The ILWU’s history won’t be told unless we tell it; contribute to the education of the next generation

The Harry Bridges Institute will be established on the support of rank- and-file ILWU members, pensioners and working people. There is no one else who will support an institute to teach people our history, the way we want it taught.

Is the U.S. government going to teach people about the need to pass on the ILWU’s rich history to a new generation of workers, the institute has created the Charter Contributor Program.

Institute say they feel no one else who will support an institution to teach people our history for us. They haven’t done it, and won’t do it. We need to play a central role in teaching our history.

This means that the only source of money for an institute that will teach these truths is the voluntary donations of people who believe in it. Some people who have already donated to the Bridges Institute say they feel fortunate for an opportunity to give something back to the union that provided such a good life, by supporting an organization that will train the next generation of ILWU leaders.

The institute has already started its long-overshadowed education program, and other donation is needed right away to help complete programs like the play about Bridges’ life, the 60th anniversary of Bloody Thursday, and workshops for rank-and-file members.

For people who feel strongly about the need to pass on the ILWU’s rich history to a new generation of workers, the institute has created the Charter Contributor Program. All ready, supporters have contributed more than $50,000 in a few short months, allowing the institute to begin production of the play and other programs for the ILWU Convention in April.

This is how the Charter Contributor Program works:

+ They will have their names inscribed on a plaque installed at the Harry Bridges Institute in San Francisco.
+ They will receive a lifetime subscription to any newsletters or publications that the institute publishes.
+ They will receive their own personal plaque for their home or office designating them as Charter Contributors.

There are two ways to donate the $1,000, either in one lump sum, or in monthly payments of $100 for 10 months.

For people who cannot afford to be a Charter Contributor, but still want to support the institute, we are suggesting a donation of $10 a month ($120 a year). But donations of more or less are greatly appreciated.

The founders of the ILWU are recognized today as labor pioneers and heroes of the West Coast labor movement. We cannot relive the '30s, but join with us in helping the young leaders of tomorrow learn from the ground-breaking struggles of our leaders.

The idea for the “Harry Bridges Institute for International Education and Organization” developed from the recognition of the need to educate a younger generation of workers on the rich history of the labor movement on the West Coast and throughout the Pacific Rim, and on the contributions of the working people who built unions like the ILWU.

Sixty years ago, Harry Bridges and others laid down as the cornerstones of the ILWU, the principles of international solidarity, social equality and justice, rank-and-file union democracy, and the right of workers anywhere in the world to form their own independent unions. These principles, following the general strike in ’34, developed into the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) movement and became the building blocks of progressive unionism on the West Coast.

The institute’s aim is to educate workers to labor’s past so they can lead the movement into the future; to create an atmosphere where union members, community groups, educators and students can talk about the problems they face, which tie them together as workers, as citizens in a democratic society, and activists for justice. The principles must be made to live every day, for within them lie the vitality and historic strength of the labor movement.

Internationally, the institute will facilitate closer relations between unions in the Pacific economic region by assisting in worker-to-worker exchanges used by the ILWU for many years; examining trends in the global economy, and reporting on political-economic relations in the Pacific Rim and the world at large.

BRIDGES CONTINUED ON P. 5
New NLRB chair comes out swinging for labor

At his introductory news conference, former state law professor William Gould IV blasted the critics who work to stymie his post at the labor board. The Senate 58-38 approval vote was the first major achievement of his campaign to defeat opposition to the nomination. The Senate confirmed the 99-year-old, long-time study of the NLRA, a federal statute that has its roots in the early 20th century and provides workers with the right to organize and bargain collectively for better wages and working conditions.

Gould vows "sustained success to the center, to promote balance" between labor and management. He says he will try to "let workers, union officials and business people know that they will be treated with respect, civility and fairness." Labor leaders believe the NLRB titles forßavor of management in the 1980s, hurting workers and unions.

Thanks to David Steuart, Local 10 vice-president/BA, for bringing this article to our attention.

Cancel long beach news subscriptions

The Newspaper Guild in Southern California is asking subscribers of the Long Beach Press-Telegram to cancel their subscriptions in protest of the paper's attempt to cut back on newstand and retirement and retiree medical coverage.

