Aloha and Mahalo from Hawaii, where Local 142 just wrapped up its convention. Delegates from all over the Islands gathered together to set the Local’s priorities and direction for 1995.

—page 5

ILWU pensioners had plenty to do at their annual convention in Redding, Ca. Top on their list: the November general elections and health care reform.

—page 8

Members up and down the coast have set their sights on the November elections. Aurelia Diaz, Local 6, hosted a campaign party to explain Prop. 186, California’s health care initiative, to Spanish-speaking voters. Meanwhile, District Councils announce their endorsements.

—pages 9-11

From Hawaii to California to the Great Northwest...

At the docks, in the fields, and on the shop floor...

ILWU rank and file volunteers are making a difference in their union, in their communities, and in their lives.

You can too.

See pages 2-3
Inside the International

Double 10 Rep

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History in the making

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Over the past several years he has compiled a number of oral histories from ILWU members who were key figures in the union's early days. He'll be researching and excerpting these histories for what we hope will be a regularly feature in the paper. A longtime friend of the ILWU, Schwartz has extensive knowledge of both the Warehouse and Longshore Divisions, and has worked closely with the ILWU Research Department.

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The group is joined by the ILWU and several other organizations in its opposition to the embargo on humanitarian grounds. Last year, the ILWU International Executive Board issued a statement of policy urging the Clinton Administration to lift the embargo and resume normal relations with the Cuban government.

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Wilkes hired on at the ILWU in January, 1988, working as Assistant Editor and later Associate Editor with then-Editor and Communications Director Danny Beagle. In February, 1992, she replaced Beagle when he resigned to head up Beagle, Abernathy and Mitchell, a San Francisco-based consulting firm specializing in public relations for labor and nonprofit organizations. Wilkes resumed her duties September 19 after a year's absence.

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Straight Talk

By RICH AUSTIN

ILWU INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT/MAINLAND

For a more perfect VOUnion

I want to tell you about some experiences I've had, but this column isn't really about me. It's about you. And it's about time.

Your time.

When I first came to the San Francisco waterfront (more years ago than I care to remember) I was so intimidated by the sheer size of the place that I was genuinely impressed with the help I got from the oldtimers. They took time out to show me the ropes both on the docks and within Local 10. They taught me how to work smart and how to work safe. But the best lesson I learned from them wasn't about rigging gear or anything like that. It was about the ILWU.

They told me about my union's history, traditions and objectives, and gave me a book called The ILWU Story. It was wonderful. I was particularly inspired by the pages which contained the ILWU's "guiding principles." Adopted at the ILWU Tenth Biennial Convention in 1953, they are as relevant today as when they were written. They are reproduced on page two for the benefit of all our members. Their message is simple: you are the union.

PRINCIPLES IN PRACTICE

I saw these principles in practice at Local 10. I saw Local Officers spending time talking union with the new hires. I saw packed membership meetings where healthy debate laid the groundwork for collective decisions. I saw other meetings where we learned about our rights under our contract as well as the ILWU Constitution. And I saw how volunteerism made Local 10 one of the most respected and effective locals on the coast.

Members signed up for the Stewards Council to ensure contract compliance in the work place. We had gang stewards; and we had travelling stewards that worked out of the hall. Many of the people who got their start on the Stewards Council went on to become executive board members, caucus and convention delegates, officers and more.

Other members joined the District Council to advance the ILWU's legislative agenda, which embraced all working people, regardless of union membership. Council members worked hard, reading up on the issues, investigating the facts, checking out candidates, working with other labor organizations, and, of course, lobbying. They organized get-out-the-vote drives, recruiting scores of members to walk precincts and hand out slate cards on election day. Their efforts paid off: Bay Area politicians knew that Local 10 was a force to be reckoned with.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Members who didn't hold an "official" title contributed, too. By the hundreds they would show up on picket lines supporting the Warehouse Division and other unions. Bus loads of volunteers headed south to Modesto or Salinas to help the Farm Workers in their struggle with greedy growers. Many more gave generously of their time and money to a multitude of worthy causes, in the labor movement, in the civil rights movement, and in the global struggle for human rights.

Local 10 wasn't unique. I found that same spirit of volunteerism when I moved to the Northwest; I found it during my visits to other ILWU regions and divisions as well. Now, many years later, I believe that spirit still exists. But as a Titled Officer, I know that there is much to be done to turn that spirit into action.

FROM YOU TO US AND BACK

Bearing this in mind, the other new International Officers and I have spent these first few months of our term developing programs that will allow maximum participation at all levels of the union. We draw not only from the ILWU's guiding principles and constitution, but from the policies mandated by the April Convention. These policies originated in your locals; they were brought to the convention by delegates you elected; they passed by majority vote of delegates representing you. In short, they are your policies. As Officers, we are duty bound to turn these policies into workable programs that best serve you.

