted against the Vietnam movement during the Vietnam War in 1975, has cost U.S. firms an estimated $1.5 billion in potential orders. The country has a population of 70 million and is expected to be one of the fastest growing markets in Southeast Asia.

The embargo was an issue in the debate over an ILWU membershhip delegation last summer to the Far East in support of workers in that country. A group of veterans objected to the trip, pointing to the embargo and the MIA/POW issue.

The ILWU formed a veterans’ advisory committee, but reaffirmed its policy of meeting with workers in other countries, regardless of national governments. A recent news story reported that Soviet Jews were purging the union to establish the missing servicemen were false.

For more information, call Gary Zeller at (510) 523-1988.

‘Going into the Convention, think it is important to state a position on—not only the right of dissent—but the responsibility of dissent.’

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Congress is beginning the arduous task of one of the most important issues of our time—national health care reform. Even the most conservative members of Congress agree that health care reform is a problem in our health care system, so that the question is not whether or not reform is in the national interest, and what kind of reform can pass?

Even the most conservative members know that union has a long-standing position that national health insurance is the answer to the economic and social problems of the new age. That position is focused on elaborate economic models of "managed competition" proposals offered by President Clinton and Rep. Jim Cooper (D-TN), while the nation continues to suffer. 

Wartime, the people in the halls of Congress can be very telling of the turn this legislation will take. More than 40 young people in the White House that the AFL-CIO needs to be in the interest of the rank and file. When I came to work at the A-rights organization in the labor movement and it would be another criterion that the labor movement had failed to live up to its potential. This intelligent and articulate advocate for reformism has been a leader in the labor movement and it would be another criterion that the labor movement had failed to live up to its potential. 

The stories of the '34 strike captivated me. I also admired the ILWU for not succumbing to the Red Scare after World War II, while other unions across the country joined the chorus of paranoia. Then and now, the ILWU distinguishes itself as a union where the rank-and-file have a voice, and where the leadership is held accountable to the membership. These characteristics make it a rare and invaluable asset.

The last tool, and perhaps the most powerful, was the truth. I don't think I could have become a union patriot, or even a union leader, without that corporate agenda doesn't hold the solutions to our nation's problems. Free trade, deregulation, incentives, labor-management "cooperation": Often the corporate agenda is tailor-made for policies that make the rich even richer. Labor unions are among the few organizations that are built on the principle of standing up for the people who have borne the brunt of economic misfortune. 

"Labor unionism has to be in the interest of the American, regardless of his/her ability to pay, would have equal opportunity to the same high-quality health care. On the other hand, to have a "managed competition" plan creates tiers of health care for different income levels, and another tier for those who would be forced into a managed care facility for even more limited medical needs. "Managed competition" perpetuates the "gossip" that we are not only sick by insurance companies and others. "Single-payer" allows one to have a more comprehensive plan of this cost of health care.

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In the '90s, unmitigated class war waged by business sectors has intensified, and become increasingly common. The growing wealth and affluence of the new elite sectors is quite as substantial as is the mounting despair and anger outside privileged circles.

MOST LEFT OUT

It's no wonder that the people of Chiapas, nearly half of whose population is land poor, fear the effects of the “new Mexico.” Although Chiapas' resources are central to the U.S. maquiladora supply network, the state's poorest and most land deprived—hundreds of thousands of whom are landless—have been overlooked.

For example, Chiapas' southern state, Tabasco, produce 80 percent of Mexico's offshore oil, yet 80 percent of the people of the state live below the poverty line. Chiapas accounts for 50 percent of the country's electric power, yet half of the population has no access to drinking water or electricity. The state's dairy and beef industry make Chiapas the country's biggest provider of protein, yet residents have the largest protein deficiency.

The Indian peasants are the most aggrieved victims of government policies. But their dual identity as workers in the maquiladoras and people in the remote villages is not a result of the economic reforms. Anyone who has the opportunity to be in contact with the millions of Mexicans who live in extreme poverty knows that we are being subjected to the same pressures. Pilar Valdez observes.

This is their first experience of economic reform, the number of people in rural areas of Mexico living in extreme poverty has increased by almost a third. Half of the country's total resources are necessary to meet basic needs, a dramatic increase since 1980.

