An Injury to One is an Injury to All
By Stephanie Van Horn

When my friend’s husband fell twenty-five feet to the hold’s steel deck, I’d just looked at the kitchen clock for no reason, another wife reached for the telephone before it rang. First to see him fall, the winch driver shuddered at the slide, the ex-medical running from the fog raft felt the fast drop, all over the port we fell hard, broken on the butt ends of logs, the safe sky gone in a swift eclipse.

In the emergency room the nurse asks, “Who is his family?” Twenty people answer, “We are.”

BOYCOTT
Thrift/Payless Stores
ILWU Local 26 members need your support
Safeway, Lucky & Save Mart Stores
33,000 grocery workers in Northern California are either on strike or locked out

ON DECK
A Labor Party? 3
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Local 6 Convention 8

IEB IN ACTION: The International Executive Board plowed through a packed agenda at their April meeting. For details, see pages 4-5.
President's Report

A Victory for Organizing

By BRIAN McWILLIAMS
ILWU International President

On Monday, April 3, the results of the referendum ballot on our new organizing program were tallied, and, as you may have already heard, the membership responded overwhelmingly in favor. While this vote gives us the funds to implement a revitalized organizing program, I also believe it demonstrates many positive things about the character of our members and the nature of the ILWU.

It proves, once again, our union's long-held tenet that, given all the facts, our members will always make the right decision. It shows a union-wide recognition of the importance of an aggressive and responsive organizing program that will shore up our ranks by bringing new members the benefits of an ILWU contract. It indicates that the old "jobbly" phrase "organize or die" may have more relevance for us now than it has ever had in recent times. And, finally, it leaves no doubt that our members can and will rise above their individual concerns to support their union and, consequently, their rights and privileges as union members.

Members of the Longshore Division, for example, including the walking bosses, may be the least likely to realize direct benefits from the program because the thrust of our initial organizing will be aimed at other areas. Yet they came out as strong advocates for the program, with some longshore locals voting as much as 100 percent in favor. They did so because they believed it was in the best interest of the entire union.

We found that same spirit almost everywhere: among the tug, ferry and cannery workers of the Inlandboatmen's Union, our marine division; among guards, dockworkers and others in Alaska; among miners in the California desert; among the Borax workers, harbor pilots, clericals and ship planners at LA/Long Beach Harbor; and more, so much more.

The Right to Dissent

At the same time, we shouldn't be distressed by those locals in our Warehouse Division that voted the proposal down. We have to understand that it is these locals that have borne the brunt of the anti-union climate so pervasive in our culture. They've been assaulted by union-busting bosses. They've seen their ranks diminish as a result of closures and downsizing. And through it all, they've managed to effectively negotiate and administer multiple contracts, despite declining financial resources.

The money is there, the resolve is there, the potential is there. We've got to roll up our sleeves and dig into the work of organizing that our members have so clearly demanded. We've got just enough room left in this issue of The Dispatcher to report that donations from ILWU retirees and widows to the new "2-4-24" organizing fund have reached over $6,000, and more are coming in every day. Next month, we hope to publish excerpts from the many heartfelt letters that accompanied the contributions. Many thanks to our pensioners for their outstanding support.

Hats Off to the Pensioners!

We've got just enough room left in this issue of The Dispatcher to report that donations from ILWU retirees and widows to the new "2-4-24" organizing fund have reached over $6,000, and more are coming in every day. Next month, we hope to publish excerpts from the many heartfelt letters that accompanied the contributions. Many thanks to our pensioners for their outstanding support.
Labor Party ‘picks up steam’

By NATE THORTON and ASHER HAKER

“The bosses have two parties. We need to organize like workers,” said Nate Thornton, a member of the San Francisco Building Executive Committees for Union Action, who spoke at a meeting by the Building Trades Executive Committee to endorse the American labor party.

The meeting, chaired by San Francisco Building Executive Committee member Tony Mazzocchi, was attended by approximately 75 people who listened to the San Francisco Labor Council, (415) 775-0533.