At the next International Executive Board meeting, to be held in San Francisco in December, the Titled Officers will jointly offer for Board discussion and vote specific programs for organizing, education and political action. These programs will have clear objectives, with plans on how to achieve them. These programs will include details on implementation. These programs will provide direction.

HELP WANTED

Most important, these programs will call for a renewal of volunteerism among our members, active and retired. We will need volunteers for our organizing program to help us shore up our ranks and to reach out to other workers in need of union representation. We will need volunteers for our education program to teach our members and the working-class community about the history, challenges and successes of the ILWU and the labor movement. And we will need volunteers for our political action program to actively support legislation and public officials that truly serve the working people of America.

I have every faith that you will respond to the call, just as your union forbears have for more than six decades. Times have changed, sure enough, but the Guiding Principles of the ILWU remain the same: collectively, only you can put the you in the union, and only you can make the union work for us all.
The Ten Guiding Principles of the ILWU

The ILWU began with a set of cardinal principles upon which it continues to operate. These were memorialized by the union's Tenth Biennial Convention held in San Francisco in 1953, its twentieth anniversary year. They are reproduced here for the benefit of all generations of ILWU members, who have and continue to be instrumental to the union's success.

I. A union is built on its members. The strength, understanding and unity of the membership can determine the union's course and its advancements. The members who work, who make up the union and pay dues can best determine their own destiny. If the facts are honestly presented to the members in the ranks, they will best judge what should be done and how it should be done. In brief, it is the membership of the union which is the best judge of its own welfare, not the officers, not the employers, not politicians and the fair weather friends of labor.

Above all, this approach is based on the conviction that given the truth and an opportunity to determine their own course of action, the rank and file in 99 cases out of 100 will take the right path in their own interests and in the interests of all the people.

II. Labor unity is at all times the key for a successful economic advancement. Anything that detracts from labor unity hurts all labor. Any group of workers which decides to put itself above other workers through craft unionism or through cozy deals at the expense of others will in the long run gain but little and inevitably will lose both its substance and its friends.

No matter how difficult the going, a union must fight in every possible way to advance the principles of labor unity.

III. Workers are indivisible. There can be no discrimination because of race, color, creed, national origin, religious or political belief. Any division among the workers can help no one but the employers. Discrimination of worker against worker is suicide. Discrimination is a weapon of the boss. Its entire history is proof that it has served no other purpose than to pit worker against worker to their own destruction.

IV. "To help any worker in distress" must be a daily guide in the life of every trade union and its individual members. Labor solidarity means just that. Unions have to accept the fact that the solidarity of labor stands above all else, including even the so-called sanctity of contract. We cannot adopt for ourselves the policies of union leaders who insist that because they have a contract, their members are compelled to perform work even behind a picket line.

Every picket line must be respected as though it were our own.

V. Any union, if it is to fulfill its appointed task, must put aside all internal differences and issues to combine for the common cause of advancing the welfare of the membership. No union can successfully fulfill its purpose in life if it allows itself to be distracted by any issue which causes division in its ranks and undermines the unity which all labor must have in the face of the employer.

VI. The days are long gone when a union can consider dealing with single employers. The powerful financial interests of the country are bound together in every conceivable type of united organization to promote their own welfare and to resist the demands of labor. Labor can no more win with the ancient weapons of taking on a single employer in industry any more than it can hope to win through the worn-out dream of withholding its skill until an employer sues for peace. The employers of this country are part of a well-organized, carefully coordinated, effective fighting machine. They can be met only on equal terms, which requires industry-wide bargaining and the most extensive economic strength of organized labor.

VII. Just as water flows to its lowest level, so do wages if the bulk of the workers are left unorganized. The day of craft unionism—the aristocracy of labor—was over when mass production methods were introduced. To organize the unorganized must be a cardinal principle of any union worth its salt; and to accomplish this is not merely in the interest of the unorganized, it is for the benefit of the organized as well.

VIII. The basic aspirations and desires of the workers throughout the world are the same. Workers are workers the world over. International solidarity, particularly to maritime workers, is essential to their protection and a guarantee of reserve economic power in times of strife.

IX. A new type of unionism is called for which does not confine its ambitions and demands only to wages. Conditions of work, security of employment and adequate provisions for the workers and their families in times of need are of equal, if not greater importance, than the hourly wage.

X. Jurisdictional warfare and jurisdictional raiding must be outlawed by labor itself. Nothing can do as much damage to the ranks of labor and to the principle of labor unity and solidarity as jurisdictional bickering and raiding among unions. Both the public support and strike victories are jeopardized by jurisdictional warfare.