Following the World Bank's International Monetary Fund's advice, agricultural production was shifted to export and animal feed—a policy that benefited agribusiness, foreign consumers and the polluters in the U.S. In the country, the general malnutrition became a major health problem, agricultural employment decreased, and private companies began to import massive amounts of food. Real wages in manufacturing fell sharply. Labor's share of Mexico's gross domestic product had risen during the mid-'70s, has since declined by well over a third.

The Mexican secretary of commerce had failed the医疗服务 as an inducement to foreign investment. And with an inducement, along with Mexico's repression of labor, anti-environmental regulations and the general orientation of social policy to the desires of the privileged minorities. Such policies are centrally welcomed by the manufacturing firms and financial institutions that, with the assistance of the maquiladoras, are able to implement.

The internationalization of production provided multinational corporations with new weapons to undermine working people in the West... There are many factors driving global society toward a low-wage, low-growth, high-profit future, with increasing polarization and social disintegration. The concept of “efficiency,” as defined by those of wealth and privilege, offers nothing to the growing sectors of the population that are used to personal freedom and thus have been driven to poverty and despair. If they cannot be driven off the land, they will have to be controlled in some other way.

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Meanwhile, private power demands and receives protection from government. Mexico's pet industry is quite appropriate for President Clinton, at the Seattle Asia-Pacific summit, to offer as his model for trade negotiations. It was quite appropriate for President Clinton, at the Seattle Asia-Pacific summit, to offer as his model for trade negotiations. It was quite appropriate for President Clinton, at the Seattle Asia-Pacific summit, to offer as his model for trade negotiations. Without an independent political base and a strong labor movement, it would not be the country's leading exporter—or the source of the huge public subsidy from the Pentagon it has always received. The protest of Indian peasants in Chiapas goes on, and the political elite is locked in a kind of ideological purgatory, not only in Mexico but throughout the world.

Adapted from an article that appeared in In These Times, February 25, 1994. For a one-year subscription to the twice-monthly progressive magazine, send $34.95 to ITT, 2040 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60647.
Asian women use new tactics to challenge garment contractors

BY SUZANNE FORSYTH DORAN

When the Lucky Sewing Co. in Oakland closed in 1991, checks totalling 12 percent of its former garment workers bounced. Lucky promised to make good on the checks, but the women later found out the company had filed for bankruptcy.

The designer dresses the women had sewn were hanging on the racks at the exclusive boutiques of Jessica McClintock, one of the top 10 designers in California and the fifth-largest in San Francisco. Lucky, as McClintock's subcontractor, had gotten paid, but the women who had labored as long as 12 hours a day, six days a week, were left unemployed with months of lost wages.

The women approached Asian Immigrant Women Advocates (AIWA) for help. AIWA was founded in 1983 at the suggestion of San Francisco hotel workers who saw a need to strengthen the ties between unions and the predominantly Asian and immigrant workers employed in the electronic, garment and nursing aides industries.

$5 OF EACH $75 DRESS

AIWA asked McClintock to accept responsibility for the women's lost wages and pay $2,000 of the $75 for each affected check. McClintock sold her dresses for an average of $75 each. Of that, $175, about $80 to the subcontractors, who in turn pay about $5 to the women who sewed.

McClintock, who reportedly grossed $145 million last year, refused to repay the garment workers. But when five of the women signed the agreement, another seven declined the offer because they felt the retailer's responsibility was the precedent-setting issue at stake.

Although AIWA is continuing its campaign until McClintock concede ultimate responsibility for back wages, the offer is a sign that organizations outside the traditional union structure can play an effective role in challenging employers. 

VARIETY OF TACTICS

Using a variety of tactics, such as store boycotts and informational pickets, newspaper ads, media coverage, solidarity rallies across the country, political and legal action, AIWA brought enough pressure to bear on McClintock for one industry official to declare a "state of siege" in the northern California garment industry.

The group won boycott endorsements from the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, and the Berkeley City Council, which vowed to investigate violations in the local garment factories.

BAY AREA NO. 3 GARMENb CENTER

Creative strategies and tactics are necessary to combat the ability of employers to force down wages and working conditions through maneuvers like those that are common in the garment industry. Apparel retailers use subcontractors to isolate themselves from industry's illegal, unethical and immoral practices.

Large-name clothing manufacturers pit small contractors against each other to bid for jobs usually at or below contract prices. The only way the contractors can survive is to pay far below the minimum wage, and skimp on overhead.

The Bay Area is the third-largest garment center, with crowded shops in San Francisco and Oakland's Chinatown, behind New York and Los Angeles. According to the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU), there are about 20,000 garment workers in the Bay Area. Only 10 percent belong to unions.

