Notice of referendum election for ILWU officers, board members

(Posted At All ILWU Union Halls And Offices From June 1, 1994 Through July 15, 1994)

An election by secret ballot is being conducted by mail to determine the selection of ILWU Titled Officers, International Executive Board members, and Longshore Division local officers—Coast Committee members. The mail ballot procedure is the only method being used for voting in this election. In-person balloting will not be held. The election is being conducted pursuant to the ILWU Election Rules and Procedures recently adopted at the Convention in April 1994. By Friday, May 27, 1994, balloting packets will have been mailed out to all ILWU members listed on the Voter Eligibility List.

If for any reason you do not receive in the mail a balloting packet by Monday June 6, 1994, and if you believe you are an ILWU member who is eligible to vote in this election, you can obtain a balloting packet directly by calling Sequoia Pacific Systems, the outside agency assisting in this election, at 1-800-576-4558. Since most ILWU members should receive their balloting packet from the first mailing, telephone calls to Sequoia Pacific Systems will not be accepted until after June 6, 1994. A balloting packet can only be obtained from Sequoia Pacific Systems and not from the ILWU, the ILWU Election Procedures Committee, the ILWU locals and affiliates, or any of their officers and representatives.

Please also note that all voters must return their ballots in the mail postmarked no later than July 8, 1994, for receipt at the designated post office box in San Francisco, Calif., no later than July 11, 1994. Late ballots will not be counted under any circumstances. If a voter mails in more than one ballot, the ballot with the latest postmark or receipt stamp will be counted and the prior one(s) will be voided. However, where it is not possible to determine the latest postmark or receipt stamp, all ballots cast by the same voter will be voided.

Also listed on all ballots sent to ILWU members in each region or area within the union are candidates for International Executive Board. Longshore Division members should receive a separate ballot for Coast Committee nominees.

Follow the ballot instructions to vote for the proper number of representatives. For information about individual candidates, see their statements in the four-page Election Edition insert in this issue.

'Hal Mary' attempt to pass strikebreaker bill in Congress

BY LINDSAY MCLAUGHLIN

ILWU WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE

f you've never paid attention to my requests in this column, I forgive you. But after you read through this short article, I am pleading that you pick up the phone and call your Senator's office because your job security and ability to increase your standard of living in the future is at stake. Senate Majority leader George Mitchell has scheduled a vote today—our future is on the line.

Majority leader George Mitchell has scheduled a vote on S.55, a bill that would cost you your job security and ability to increase your standard of living in the future. The mountain of letters, telephone calls, and postcards have not been heard—your job security and ability to increase your standard of living in the future is at stake.

There are two bills that we should be fighting. The Strike Breaker Bill (S.55) and the Permanent Replacement Strike Bill (S.13). We are already behind in our fight against S.55, but we can still win. The Permanent Replacement Strike Bill (S.13) is a more serious threat to your job security and ability to increase your standard of living in the future. The Permanent Replacement Strike Bill (S.13) is a more serious threat to your job security and ability to increase your standard of living in the future.

FACT #1: The purchasing power of American workers' wages has declined dramatically since employers began using the "permanent replacement" method. The Permanent Replacement Strike Bill (S.13) is a more serious threat to your job security and ability to increase your standard of living in the future.

FACT #2: One of every five full-time American workers now earn poverty level wages. The Permanent Replacement Strike Bill (S.13) is a more serious threat to your job security and ability to increase your standard of living in the future.

FACT #3: American workers' wages have slipped to 15th place among the nations in the world economy, even though American workers still rank first in productivity. The Permanent Replacement Strike Bill (S.13) is a more serious threat to your job security and ability to increase your standard of living in the future.

These ugly facts, which were documented by the Service Employees International Union will worsen unless Congress restores the balance of power between employers and workers by passing S.55. Call your Senator today—our future is on the line.

Washington
- Sen. Patty Murray ... (202) 224-2621
- Sen. Mark Hatfield ... (202) 224-3753
- Sen. Bob Packwood ... (202) 224-5244
- Sen. Barbara Boxer ... (202) 224-3553
- Sen. Dianne Feinstein ... (202) 224-3841
- Sen. Daniel Inouye ... (202) 224-3934
- Sen. Daniel Akaka ... (202) 224-6361

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- Sen. Mark Hatfield ... (202) 224-3753
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- Sen. Dianne Feinstein ... (202) 224-3841

Hawaii
- Sen. Daniel Inouye ... (202) 224-3934
- Sen. Daniel Akaka ... (202) 224-6361
ILWU organizer Chester ‘Chet’ Meske, 1912-1994

Chet Meske helped build the ILWU into a West Coast powerhouse as an organizer for 32 years and led the charge for interracial unions in the South and Southern California. He died April 7, 1994, at age 82.