This code for rank and file unionism is implemented by the membership's participation in organization, negotiations, strike machinery, contract enforcement and every other aspect of union life. This is absolute democracy in its affairs. It is run by the rank and file. Thus, its discipline springs out of participation, conviction and the right of the membership to decide its own course of action. The above principles and steps to implement them, and an informed and alert membership make the union what it is.
Northwest longshoremen extend helping hand to Russian brothers

Seven members of the ILWU's Longshore Division in the Northwest visited Vladivostok, Russia, August 23-31, 1994, led by Local 23 Vice President David Hermansen. Accompanying him were John Engels, foreman's Local 96; DavidGolden, clerk's Local 52; and Ted Nelson, Morry Kimbrough, Myra Hartman, and Darrell Rohar, Local 23, along with Rohar's family. Here, Hermansen offers his account of what the delegation learned.

By DAVID HERMANSEN

Just two years old, the Dockers' Union of Russia is at a moment in its history that resembles the experience of the ILWU back in the 1930s. At the Port of Nakodka, expensive housing is provided by the locals to overlook the docks. These bosses decide who works and who doesn't. The dockers are afraid to ask questions about this, but they fear repercussions if they protest. "We have families to support," they explain.

The dockers' wages vary from port to port, and from dock to dock. They also get a form of profit sharing, but it is difficult to find out just what the true profit is. The Port Authority determines which company gets the cargo, and each dock can only work for one company. The dockers union must negotiate a separate contract with each employer; there is no one standard for wages, rules or working conditions.

INFLATION BARGAINING

The highest wage rate in the Port of Vladivostok is about $450 a month, then pay drops considerably. Wages are negotiated quarterly, because of inflation. Dockers' dues in Vladivostok are 1 percent of earnings, but some ports are as high as 3 percent. The employers provide all work clothes, equipment and, in some cases, food; dockers that work hazardous cargo receive milk.

Almost every worker at the Port of Vladivostok is in the same union, including managers of the stevedore companies, brigadiers (foremen), and port officials. The exceptions are customs agents and port security, and the tally women (clerks), who are non-union and who earn the lowest wage. It seems that all clerk jobs are held by women. There are no women dockers, however. Myra Hartman, our female longshoreman from Tacoma, is a phenomenon who causes quite a stir.

HISTORY LESSON

At the several docks we visit, in the ports of Vladivostok, Nakodka and Vladivostok, the Russian workers are full of questions. "What is the ILWU's structure?...What is your history?...How did you become so strong?"

I wish that we had brought an ILWU history book or two to help them understand our struggle. How can we explain the 60-year history in a 30-minute meeting, in a hall, on the dock, with management and bosses looking on? Try. And management and the bosses are not pleased with many of our answers.

We explain that we achieved our standard of living through the sacrifice of our founders and through the solidarity of our ILWU brothers and sisters—from Bellingham, Wa., to San Diego, Ca.—all under the same contract negotiated by the same rules, and earning the same wages.

QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS

The Russian dockers want to know more about our safety and manning rules, and hours of work, and pay guarantees; about how we bargain with all the employers at once; about whether we have work quotas we have to fill; about how we can work for more than one company.

We aren't prepared for many of the questions they ask us. This is turning into more of a job than a visit! But there is one question we always welcome: "How much do your bosses earn compared to you?" Our answer brings many a smile to the dockers, and from there on it's smooth sailing.

PRESIDENT'S PLEA

Vladimir V. Vasiliev, President of the Dockers' Union of Russia, accompanies us during our visit. He tells us he is having difficulty convincing his members that every docker in the country should unite and fight for the same pay and working conditions. He has come from St. Petersburg to seek our help and advice on organizing, safety, manning, working conditions and many more problems his young union is having. He wants to strengthen ties between our unions.

He thanks us for the ILWU contract and safety books he received through Vladimir A. Reksha, President of the Dockers Union of Vladivostok, who was part of a delegation to Tacoma in February, 1994. Reksha also joins our tour. Both Reksha and Vasiliev say that they used their ILWU documents in negotiations. They mention that they had a hard time understanding the documents, after they were translated into Russian. I explain that many longshoremen have a hard time understanding them in plain English.

MORE TO COME

Vasiliev proposes a meeting between our unions top leaders in the near future, either in the US or St. Petersburg. We learn that the ILWU is the only union in the world that has offered any help. We feel proud, and we are glad to extend a helping hand to our "Brother Dockers" on the other side of the world.

