ILWU Contest: $200 for best organizing button

Get those creative juices flowing and come up with a button we can use to entice nonunion workers to join the ILWU. Design must include slogan, color, size—the works. Best organizing button earns $200!

Deadline for artwork is July 15; winner may not be announced until September. Contest is open to ILWU and IBU active and retired members only. Send entries, with name, address and book number, to: Button Contest, ILWU, 1188 Franklin Street, 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94109.

Grocery strike victory

In last month's issue, we urged support for workers on strike against Safeway, Lucky and Food Mart stores in Northern California. Shortly after press time, the strike was settled. Safeway agreed to support from more customers, other unions and the strikers themselves made the stores busy again. The workers locked in some three-dozen contract provisions.

Congratulations to the 32,000 members and eleven Locals of the United Food & Commercial Workers.

Boot Newt!

Over 400 angry trade unionists including a quarter of a million dollars of political ads and then occupied his digs for more than an hour. Two protesters were arrested in scuffle after a police officer jumpped a barricade to ride the back of a demonstrator.

Gingrich has incurred the wrath of labor all over the country for his anti-union/worker/family agenda, which, among other things, includes gutting many long-standing labor and workplace rights. Just the other day the Atlanta home office of House of Representa- Speaker Newt Gingrich with a banner reading "Boot Newt!" and then occupied his digs for more than an hour. Two protesters were arrested in scuffle after a police officer jumped a barricade to ride the back of a demonstrator.

It keeps growing and growing and growing...

The United States now has the largest income gap between rich and poor of all industrial nations, according to data obtained from the Federal Reserve, the U.S. Census Bureau, and similar agencies in nearly two dozen other countries. At a minimum of $2.3 million each, the richest 1 percent of Ameri- the Atlanta home office of House of Representa- Speaker Newt Gingrich with a banner reading "Boot Newt!" and then occupied his digs for more than an hour. Two protesters were arrested in scuffle after a police officer jumped a barricade to ride the back of a demonstrator.

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Cobbs heads up national employee assistance group

SAN FRANCISCO—ILWU's own George Cobbs has been elected President of the prestigious Employee Assistance Professionals Association (EAPA), a national organization of professionals who oversee union and/or company sponsored employee assistance programs.

Cobbs' groundbreaking work with the ILWU-PMA Alcohol/Drug Recovery Program (ADRP) no doubt brought him to the attention of the national organization. In years past he has been named EAPA "person of the year." In his first message as EAPA President, Cobbs attributed his success to his role as a Local 13 shop steward, a person, I can fully appreciate the values of EAPA. Labor people traditionally bring political expertise to the forum, and there can be no denying that labor was instrumental in the early days of the EAPA. Cobbs' work during the '60s. Labor fought hard to have coverage of employee benefit programs and I am truly proud to be a president who came from labor. He will continue his duties as ILWU-PMA ADRP coal director and national employee assistance group.

Kobe quake relief nears $40,000

In response to a fund-raising appeal initiated by the ILWU International, ILWU Locals, IBU Regions, and scores of individual retirees and members we have donated over $38,397 in cash relief for dockworkers hit by the January 17 earthquake in Kobe, Japan.[1]

"The outpouring of support for our friends in Japan has been wonderful," said EAPA International President, Brian McWilliams," especially, since at the end of last year they were being asked to vote for the 82 monthly organizing assessment. But, like they always do, they went that extra mile and then some.

KOBE LEVELED

The quake leveled a large portion of Kobe, Japan's biggest and busiest port. In a recent letter to McWilliams, Teteoya Sakamoto, President of All Japan Dockworkers' Union, provided the chilling details.

"Thank you very much for your kind sympathy for the victims of the great Hanshin earthquake which struck the city of Kobe early in the morning of January 17, tore down hundreds of houses and caused the total death toll passed 5,000 with 27,000 injured and 100,000 destroyed.

"Approximately 1,700 members of Kobe, All Japan Dockworkers' Union reside in and around Kobe City, but fortunately none of them were killed in the disaster. Yet, we have been informed of the deaths of 8 members, the injury of 6 members, and 340 houses of the members destroyed. We have also confirmed the deaths of 8 members of Zenkokokukowan (National Council of Dockworkers' Unions) of Japan.

"The dock facilities of Kobe Port are devastated. At the container yard, gantry cranes have been destroyed, the rails and have tilted. Almost all the aprons have caved in with one as deep as 3 meters. It is thought that damage due to liquefaction. All the 22 container yards better and we're easily going to double our salary and more. I don't know how much more, but it'll be a hell of a lot.