As a working student at the University of Wisconsin at Madison in the final years of the “great depression”, between 1931 and 1945, Meske learned that unionizing was a basic means of survival. Like the majority of working students, he worked in restaurants at the regain student rate of three hours for three meals a day or 90 cents cash, take it or leave it. With the student workers united on basic issues, Meske helped to organize the University of Wisconsin Student Labor Party and the ILWU Committee which brought over 30 restaurants into line for better pay, better working conditions and decent meals in the hands of the workers that were the usual student fare. Noncomplying restaurants were boycotted by the entire campus population. While earning a bachelor’s degree in economics, Meske learned even more valuable lessons about the effectiveness of organized job action.

Meske was an oldest son among the nine children of a Polish immigrant family; his father was a steel worker, then a farmer. Meske was the first of his family to earn a college education, but he never forgot his working-class origins.

WORKED FOR LABOR BOARD

Working for the National Labor Relations Board in the first two years out of school, Meske deepened his convictions about “which side he was on.” Conducting NLRB union elections and investigating unfair labor charges against employers in the St. Louis (Missouri) Region of the Board, Meske came into contact with all kinds of workers; assembly and production workers in steel, textiles and construction, coal miners of Kentucky and southern Illinois, warehousemen and river longshoremen. Sometimes things got a little hairy, as when miners were found NLRB polling place armed with shotguns and rifles which Meske, representing the NLRB, had to negotiate into a neutral corner. Or when he was hauled into court for contention that existed outside a steel plant, effectively postponing the election until police protection was made available. Turned down by the army in those war years because of bad lungs, Meske eventually volunteered to move on to the NLRB’s Fort Worth, Texas regional office.

In those days, Texas employers stubbornly resisted NLRB directives; NLRB officials in Texas began to favor employers in too many cases. Miners and Meske were granted their opportunity to leave the government agency to go to work for a progressive union, the Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers’ Industrial Organizing Committee in 1948. Here Meske was able to organize and negotiate contracts for the seasonal workers in the citrus and tomato packing sheds throughout the Rio Grande Valley. This proved a highly successful operation even though the famous Texas Rangers were summoned to the aid of the employers on more than one occasion. At the end of the season, at the invitation of ILWU Vice President J.R. (Bob) Robertson, Meske then transferred his allegiance to the ILWU.

FIRST ILWU ASSIGNMENT IN NEW ORLEANS

Meske’s first assignments for the ILWU were in New Orleans where workers were inDisneyland, New Orleans and other large cities. At the offices in the downtown, the union’s officers were busy organizing and in the Bakersfield-Fresno area. Over 30 black and Chicano workers from three compresses joined the ILWU, though not without a five-week strike in one of the compresses involving a sharp confrontation with scabs and Kern County Sheriff and a half-day’s sojourn in jail for Meske. In the Los Angeles area, Meske organized over 70 shops into ILWU’s Warehouse Local 26 and lent his services in contract negotiations and in resolving job grievances. He has been a familiar figure on Local 26 picket lines and at stop-work meetings, lending his support wherever he was needed to bolster workers’ job action for better job conditions. Meske will also be remembered for the successful steward-leadership classes he helped to develop in 1965 and founded the Local 26 Pensioners’ Club, established on March 5, 1970, and became one of its active members upon his retirement in 1977.

Meske was a very conscientious and loyal worker,” said his friend, George K. Lee, a former Local 26 official. “He was strictly trade-union caliber and believed in the rights of all workers, organized and unorganized.”

Meske is survived by two daughters, Ellen Meske of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and Ann Meske, of Queensland, Australia.

Paper Mill in Louisiana.

Registering blacks to vote also became a goal for Meske and the ILWU locals in the struggle against red henchings of the 1960s, Meske and the ILWU helped workers overcome the tramps set by white officials to disrupt organizing drives, and succeeded commendably to the numbers of black voters in Louisiana.