The Guild Local 69 has been attempting to negotiate a contract with the newspaper since January 1993 without success. The union suggests readers cancel, ask for a reduction in the price of delivery bills, and an automatic restart if and when a new contract is ratified.

Correspondence can be delivered to Guild Local 69, 619 Pine Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802.

Beaten SEIU janitors receive $3.5 million

The lead plaintiff in a class-action suit against Los Angeles Police Department, a janitor who was beaten by LAPD officers at a 1990 rally held in protest of the paper's attempt to cut back on newstand and retirement and retiree medical coverage.

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Injury increase drives OSHA reform

FARM WORKERS PLAN 300-MILE PILGRIMAGE

A jump in workplace injuries and illnesses is lending increased urgency to labor's efforts to strengthen federal worker protection laws. According to a Labor Department report, the number of workplace injury and illness cases per 100 full-time workers, up from 8.4 the previous year. This is the largest yearly increase since the passage of the OSHA Act in 1970, and the overall number is at its highest point in 11 years. The AFL-CIO is collecting two bills to up beef OSHA.

By DAVID ARIAN, ILWU International President

When I came on the waterfront in Southern California more than 20 years ago, I was surrounded by guys who had been workers for the docks since the '30s and '40s. I absorbed a lot of history working in the hold of the ship, at union meetings, at the dispatch hall and at home from my father, who was a longshoreman. This is how the ILWU's history and our way of doing things were passed on.

People talked about the things that I saw the ILWU leaders lead—Harry Bridges, J. Robert Robertson, Louis Bouda, Bill Christen and Jack Hall stood for. I'm sure the same thing that happened to me was true of many others who came into the union in the '50s and '60s, not only here but in Hawaii.

Today, though, many young workers don't have the same experi-

ence. The continuity, the connection to our past, that common ex-

perience of struggle is missing in many cases. A lot of the old-timers who taught me on the job, like my father, are gone, and so are many of the stories that teach us how employers act, and how we should respond.

Today, more than ever, our members need to know not just how the union functions, but the rich history of the ILWU. Understanding the technical aspects our work is important, but in my view the most important thing is understanding how we got where we are today—one of the best in the West, I think, with a strong and unique tradition of militancy. Where did these things come from and how are we different from other unions? Why are we special? And how can we apply these past experiences to today's challenges to preserve our independence and rebuild our union?

Over the last three years, and going into the Convention, it was clear to the leadership of the International that we did not have the money in the budget to do everything our members are asking us to do and put together a powerful education union program. We know that Hawaii has put together a fairly sophisticated program, very integrated, for new members, membership and training. Some ILWU locals provide education but in the main we were lacking.

IEB ENDSORES BRIDGES INSTITUTE

So last year the board voted to support a volunteer committee of officers, pensioners, members, labor activists and community support-

ers to explore the educational concept, in conjunction with the Harry Bridges Institute in Long Beach. After some groundwork, pro-

posals were submitted in April and August to the IEB, which then enthusiastically endorsed the creation of the Harry Bridges Institute for International Education and Organiza-

tion. The pensioners were the first to rally to the idea at the Pacific Coast Pensions Association (PCPA) Convention in September.

The old-timers and widows see the institute as a chance to leave a legacy to a younger generation of workers who have little knowledge of the sometimes bloody struggles for dignity that led to the unparalleled wages and working conditions we enjoy today.

In this issue of The Dispatcher, you will get a comprehensive overview of the institute. My goal is that the institute will provide our union and communities with the ability to reach back into the ILWU's history for those principles that will help prepare current and potential members for the rebuliding that must be done. And in my view this is how the ILWU's history and our way of doing things were passed on.

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The institute will not interfere with the independence of the ILWU. The ILWU president and secretary-treasurer serve the same positions on the institute's board, in addition to other members of the IEB who sit on the institute board; there is a standing invitation for other IEB members to serve on the board.

The institute is already working with professors and the heads of labor departments at the Univ. of Wash., UCLA and other schools. There are incredible resources that can be made available to the labor movement as well as numerous educators and public figures who are more than willing to cooperate and participate with the ILWU in this project. We can't do this unless we are part of an apparatus with the ability and the financial resources to plan, develop and carry out educational programs. This doesn't happen without people willing to put in long hours and make it happen. But if we don't start now, we are only waiting times, organized labor's influence and moral power rapidly declines.