Before we leave, the Dockers of Vladivostok thank us for the fax machine given to them by the ILWU International. Reksha says that, now that he is able to communicate with his ILWU brothers on the docks of the west coast, he can gain the knowledge to help him in negotiations, and set up future visits between the USA and Russia. He is anxious to strengthen and expand the solidarity our two unions have established. So are we.

ILWU backs grocery workers strike

By JESSE STRANAHAN

PORTLAND—As we go to press, grocery workers and Teamsters in the Portland and Vancouver, Wa., areas are pitched against the giant Fred Meyer "one stop shopping" center chain in a strike that has lasted two months.

The strike kicked off August 18, when members of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 555 and Teamsters Locals 162, 206, 233 and 305 voted by 90 percent-plus margins to "hit the bricks." The vote was a near-total rejection of a "last and final offer" by Food Employers Inc., which represents Fred Meyer, Safeway, Albertsons, Koenen's and other firms totaling 126 stores in the area. Fred Meyer is part of the infamous Kohlberg, Kravis and Roberts (KKR) complex.

STRIKE-LOCKOUT

More than 7000 grocery workers and teamsters became involved in the struggle when Safeway and other members of Food Employers Inc. locked out their union employees a few days after the strike began against Fred Meyer. Job security and maintenance of benefits—votions, sick leave, hospital and medical coverage, pensions—are the key issues in the strike-lockout.

The unions demand contract language that will guarantee full-time workers full-time employment. At Fred Meyer, for example, the unions point out that only 17 percent of the work force is full-time. Benefits beyond wages depend on the number of hours worked. The employers are adamantly in opposing the unions' proposal.

Employer efforts to break the strike have included seeking an injunction against any mass picketing, sponsoring misleading full-page ads in the local media, and, according to strike leaders, the involvement of organizers from the National Right to Work (for less) Committee in coercing pickets to return to work and coordinating meetings to tell strikers how to relinquish their union membership.

LABOR, COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Despite the employers' strike-breaking, union-busting efforts, the strikers remain solid, with growing support from the community as well as organized labor: thousands of area residents are observing the picket lines.

The Columbia River District Council last month urged all Oregon ILWU affiliates to support the strike in every way possible. The call hasn't gone unanswered. ILWU longshore Local 12, Coos Bay, donated $500. A collection taken at the pensioners' meeting raised $145. ILWU Auxiliary 5, Portland, collected food for the UFCW Local 555 Food Bank. And longshoremen, auxiliary members, and pensioners have joined workers from other ILWU locals on the picket lines and at support rallies throughout the area.
The convention was both a solemn and joyous occasion. There were moving and tearful tributes as delegates stand,aluha. The delegates also broke at 4:00 pm, after two days of reviewing reports and debating issues, the five convention committees presented their recommendations. Convention delegates adopted several measures, including...
Deja Voodoo

GOP godfathers put out 'Contract on America'

By LINDSAY McLAUGHLIN
ILWU Washington Representative

It's been called the worst Congress ever. Both Democrats and Republicans have let our people down on the great social and political issues of the day. So it is with hesitation that I speak out against the Republicans' so-called "Contract with America." I don't want to appear to be "shilling for the Demo-
crats," as Senator Fritz Hollings would say.

If I resided in a district represented by the likes of Representative Sam Pack, I'd be singing a different tune. Pack campaigned on a promise of opposing NAFTA and standing up for the working class. I would vote for a third party candidate and revolt against the entrenched two-party system. The 103rd Congress may be the worst ever, but the GOP Congressional wannabes 'contract' proves that things could get even worse.

I call their plan a "Contract on America" because it sounds the death knell for the hopes and dreams of millions of Americans. It cynically creates a rift between citizens dependent on government services—children, seniors, the disabled, the working poor, and those who pay taxes for what's left of our social safety net.

TRILLION-DOLLAR TIME BOMB

The plan, formulated by Republican strategists and announced with great fanfare by GOP candidates September 27, is a trillion-dollar time bomb that would obliterate discretionary spend-
ing for the most vulnerable in our soci-
ety. If the GOP captures the reins of power, you can bet that no improve-
ments will be made in health care or any other important social program.

The 'contract' does have its advan-
tages—for the wealthy. It promises a hefty capital gains tax cut that would primarily benefit Americans earning over $100,000 a year. It promises a back-loaded Super IRA that would only benefit the top-earning one-fifth of all taxpayers. It promises a so-called "child tax credit" that sounds terrific, but in reality would not provide one penny to working poor families. In fact, the working poor would probably see cuts in other discretionary pro-
grams, including this tax credit work for the upper-middle class and the rich.