The meeting focused on the need for a labor party to represent the interests of workers and to hold the bosses accountable for their actions. The meeting called for the formation of a labor party, with a focus on building a nationwide movement to take on the bosses and their policies.

One speaker, John Henry, said, “The bosses have two parties. We need to organize like workers.”

The meeting ended with a vote to endorse the American labor party, with a focus on building a nationwide movement to take on the bosses and their policies.
The following statements of policy were adopted by the ILWU International Executive Board, meeting in San Francisco, April 6-7, 1995

Affirmative Action

As individuals and as members of an organization, committed to equal opportunity, we strongly oppose the so-called "California Civil Rights Initiative" and similar attempts in other states and in the Republican-controlled Congress to eliminate affirmative action. These proposals are divisive and shortsighted, and fail to recognize the vital importance of affirmative action in fighting and remedying discrimination in our society.

Discrimination based on race, ethnicity, and gender is deeply rooted in our nation's history, and women and people of color continue to suffer from its effects. For example:

• The median income of whites is about $33,500, but less than $30,000 for African Americans; Latinos comprise 55 per cent of all day laborers in California but less than 5 per cent of all professionals; and nationally women earn 67 cents for every dollar earned by men.

• Fully 11 per cent of white males earn over $50,000. In the same income bracket are just 1.8 per cent of white females, 2.3 per cent of African American males, and a pitiful .7 per cent of African American females.

• Although white males comprise 50.4 per cent of the U.S. population, they predominate at the highest levels of government, women and people of color continue to suffer from its effects. For example:

• Despite hardships, they said they were 'proud' to present a check for $32,467.75 for per capita owed by the Allied Division. (Local 32) and Joe Cortez (Local 13). 'It reflects their understanding of our finances,' Ibarra said.

PAYING BACK WITH PRIDE

In other monetary matters, three representatives of the ILWU Local 13 Allied Division in Southern California presented a check for $32,467.75 for per capita owed to the Interna-

FIERVEH RACE

As various reports on affirmative action were presented to the IEB, the work of the Interna-
tional has carried on at a feverish pace.

The Titled Officers, including Main-
land Vice President Rich Austin and Hawaii Vice President Leonard Hos-
bi, have provided direct assistance to ILWU Locals and IBU Regions in every-
thing from administration to contract negotiation, while spearheading all ILWU programs, including organizing, political action, and outreach to domes-
tic and international labor organiza-
tions and other groups.

International field staff in Hawaii, the Pacific Northwest, Northern Cali-
fornia and Southern California have led or assisted several successful organizing

rights and the interests of white workers must not be "unnecessarily trammeled." Thus, affirmative action does not force individ-
uals into positions for which they are not qualified and does not require that positions always be filled in proportion to the general population in society.

Affirmative action is about growth, opportunity, and ensuring all members of society the right to participate in its benefits. It is about justice and fairness, about democracy and opportunity, and about creating a society where everyone has the chance to succeed and reach their full potential.

Right to Work

The November 1994 national and state elections indicated a clear turn to the right and those individuals who are not so disillusioned with the political system that they still vote. Those who do not vote — the millions of workers, unemployed, poor and homeless — have abandoned the political system as an effective means to voice their concerns.

The majority of those who are now in political offices are out to eliminate the so-called "safety net" that has been con-
structed over many years to protect individuals and families from the harshest effects of the economic system. Many of those same individuals in the California legislature have now set their sights on workers and unions at the state level. They
Even the downside has an upside. In a longshore division, employer attempts to erode jurisdiction and thwart union activity have spurred a ground- swell of protest along the coast. The warehouse division, though under the gun in every respect, is fighting back, and will be bolstered even more in that effort as organizing expands. The Hawaiian division, which continues to grapple with the effects of a devastated sugar industry, sets the example for the rest of the ILWU in organizing, particularly in tourism. Canada is bouncing back from government-mandated strike-breaking (see story, page eight), and just recently gained hundreds of members in a new seaman's local, similar to the IBU. And, like everywhere else, Alaska and the IBU are holding their own.