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Longshore Weighs in Good choice. When bargaining started to stall, the small planners unit got backing from the heavy hit- ers of the ILWU longshore division. The planners had already voted 100 per cent to strike, and were prepared to walk out at 6 p.m., March 16. That day officers from longshore Local 13, marine clerks' Local 63 and foremen's Local 94 showed up for the last scheduled bargaining session and "warned the employer not to mess with us," said Jerry Rich, Local 63 vice-president. "The difference is like night and day," says planner Andy Lucin. "Before, there was no light at the end of the tunnel. They were working a 10-12 hour day, with more workload and less pay than we were used to. So we're really going to double our salary and more. I don't know how much more, but it'll be a hell of a lot.

Setting Control

Small wonder. The planners had put in a punitive incentive to work clause. It read, "A day just about the nature of the work— planning the load, weight and balance of the yard. It wasn't just putting a Familiar with MacKenzie, George Heffernan, Joe Rowell, Jim Clemons, Nick Podue.

Better contract we've ever negotiated," according to Jerry Rich, and he should know. He's President of the ILWU Local 63 Office Cleri- cal and Professional Union, which organized the planners last year and helped them bargain their first contract.

"We wanted that so they couldn't fire us without the shirts. Registration dead- line is June 14. Submit the shirt sizes early. Local 13 softball tourney is June 14. Submit the shirt sizes early. Local 13 softball tourney is June 14. Submit the shirt sizes early. Longshore Weighs in Good choice. When bargaining started to stall, the small planners unit got backing from the heavy hit- ers of the ILWU longshore division. The planners had already voted 100 per cent to strike, and were prepared to walk out at 6 p.m., March 16. That day officers from longshore Local 13, marine clerks' Local 63 and foremen's Local 94 showed up for the last scheduled bargaining session and "warned the employer not to mess with us," said Jerry Rich, Local 63 vice-president. "The difference is like night and day," says planner Andy Lucin. "Before, there was no light at the end of the tunnel. They were working a 10-12 hour day, with more workload and less pay than we were used to. So we're really going to double our salary and more. I don't know how much more, but it'll be a hell of a lot.

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LONG BEACH—Five ship planners at Total Terminals, Inc. have got 'the wind up.' We're going to work the double shift for the life of the three-year agreement.

"We hired a bunch of people from the outside and tried to decertify us sometime down the road,' explained Local Vice President Reynolds, Joe Rowell, Jim Clemons, Nick Podue.

"It's a company plan anyway, a rela- tion to the Local 13 Dispatch Hall. They came to the ILWU because they wanted to be here and I am truly proud to be a president who came from labor. He will continue his duties as ILWU-PMA ADRP coal director and national employee assistance group.

Swing into action at Local 13 softball tourney

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GOP budget will dismantle federal government

By LINDSAY McLAUGHLIN
Kato News Service

At this very moment, Congress is considering a proposed budget that would, if enacted, alter the relationship between the people and its government well into the next century. The Republicans’ House and Senate proposals allow huge tax cuts for the wealthy and huge tax increases for the working poor and poor elderly by slashing the earned income tax credit. The proposed budget destroys virtually ALL federal programs designed to give working families a chance for a decent standard of living.

Right-wing extremists and capitalist purists are in control of the government—that is a fact. The House Committee on the Budget proposes to terminate, block grant, or privatize three Cabinet departments, 284 programs, 69 commissions, 13 agencies, and privatize three commercial activities in our 1996 Budget Resolution.

Following are just some of the departments, agencies, and programs that will be ELIMINATED under the proposed house budget:

Departments Eliminated
The Department of Commerce
The Department of Education
The Department of Energy

Agencies Eliminated
Maritime Administration
Legal Services Corporation

Programs Eliminated
Office of the American Workplace
On-the-Job Training Program
Trade Adjustment Assistance
Unemployment Insurance Extended Benefits
Workplace Literacy
Job Training (JTPA Programs)
Disadvantaged Adults
State Education Programs
Incentive Grants
Training for Older Individuals
Disadvantaged Youth—Incentive Grants
Disadvantaged Youth—State Education Programs
Training for Disadvantaged, Summer Youth Employment & Training
Summer Youth Employment and Training—Native Americans
Dislocated Workers—Secretary’s Discretion
Defense Conversion Adjustment Program
Defense Diversification
Clean Air Employment Transition Assistance
Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers Employment, Training and Research & Development
Employment Services & Job Training Pilot & Demonstration Programs
Native American Employment & Training Program
Senior Community Service Employment Program
Employment Service Wagner Peysar State Grants

We’re mad as hell, and we’re not going to take it anymore. We are poor people. We are old people. We are workers. We are students. We are children, women and men. We are straight and gay. We are black and white and every shade in between.

And 20,000 of us marched through the streets of San Francisco.

We were joined by tens of thousands more in several major cities across the country, including Boston, New York, Chicago, Seattle and Los Angeles. It was our day, six weeks in the planning, and we were ready. It was our time, and long overdue. It was May 6, the national day of protest against the Republicans’ “Contract On America.”