This institute cannot do it all. But it is another piece of what it takes to stop the erosion of the ILWU and the whole labor movement—to continue the progressive union tradition begun by people like Bridges, Goldblatt, Robertson, Chester, Hall and many others in the ILWU in the '50s and '60s. The institute will provide an opportunity to give something back, something that can be passed on to future generations of workers who will be en-

trusted with guiding our great union into an uncertain future.

See form on p. 4 or send contributions to the "Harry Bridges Institute" at 1188 Franklin Street, Suite 203, San Francisco, CA 94109.
ILWU members meet with liquidated unions, host cross-border solidarity program in S. Cal.

By ANDREA ADLEMAN

ILWU members are among the trade unionists continuing to demonstrate cross-border solidarity in the wake of NAFTA. A longshore delegation is meeting with Mexican dockers unions that were thrown out of the newly privatized ports, and Local 26 hosted a program titled "After NAFTA: Building Solidarity Across Borders."

The longshore division delegation and the American Lisians Committee will meet with Mexican dockers to discuss strategies for returning to the ports as representatives of the workers. The Mexican government paid $30 million to buy out union contracts at 3 ports, and Local 26 hosted a program titled "After NAFTA: Building Solidarity Across Borders."

The trade unionists are discussing strategies for returning to the ports as representatives of the workers. They are working with Mexican dockers unions to discuss ways to re-establish their presence at the ports. The Mexican government paid $30 million to buy out union contracts at 3 ports.
The Board of Directors are as follows: President, Eleanor Arian; Leonard Lewis, vice president; John A. Stone, secretary-treasurer; attorney Norma L. Levine; Richard Cavalli, Local 34; and attorney G. G. Duggan; attorney Diane Middleton; former San Francisco Board of Supervisors President. JoAnne Miller; David Olson, UW professor of labor studies; Luisa Gritz, Local 29 president; Kent Young, Asian Pacific Labor Alliance (APALA) president; Jim Foster, Dick Moork, Joe Muskay, Lou Loveridge and Jesse Stranahan, all pensioners. Harry Bridges' widow, Nikki Bridges, is an honorary chairwoman.

The board meets quarterly and makes all the decisions for the institute. The next meeting is scheduled for April 10 in Los Angeles. The initial board was made up of volunteers from the ILWU International Executive Board, members elected by the ILWU pensioners' organization, and outside supporters who had specific expertise in fields of education, trade unionism, fund-raising and labor history.

The concept for the institute was first reviewed by the ILWU International Executive Board in April 1993. A report recommending the formation of the institute was unanimously adopted by the IBT on Aug. 26-27, 1993, with the pledge that "the ILWU will actively participate in the formation and building of the Harry Bridges Institute."

The ILWU Anne Rand Library will retain final possession and control of all educational materials that directly pertain to the ILWU, or were produced or used by the institute in conjunction with the union.
Harry Bridges Institute

The awful irony is that today, millions of young men and women, mostly sons and daughters of workers, are graduating from school and entering the labor market with little or no knowledge of the role of unions in our society. Even worse, many of them question the need for unions at all. Coming at a time of declining membership and increasing attacks on unions, the need to build bridges between the generations was never more urgent. That's one of the reasons why Lois and I wholeheartedly support the work of the Harry Bridges Institute for International Education and Organization. Along with other ILWU retiree clubs, the Columbia River Pensioners can be counted on in the months ahead to help build and make the Bridges Institute work for the benefit of all of us, active workers and alike.

—Noriko ‘Nikki’ Bridges

The role of workers in shaping them.

“I think this will be a great way to pass the knowledge of those who built this union on to a new generation of workers,” said Institute Honorary Chairwoman Nikki Bridges. “There is a strong commitment to both the past and the future. Harry would approve.”

