And the times, they are a changin’

New faces
New spirit
New direction

High energy, high hopes at landmark AFL-CIO Convention

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New AFL-CIO officers are courted by the press at landmark convention in New York. Left: Secretary-Treasurer Rich Trumka, Executive Vice President Linda Chavez Thompson and President John J. Sweeney.

TURKEY ALERT! It’s that time of year again!

‘Dis’ roasts our favorite turkeys of the year ........ 5

Caught in the act! ILWU trumps GOP plot to unravel maritime regs .... 4
AFL-CIO Convention a Turning Point for Labor

By BRIAN McWILLIAMS
ILWU International President

Few words can adequately express the excitement and enthusiasm that permeated the AFL-CIO Convention, held in New York City, October 23-26. From international unions, labor councils and state federations across the country, we swelled in to the Big Apple determined to turn back the right-wing, anti-union tide that had dented out the labor movement. The 30 million people since Reaganites invaded the White House in 1981. The GOP's capture of Congress last year made a bad situation worse. We've all been hurt, and we're all pretty hot about it. Although we had widely divergent opinions about how to "put back the move in the labor mood," our mood was universal: "We mad as hell and we're not going to take it anymore!"

After years of being painted by the press as a tired, toothless underdog guarding a declining bone, organized labor has demonstrated it is anything but. The entire Convention was a testament to our resolve to stake up the growing part of the working middle classes and to shake-up the political and business institutions controlled by the middle class. Toward that end, the Federation held its best-attended assembly—its first-ever contested elections—since the AFL formed 100 years ago. Making their mark to a record of more than 1,000 delegates, candidates for President and Secretary-Treasurer presented strong, positive programs and participated in open, united debates. Their supporters "walked the floor," hustled undecided voters, met late into the night, distributed flyers and buttons, and kept up the pressure on the "other side." Definitely not the stuff of a typical AFL-CIO convention.

SWEENEY STEAMROLLER

It was clear from Day One who had the momentum. Spearheading a coalition for change, Service Employees International Union President John Sweeney, out-organized and out-lobbied incumbent Fed President Tom Donahue by a country mile. At first glance, one might wonder why. Both are fighting insurgents, hailng from the same SEIU local in New York City, who have dedicated their lives to the protection and advancement of workers. Both want to give organizing a top priority, along with beefing up corporate campaigns, strike support and global unions in order to take on Big Bz's multi-templacled multi-nationals.

But there the similarities end. Sweeney's reputation as a plain-talking, grassroots man "of the people" starkly contrasted Donahue's perceived persona as a politician, sophisticated and pragmatic Washington insider. White Donahue was exercising his considerable skills as the Federation's spokesperson, seasoned policy maker, administrator and legislative champion. Sweeney was organizing up a storm, leading protest marches, blocking bridges and getting arrested.

Sweeney's running mate, Rich Trumka, would be a tough act to follow for anyone. The candidate of choice for AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer, the young and fiery President of the United Mine Workers rose to national prominence a few years ago by leading and eventually winning a long and bitter strike by miners at Pittston Coal Company. It was a victory born of guerrilla warfare, stubborn determination, widespread community support, and just plain guts. It also inspired leaders of workers and scores of unions to take a more militant stance in confrontations with employers.

Trumka's opponent, incumbent AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Barbara Easterling, had plenty of credentials to retain her post, including hands-on fiscal management as International Secretary-Treasurer of the Communications Workers of America. She became the Federation's first woman officer just a few months ago when she replaced Donahue who took over in the wake of Lane Kirkland's sudden retirement. She was also a bona fide "coal miners daughter" whose parents were union organizers. Exuding confidence, competence and strength in a straightforward, matter-of-fact manner, Easterling was a standout candidate. But it was Trumka who captured the most hearts. His fervent sermons from the bully pulpit repeatedly got delegates to their feet, cheering, stamping and clapping. Kirkland's departure earlier this year played a prophetic part in the dramatic, prompted by several key union presidents on the Executive Council. After a torrid period of testing the waters, the unions leaders felt they had no choice but to heed the growing demand for change by playing the blame game. If the Fed fell asleep at the wheel, it was only because they had been all sleepwalking for too many years. If we don't understand how union democracy works. much less the underlying it, the mainstream media demonstrated, once again, that they just don't get it. They don't understand how union democracy works, much less the process.

Sweeney's win, while not a "turning point" for the AFL-CIO, was a "wake-up call" to every union. As in most labor forums where opinions on critical issues are freely aired, emotions ran high. Competing factions had no less than the fate of America's workers on their shoulders, and they knew it. There was simply no place for delay, for compromise, for no room for indecision—and no use at all for timidity. Delegates and candidates told us how it saw it, blunt as a sword. Even in the heat of argument, everyone understood behind a common objective: a stronger, bigger, better, feistier labor movement. Unfortunately, the commercial press had a field day reporting on the "split" within the Federation, no doubt much to the amusements of corporations that own or advertise in their papers. Focusing more on contention than the consensus underlying it, the mainstream media demonstrated, once again, that they just don't get it. They don't understand how union democracy works, much less what it means.