The ILWU was there. Local 34’s Lew Gibbons, recently retired, coordinated efforts were rewarded: over 200 members, retirees and staffers came, bearing banners, wearing hats and jackets, from Sacramento 100 miles to the east.

As we walked through narrow city streets, residents opened their doors and windows to gaze out in surprise and curiosity. A Latina woman wearing an apron rushed out from her house in the warm afternoon, we lined up at the hotel and restaurant workers, truck drivers, health care workers, plumbers and pipefitters, office workers, public employees, teachers, newspaper workers, machinists, farm workers and more. There were workers running the gamut from white collar to blue collar to unemployed. Jobs there were. NO MORE NEWTMARES

There were unions representing hotel and restaurant workers, truck drivers, health care workers, plumbers and pipefitters, office workers, public employees, teachers, newspaper workers, machinists, farm workers and more. There were workers running the gamut from white collar to blue collar to unemployed. Jobs there were. NO MORE NEWTMARES

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Nasty- Gram for Newt...

WE'RE GOING TO BUST YOUR CONTRACT!

Following is the speech delivered by ILWU International President Brian McWilliams at the May 6, 1995 National Day of Protest Against the Contract on America.

I'm here to deliver a message to Newt Gingrich and every other right-wing, race-baiting, gay-hating, immigrant-bashing, worker-abusing, money-grabbing, power-grabbing politician who has anything at all to do with this Contract on America. I'm here to say something I never thought I'd say.

WE'RE GOING TO BUST YOUR CONTRACT!

You see, Newt, you've made a total misjudication: we ain't that stupid...and you ain't that smart! Even us angry white guys can figure out a thing or two...like the source of our frustration isn't welfare moms, hungry school kids, or immigrants...it isn't lesbians and gays, or women, or people of color. In fact it isn't anyone you've tried to scapegoat in order to divert the attention of American voters.

We can even figure out who your real enemies are—the corporate/political elite who hold the reins of power in government and business. That's you, Newt—you, your Congressional cohorts and corporate compadres. You are the ones who've caused wages to plummet over 20 per cent in the last 20 years. You are the ones who've cheated us out of decent health care and pensions. You are the ones who turned the minimum wage into guaranteed poverty for millions of working families.

You are the ones who bust our unions...who violate our labor laws and work place protections...who ship our top-paying manufacturing jobs overseas...who fight us on unemployment, retraining and the right to organize and strike.

That's right, Newt, "angry white boys" can figure out that we have far less to fear from affirmative action than the negative reaction that swept you into office.

We can even figure out that your Contract so-called "Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act" is about neither...that it's just another scam to give a nice fat capital gains tax cut to corporations and the wealthy...that 2/3 of that capital gains "bonus" would be gobbled up by the richest 1 per cent of the population...that 54 per cent of all the tax cuts your Contract calls for would go to folks hauling in over 100 grand a year.

And when we see you hacking away at student loans, school lunch programs, education, Medicare, veterans' benefits, low-cost housing and nutrition programs for the elderly and the poor, we don't need so much as a pocket calculator to figure out how you plan to pay for your pig—out party. Well, enjoy it while you can, Newt...because we're getting ready to punch out your party lights.

You bet we're going to bust your Contract. And we've learned from experts how to do it all.

We can start by attacking your credibility. And, unlike all those professional union busters you and your ilk are so pleased to protect, we won't even have to lie to do it! We can confront your constituents, for a change—those union-busting, profit-guzzling, corporate fat cats who hire goon squads to intimidate working folks standing up for their rights. But we won't have to use tear gas and guns to make our point. We'll do it our way: with boycotts...sancions...and walk outs...with picket lines...demorations...and civil disobedience. Even then, done that. Can do it again!

And after that, what's next? Just open the corporate play book, Newt! You get permenantly replaced! And we don't have to trick in a fusilade of scabs. We can just march to the ballot box and vote. And if the people we elect and the party we support don't hack it, we'll get rid of them just like we're going to get rid of you—even if we have to form a political party of our own!

There are other things we can do, Newt. And, if you ever get the urge to merge with masses, you can find out what they are. Just come on down to the docks some time—we got all kinds of angry white guys down there, and women, and people of color, and people with families, and people trying to survive—and they're all just dying to meet you.

They've got a message for you, too, Newt. It's the same message you're going to hear from everyone here today. We're going to say it loud. We're going to say it together. We're going to say it now...BUST THE CONTRACT! BUST THE CONTRACT! BUST THE CONTRACT! BUST THE CONTRACT!