All in all, the ILWU is alive and well, and, with organizing a top priority and the money to back it up, it's destined to get even better.

In addition to the four Titled Officers, members of the ILWU International Executive Board are: Voente Arista, Robert Barba, Eusebio "Bo" Lapenia, Nate Lum, Brian Tanaka and Johnna Wong (Hawaii); John Bukoskey (Alaska); Nick Buckley and Pat Vukich (Puget Sound); Norman Parks (Columbia River); Frank Biliucci, Robert Moreno and Lawrence Thibeaux (Northern California); Dave Freiboth (Inlandboatmen's Union); and Gordie Westrand (Canadian Area). Richard Jones represented the Canadian Area at the meeting in place of Westrand, who was unable to attend.

The International Union stands ready to strongly oppose Right-To-Work legislation within our geographic jurisdiction and nationally. We will educate our membership through articles in The Dispatcher and other means. We will assist all District Councils in registering members to vote and increasing their political activism. We will strongly advise politicians that this issue is critical to us and that we expect their support. We will work with other organizations who support us in this cause. Finally, we will do all that is necessary to mobilize the rank and file on this issue.

The Legacy Fund is a way to earmark general funds for education and organizing, and to receive voluntary donations to be used only for educational and program publications (such as those mandated but not funded by the 1994 Convention). The Legacy Fund will require no additional legal or administrative costs as it is neither a charitable fund nor a corporate entity, and donations to it will not be tax deductible.

The Legacy Fund will stand as a tribute to the men and women who built this Union, and the Fund's income and disbursements will be entirely under the direction and authority of the elected representatives of the rank and file members of the ILWU—the Titled Officers—who will report to the ILWU International Executive Board on the status of the Fund.

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Longshoremen had to be sure-footed loading lumber in the not-so-good old days.

**ILWU ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**
**Part VI**

**Logs, Lumber and Longshoring**

Dockworkers overcome hardship and exploitation as ILWU takes form in the Pacific Northwest

North Bend/Coos Bay
1920 - 1940

There'd been a strong labor movement known as the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) before World War I. They stayed until the early '20s, when they were broken up. Few Coos Bay longshoremen carried IWW red cards, though, because at one time the "good citizens" of the community had deported everyone who was a member of the IWW or was suspected of being an IWW. They'd moved them out to the beach, and if they had their way, they'd have put them on a barge and sunk 'em.

The waterfront got organized again in 1933, and in 1934 the people in the longshore union knew what the story was—they knew what was coming. Job security—that was why the '34 strike was supported. There were a couple of ships the employers tried to load. One thing here—we stayed away, at least openly, from any vicious attack on strikebreakers. We turned over one bus of strikebreakers in a little town down near Empire, and after dark there was lots of things, but on the picket line it was pretty well controlled. We didn't let it get in where the state could come in with the national guard.

There were people—longshoremen too—that thought we were going a little too far in demanding a union-controlled hiring hall in 1934. But after the strike they set up the hiring hall right now. The way the hiring hall was set up, we had a neutral person under the terms of the '34 strike arbitration agreement. He was an all-fella. Our guy did most of the work. Everybody—all the longshoremen—liked it fine. After '34 a few of us went out on committees to organize. We got the woodworkers started. We talked to them, visited them, went out to their camps. We recognized the importance of surrounding ourselves with friendly people, people we could depend on, people who would recognize an obligation. If you don't better that guy's condition and bring it up to your level, he'll tear yours down, you can bet your bottom dollar on that.

They wanted us to scab. I went down and joined the picket line instead. I was a casual longshoreman, but to me it was just instinct.

*They wanted us to scab. I went down and joined the picket line instead. I was a casual longshoreman, but to me it was just instinct.*

Times was bad in the depression, I'll tell you that. Once I left Florence, Oregon, where my parents were, looking for a job. I thought I'd go down to California riding the freight cars. I just got 'wagged,' thrown in jail for looking for work. Later I got a call to go to Beedeport, Oregon, north of Coos Bay, to play minor league baseball. I ended up playing ball and longshoring on weekends. Then the '34 strike came up.