We do not just at the ILWU, where union democracy has been the bread for everything we've ever achieved, but in the entire labor movement. If anything, the AFL-CIO Convention proved that. It wasn't easy and it wasn't pretty. Democracy seldom is, whether in a union or a nation; and, on occasion, it can even be a royal pain in the ass. But that's the price we willingly pay to achieve a progressive and responsive decision-making process that ultimately serves us all.

Those of us in the ILWU can take great satisfaction in knowing that the actions of the AFL-CIO Convention fell right in line with the marching orders our delegates got from the ILWU Convention and International Executive Board. We can also safely say (at the risk of towing our own horn) that just seven years after the ILWU moved into the ranks of AFL-CIO unions, the AFL- CIO moved toward our brand of rank-and-file unionism.

What does it all mean? It means a lot of hard work. It also means that, for the first time in a long time, we've got a chance in our step, a gleam in our eye, a fire in our bellies and a belief in our heart that we've reached a turning point for the better. What lies ahead, no one knows for sure. But you can bet it's going to be one hell of a ride.

In addition to the four Titled Officers, ILWU President Emeritus James R. Herman served as an ILWU McWilliams Delegate to the convention. Other ILWU representatives attending were the newly elected Executive Vice President, Director Bob Provost for the Alaska State Labor Federation and ILU Region 37 Director Richard Gurtiza for the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA).

ILWU Titled Officers

BRIAN MCWILLIAMS
President

RICHARD AUSTRIN
Vice President

LEONARD HOSHJO
Vice President

JOE IBARRA
Secretary-Treasurer

President's Report

About the 1995 AFL-CIO Convention

Notable quotes from the 1995 AFL-CIO Convention

"You stand up and say, 'That's my brother in Decatur, that's my brother in the Hilltop Valley section of town.'" - Tom Donahoe, former AFL-CIO President

"You can do without Pepsi!" - BobAddona, former AFL-CIO President

"I feel like we should do some of the things that were done back in days of the vegetables, when they were growing so much wheat and they couldn't get it sold, but I don't and this worker didn't. 'Let's stop raising so much wheat and let's raise more meat.'" - John Sweeney, AFL-CIO President

"I want partners who know ringing buttons, who feel and ache, who can work the streets as well as the hotel lobby. Which I can do, talk talk, talk it." - John Sweeney, AFL-CIO President

"What a labor movement that reaches out to women and the young. When you move out of the confines of the Republican or Democratic who scapegoats out of a desire to keep bad labor laws because unless those laws are changed we are certain to lose: why not right again, why not move again and win again? That's the kind of movement we're going to have!" - Rich Trumka, AFL-CIO President

"Now, as if we hadn't learned anything from the '80s, this Republican budget would allow companies to withdraw money from their workers' pension funds to use for whatever reason they want—corporate buyouts, bonuses, any reason. Now, folks, we just had to fix this last year. You've decided to do it as we did as we used to, our circuits are kind of jammed, we can't at least remember what we did last year!" - William Jefferson Clinton, President of the United States

"Since 1979, real household income has gone up on average per household of $2,000 a year. Now, that's pretty good. $2,000 over the period of time. But that's an average. Look behind the average. Every time somebody talks about averages, watch your wallet. Shaquille O'Neal, the basketball star, always have an average height of six-foot-two." - Robert Reich, Communications Director, US Department of Labor

"We are seeing an old system returning with new labels. If corporations had their way, all of us would work in sweatshops." - Jay Mazurek, President, UNITE

"I feel like we should do some of the things that were done back in days of the vegetables, when they were growing so much wheat and they couldn't get it sold, but I don't and this worker didn't. 'Let's stop raising so much wheat and let's raise more meat.'" - John Sweeney, AFL-CIO President

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Published monthly, except for a combined July/August issue, for $2.50 by the ILWU, 1168 Freedom Way, San Francisco, CA 94109-8860. The Dispatcher welcomes letters, photos and other submissions to the above address. © ILWU, 1994.
ENDORESMENT OF SWEENEY TICKET

After much soul-searching and a thorough exam-
ination of the candidates and the issues, delegates to the AFL-CIO Convention deferred resolutions to the new Executive Council. Watch future issues of The Dispatcher for developments.

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SWEENEY TICKET

A couple of years ago, the ILWU International Executive Council unanimously adopted a Statement of Policy calling for the repeal of the US embargo against Cuba. We urge the AFL-CIO to do the same. While we appreciate the efforts of the resolutions committee to address the issue, their “Substitute Resolu-
tion Letter B ‘International Labor Solidarity” does not go far enough.

We cannot reach out to any group of overseas workers and support efforts protecting and improv-
ing their “basic human and worker rights” if our own government stands in the way, which is exactly the case with Cuba. No words, no wishes can substitute for direct contact and, if necessary, interception on their behalf.

The embargo is cruel. It punishes the very people whom we profess to help. It cuts off average working people in both countries from one another, while American corporations earn billions trading with Cuba through Canada—made all the more easy, of course, since the passage of NAFTA. It causes great suffering and hardship on Cuban people’s behalf, when, by our own government’s admission, the target is not them but their leader, Fidel Castro. And, finally, it doesn’t work.