The vast majority work in small shops that rely on immigrant labor, primarily from Mexico and Latina women, many of whom speak little or no English and are never informed of the laws governing hours, minimum wages and overtime. Those who do question the status quo are often blacklisted. They face a variety of injuries, pains and health problems from the relentless pace of work.

For more information contact: Asian Immigrant Women Advocates (AIWA), 310 Eighth Street, #311, Oakland, CA 94607, (510) 268-0192.
Mike Samaduroff traveled with historic Soviet Union delegation, served Local 10 for 40 years

Mike Samaduroff was one of Local 10’s most durable leaders, elected to represent his Bay Area longshoremen for more than 20 years in the hall, at conventions and caucuses, and in political activity.

Retirement, and even illness in later years, did little to slow Samaduroff, as he served an uninterrupted term of 17 years as secretary-treasurer of the Bay Area Pensioners Club.

“That’s his first love: The waterfront and the union,” said his wife of 55 years, Virginia Samaduroff.

Mike Samaduroff died on Dec. 5, 1993, at age 77, from complications related to diabetes, his wife said. He was laid to rest at the Holy Cross Cemetery.

Russia is where Samaduroff grew up on Potrero Hill in San Francisco, where his family moved after leaving Russia in the late 1920s. His lifelong friend and Local 10 brother, Peter Dorskoff, remembers his mother describing the hardships of life in the Russia under the czar.

An uncle who had been to America told his parents “the streets were paved with gold.”

“A what a crock that was,” Dorskoff said.

Both of the men’s parents, who belonged to the Molochan church—an offshoot of Russian Orthodoxy—emigrated to California together. Samaduroff’s parents opened a bakery in the growing “White Russian” community on Potrero Hill in, where Mike learned to bake and his brother, Max, drove the delivery truck.

One of Samaduroff’s heroes was Frank Lenihan, who had emigrated in a 1982 issue of The Dispatcher as the “greatest president we ever had. He helped everybody out. He helped the poor. Roosevelt put people to work instead of what’s going on now.”

WIFE IN LOCAL 6 WAREHOUSES

Samaduroff met his future wife, Virginia Marten, who lived four blocks away, when she mistook him for his brother. It was his first girlfriend, and the two were married in 1946.

In 1947, Samaduroff joined the ILWU as an active ILWU member, working in Local 6 warehouses beginning in 1943.

With the help of a brother-in-law who was a longshoreman, Samaduroff began working on the waterfront in 1935. After WWII, when Samaduroff served in the Navy, he returned to the waterfront.

Local 10 was on the lookout for athletes to strengthen their sports teams, and Samaduroff was an obvious catcher, friends said. The local also registered Dorskoff, known then as “Hollywood Pete” because of his fondness for rubbing elbows with the movie stars, friends said.

Before long, Samaduroff was running for local office. He was elected dispatcher in 1952 on his first try, and also served on the executive board.

The election was the start of a long career as a Local 10 official, eventually leading to the key post of chief dispatcher.

“NEVER LOST AN ELECTION

“He never lost an election because he was an honest man,” said Dorskoff, who served with him from 1946-74 in many of the same offices. He was a stickler for the rules, said those who knew him.

Samaduroff was known as a quiet, private man. His wife didn’t know who he was running for office the first time.

He was also generous. “He was never giving out food to people,” she said. “I was working and we never seemed to get ahead. He was always giving. He never had anyone, We had said union activities were a way for working-class people of his generation, who had limited formal education, to ‘make themselves known.’”

“He loved dispatching the most because he was amongst the men,” she said.

The thousands of hours calling out longshoremen’s numbers for work assignments made its mark on his memory, his wife said. When longines would call, he often wouldn’t recognize their name until they gave their book number.

TRAVELED TO SOVIET UNION

Samaduroff was chief dispatcher in 1959 when Soviet leader Nikita Khruushchev was warmly received by 500 longshoremen at the ILWU’s new Local 10 hall in San Francisco, United States. Samaduroff helped translate and explain how the dispatch hall worked.

One month later—after six weeks of Russian lessons—Samaduroff was winging his way to his parents’ homeland at the height of the Cold War. The ILWU was the first official group of American unionists to visit the Communist country since 1945, and would be the only one for some time to follow.

The AFL-CIO, of which the ILWU was not a member at the time, had a policy against such trips.