PROJECTS

The institute will prepare labor education programs for ILWU members, which also can be used to benefit the families of union members, students, and other members of the community. Resources for the workshops are being provided by the pensioners, the ILWU Anne Rand Library, locals that have developed their own programs, and academic institutions. ILWU locals will be able to use these seminars, workshops and conferences to educate newly organized members, current members, or workers who want to join a union, on the history and structure of the ILWU, as well as the labor movement on the West Coast.

The institute is also assisting with the 60th anniversary celebration of the 1934 general strike, which is in the planning stages and will be held July 5-5, in San Francisco. The institute will sponsor an awards dinner honoring labor leaders in the Pacific Rim who consistently have best exemplified the principles for which Bridges stood.

Other projects may include publications on labor history and contemporary issues facing working people, and providing support services for unions, community organizers and organizations. Many of these projects will likely be discussed by a recently-formed ILWU education committee, which is planning to meet during the April Convention (watch The Dispatcher and Convention packets for times and dates).

BUILDING BRIDGES

Another goal of the institute is to build bridges between diverse groups, such as unions, pensioners, academic institutions, international organizations and the community at-large.

The institute begins with the pensioners, a valuable resource that has long been ignored. Pensioners played a key role in the institute’s founding, contributing their time, money, knowledge and the first-hand experience of those who fought the ILWU’s early battles. At last September’s Pacific Coast Pensioners Association (PCPA) Convention, the group passed a resolution pledging “full support” to the institute, and committing to “do everything possible to achieve a fund-raising goal of $150,000” from the pensioners in the first year. At its January Executive Board meeting, the group reaffirmed its support and assigned representatives—Dick Moor, Puget Sound; Jesse Stranahan, Columbia River; Joe Mosley, Northern California; and Lou Lovett, Southern California— to coordinate activities in each area and serve on the institute’s board of directors. The pensioners established a regional institute committee in Southern California and the Columbia River area, and are working to establish them in other ILWU regions.

“The pensioners are ready to roll up their sleeves and get to work,” said PCPA President Jim Foster. The institute is also building bridges between unions, working people and academic institutions. The institute has worked with the highly successful Harry Bridges Chair for Labor Studies at the Univ. of Wash., and the Labor Studies Center at UCLA, on developing joint educational programs. The institute can reach a large and important audience of young people through these relationships with educational institutions on the West Coast and in Hawaii.

“I think the institute will be a great asset to the academic community,” said Prof. David Olson, the Harry Bridges Chair in Labor Studies at UW. The institute is also helping to build international solidarity among labor unions in the Pacific Rim by researching laws, working conditions and the general state of labor unions in various countries. The institute will encourage international exchanges, and will arrange delegations based on the rank-and-file, worker-to-worker concept that Harry Bridges initiated in 1948.

Last year, past and present members of the ILWU raised over $1 million dollars to establish the Harry Bridges Chair at the Univ. of Wash. That set the stage for students to study the role that labor played, and continues to play, in the development of a just society. Now, it is time to take the next step.

“Even if we are successful in organizing, it will mean very little unless our own membership and the community around us is made aware of the ILWU’s founding principles, which contributed to the development of the labor movement in America,” said ILWU President David Arian.

The best part about the Harry Bridges Institute is that it recognized the principle Harry believed in, and actively carries them out. The institute takes the politics out of it. The money doesn’t come from dues or anything else. Active members and friends of the union support it because it’s the right thing to do. It’s something that’s never happened before.”

—George Love, Southern California pensioners, Los Angeles.

I think this will be a great way to pass the knowledge of those who built this union on to a new generation of workers. There is a strong commitment to both the past and the future. Harry would approve.

—Mark Hamlin, longshore Local 12
North Bend, Oregon.
Columbia River Area

Rider, Iddings receive awards

Rider induted into Labor Hall of Fame; Iddings “Man of the Year”

Retired ILWU member Ralph Rider, Jr., has been inducted into a new local Labor Hall of Fame by the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Labor Council in Longview at its first annual banquet.

Rider was an ILWU regional director in Alaska and moved to Longview after the earthquake there. His specialty was working for generous ILWU health benefits and pensions, said his son, Ralph Rider, III, who presented the award.