They wanted us to scab. I went down and joined the picket line instead. I was a casual longshoreman, but to me it was just instinct. These people were down there trying to get some improvement on their way of life, which was horrible. I didn't like the way they could fire people, and I didn't like the dangerous, unsanitary attitude of the steam schooner foremen. On the second ship I ever worked they were loading big sling loads of random lumber, and not too good pick, into the hold. You'd be working and you'd all the more they wished boiler, "Heads up," and here'd go a load of lumber over your head if you didn't run the hell out of the way.

Not long after the strike we got equalization of earnings, which became a principle—and everybody watched it like a hawk. Guys went out on gang earnings. Another struggle was getting the size of sling loads down. We never did get it down like they did in some ports, where it was a standard sling load. But we got it reduced. Still a lot of work, a lot of reduction, so we'd pick certain gangs and put a slow down on. Everybody would work, but they wouldn't seem to get anything done. Naturally, he'd get the big foremen.

In 1936 there was another strike. I was in Coos Bay that time. The shipowners was depending on being able to starve the longshoremen out. I survived by hunting and fishing; and in '36 I paid $9 a month for our little apartment. Barb, my wife, had a job in a restaurant. The longshoremen helped one another; we had work parties. And it wasn't only during troubles. If a guy wanted to build a home, there'd be 18, 20, maybe 20 people; all would pitch in, help lay a foundation, and throw up a house in nothing flat.

I was still a rank and file in 1940. I sat through the whole ILWU International Convention they had in North Bend that year. It was quite evident there was a split between various factions. There was Bridge on one philosophical side of what trade unions should be and what could be done, and there was a conservative element of good, honest trade unionists working within the framework of what their thinking was. There was another faction which was out just to disrupt. But I was terribly impressed at how it was run. It was sure as hell democratic.

*"I first met Harry Bridges in 1937. He was a real hero to us. That's where our heroes were—those who were leaders of the working people."*

I was born Valerie Wyatt in Watt, Washington, in 1913. My father had to work out as a logger to keep our ranch going. He knew about the exploitation of the loggers and the conditions in the logging camps. So I was exposed at a pretty young age to the problems of working people. Our sympathies were with the IWW.

We moved to North Bend in 1923. I got out of school in 1934, the year the big strike was on. I thought the longshoremen's conditions were a lot like what my father had seen. I read many books about that time. Not just Upton Sinclair, but all the IWW, Upton Sinclair's The Jungle, and a few books like that got me thinking for myself. We were hearing about Harry Bridges every day. Seemingly, if he wanted to do it, he could do it. You knew the job had to be done, so you were there; you did it because you thought it was right. And the longshoremen supported us, too.

The ILWU Oral History Project was launched by the union and the University of California in the 1980s. Danny Beagle, then editor of The Dispatcher, UC Professor David Womell, Gene Bailey, and Joe Canale conducted the interviews excerpted here.
Pete Grassi: 'He had the longest, most glorious shift ever'

By OLE OLSON
Member, Longshore Coast Labor Relations Committee

Joe Hill joined the Industrial Workers of the World while working as a longshoreman in San Pedro. Pete Grassi was just a boy when Joe was executed in the 20th Century. We derive much of our ILWU tradition from the IWW. Labor in the harbor owes much to Joe. From the Wobblies, the job. The ILWU got its motto: 'An Injury to one is an Injury to All.' From his Wobbly activist father, Local 13 got Pete Grassi. Twenty odd years after Joe Hill's time, some old Wobblies were still around. They were working on something new. That something new turned out to be us, the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union of the United States and Canada.

Over 60 years ago, Pete attended a funeral in San Pedro. It was May, 1934, two months before the famous Thursday we remember each July. Nineteen-year-old Dickie Parker, a San Pedro kid like Pete, joined the union one day. Joe Hill was shot the next day and died. Never worked a shift, just fought for the union and the IWW. Pete Grassi was there. Pete Grassi was there for us, then, at the beginning. He was there for us until the day he died, January 30, 1995.