SAME OLD SCAM

While promising tax breaks that won't materialize for the vast majority of Americans, the GOP 'contract' calls for a major increase in defense that parallels the free-wheeling defense spending of the Reagan era. Although recent defense cuts have been painful for many working families, does any one of the Republicans seriously believe that we really need more defense in the post cold-war era? Is this the policy we can afford? And what other programs would be cut to offset the cost? If the GOP prevails, you'll see veterans' benefits, Medicare and Medicaid on their chopping block. The GOP contract is the same same old out scam that swept Ronald Reagan into the White House fourteen years ago: tax cuts for the rich, pork for the defense industry, the shaft for every-
one else. Back then we called it Voodoo Economics. To paraphrase Yogi Berra, it's Deja Voodoo all over again.

No protection for workers in GATT 'trade liberalization'

ILWU Washington Representative Lindsay McLaughlin recently advised The Dispatcher that last month's Washington Report was incorrectly titled by the editor. "GATT Free Trade Treaty Could Undermine Workers."

GATT, McLaughlin clarifies, does not fit the definition of a free trade treaty, i.e., an agreement between nations that eliminates virtually all tariffs, and those taxes on com-
mercial media, Mexico is fast becoming an international manu-
facturing site for products entering the US.

GATT should be referred to as a "massive trade liberalization treaty," said McLaughlin, who has serious concerns about the pro-
posed agreement's woeful lack of adequate labor rights protections. Congress has been drowned over the issue of GATT until after the November elections.

The General agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is a multi-national trade agreement that sets world-wide trade rules. Begun in 1948 by a small number of developed countries, GATT now has over 100 signatory nations.

The following "Q & A" offers informa-
tion about GATT's impact on workers, as well as why the ILWU opposes it.

WILL GATT and its governing body, the World Trade Organiza-
tion (WTO), have the authority to abrogate labor agreements?

No. The WTO has no authority to abrogate labor agreements. The absence of language in GATT regarding labor agreements or labor stan-
dards would preclude any authority for the WTO to consider labor agree-
ments as a barrier to trade.

The real issue behind organized labor's opposition to GATT is that it increases international competition without regard to international labor standards and, thus, will be used against American workers to drive down wages in the future.

DOES THE WTO have the author-
ity to change US laws?

No. Only Congress has the authority to change, enact or repeal laws. However, if a WTO dispute-settlement panel ruled that a US law is illegal under GATT, that action would bring pressure to bear on Congress to con-
form with the WTO ruling. Addi-
tionally, the political and legislative process would be burdened with another element that would be used to argue against legislation which could be interpreted as an unfair barrier to trade. We should be concerned about aspects of this development.

Why does the ILWU's position against GATT focus on interna-
tional labor and human-rights standards as a priority over the debate on the authority of the WTO?

The most vocal opponents of this agreement are targeting the WTO, and they do a good job promoting debate on the subject. The ILWU is concerned about this because the controversy over the WTO would impact Congress on domestic laws and regulations is almost completely drowning out any debate on the need for enforceable labor and human-

lights provisions. What was negotiated in GATT?

For us some of the most relevant pro-
visions are:

- Trade Organization. The current GATT organization would be replaced by the World Trade Organiza-

- Tariffs. Tariffs would be cut on 85 percent of world trade and eliminated

- World Trade Organization. The current GATT organization would be replaced by the World Trade Organiza-

- Tariffs. Tariffs would be cut on 85 percent of world trade and eliminated
If you have any doubts about the status of American health care, just compare it with that in other industrialized nations.

The United States ranks 16th in life expectancy among industrialized nations and has the lowest health care satisfaction rate (11 percent) of the ten largest.

"He's not encumbered by being politically correct... If you want to know what America used to be—and a lot of people wish it still were—then you listen to [Senator] Strom Thurmond."

In the America that 'used to be,' Strom Thurmond was one of the strongest voices for racism, running for president in 1948 on the slogan, "Segregation Forever."

There are more American Indians alive today than there were when Columbus arrived or if any other time in history. Does this sound like a record of genocide?"
November elections, health care top priorities at PCPA convention

"In dealing with politicians, our strength is in the rank and file, in those people who go down and vote so our job is to turn out that vote. And especially that is the job of one group — and that is our pensioners." — Harry Bridges

Quoting the ILWU's founding President, the ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners Association (PCPA) set a high-profile political agenda at its annual convention, September 12-14 in Redding, California. Among its first priorities are a variety of get-out-the-vote activities for the upcoming November elections. The PCPA pledged to work with ILWU locals and locals, and other unions and retiree groups to register voters, stuff phone banks, put up lawn signs, stuff envelopes, and raise funds for causes and candidates.