ASSISTED HAWAII SUGAR WORKERS

From New Orleans, Bob Robertson asked Meske to expand his union responsibilities to include contract negotiations for ILWU locals in Dallas and Fort Worth. That, at the spring of 1948, he was assigned to Hawaii to work with Dave Thompson under Robertson and Jack Hall to help consolidate the newly organized sugar plantation workers on the Big Island, and to develop rank-and-file Japanese and Filipino leaders. Among their many job grievances were the lack of maintenance for the plantation-owned houses in which all sugar workers lived. Without understanding either Japanese or Filipino languages, Meske was quickly educated about housing problems when his foot went through the termite-ridden floor in a worker’s house. Housing repairs and maintenance became a widely popular cause for which Meske fought and won for the sugar labor camp on the Big Island.

In 1949, Meske had to leave Hawaii for health reasons, but he cherished friendships with many of the island plantation workers.

Back on the mainland, Meske was sent to Chicago and later Cleveland in an effort to add to the ILWU strength in those cities. This was the time of the “cold war,” when Sen. Joe McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee were riding high, and red-baiting was a major political sport. Progressive organizations and rank-and-file unions like the ILWU were among the chief targets of red-hunters and in and out of Congress. In this atmosphere, with the difficulty of servicing locals far from the San Francisco head- quarters, Meske decided to return to New Orleans and organizing efforts on the West Coast.

ORGANIZED MORE THAN 70 SHOPS W. L. A.

Assigned to Los Angeles, April 1951, Meske stepped off into the University of California at Los Angeles, California was fertile ground for black and Chicano workers from three compresses joined the ILWU, though not without a five-week strike in one of the compresses involving a sharp confrontation with scabs and Kern County Sheriff and a half-day’s sojourn in jail for Meske. In the Los Angeles area, Meske organized over 70 shops into ILWU’s Warehouse Local 26 and lent his services in contract negotiations and in resolving job grievances. He has been a familiar figure on Local 26 picket lines and at stop-work meetings, lending his support wherever he was needed to bolster workers’ job action for better job conditions. Meske will also be remembered for the successful steward-leadership classes he helped to develop in 1965 and founded the Local 26 Pensioners’ Club, established on March 5, 1970, and became one of its active members upon his retirement in 1977.

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Southern California, Local 30

Mojave miners strike gold with first ILWU contract

One hundred gold miners in the Mojave Desert ratified a first contract after organizing under the ILWU banner.

The workers at the Rand Gold mine, owned by the Canadian-based Glamis Gold, will be members of an autonomous division of ILWU Local 30 in Boron, Calif. Rand operates two cyanide leach strip mines about 180 miles east of Los Angeles.

The contract was unusual for a first contract because it will be in effect for three years and gives workers an average wage increase over that period of $2.80 an hour. The workers won a union security clause, dues checkoff and made gains in OSHA shutdown of unsafe work places.

During a three-year dispute that had closed the port and idled the miners, underground lab technical workers. Antilabor bills dealt in conjunction with a Senior Day Rally in May, closure severance pay and protesting proposed budget cuts in programs for the poor and disabled.

The leadings the ILWU lobby effort were Lawrence Thibeaux (D) of the NCDC and David O'Day (IBU) of the Southern California District Council, assisted by Constantino Castro (56-San Pedro), and Oscar Garcia (17-Sacramento). Many retired ILWU members participated in the rally.

The organizing drive at the mine began in January 1993 when Local 30 got a call from a miner who found security clause. But in the end, the company could not hide its big profits and the ultra-liberal industry attitude. As it paid its workers, or continue to justify the unequal treatment and unsafe conditions.

The port, located on the Sacramento River in the heart of California's agricultural heartland, serves as a primary loading and unloading point for bulk farming supplies and agricultural exports.

Bloody Thursday Celebrations

The 60th anniversary of Bloody Thursday, July 5, 1934, will be celebrated by ILWU locals up and down the West Coast. For more information about Bloody Thursday activities, members should contact their local; the International will not be sponsoring any separate activities that day. A dinner that had been planned by the Harry Bridge Institute has been canceled.

Elaine Black Yoneda Award

The 60th anniversary of Bloody Thursday, July 5, 1934, will be celebrated by ILWU locals up and down the West Coast. For more information about Bloody Thursday activities, members should contact their local; the International will not be sponsoring any separate activities that day. A dinner that had been planned by the Harry Bridge Institute has been canceled.