EARLY AGITATOR
Born in Chicago in 1911, Pete was just seventeen years old when he started agitating as a union organizer. He never forgot the lessons he learned—the hard way, as a child—about the rest of his life to fighting for the cause of working people. In 1937, he became a charter member of what is now the longshore Local 13, where over the years, as an active member and business agent, he helped secure improvements in man- 

Pete was active in the ILWU Southern California District Council. The Local 13 Memorial Building Association was raising money to build a memorial hall in San Pedro. Harry Bridges, George Love, Germain Grassi, Pete, and other comrades, held a benefit dance. Pete Grassi was there.

"Pete was loved and respected by all the pensioners and widows and up and down the coast," said Southern California Pensioners President Lou Love- 

PEDE MAKES A POINT
Everybody knew who Pete was. He had been around for years. When I was first elected Local 13 BA, Pete stopped me in the Memorial Hall and said, "You don't know me, do you?" I was prised and flattered that he knew my name. Then he asked what year I was born. I told him, then I asked why he wanted to know. Did he think forty was too old to be starting in this union business?

"No," he said, "I was just figuring. The first time I was elected BA was the year you were born. Besides, it's good to be older; sometimes younger guys get impetuous."

Hearing that, another pensioner spoke up. He was a charter member like Pete, but he remembered Pete as a business agent: 'Impetuous, I'll tell you about impetuous. One day we've got this beef. Nothing's moving. We're all lined up on the rail. Pete drives up. Doesn't even close his car door. Runs full speed up the gangway. Balls up his fist. Knocks this company guy cold with one punch! Then, just as quick, he drives off without saying a word. What do you say, Pete? Was that impetuous or what?"

Pete Grassi lived up to his youthful reputation, from the 1934 maritime strike in San Pedro through his years as a no-nonsense business agent for Local 13.

Pete explained that he hadn't been impetuous, just in a hurry. He had simply settled the matter the best way he knew how. Later on, I learned that Pete was quite famous for this, that we shall use uniquely efficient approach to labor relations.

END OF THE SHIFT
Sometimes I'd sort of kidnap Pete, drive him around the docks and ask questions. He once showed me, to the best of his recollection, where they stored the barricade, where Dickie Parker fell. Pete said any one of them could have been shot that day in 34, or every one of them, and that every one of them knew it. Most of the union guys had only clubs, bricks or rocks. They bore them knowingly against guns.

Most of us have never shared in a life or death battle for the union. We can only guess how much that experience inspired Pete Grassi. So many of us have certainly been inspired by Pete.

Brother Dickie Parker had the short- est, most tragic shift ever. Brother Pete Grassi had the longest, most glorious shift ever. Pete's shift is over. We have been screened from the union; we work in a major television series produced in Britain by the BBC. We have published our autobiography, "The Kid from Hoboken," in 1990. Of all the events that marked Bill Bailey's life, one of the most important to him personally was his recent reinstatement in the ILWU. "Despite his exterior toughness, he was 'screened' by the Coast Guard and eventually given the chance to work again. Any- one who worked with him got on his good side."

After retiring from the ILWU in 1975, Bailey continued to play an active part in the local and regional political arena. He also became a star. He was featured in the film documentaries "Good Fight and Seeing Red;" he worked in a major television series produced in Britain by the BBC. He was "screened" by the Coast Guard and eventually given the chance to work again. Any- one who worked with him got on his good side."

Bill Bailey: A larger than life character in an epic adventure

"He was a stalwart unionist and polit- 

FIGHTING FASCISM
A year later Bailey was on the West Coast, taking more than twice as much time as a marine engineer, his service was

Bill Bailey at Local 10 Bloody Thursday celebration a few years ago doing what he loved—teaching the history and challenges of the labor movement, elec- tionally-elected Spanish Republican from France, and lost his life in combat.