Efforts on behalf of health care reform top the PCPA's legislative agenda. Since 1970, at 15 separate conventions, PCPA delegates have joined millions of people across the country calling for a national "Single Payer" health care system that provides universal access, comprehensive benefits, cost containment, and consumer participation. But Congress isn't listening. In fact, it is persevering from the medical industry, insurance companies, and businesses, the debate on health care reform has generated "almost total confusion," the PCPA declared. Watered-down bills offered by the likes of Newt Gingrich, Bob Dole, John Chaffee, Jim Cooper, et al have led to worse than what we have now," said the PCPA.

But PCPA delegates weren't content just supporting a national program. They also endorsed a proactive program for Single Payer, which includes post cards, petitions and phone calls to legislators. They also declared. "A victory in California will be a real positive gain for all of us," they said.

LABOR PARTY ALTERNATIVE

PCPA delegates also made it clear that they are fed up with a two-party system that has stalled or killed several pieces of pro-worker legislation. In response, delegates authorized the PCPA to "investigate the desirability, feasibility and the machinery of endorsing and/or joining Labor Party Advocates," a political organization that, for the last two years, has been testing the political waters to see if there is broad interest for a Labor Party. Three international unions—the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, the United Electrical Workers and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees—have already joined the cause. Many ILWU members signed on after LPA spokes addressed Local membership meetings.

 LOBBYING FOR LABOR

Meanwhile, the PCPA is setting its sights on doing what it can to protect workers under the current political system. Pensioners continue to promote the Cesar Chavez Workplace Fairness bill, which would prevent employers from hiring "permanent replacements" during legal strikes. Although Republicans filibustered the bill into virtual oblivion during the last Congressional session, the PCPA has joined organized labor throughout the country in redoubling efforts toward its passage.

The PCPA also took aim at the proposed General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). In a calculated move by both parties, vote on the proposal has been suspended until after the November elections. GATT, a global trade liberalization agreement, "is a part of the blueprint for complete corporate domination of the economy of the entire world," according to a PCPA resolution. Echoing the sentiments of delegates to the ILWU International Convention in April, the PCPA opposes GATT because it has no enforceable labor or environmental rights and standards that "protect the American worker and enhance the standard of living and quality of life of workers everywhere."

TAKING CARE OF THEIR OWN

Looking closer to home, PCPA delegates urged the ILWU to take steps toward ensuring a more secure future for widows of retirees. Widow's pensions remain at 50 percent of deceased spouses' last year's ILWU PMA contract negotiations did not yield the 25 percent increase requested by the PCPA in 1992. "Inflation continues to take its toll," said a PCPA resolution promising to "keep this issue alive."

The PCPA will renew its request every year "until and including the next contract negotiations."

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Bridges Institute reps Cathy Moore, Dave Arian and his son, Sean.

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"In dealing with politicians, our strength is in the rank and file, in those people who go down and vote and our job is to turn out that vote. And especially that is the job of one group — and that is our pensioners." — Harry Bridges

Quoting the ILWU's founding President, the ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners Association (PCPA) set a high-profile political agenda at its annual convention, September 12-14 in Redding, California. Among its first priorities are a variety of get-out-the-vote activities for the upcoming November elections. The PCPA pledged to work with ILWU locals and locals, and other unions and retiree groups to register voters, stuff phone banks, put up lawn signs, stuff envelopes, and raise funds for causes and candidates. Efforts on behalf of health care reform top the PCPA's legislative agenda. Since 1970, at 15 separate conventions, PCPA delegates have joined millions of people across the country calling for a national "Single Payer" health care system that provides universal access, comprehensive benefits, cost containment, and consumer participation. But Congress isn't listening. In fact, it is persevering from the medical industry, insurance companies, and businesses, the debate on health care reform has generated "almost total confusion," the PCPA declared. Watered-down bills offered by the likes of Newt Gingrich, Bob Dole, John Chaffee, Jim Cooper, et al have led to worse than what we have now," said the PCPA. But PCPA delegates weren't content just supporting a national program. They also endorsed a proactive program for Single Payer, which includes post cards, petitions and phone calls to legislators. They also declared. "A victory in California will be a real positive gain for all of us," they said. LABOR PARTY ALTERNATIVE PCPA delegates also made it clear that they are fed up with a two-party system that has stalled or killed several pieces of pro-worker legislation. In response, delegates authorized the PCPA to "investigate the desirability, feasibility and the machinery of endorsing and/or joining Labor Party Advocates," a political organization that, for the last two years, has been testing the political waters to see if there is broad interest for a Labor Party. Three international unions—the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, the United Electrical Workers and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees—have already joined the cause. Many ILWU members signed on after LPA spokes addressed Local membership meetings. LOBBYING FOR LABOR Meanwhile, the PCPA is setting its sights on doing what it can to protect workers under the current political system. Pensioners continue to promote the Cesar Chavez Workplace Fairness bill, which would prevent employers from hiring "permanent replacements" during legal strikes. Although Republicans filibustered the bill into virtual oblivion during the last Congressional session, the PCPA has joined organized labor throughout the country in redoubling efforts toward its passage. The PCPA also took aim at the proposed General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). In a calculated move by both parties, vote on the proposal has been suspended until after the November elections. GATT, a global trade liberalization agreement, "is a part of the blueprint for complete corporate domination of the economy of the entire world," according to a PCPA resolution. Echoing the sentiments of delegates to the ILWU International Convention in April, the PCPA opposes GATT because it has no enforceable labor or environmental rights and standards that "protect the American worker and enhance the standard of living and quality of life of workers everywhere." TAKING CARE OF THEIR OWN Looking closer to home, PCPA delegates urged the ILWU to take steps toward ensuring a more secure future for widows of retirees. Widow's pensions remain at 50 percent of deceased spouses' last year's ILWU PMA contract negotiations did not yield the 25 percent increase requested by the PCPA in 1992. "Inflation continues to take its toll," said a PCPA resolution promising to "keep this issue alive."