For more information on the National People's Campaign, call the San Francisco office at (415) 821-6545, or the national office in New York at (212) 633-6846.
**ILWU ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**PART VII**

**Toil & Trouble in the Promised Land**

**Sugar and pineapple workers unite against racism, division and poverty**

**Hawaii, 1944 - 1947**

PEDRO CASTILLO

“*When we joined the union, and the platform of the union covered the differences of the national groups, we united the people.*

I came to Lanai from the Philippines in 1946. My first job was picking pineapple. When we were new here the bosses tried to push us to work as hard as they like. They'd tell you to pick faster or cut the top faster. If you were not able to go beyond their standard they'd tell you, "Go, go a little bit more."

In 1946-1947 there were only a couple of work breaks. There were no portable toilets—you just went all over the place.

There was no picking machine in early 1946. The picking machine came in late 1947. When the machinery came we felt lighter than carrying the pineapple and we produced more. In the early part we worked six or seven days a week; when the machine came they reduced the working days to five. We made smaller money at first, but because of wage increases under the ILWU we earned more money later.

I joined the ILWU six months after arriving in Lanai. The union organizers went house to house; I was happy to receive them. I understood the program to have better wages and working conditions. I asked the organizers, "Can you what you are telling me be true?" They said, "To unite everybody, that is your power. If the workers want to achieve better, you have to stick together and strike the company."

We had different opinions among different nationalities, but when we joined the union, and the platform of the union covered the differences of the national groups, we united the people.

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 Wellman, Chris Conybeare, and Harvey Schwartz conducted the interviews excerpted here.
The top officers of the ILWU are speaking in line with the winning Harry Bridges' policy: telling the truth, propounding a collectively worked-out rank-and-file policy and promising to carry it out if the rank-and-file stands ready to back it up.

I will be sending a check each month regardless of how the balloting turns out. The ILWU is a great Union and it is vital that the Union has an organizing plan.

I started on the waterfront in 1933, joined the ILA in 1933, then went with ILWU. I was drafted in 1942 and worked in the Port Battalion in England as an instructor. I returned in 1945. I am sending a check for 2-4-24. I hope this will let me be a member to my last day.

Local officers are speaking in worked-out rank-and-file policy and the ILWU is a great Union and it is vital that the Union has an organizing plan.

May 25, 1995 Page 7
A villain then, a hero today
Tom Yagi defied red-baiters to help transform Hawaii

WAILUKU, Maui—Hundreds of friends and family members gathered to pay their last respects to the late Local 142 leader Thomas S. Yagi at memorial services held at St. Anthony Church on January 12, 1995.

Leading members of the community, government, business, and labor were in attendance. Messages poured in from the governor, Hawaii's Congressional representatives and the Hawaii legislature. It was a fitting memorial for a man whose lifetime accomplishments helped bring about the transformation of Hawaii into a modern, democratic society.

EARLY ACTIVIST
Yagi started working at Wailuku Sugar Company in 1939, after graduating from St. Anthony High School. He worked as a warehouseman when the ILWU first began organizing sugar workers towards the end of World War II in 1944. A year later, Yagi had already distinguished himself as a talented teacher who called Yagi a Communist felon.

In 1948, sugar and pineapple workers towards the end of World War II in 1944. A year later, Yagi had already distinguished himself as a talented teacher who believed the ILWU was helping to organize the workers. He was hauled before US congressional hearings in 1950 and again in 1956 to be grilled on questions, citing protection under the Constitution.

Tom Yagi was chosen Division Vice President. In 1952, when all of the ILWU locals consolidated into Local 142, Yagi was elected as Maui Division Director, the highest ILWU office on the island. He won re-election to that position for the next 31 years until his retirement in 1983, leading and guiding the union and its membership through some of its most turbulent and formative years.

THE DARK DAYS
It wasn’t easy to be a union leader. In the 1950s, Hawaii’s leading citizens saw Tom Yagi and other union leaders as subversive criminals that belonged behind bars. In those dark days, big business ran the government and viewed effective union leaders as threats to their profits and control. Yagi and other ILWU leaders were hauled before US congressional hearings in 1950 and again in 1956 to be grilled on their alleged “un-American” activities. The ILWU leaders refused to answer questions, citing protection under the Fifth amendment of the US Constitution.

At Yagi’s church, a Catholic priest accused Yagi of being a Communist. One of Yagi’s daughters challenged her teacher who called Yagi a Communist. Friends and associates avoided the Yagi family for fear of also being branded as un-American subversives. ILWU members, on the other hand, saw through the efforts to undermine the union and knew Yagi as a good union leader.

Yet Hawaii would change so radically that, less than 40 years later in 1993, Tom Yagi would be awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree of Humane Letters by the University of Hawaii. The Honorary Degree is a rare and prestigious award in recognition of lifetime accomplishment and distinguished dedication to human values. On hand to honor Yagi were Hawaii’s Lieutenant Governor, the University Board of Regents, the University president, and other leading Hawaii citizens.

A villain then, a hero today. It was not Yagi that changed. It was Hawaii that was transformed—a transformation that was brought about because of the lifetime work and accomplishments of people like Tom Yagi.