The delegation met briefly with workers in then-Communist Czechoslovakia before spending two weeks in the Soviet Union touring docks and meeting with workers and government officials.

The three-man delegation urged “extended exchange of trade union delegations as a major means of improving relations between the two countries,” according to an article in the Dec. 4, 1959 Dispatcher.

The history of the 17-day tour during the last time when the delegation got an audience with Krushchev for an hour to discuss labor, politics and economics.

On their return, the delegation held a press conference and was widely quoted on Soviet matters in the media.

“That was the highlight of his life,” Virginia Samaduroff said. “Some of the Russians in their neighborhood thought it was terrible that he was going, some thought it was wonderful. ‘They found out they (Communists) are just like us,’ They are struggling to make a better life and are using a tool everyone understood that, however, and Russians like Samaduroff endured unwarranted suspicion on the docks during the Red Scare,” she said.

PENSIONERS FOR 17 YEARS

In 1953, he won his first election as a convention/caucus delegate. He served on the union’s political action arm, the Northern California District Council, throughout the ’50s and ’60s.

In 1965, he served one term as Local 10 secretary-treasurer.

Samaduroff was an avid ballroom dancer, and next to the Soviet trip, the highlight of his life was being named local president of the ILWU at an ILWU Valentine’s Day party, his wife said.

“JUST DANCING

“I have to tell you, I got the first and last dance,” she said. “One lady asked me ‘How can you stand it?’ I told her ‘As long as he’s dancing, I know he’s not doing anything else.’”

After Samaduroff retired, he was elected secretary-treasurer of the Bay Area Pensioners in 1976. He was reelected to that position every year until his death, said Joe Mosley, president of that group. Samaduroff was constantly helping pensioners in the Bay Area who called up every day needing assistance, he said.

Samaduroff stayed active in longshore and ILWU international affairs, even though he was slowed by a stroke and diabetes, which eventually claimed one of his legs. He attended most, if not all, conventions and caucuses as a fraternal delegate, records indicate. He was active on seniors issues, attending the Congress for CaliforniaSeniors in 1977, and was a member of the Old Timers Baseball Association.

“You couldn’t work with a finer fellow,” Mosley said. “I worked with him when he was breaking into the docks—just two regular old friends. He was a good union man and a good contract man.”

Softball tournament ‘on the Delta’ in

STOCKTON, Ca.—ILWU Locals 54 and 91 are holding their annual ILWU softball tournament on Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1, 1994. The softball complex is Louis Park, along the river. This park has plenty of shaded picnic areas and easy access on and off I-5 freeway, with many motels nearby.

An early response is requested for this tournament, which is dedicated to the memory of Charlie Foreman former member of Locals 54 and 91. Teams may contact Danny Carseo at Local 54, phone: (209) 464-1827 or Ralph Edalgo at Local 91, phone (209) 831-1900. The union’s address is 22 North Union Street, Stockton, California 95206.

Dockers, widows on pension list

SAN FRANCISCO—Following is the February, 1994 listing of dockers retired under various ILWU-PM pension plans:


* The widows are: Local 10, San Francisco: Dorothy Atkins (Jimenez); Kathiernn Barnderr (Frank); Harriett Daggs (George); Jennie Gomez (Antone); Evelyn Mignaccio (Jimenez); Catherine M. Peterson; Local 13, Wilmington: Virginia Fasani (Luigi); Local 19, Seattle: Sallie E. Wolcoff (George); Local 23, Tacoma: Sue Sanders (Robert); Local 32, Everett: Pearl E. Stevens (Ivan); Local 34, San Francisco: Kathryn L. Park (Charles); Local 52, Seattle: Emile Dupont (Spence); Local 54, Stockton: Minnie Bethen (Liston).

* Names in brackets are deceased husbands.

Frank J. Tailluer; Local 29, San Diego: Alfred Pacheco; Local 34, San Francisco: Earl J. Cava, Lewis E. Gibbons; Local 52, Robert L. Bumpus, Robert C. Delley; Local 54, Stockton: Daniel G. Dolesa; Local 63, Wilmington: Richard H. Baker, Fernando F. Mosqueda, Kathryn L. Park right along the river. This park has plenty of shaded picnic areas and easy access on and off 1-5 freeway, with many motels nearby.