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ILWU Northern and Southern California District Councils (NCDC-SCDC) met jointly in Fresno Septem-
ber 24 to hammer out recommendations
that would be presented to lawmakers.

Taking up the most controversial issues on the state ballot, delegates voted to oppose Proposition 184, the "Three Strikes Initiative" and Proposition 187, the anti-immigration "90/90" measure, both of which are strongly backed by incumbent governor Pete Wilson.

Addressing the joint meeting, Assemblyman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) said that the only "issue" Wilson was campaigning on are crime and illegal immigration. "We need to get on the economy," he recommended. "Go home and rally the troops." Responding to the call, the joint Councils passed a motion for each delegate to get five voters and explain the meaning of Prop 184, and its impact on state finances and resources.

Two speakers from the anti-Prop 187 campaign, Jessie De La Cruz and Hope Lopez, also attended the meet-
ing. De La Cruz said, "Governor Wilson is trying to bring back the Farm Labor Bracero Program." He warned that a Fresno health worker, predicted, "If 187 passes I become an agent of La Migra."

Delegates voted enthusiastically sup-
port Prop 187, the Single Payer initiative. Diana Garchick of the California Teachers Association said that insurance companies "were stunned when single payer qualified for the ballot."

Delegates endorsed Dianne Feinstein for US Senate, as well as a full slate of statewide candidates.

In other matters, Lawrence Thibeaux (NCDC) and David O'Day (SCDC) reported on the 1994 legisla-
tive. The ILWU supported AB 2867 (McDonald) for unemployment insurance and AB 1527 (Burton) for Califor-
nia investment in support of the Mcbride principals in Northern Ire-
land. Numerous other bills were cited.

The delegates voted unanimously to back ILWU opposition to the proposed General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), currently pending before Congress. ILWU International President Brian McWilliams sent a letter to the Councils explaining recent developments. Delegates Zeke Ruelas and David O'Day reported on Southern California efforts against GATT.

The meeting was co-chaired by NCDC president Joe Jansen and SCDC secretary-treasurer Zeke Ruelas. Reg-
istration chair Peggy Chandler reported 37 registrants and guests.

Why We Need a Single Payer

A look at California’s Prop. 186 from a worker perspective

By DAVID SCHERMERHORN

Proposition 186, the Single Payer Initiative on California’s November ballot, is a historic opportunity for the labor movement. Its passage will mean a brighter future for ILWU members, not only in California, but in Washington, Oregon and other states.

Prop 186 provides health benefits will cease to be an obstacle to organizing. When all California residents automatically receive health benefits, union organizing can then concentrate on issues of worker empowerment.

Collective bargaining in the US is dominated by disputes between labor and management over maintenance of health benefits, know that we had to accept significant co-payments for medical care. As ILWU International President Brian McWilliams said, "If Single Payer results in the savings to employers we anticipate, we can then bargain for a shorter work week, more paid vacations and less and maternity leave, whatever. Single Payer will also solve the problem of retiree health and welfare, which has become an ongoing source of confron-
tation and employer anxiety; we could dram-
e
catically increase pension benefits if we were not required to set aside money for those purposes. Why Worry?