Paul Iddings, president of ILWU Local 21, was honored by the council as Local Labor Leader of the Year. Last year Iddings helped organized a 1,200-person rally against Peavey Grain’s job cuts, traveled abroad to link up with Asian dockworkers to fight Peavey, and took on Peavey’s corporate bigwigs at the awards.

Oregon seniors to discuss health care issues in April

Seniors will discuss health care issues such as the single-payer plan at an all-day conference sponsored by the National Conference of Senior Citizens and its Oregon affiliate. The conference will be April 21 at Oregon Union Hall in Portland. The region’s only remaining Northwest Union was formed in Washington state. For more information call Jesse Stranahan at (503) 232-7446.

Labor mourns B. Henning, wife of California fed official

SAN FRANCISCO—On Saturday, March 5, 1994, Mrs. Marquerritte (Betty) Henning, wife of John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California State Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, passed away at the age of 74.

Mrs. Henning, a community philanthropist, was a member of the Little Children’s Aid Society, the Little Sisters of the Poor and the Ubuntu Irish Cultural Center. A native of Arizona, she was married for 54 years to John F. Henning, who is also the former US Ambassador to New Zealand, where they resided from 1967 through 1969.

When Henning was Undersecretary of Labor the couple resided in Washington, DC.

Contributions can be made to the Los Angeles Labor Council Earthquake Relief Fund, PO Box 20639, Los Angeles, CA 90008.

Scholarship applications

Trustees of the Victor Smolin Scholarship Fund is accepting scholarship applications now through June 1, 1994. Local 10 members with children applying to or attending a four-year college next fall may write for applications to Norman Leonard, 1188 Franklin Street, Suite 201, San Francisco, CA 94109. Include your name, address and ILWU registration number, as well as the name and address of the college where the student has been accepted or plans to attend. For further information call Leonard at (415) 771-6400.

Dockers, widows on pension list

SAN FRANCISCO—Following the March 1994 listing of dockworkers retired under various ILWU-PFA pension plans are:


• The widows are: Local 4, Vancouver: Elaine Kaukai (Rufus); Local 8, Portland: Valera B. Stee (George); Local 10, San Francisco: Ruby Billberry (Law); Ruth Choctaw (Isaiah); Blanche Evans (Eddie); Ruby Fisher (Miles); Virginia Samaduroff (Michael); A. Wells (Amelia); A.W. (Stranahan).

Local 14, Eureka: Elizabeth (Herald) and Roberta (Henderson); Local 18, West Sacramento: William H. (Bob); Jeanette (Mark A. Mendoza); Georgia Anderson (Mike); Nefferti A. Wright (A.J.); Lorraine (Isaiah); Blanche Evans (Eddie); Ruby Fisher (Miles); Virginia Samaduroff (Michael); A. Wells (Amelia); A.W. (Stranahan)

Local 12, Longview: Barbara J. Cameron (Roderick); Louise Cooper (Donald); Local 34, San Francisco: Fern M. Voss (Arthur); Local 63, Wilmington: Catherine A. Ford (James); Rosalia Andino (Arthur); Local 91, San Francisco: Maria A. Mundas (Stephen); Local 99, San Francisco: Mary L. (Kevin); Local 103, Portland: Alannah Calvert (Hugh).

Names in brackets are those of deceased husbands.

District Councils

Following are the election results for 1994 officers of the ILWU District Councils:

Northern California

President: Joe Jasen; vice-president, Bill Watkins; secretary-treasurer, Jay Seccombe. Lawrence Thibeaux is the legislative representative.

Southern California

President, Luisa Gratz; vice-president, Dominic Miretti; secretary-treasurer, Zeki Rustu; legislative representative, David Day.

Columbia River

President, Mark Hamlin; secretary, Jeffrey R. Adams.

PacWest

President, Paul L. Iddings; vice-president, Terri Must; secretary, William T. Hart.

ILWU Local 23 Pension Club


Important Notice on ILWU Political Action Fund

Delegates to the 28th Triennial Convention of the ILWU, meeting in Seattle, Washington, June 3-7, 1994, amended Article X of the International Constitution to read: "SECTION 2. 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 are put will be made to the International Executive Board.