Mike Bailey of many other young Americans, Bailey had written in his pre- text: he had pretended to be an archae- ologist, gazing at worthless pieces of rocks and monuments like he was a practiced eye. Soon after arriving, he and 600 other Americans were jumping out of a plane, and the Spanish people they'd never heard of but were willing to die for. By the time Bailey returned to the States in 1937, he had fought in every battle waged by the battalions, the International Brigades and the Spanish Republicans."

Bill Bailey became active in the Marine Firemen's Union as a militant organizer and, later, vice president. He continued his fight against Fascism by serving in the US Merchant Marine during World War II. On dangerous runs through enemy-infested waters to provision the US war effort. He was "screened" as a war hero in the South Pacific, eventually given the chance to work again. Any- one who worked with him got on his good side."

Whatever disillusionment he felt, Bailey still believed in the ideals of democratic socialism and took special care to spread the gospel of empower- ment of the working class. He is fondly remembered by many ILWU members as a mentor and teacher who "never missed a chance to talk union—his his- 

Bailey was a stalwart unionist and polit- 

The seafarers' loss was the long- 

"Bill Bailey's life, one of the most important to him personally was his recent rein- 

"Fighting Fascism" is a political thriller by Michael. McWilliams, the author of "The Kid from Hoboken," said in an interview:

"The very end, he tells all of us, 'To wit- 

Bill Bailey died February 27. He was known as a man who could feel his feelings. He had a special way of saying something, especially about the need for solidarity and unity among workers.

"Bill Bailey is watching this, you stupid bastards. Is this socialism at work?"

"Whatever disillusionment he felt, 

Bill Bailey was the West Coast, taking more than twice as much time as a marine engineer, his service was

Whatever disillusionment he felt, Bailey still believed in the ideals of democratic socialism and took special care to spread the gospel of empower- ment of the working class. He is fondly remembered by many ILWU members as a mentor and teacher who "never missed a chance to talk union—his his- 

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Canadian dock foremen hit the bricks

VANCOUVER, B.C.—The 500 ship and dock foremen of ILWU Local 514 walked off their jobs at British Columbia grain elevators for a second-year dispute with the Waterfront Employers Association (WEA) backed by the federal government.

Although they've been working without a contract since December 31, 1994 and their attempts to strike have been stymied by Arbitrator Mark Thompson, a professor of law and the former chief negotiator among the grain companies, the foremen, according to Local Secretary-Treasurer Howie Smith, "as determined as ever" to strike to win a contract that has kept the dispute going for 28 months.

POINTS OF CONTENTION

"First, the employers want to strip away procedures and management that had been in place for 25 years," Smith explained. "They want to change work practices daily with little advance notice, and, as we disagree, which we can only arbitrate after the fact. We say if they want those changes, they have to arbitrate up front, and whoever wins, wins."

"Second, the hiring. Most of our work revolves around the larger terminals, from one seederlove to another. We want to hire seederlovers who have the capably to do the job and show the seniority to have the work. We're allowed employers to hire outside for the industry for special skills, but they want to hire anyone for any work. That would put our people out in the street."

"Third, we have a pay guarantee of full shift, but the employers want a 4-hour call-out—to cut the 'show-up' time to 4 hours, and to eliminate the machinery breakdown, inclement weather, or insufficient longshore labor."

RULES OF THE GAME

Between the March 14th and May 5th closing of ILWU and the WFEA were fast approaching the end of a government-imposed, non-binding mediation process. Smith, WFEA Arbitrator Mark Thompson, a professor of law and the former chief negotiator among the grain companies, the foremen, according to Local Secretary-Treasurer Howie Smith, "as determined as ever" to strike to win a contract that has kept the dispute going for 28 months.

May is medical, dental choice month

Active and retired longshore families in the ports where members have a choice can change medical and dental plans 1995. 1995 is a terminal work year, thus an enrollment change will be effective July 1, 1995. In San Francisco, Los Angeles Portland/Vancouver, active and retired longshoremen may change dental plans during the month of May.