"Why should I worry about health care benefits? I already have a generous benefits package through my union," many of our members have said. Answer: We just can’t be sure that what we have today will be there for us tomorrow. We also have to recognize that, while we cur-
tently enjoy pretty decent benefits, there is no security for our grow-

Health Care Security Test

If you answer "No" to any of these questions, you're at risk

- Does your health insurance pay for long-term care at home or in a nursing home?
- Can you keep your insurance forever, even if you lose or change your job?
- Does your insurance allow you to see any doctor you choose?
- Will you still be insured, even if you have cancer or another "pre-existing" condition?
- Does your insurance pay for prescription drugs, preventive care, chiropractors, nursing care and mental health?
- Do you have insurance with no deductibles?
- Will Medicare take care of all your health needs during retirement?
- Are you free from fear of losing your life savings because of a major illness?
- Do your children and grandchildren have as good coverage as you do?
- Are you sure that your medical coverage will be as good under future contracts as it is today?
**ILWU Voting Recommendations for California**

Following are the endorsements of the ILWU Northern California and Southern California District Councils and local legislative committees for the Tuesday, November 8, 1994 elections.

### NATIONAL OFFICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Senator</td>
<td>Dianne Feinstein (D)</td>
</tr>
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### STATE OFFICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Phil Angelides (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>Tony Miller (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Controller</td>
<td>Kathleen Connell (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of State</td>
<td>Kathleen Connell (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attorney General</td>
<td>Phil Angelides (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>Tony Miller (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Instruction</td>
<td>Denaie Eastin (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance Commissioner</td>
<td>Art Torres (D)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District 1</td>
<td>Johan Klehs (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 2</td>
<td>Robert Presley (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 3</td>
<td>Mary Christian Meising (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 4</td>
<td>Bruce Sherman (D)</td>
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### CITY PROPOSITIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G - Building Inspection Comm</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B - Library and museum bonds</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N - Downtown Transit Assessment Dist</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O - Sidewalk Prohibitions</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M - General Assistance Payments</td>
<td>NO</td>
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### COUNTY OFFICES

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco City &amp; County</td>
<td>U.S. House of Representatives</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contra Costa County</td>
<td>U.S. House of Representatives</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresno-Tulare-Kings Counties</td>
<td>U.S. House of Representatives</td>
<td>YES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humboldt-Mendocino-Lake Counties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sacramento-Yolo-Sutter-Placer Counties</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Joaquin County</td>
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<td>San Mateo County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sonoma County</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>B - Increase utility users Tax (advisory)</td>
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<tr>
<td>F - Midcoast Dist. Parks and Recreation</td>
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<tr>
<td>G - Belmont Card Clubs</td>
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### SANTA CLARA LOCAL ENDORSEMENTS

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ILWU Voting Recommendations for Oregon

Following are the recommendations of the ILWU Puget Sound District Council for the Tuesday, November 8, 1994 election:

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<th>District 2</th>
<th>District 3</th>
<th>District 4</th>
<th>District 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barbara COTHERN (D)</td>
<td>Tony FEDERICI (D)</td>
<td>Betty Sue MORRIS (D)</td>
<td>Linda JOHNSON (D)</td>
<td>Oppose Randy DORN (D)</td>
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**STATE SENATE**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tony FEDERICI (D)</td>
<td>Lynn KESSLER (D)</td>
<td>Mike HEAVEY (D)</td>
<td>Tom CAMPBELL (D)</td>
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<th>Position 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suzette COOKE (R)</td>
<td>Rosemarie CLEMENTE (0)</td>
<td>Steve VAN LUVEN (0)</td>
<td>Shirle C фот (D)</td>
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Neal Millsap was a 'member of the club' by Jesse Stranahan

By Jesse Stranahan

Neal Millsap was a member of the club’

By Jesse Stranahan

Bob Nixon, once the ILWU's under- ground (and in some cases under water) cartoonist, recently retired after 35 years of residence in Pahoa, Hawaii. He came to the Portland waterfront in 1959 with a mischievous sense of humor and the talent to spread it around. Trained in art and cartooning, he was given to expressing his views by painting mural-size cartoons in the hold of breakbulk cargo ships. He'd sign his work anonymously, 'The Poison Pen'.

Nixon wasn't anonymous for long. He not only drew acclaim for his work, he also drew the attention of the Pacific Maritime Association, which recruited him to create cartoons for safety programs. Nixon was a respected and active member. He served the Local in many capacities, including three terms as Local President, three terms as Local Secretary-Treasurer, and delegate to five Longshore Division caucuses. In 1988, he was part of an ILWU delegation sent to inspect ports in Europe.

Maxime B. Kellerman, the longshore strike provided punch and playfulness during the long, bitter dispute.

Nixon's work for PMA twice earned him the national "Best Poster" award in the International Marine Safety Poster contest. Larry Hudson, PMA supervisor for Training and Safety, is sorry to lose his star cartoonist. "For 15 years, Bob worked with us on safety and training materials. His contributions will be missed."

ILWU's 'Poison Pen' draws a pension

One of Nixon's many cartoons for Columbia River