ILWU lobbies California Legislature

The next day, the two sides agreed to submit their dispute to an arbitrator.

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Workers illustrates exploitation, 

"The world according to Salgado is a world of rampant injustice and unquestionable nobility in which peasants, laborers, no matter what they are working for, anywhere are somehow overworking with determination and desire that the entire world seems to have the powerful epistle." —The New York Times

The 350 photographs in WORKERS: An Archaeology of the Industrial Age are a global epic that transcends mere image-making in the hope for an affirmation of the enduring spirit of working men and women. The world that Brazilian photographer Sebastião Salgado, explores with his gifted eye and unflagging energy, is a world where manual labor shall shatter materialism and exploitative social structures. Like its title indicates, the 400-page book is an archaeological exploration of the characteristics that have defined labor from the Stone Age through the Industrial Age to the present, and is divided into six chapters that reflect that evolution: Agriculture, Food, Mining, Industry, Oil, and Construction. Accompanying the photographs is a 24-page pullout pamphlet of extended captions that describe the scenes and countries portrayed. Salgado draws on his training as an economist to provide sobering statistics and a historical and factual framework for the exquisitely reproduced images.

Brush up on ILWU history with $24.95. A provocative analysis of the impact of longshore mechanization and higher wages on ILWU members and Union militancy, primarily in Los Angeles. ILWU University libraries and bookstores, or from the publisher.

1994 ILWU CONVENTION HOST COMMITTEE; Front row, from left, Ralph Espino (13)—welcomeing cocktail party and hospitality room, Sally Salcido (13)—banquet, David Lomeli (13), Don Matthews (13), Robert Estrada (13)—other matters, Timmie Chavez (29)—marketing, back row, from left, Nancy Davis (13), Constantino "Tino" Castro (56), Hector Cepeda (26), unidentified, Isabel Chavez (29), Peggy Chandler (Auxiliary 8), Bill Hallet (13), Lynn Hummel (13), Freeen Hummel (13), John Espinosa, Sr. (13) transportation, Ray Ortiz, Jr. (13) excursions, Linda Palacios (63). Not shown are chairman Gene Bandy (13), Co-Chairperson Majorie Bellhouse (63), Secretary-Treasurer Rita Ruelas (13), chairperson of guest speakers, Zeke Ruelas (94), chairperson of international staff, Jackie Ruelas (46); and committee members Ann Ashbrook (13), Lou Loveridge (So. Cal. pensioners), and Robert Brooks (63).

Convention Guests and Speakers

The following is a list of Convention guests who were not mentioned last month:

Japan: Zenkowan Vice-President Tetsuya Sakana, Koichiro Shimizu, Central Executive Committee and General Secretary of Tohoku Regional Headquarters.

Republic of Singapore: Abdul Hamid bin Hj Osman, General Secretary, Singapore Port Authority, 2nd Vice-President.

Mexico: Cecilio Lepe Bautista, Secretary General, Union of Estibadores y Jornaleros del Pacífico, Port of Manzanillo; Alfredo Navarrete Fabres, Secretary General-Union of Estibadores Marítimos del Pacífico de Lazaro Cardenas; Rustilio Martinez Jimenez, Sindicato de Estibadores y Jornaleros de Salina Cruz.

The Philippines: Trade Union Congress of the Philippines—Democrito T. Mondena-President/TUCP; Remo Ocena, National Vice President/PSU. Port Workers Union of the Philippines—Roberto M. Oca Jr. President, Romeo A. Lara; Roberto Ramon B. Oca III, Ricardo M. Mora.

Labor Representatives: Ed Burke, Teamsters Local 692, Long Beach; Mario Brito, Southern California Director-United Farm Workers of America; Vice-President Emeritus of the San Francisco Teamsters ILWU Auxiliary 3, do ILWU Local 19, Stewart Fuller, Leader In The ILWU 1935-1977. Available by mail for $12.00 (payable to "Auxiliary 3") from Joan Fox, 3440 E. Marginal Way, South, Seattle, WA 98109.