MEDICAL CHOICE

The medical plan choice is between the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and the Choice Port Plan. The ports are; San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland and Vancouver. Local 514 members are: Local 10, 18, 34 (SF), 34 (Stockton), 54 and 91; and Oregon-Columbia River Locals 4, 8 and 9. In the Washington area, the choices are for Local 19, 23, 32, 47, 51 and 98 are the (Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound) and the Choice Port Plan.

For Los Angeles locals, dental choice is between the Delta Dental Plan and the Sacramento Valley Mutual. For San Francisco locals, dental choice is between Blue Cross of Oregon Dentacare, Oregon Kaiser Dental Plan and Oregon/Washington Dental Service.

DENTAL PLANS

For Los Angeles locals, dental choice is between the Delta Dental Plan and the Sacramento Valley Mutual. For San Francisco locals, dental choice is between Blue Cross of Oregon Dentacare, Oregon Kaiser Dental Plan and Oregon/Washington Dental Service.

Information on the dental and medical plans, and changes to form plans, can be obtained at the locals and ILWU PMA Benefits Office. Enrollment cards must be completed and submitted to the Benefits Plans office by May 31 for the change to be effective July 1.

Organizing numero uno at Local 6 convention

OAKLAND—Organizing was the focus as delegates from units ringing the San Francisco Bay gathered Febru-
ary 13 to 17 for the 60th annual convention of ILWU warehouse Local 6. As overview of Local 6 activities in 1994, given by Local President Joe Jasen, pulled no punches in assessing the impact of the "loss of approximately six employees to the warehouse due to the past three years" and the difficulties of batt-
ing anti-union employers and their hired guns in organizing drives. The financial report and budget, presented by Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus Curt McClain and Local President Joe Jasen, underscored the strain of declining membership on finances.

The need for an improved current division structure is expensive to maintain, it is the foundation for future organizing. A well-constructed division structure allows us to have a presence at Bay Area facilities—Fresno and the Chico area. The juris-
diction which we cover allows us to fol-
low the ever-changing, labor-intensive warehouse and health-care unions."

The Local 6 General Executive Board last September approved development of a new organizing manual, a computer program for organizers, and an increase in the organizing budget. Among these efforts, the Officers asked the Convention delegates to adopt a resolution call-
ing for the creation of an organizing committee comprised of the Local's "most active members" who would meet weekly from March through June. The resolution was adopted by the Local Executive Board.

Another bright spot for the Local in 1994 was bargaining. All contracts were satisfactorily put to bed without one strike. This goal was achieved irres-
spective of the anti-labor climate in which unions exist today," Jasen emphasized.

MASTERFUL BARGAINING

The master warehouse contract, with its "innovative pattern for agreements at independent houses, not only sur-
vived unscathed—without the many "rings" that have dogged the employers—but provided hundreds of Local 6 members with wage and pen-
sion increases, and many improve-
ments in the dental plan. Some 29 houses are covered by the Master Contract. Including the inde-
pendent, the Local concluded negotia-
tions on behalf of members at local houses. Bargaining was also effectively accomplished for Local 6 health care coverage. Employed at five East Bay hospitals.

Meanwhile, Local 6 maintained a bargaining unit which includes the "local employers" of five East Bay hospitals.

Local 514, Smith says, has a lot to feel good about. "We are very pleased we won our strike by getting rid of that report on the outstanding issues," he said. "We know the employers are unit-
ized against our organizing and our ca-
nonal operators. But we're united, too. The longshoremen have been very sup-
ported. We've met with them more than 25 times now. People of all parties—democrats, re-
publicans—so speak—also because the ILWU member-
ship stuck together."

Local 98 hosts annual retired foremen's dinner

ILWU Local 98 will host on May 11, 1995, its annual dinner to honor retire-
ning and retired foremen. All their spokespeople are invited to attend this event at the Sea-Tac Red Lion Inn. No-host cocktails at 6:30 p.m. precede the dinner.

For more information and reserva-
tions please contact; Joe Hardman at (206) 965-0961.