"The voluntary contributions to the Political Action Fund shall be collected as follows:

One Dollar and Twenty Cents ($1.20) of each March and August's per capita payment to be used for that purpose. 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 are put will be made to the International Executive Board."

"For three consecutive months prior to each diversion each dues payer 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."
Dissent from Caucus reports:
Don't wash 'dirty laundry' in public

As a former member of the Coast committee, and more importantly, as a 26-year member of the ILWU, I write this letter to register my dissent. I am dissenting from the "wash the union's dirty laundry in public" tone of the February 15, 1994 President's Report in The Dispatcher. Not only is the report factually inaccurate, it is also a misuse of what had been in the past an award-winning investigative publication for the rank and file of the ILWU. It is wrong to use The Dispatcher as a single opinion forum to peddle or criticize active or retired ILWU members.

In addition, I register my dissent to the February 15 edition The Dispatcher for misating what transpired at the January 31 — February 5, 1994 Longshore Caucus. In reviewing the report of those proceedings one will find that the Coast Committee Report to the Caucus was substantially amended before it was passed. The Caucus, in its collective wisdom, rejected the Report's recommendation that a third coast committee be elected. Contrary to what is printed in The Dispatcher the Caucus did not decide to "review whether a third coast committee was needed"...after the "conclusion of the next contract negotiations." Plain and simple, the Caucus said "NO" to a third coast committee.

While it is true that Budget and By-Laws committees were formed, it is not true that they were formed to put together the first budget and by laws for the coast committee and the longshore division. The above reports point out that the Caucus did not decide to form those committees because of practical and legal considerations...will recommend making no changes.

The Caucus recognized the weaknesses in the Coast Committee Report and then set about correcting it. The Caucus deserves much credit for its actions.

The President's Report promises that in the March and April editions of The Dispatcher a more thorough explanation of proposed programs will be presented. Let's see to it that "dissenters" will receive equal editorial opportunities to share their points of view. Put it all in The Dispatcher. Let the membership decide which approach is appropriate.

And leave the dirty laundry in meetings, boardrooms, offices, etc. It doesn't wear well in public.

Richard Austin, Local 32
Langley, Wash.

Editor's Note: The following regarding the third Coast Committee proposal in the majority report is taken verbatim from the minutes of the February Longshore Caucus. Former International Vice President Randy Yechik, clerk's Local 52 in Seattle, made the following motion: "The Chairmen of the Coast Committee use the authority granted him by the 1991 Seattle Caucus and appoint a member of the Longshore Division to function as our pension, and health and welfare specialist. At the first Caucus held after the April 1994 Caucus in L.A., a report will be made and that Caucus will have the responsibility to decide if it is necessary to continue this work. If the decision is yes, then the job will become an elected Coast Committee job at large and be on the ballot with the other two Coast Committee jobs."

Dick Marzano, longshore Local 23 in Tacoma, then moved to amend the Yechik motion as follows: "Richard person appointed be Jim Santana [Northern California welfare director and clerk's Local 34 member, San Francisco] paid for children to attend cultural events."

The amended motion passed, and became part of the Caucus decision.

Arian can't claim Caucus victory

Dear Editor,

I was a delegate to the January/February caucus. Reading Brother Arian's latest column, I began to wonder if the two of us attended the same caucus.

The main recommendations of the Coast Committees were:

1. Restructuring of the Coast Committee.
   a. The Caucus turned down that recommendation.

2. The Coast Committee constructed a budget which included local housing for Coast Committee members and extensive travel expenses.
   (The Caucus referred to that as the new program.)

3. Brother Arian had to modify his method to certain types of organizing.

4. Local 10 and 34 won the right of "Veto" over unacceptable "framework" agreements with individual employers.

That's it. Arian's portrayal of the results of that caucus as some kind of victory for his point of view is difficult to understand in the light of what really happened.

This letter is one of dissent. I expect it will be printed in full.

Mike Henry, Local 34
San Francisco

Praise for President's Report

Dear Editor,

Your article, "The Right to Dissent" in the most recent issue of The Dispatcher is quite excellent, and I want to compliment you on it. I also wanted to thank you for the very kind comments you make in the article about the events up here associated with the bust Dedication and the Conference on Dissent.