In the Philippines are photographs by Slobodan Dimitrov


Convention Followups

Strike/Story!, the Harry Bridges play

A new play about the life of Harry Bridges debuted to an overwhelmingly positive reception at the ILWU Convention in April. The play, titled "Strike/story!" was produced and directed by Heidi Helen Davis for the Harry Bridges Institute for International Education and Organization. The hour-long performance was written using the actual words and stories of people taken from people's interviews, scripts, audio and written text and archival documents provided by the ILWU Library. The play covered the days of the shape-up and Blue Book unions, the '34 strike, the trials of Bridges, and the development of an international union. It was presented in the middle of an intersection and listened. The city was literally holding its breath. Finally it was about how people treat each other. Once they learn the facts, they'd make the right decision. The play was financed and developed by the ILWU. The following list details the author, title, publisher, price, main subject or theme, and available bookstores.

Over the years, several books have been written about the ILWU. The following list details the author, title, publisher, price, main subject or theme, and available bookstores. Three other publications about the ILWU can also be read at the ILWU Library.


Bulke, Germain. Longshore Leader and ILWU-PMU Arbitrator. Bancroft Library, Oral History Office, University of California at Berkeley, 1984. The oral history and anecdotal account of Bulke's San Francisco career as a member and officer of the ILWU University libraries.


"The world according to Salgado is a world of rampant injustice and unquestionable nobility in which peasants, laborers, no matter what they are working for, anywhere are somehow overworking with determination and desire that the entire world seems to have the powerful epistle." —The New York Times

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In his photographs he is the builder of the pyramids in El Salvador and the great medieval cathedral in work as it has been for centuries. For example photographs embrace the sweat of sugarcane in the sweltering fields of Brazil, the courage of daily life as women carry stone-filled building the Rajasthani can rest endless grind of textile factories and steel mills; the vats demoralize ships in Bantam pig iron and steel with slide. The famous pictures of the Serra Pelada in his native country are most terrifying forms of near exist.

Workers is the vision of a man whose life is a mission. Salgado exposes it all. And manual laborers in today's industrial world. The book is a action people to live as he says, "concepts of pr.

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The Coast Pro-Rata Committee is made up of the President of the ILWU, who serves as chairman, the Vice President-mainland, and two members elected by longshore and clerk locals covered by the Pacific Coast Longshore and Clerk's Agreement, one of which resides from California while the other from the Northwest, but all members vote for both. The purpose of the Coast Committee is to address the specific problems of the ILWU's longshore workers, to service those locals, to administer the benefit plans of the division, to set up the administrative machinery to deal with collective bargaining problems, and to serve on the Joint Coast Labor Relations Committee. This committee is elected by the locals, to administer the benefit plans of the division, and to set up the administrative machinery to deal with collective bargaining problems, and to serve on the Joint Coast Labor Relations Committee. This committee is elected by the locals, to administer the benefit plans of the division, and to set up the administrative machinery to deal with collective bargaining problems, and to serve on the Joint Coast Labor Relations Committee.

Sisters and Brothers—

DIVISIONS AND THE LONGSHORE DIVISION

As this election campaign winds down, I have visited many of your working halls and workplaces, one is struck by the demand of the Rank and File to elect representatives with the willingness to debate points of view, communicate effectively, and work together. Continued disarray and discord as practiced by the current "Coast Committee Team" is unacceptable and injurious to this coastwise membership. And the divisions continue to grow.

Those attending the May African American Longshore Conference in San Francisco were told that our division was franchised by employers and the union. Some feel as did the founders of the ILWU that "they have nothing to lose" by using all means available for redress and access. Continued disarray and discord as practiced by the current "Coast Committee Team" is unacceptable and injurious to this coastwise membership. And the divisions continue to grow.

Leadership at the coast level takes on even more importance. The primary means of enforcing and protecting our contractual and collective bargaining rights and benefits. To do this, the Coast Committee must be one of the many committees that are not only in contract language but also in effectively presenting the union's position on Coast Committee matters. I have this experience. I bring to this position many years of leadership.

QUALIFICATIONS—I have been in the industry for 25 years, starting in Local 13 and later transferring to Local 63. In 1985, the NLDB ruled that CPS work (stuffing and unstuffing containers) while under the control of our employers, must be done by the ILWU work force. Local 13, 63, and 94 jointly hired me to put together a program that secured our jurisdiction and brought container work back to the ILWU. I served as President of Local 63 for three terms. Vice President for two terms, Executive Board member for ten years, Caucus and Nominating Committee Chair for the last ten years. I was elected Secretary of the 1991 Caucus and was nominated by the delegates of the ILWU for the position of Coast Committeeman. When casting your vote, you must think about the experienced leadership and qualifications. You must listen carefully to what the candidates say and distinguish between their words and actions.