An early response is requested for this tournament, which is dedicated to the memory of Charlie Foreman former member of Locals 54 and 91. Teams may contact Danny Carseo at Local 54, phone: (209) 464-1827 or Ralph Edalgo at Local 91, phone (209) 831-1900. The union’s address is 22 North Union Street, Stockton, California 95206.
Local 502, New Westminster
President, Brian Ringrose; vice-president, Chris MacDonald; secretary-treasurer, Wilf Delenger; business agent, Cheryl Costello; dispatchers, Dave Powell.

Local 503, Port Alberni
President, Larry Mannix; vice-president, George Kootenkov; second vice-president, John McGahern; secretary-treasurer/dispatcher, Howard Old; second dispatcher, Clare Nordmann.

Local 504, Victoria
President, Cliff Rabey; vice-president, Fred Hartley; secretary-treasurer/dispatcher, Steve Hendry.

Local 505, Prince Rupert
President, Wally Robinson; vice-president, Barry Blythe; business agent, Tom Cunningham; secretary-treasurer/dispatcher, Ken MacLean.

Local 508, Chemainus
President, Al Russell; first vice-president, Brian Dishkin; second vice-president, Mike O'Shea; secretary-treasurer/dispatcher, first dispatcher, Gary Middlemiss; second dispatcher, Doug Wright.

Local 514, Vancouver
The Foremen's election results were: Tom Wible, Doug Sigurd; first vice-president, Bill Beck; second vice-president, Bill Beck; second secretary, Dave Thom; third vice-president, Stuart Instace; secretary-treasurer, Howie Smith.

Local 516, Vancouver
President, Mike Gorman; vice-president, Victor Johnson; second vice-president, Betty Pervezov; financial secretary, Brenda Woods.

Local 518, Vancouver
The Testers & Surveyors election results were: President, Wayne Leslie; vice-president, Marion Chorney; secretary-treasurer, Dave Cochrane.

Local 519, Stewart
President, Dave White.

Local 520, Vancouver
The Pilotage election results were: President, Laura Johnston; first vice-president, Gary Tupper.

NORTHWEST
Local 501, Seattle
President, Dick Moork; vice-president, Victor Celli; second vice-president, Steve Conover; secretary, Frank Whitman; treasurer, Wendy Bush.

Local 502, Seattle
President, William Barnes; vice-president, Bob Ryder; secretary-treasurer, Terri Mast.

Second District:
Regional director, John Shea; first vice-chairman, Al Russell; second vice-chairman, John Peterson; master-at-arms, Marcus Magana; organizer, David Day; steward, Steve Mueller-Dombois, Newell Robison, Marcus Magana; executive committee—Nick Blazevich, Richard Stewart and Davina French.

The enclosed letter arrived at our offices today, just in time for Christmas. I wanted to do something to help make a better life for workers all over the world. I enrolled in the Univ. of Washington's School for International Training to learn how the peace system in the world operates, and how I might best work to change it.

I come to you with faith in my view that the power to change things lies with the working class. I went to every professor and read every book I could find to get information about workers' movements around the world and labor history. I was getting very frustrated with the total lack of guidance from professors. Most of the classes left out of the picture almost completely.

I couldn't believe my great fortune when I read in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer about the Harry Bridges Chair. I called Prof. Olson immediately and took all the classes at the Labor Center. I want you to know how important the Bridges Chair is to someone like me. And, as you must realize, the need for young people to learn about labor is immense. What you are doing is so important in this day and age.

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Local 522, Seattle
President, Tim McNamee; vice-president, Lila Smith; recording secretary, Darlene Allman; secretary-treasurer/dispatcher, Ken MacLean.

Local 523, Seattle
President, Robert E. Montgomery; vice-president, Ken Connell; secretary-treasurer/dispatcher, Darrell Hallquist.

President, Larry Mannix; vice-president, George Kootenkov; second vice-president, John McGahern; secretary-treasurer/dispatcher, Howard Old; second dispatcher, Clare Nordmann.

Local 504, Victoria
President, Cliff Rabey; vice-president, Fred Hartley; secretary-treasurer/dispatcher, Steve Hendry.

Local 505, Prince Rupert
President, Wally Robinson; vice-president, Barry Blythe; business agent, Tom Cunningham; secretary-treasurer/dispatcher, Ken MacLean.

Local 508, Chemainus
President, Al Russell; first vice-president, Brian Dishkin; second vice-president, Mike O'Shea; secretary-treasurer/dispatcher, first dispatcher, Gary Middlemiss; second dispatcher, Doug Wright.