The Conference continues to receive very positive reviews. And in a matter of three weeks or so, two separate video cassette programs will be available; one on the bust dedication and the other on the Conference (see page 4 for details). Once again, thank you for your supportive comments about the events up here in late January.

Dr. David J. Olsen
Harry Bridges Chair in Labor Studies
University of Washington, Seattle

Amazing Chomsky article

Dear Editor,

In reference to the article by Noam Chomsky in the Feb. 15, 1994, Dispatcher, entitled "Nafta lights fuse on time bomb in Chiapas," I want you to know that he is an excellent columnist. I really can't remember the last educational story as good as his.

The article amazed me. Again, I think he is an outstanding columnist. I'll be watching for more articles with his name.

Joseph F. Donato, Local 13
San Pedro, Calif.

Editor's Note: Mr. Chomsky is the author of numerous books and a professor of linguistics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and writes frequently about the media and current events for a variety of publications. His article was generously provided by In These Times magazine. We hope we will be able to publish more of his work in the future.
ILWU members for the first time attended a meeting of the international dockworkers union, attending their two-day Shunto, or "Spring Offensive" convention in February. The ILWU delegation was composed of the President of the National Executive Board of the All-Japan Dockworkers Union, Zenkowan for some serious discussions on mutual support.

The ILWU delegation began its trip in Tokyo, meeting with the officers of Zenkowan, and Zenkoku Roren, the federation of dockworkers' unions. Toshio Kamezaki, who serves as the president of both organizations welcomed the ILWU delegation, and set up meetings with the Japanese Seamen's Union, Kanko Roren (representing workers in the tourism industry), and Zenrenoren, a labor federation that represents almost one million workers.

"We cemented closer relationships, with them accepting each other's ideas into the international working of their organization," ILWU President Dave Arian said. "We were able to meet with each one of the employers and الضرورات for their organization, increasing their trust and confidence, and was an important step."

The meeting of the ILWU were attended by International Executive Board member Freda Ezzo, a northwest coast city committee member Robert McEllrath, and sitting part-time International Department staff member Sean Arian, and Hawaii Local 142 member Margie Mast.

There were also those who didn't care much for Filipinos like Domingo who were involved in a group movement to clean up dispatching practices, allow rank-and-file democracy and tackle discrimination problems. After two years, Mast lost her job when the company went out of business but she stayed involved in the union and in 1980 was elected to the local executive board.

There were those who didn't appreciate the reform efforts of Domingo and dispatch Gene Vierne, such as the then-Local 37 President, Tony Baruso, who went at her own expense. "The first stop was Yagurawa, a small coastal town where Zenkowan holds its annual convention to discuss the Shunto. This year's Shunto focused on three main objectives: shortening work hours, greater job security, and opposing the "rationalization," or downsizing, in the maritime industry. The delegation was about 200 delegates, with another 100 rank-and-file observers there, mostly members under 35 years old from the union's youth section."

"The democratic process within the organization is similar to the "Longshore Caucus," President Arian said. "Two ports challenged the direction of the leadership's strategy and changed the outcome. It reminded me many times of Local 10 and Local 13."

IDENTICAL EMPLOYERS

Many of the problems in Japan were surprisingly similar to the ILWU's problems; the companies were the same: APL, NYK, Mitsui, Nippon Yusen, Nippon Kanko-Roren also discussed the need for greater coordination between work and labor relations.

It was discovered that Zenkowan is involved in a massive organizing effort there to sign up non-union workers. The union's most recent victory is the organizing of 50 marine terminal truck drivers at APL. The ILWU, through its "Top-100" negotiations, is going on national lines and are pursuing expanded jurisdiction into drydocks and other work to create more jobs for ILWU members.

"We have an international economic system with no boundaries, which produces investment agreements like NAFTA and GATT and leaves workers in the cold," President Arian said. "We're trying to develop a national program to experiment the unions with unions of foreign countries.

"We cemented closer relationships, and we're having problems. They understand the greater the numbers, the greater the strength—and they have a lot of numbers."

President Arian told Zenkowan Convention delegates about the similar problems the two unions experience, as well as the consolidation of shipping company employees into a few global giants.

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