PROGRAMS—My program is designed to secure the future of our craft. We must continue to move away from the "let's wait and see" position, or the "circle the wagons" approach. Our program has secured our jurisdiction and have an opportunity to register new people.
A as this election has progressed, it has been
clearer with each passing day, the two differ-
ent directions offered by the candidates for
International President.
One candidate’s strategy is to avoid taking a
stand on anything so no one can hold him
responsible for his actions.
The problem with that strategy is, as the old
quote goes: “If you don’t stand for something, you’ll
fall for anything.”
This union doesn’t have three more years
for anyone to waste figuring out what its plan and
programs are. One more year of such turmoil is
being aggressively attacked by global employers,
and the obstacles to organizing and negotiating
contract improvements have never been in Ameri-
can history.
The union is living in a crisis atmosphere,
and it’s going to take strong leadership — not
stuttering, bumbling and indecision — to steer
us toward growth and strength.
The other candidate is offering the union,
and has worked to put in place over the last three
years, is a program of action through organizing,
member of the union to make a difference. My
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The other candidate is offering the union,
and has worked to put in place over the last three
years, is a program of action through organizing,
member of the union to make a difference. My
candidate strategy is to avoid taking a
stand on anything so no one can hold him
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This union doesn’t have three more years
for anyone to waste figuring out what its plan and
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I am the chairman of the California District Council Fund-raiser, which held its annual fund-raiser on May 14.

The administrative function of the Secretary-Treasurer is to keep the union intact and does not provide me the opportunity to be away from the office for any long period of time. I seek at this time, your support and vote to reelect me, Leon Harris, as ILWU Secretary-Treasurer.

In Solidarity.

Richard "Rich" Austin, Local 32, Everett, Wash.

I've laid my cards on the table; the office of Main-land VP is too important to play it close to the vest. It requires skill, experience, passion, guts and the determination to follow through once the campaign spending limits, and retaining the office of International President, which I had a different idea. I authored a Minority Report that set in motion a tidal wave of rank-and-file support for practical alternatives to the incumbent's plan. I worked for proposals to ensure justice, equality and fairness. I fought for mail ballots, campaign spending limits and disclosure, equal access to The Dispatcher, shared responsibility among National Officers, retention of the Hawaii V.P. and workable rank-and-file programs in everything from organizing, to political action and education.

Result: The vast majority of delegates rejected the incumbent's program and voted with me. So, if you're still undecided, ask yourself: Who is the candidate most in touch with the members of this union? It's not much for campaign promises, but I can promise you this: As your International President, I'll work for you, not tell you what to do. I'll provide the leadership to implement and administer your programs, not leave you floundering or impose my own. I'll share my views and get your feedback, not operate in the dark. I'll promote consensus, not confrontation. I'll mean what I say and say what I mean and make sure the other officers do too.

Before I close, I have a few thank-yous to make. To all the members who've already voted, thanks for putting your right to participate into action. And many thanks to the volunteers who make this campaign possible. Most of all, I thank the incumbent whose three years in office provided the inspiration that got me into this race. I wish him the best of luck in his next job — whatever that may be.
I thank the membership for allowing me to do the work of the ILWU over the past 20 years, and how to affect the way the union does its work. We haven’t had “fun” years in recent memory for the union or working people in general, though there are always spots of fun and enrichment when with rank and files. Expect more tough years ahead.

While it is a great honor to serve as an ILWU officer, I can assure you I don’t look at it as personal elevation, but rather as a weighty task that must be taken up. Our union has done so much and has so much to do.

An initial number of months are needed for transition of duties in Hawaii, working with the Local on responsibilities and plans for organizers and Regional staff. I expect we’ll set high standards, aiming to work in an organized fashion.

While there’s much to do in Hawaii, the health of the whole International union must always be of concern. It affects all locals. It’s part of our equipment in a hostile environment.

Our union functions in the larger economy and politics, like it or not. That economy constantly changes. It affects all locals. It’s part of our equipment in a hostile environment. It’s part of our equipment in a hostile environment.

Leonard Hoshijo, Local 142, Hawaii.

and we’ve seen parts of it, corporations and industries, get chopped off and disappear. Likely casualties are corporations continuing business as usual, in fighting shape to face accelerating shifts.