Local 514, Vancouver
The Foremen's election results were: Tom Wible, Doug Sigurd; first vice-president, Bill Beck; second vice-president, Bill Beck; second secretary, Dave Thom; third vice-president, Stuart Instace; secretary-treasurer, Howie Smith.

Local 516, Vancouver
President, Mike Gorman; vice-president, Victor Johnson; second vice-president, Betty Pervezov; financial secretary, Brenda Woods.

Local 518, Vancouver
The Testers & Surveyors election results were: President, Wayne Leslie; vice-president, Marion Chorney; secretary-treasurer, Dave Cochrane.

Local 519, Stewart
President, Dave White.

Local 520, Vancouver
The Pilotage election results were: President, Laura Johnston; first vice-president, Gary Tupper.

NORTHWEST
Local 501, Seattle
President, Dick Moork; vice-president, Victor Celli; second vice-president, Steve Conover; secretary, Frank Whitman; treasurer, Wendy Bush.

Local 502, Seattle
President, William Barnes; vice-president, Bob Ryder; secretary-treasurer, Terri Mast.

Second District:
Regional director, John Shea; first vice-chairman, Al Russell; second vice-chairman, John Peterson; master-at-arms, Marcus Magana; organizer, David Day; steward, Steve Mueller-Dombois, Newell Robison, Marcus Magana; executive committee—Nick Blazevich, Richard Stewart and Davina French.

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NAFTA lights fuse on time bomb in Chiapas
BY NOAM CHOMSKY

The New Year’s Day uprising of Indian peasants in Chiapas, op- posite the enactment of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), tore the facade off the new Mexico that government and business leaders have been trying to sell to the world. The Zapata army called NAFTA “a death sentence” for Indians, a gift to the rich that will deepen the divide between Indian peasants and mass misery, destroying what remains of their indigenous society. The NAFTA connection is partly sym- bolic; the problems are far deeper. “We are at the beginning of a much longer process of attack on the quality of life in Mexico,” the Zapatista “declaration of war” stated. The struggle today is “for work, land, housing, food, health care, education, independence, freedom, democracy and peace.”

The estimated 2,000 armed rebels of Chiapas tapped into an indigenous discontent vast enough to galvanize half a millennium, is firmly rooted in more recent dramatic changes in the global economy. Over the past quarter-century, finan- cial capital has become increas- ingly unregulated, and there has been a concomitant shift from long-term in- vestment and trade, to speculation. Governments have been compelled to preserve market practices as economies toward what Cambridge University economist John Eatwell calls “a low-growth, high-unemploy- ment equilibrium,” with declining real wages, increasing poverty and increasing inequality for the many, and booming markets and profits for the few. On a parallel track, the process of internationalization of production provided multinational corporations with new weapons to undermine working people in the West. Those workers must now accept an end to their “luxurious” lifestyles and agree to “flexibility of labor markets” (i.e., not knowing whether you have a job tomorrow). The return of most of Eastern Europe to its Third World origins enhances those prospects considerably.

The attack on worker rights, social standards and fundamental democracy reflects this new economic order, as does the current recovery in the United States—the first one in which wages and incomes for the majority have failed to rise, while the gap between the rich and the poor has widened. The research and development for “export trade,” by which I mean trade in services (which are by definition non-tradable), rather than goods, is based on the exploi- tation of Third World countries, not on productivity gains, as a traditional economy would. The result is a new kind of “export trade” based on the exploitation of the poor and the working poor.

Docks unions in Mexico ports

The Mexican government liquidated all dock workers unions at 10 government-owned ports as part of a plan to privatize the ports, lower wages and shrink the workforce. The Journal of Commerce reported, “The government promised to buy out union contracts, putting an end to union strongholds on stevedor- ing at the most important waterfront. The disbanded dockworker unions can reorganize as a private company in return for the many, and booming markets and profits for the few.

The union sector has been a key to divert intermodal cargo out of U.S. ports in Houston and southern California. Shipping companies hope to use the smaller crews and lower wages at Mexican ports to force costs down at U.S. ports like Los Ange- les and Long Beach, where the ILWU represents dockworkers. Mexico held ceremonies this week at the Pacific Coast Port of Manzanillo and the Gulf of Mexico Port of Veracruz, the country’s two busiest container ports, to unveil the private company taking over the ports. In 1991, the government sent troops into the union with only the intervention of Veracruz to bust the union, slashing wages from $8 an hour to $1 an hour.

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