PURPOSE, PLANNING

We’re not a corporation set up to make profits. We’re an organization for working people, often fighting economic and social trends. How ever, we should take note how surviving business organizations (corporations) had to take good looks at themselves, with extra-ordinary steps to revitalize themselves. One starting point has been asking themselves what their real purpose is.

That process is in order for our organization, reconnecting with our purpose in forming an organization of workers who would otherwise be completely controlled by employers and maneuvered in the financial world. Our ILWU origins included the idea that all workers be unionized. With renewed clarity of purpose, we need to not only administer, but also plan for the ILWU.

It’s been said of unions: “We never have time to plan it right, but always have time to do it over again.” While there’s never one, final plan, we have a need to dedicate some time to planning, with collective brainpower from throughout the union.

Not all the right moves are clear. We must organize knowing the tough odds. We must rebuild internal activities. We must provide training for fulltime and rank and file officers to keep their capacity up.

We know that amidst the changing economy and politics that basics remain the same—workers are part of the economy but have no say, except what they organize for and fight for. Beyond that, we have to take a good look at ourselves, working towards the best ways to advance on shifting ground.

STEP UP

I previously reviewed my ILWU experience, learning the work of the union by doing it: Negotiating contracts, organizing, developing housing, teaching Stewards’ classes, etc. While lobbying, learning more about Workers’ Comp or zoning laws. Grasping ILWU principles when debating positions to take, or plans to make in real situations. Working with leaders who brought a variety of skills, approaches and history.

At times “apprenticing,” at times simply being thrown out in the “trenches.”

That’s how I’ve come to know “stepping up to the plate”...not as stepping up to a full dinner table, but to homelite to face and handle a variety of pitches. I look forward to growing numbers of ILWU members stepping up to face the future with the good of the union first in their minds.
Now before we have we seen more clearly and poignantly how, as he says, "the developed world produces only for those who can consume—approximately one-fifth of all people. The remaining four-fifths, who could theoretically benefit from surplus production, have no way of becoming consumers. The planet remains divided, the first world in a crisis of excess, the third world in a crisis of need, and, at the end of the century, the second world that built on socialism—in ruins."

The internationally recognized Salgado began his photography career in 1973 when he left the field of economics because he believed he could bring more public attention to the plight of the developing world with photographs rather than with statistics. Salgado, who was forced to leave Brazil in 1980 because of his left-wing political activities, has documented peasants in Latin America, the drought in Africa and immigrant workers in Europe.

Salgado began working in 1987 on a global study of the decline of manual labor, which evolved into Workers. He collaborated with his wife, Lelia, who assumed responsibility for the coordination of the project, as well as the design of the book and worldwide exhibition tours. She also maintained the Paris office and cared for their two sons, Juliano and Rodrigo, while Salgado traveled, often for months at a time.

Summer Reading


Magden, Ronald E. The Working Longshoreman. ILWU Local 23 and university libraries. Available by mail from John Userac, ILWU Local 23, 1710 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402 ($12 per copy, checks or money orders only, payable to ILWU Book Fund).


Zalburg, Sanford. A Spark Is Struck! Jack Hall chased from UCLA.


Schneider, Betty, and Abraham. Industrial Relations In the Pacific Coast Longshore Industry. Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California at Berkeley, 1956. A traditional but insightful look at the role of the ILWU in transforming longshore labor relations. University libraries.

The '34 General Strike and the fight for a 'global hiring hall' in the '90s

By GREGORY BERGMAN

This July marks the 60th anni-
iversary of the General Strike in San Francisco—a strike with re-
markable success. I remember well the '34 strike. It was out of work and volun-
teered to help the strikers. It all began on the waterfront on May 9, 1934, when longshoremen went on strike to protest the long hours, low pay, work upheaval, and the daily "shapewup" where they were forced to grovel, beg and bribe to get a job each day.

Before the strike, early every morn-
ing thousands of men assembled at piers on the 'front for the shapeup. The bosses would pick and choose: those who gave them a kickback; or special piers on the 'front for the shapeup. Pier the long hours, low pay, work speedup, and the daily "shapeup" where they

Zi More than $120-1 wish to contribute more than the minimum
Signature

NOTE: CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT DEDUCTIBLE AS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
Northwest pensioner writes...

Being a member doesn’t mean accepting benefits without giving something back

Dear Editor:

I attended the last meeting of Local 21, where the delegates gave their reports from the International Convention and Longshore Caucus. I was surprised at the few members in attendance. Years back, when I was a delegate, we used to hold a meeting that started at 7 a.m. and lasted until late afternoon. The union hall was full of members who were interested in the policies laid down.

Sitting there and watching the proceedings, I couldn’t help but wonder if the only way along the way we who are considered old-timers might have failed to teach the younger members the meaning of being an active member of a “Labor Union.” Being an active member doesn’t mean picking the easy job or taking advantage of all the benefits offered by your union but giving nothing in return. The following officers for the year: President, John Munoz; vice-president, Dennis Ketola; secretary-treasurer, D. J. Nelson; recording secretary, Ron Roquemore; stewards, Jim Bates, Jeff Jewell, Gary Tolleset, Scott Godfrey and Max Vekiher, Jr. Scott Godfrey is also a delegate to the Puget Sound District Council. Promotions committee members are Jeff Jewell, Ron Foufelle and Bob Edin.

Local 30, Boron

Results of the May election are: President, Ray Panter; vice-president, George Richardson; secretary-treasurer, D. J. Nelson; recording secretary, Ron Roquemore; stewards, Jim Bates, Jeff Jewell, Gary Tolleset, Scott Godfrey and Max Vekiher, Jr. Scott Godfrey is also a delegate to the Puget Sound District Council. Promotions committee members are Jeff Jewell, Ron Foufelle and Bob Edin.

Local 54, Stockton

STOCKTON—Longshore members who were interested in the proceedings, I couldn’t help but wonder if the only way along the way we who are considered old-timers might have failed to teach the younger members the meaning of being an active member of a “Labor Union.” Being an active member doesn’t mean picking the easy job or taking advantage of all the benefits offered by your union but giving nothing in return. The following officers for the year: President, and North-ern California District Council representative, Danny J. Caruso; vice-president, Jeff Jewell; secretary, Joe Jasminillo and Charles Tets-Thomas.

Local 54, Stockton

Mortgage & Real Estate Program

Competitive-rate mortgages for home purchases or refinancing. Strike price protection and help for first-time buyers. Special savings on real estate agent services.

Life Insurance

Supplemental insurance with guaranteed coverage for any union member. Low group rates, 20-25% below comparable plans.

Legal Service

Free and discounted legal services from union-friendly lawyers. Includes free 30-minute consultation.

Union Driver & Traveler

An unbeatable motor club with towing, car repair discounts at $0.00 shops and a travel cash-back service—all for one low membership fee.

Union Shopper

Toll-free telephone discount buying service: Brand name products up to 50% off. Car shopping, price comparison services.

Union Members Discounts

Savings on day-to-day products and services including discounts on rentals, eyewear, hearing aids and more.

Health Needs Service

Discount mail-service pharmacy program offering savings on prescriptions for your whole family, including relatives.

Loan Program

Low-interest personal loans with lower rates and longer terms that mean affordable wellness payments.

For more information on these member-only benefits call 1-800-452-9425

ILWU UNION PRIVILEGE BENEFITS

Programs available only to members in the U.S. and certain territories. Life Insurance available in Canada.

Local 10 dedicates hall to first African-American ILWU VP

Bueche's stepson, Bruce Benner, gave an overview of his father's career, using photographs and memorable stories. He introduced Bulcke's wife, Ethel, a real person and looked one straight in the eye. "We remember that Bulcke was supportive of the Teamster freight workers, whose wages will be frozen. Com- bined pay and benefits for regular workers will rise about 80 cents per hour each year of the contract, roughly the same as the last contract. The union did agree to permit the companies to nearly triple their use of rail with the "piggyback" trailers, and continue its practice of job security for all affected workers. While this is hard for truckers to accept, shifting more freight to railroads is socially and environmentally desirable: Unionized rail- way workers are likely to live longer and have a better quality of life than nonunion workers. The Teamsters had never, to anyone's recollection, exercised that right, it was dem- onstrated that the last of the stalwarts has passed away. He introduced Bulcke's stepson, Bruce Benner, who was given his oath of office by Bulcke at a union installation in 1944, said Bulcke encouraged "Jerry was a friend who made you feel like a real person and looked one straight in the eye," Roger said.

Local 10 pensioner Cleophas Williams, who was given his oath of office by Bulcke at a union installation in 1944, said Bulcke encouraged "Jerry was a friend who made you feel like a real person and looked one straight in the eye," Roger said.

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