After more than 30 years, Cuba remains an inde-
pendent socialist state and is as committed as ever to keeping it that way. More than 30 years still keep trying to change that—and we are the only nation in the world doing it.

In addition, if we were to enforce an embargo on every nation that has committed human rights viola-
tions that has a government we don’t approve of, there would hardly be any country left in the world with which we could trade.

The US government cannot and will not win the hearts and minds of the people of Cuba through hos-
tility and aggression. And the US labor movement, despite its best intentions—cannot help Cuban workers as long as the embargo remains.

MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

The resolution supporting a new trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal will tell the world that the labor move-
ment can look beyond its natural borders to matters of social and racial consequence.

While it is true that Jamal has been an eloquent spea-
k for the marginalized, he did not support the working class, that alone would not necessarily be sufficient to merit the attention of this prestigious organization.

We believe that the issue here is justice, and justice, after all, is the foundation of our great movement. The resolution does not take a position as to Jamal’s guilt or innocence. It only asks that he be granted a new trial so that such a determination can be made in keeping with the spirit as well as the letter of the law.

The circumstances of Mumia Abu-Jamal’s arrest, incarceration, innocence, and trial and executions of denial of legal counsel and failure to call vital wit-
nesses, demand a new trial, with proper legal counsel and introduction of evidence previously withheld by the prosecution.

That is the very least that should be done when the life of a human being is at stake.

UNIVERSAL, SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE

There is a crisis in America’s health care system, as some of the resolutions submitted by delegates illustrate. And when we see Congress arrowing away at Medicare and Medicaid, we know that crisis will get worse. Those of us who have a union contract with good benefits value the positive changes this crisis. Nevertheless, we have an obligation to act on behalf of those who will: the uninsured, the underin-
ured, the unemployed (who have none of these), the elderly, the disabled, the poor and their children.

A universal, national health care insurance program would consume only 7% or 8% of our nation’s gross domestic product—sufficiently much to cover everyone, including the uninsured.

We are trying our damnedest—and we are trying for direct contact and, if necessary, interception on their behalf.

It sends a vitally important message back to union mem-
ers, we must participate in effecting a visible change in the framework of the Federation.

We intend no impediment, we claim no special privi-
lege. We only seek what other affiliates already have: representation, voice and vote—and an opportunity for our perspective and expertise with the rest of labor.

CONTRACT WORKERS

The resolutions concerning contract or temporary work raise several legitimate issues, but miss one that is just as important: the status of the people who perform such work.

More often than not, these workers have lousy pay, poor working conditions, few, if any, benefits and face an uncertain future.

There would be no incentive for employers to hire subcontractors or temps if all workers were entitled to benefits, but that has not been the case. In our discussion of the subsequent action on this matter, let’s embrace those workers and promise to develop strategies to help them. Let’s resolve to help them.

We are not our enemies; the employers and politi-
cians who exploit them are. And let’s keep in mind the old Wobbly slogan that has served our union, the ILWU, so well for so long: “An injury to one is an injury to all.”

U.S. EMBARGO OF CUBA

It is made in recognition of the fact that it is not only workers who belong to a union, whether or not they worked for the ILWU in order to produce a minority AFL-CIO affiliated union, but it is increasingly the words of the ILWU’s general secretary-treasurer, Richard Trumka and Linda Chavez Thompson. It is our opinion that, best serve our own mem-
ers, we must participate in effecting a visible change in the framework of the Federation.

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lege. We only seek what other affiliates already have: representation, voice and vote—and an opportunity for our perspective and expertise with the rest of labor.

DIVERSITY ON AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

diversity is not only welcomed but encouraged and that we embrace positive, progressive change to keep pace with the ever-changing face of America’s labor-

Our appeal for diversity is not merely an assertion that it is the right thing to do, but is a matter of moral impera-
tive. It is made in recognition of the fact that two-thirds of the union officers in the west are from ethnic minority groups.

There is no hidden agenda in this resolution. Our objective is up front and very simple. We say it

NOTE: Delegates to the AFL-CIO Convention deferred resolutions to the new Executive Council. Watch future issues of The Dispatcher for developments.
ILWU members find spiritual renewal and brotherhood on pilgrimage to the Capitol

By CLARENCE THOMAS

WASHINGTON, DC—On October 16, 1995, one of the most significant events in the history of our nation took place. More than one million Black men gathered in the nation's Capitol for the Million Man March. ILWU members were there!

During the ILWU Longshore Division Caucus September 27-30, a resolution was passed by the delegates to endorse and support the intent and purpose of the Million Man March. Hailing a call for atonement, spiritual renewal, solidarity and political action, ILWU members traveled 2,000 miles to participate in an event the magnitude of which is yet to be determined. I am proud and honored to say that I was among them.

In much the same manner that workers in San Francisco came together in 1934 to shut down the city in support of longshore workers, African American men from all corners of this country came together in a demonstration of solidarity. They pledged to themselves, their families, their communities and one another that they would meet the political onslaught on the Black community.

It is important to place the event in its proper historical context. In the early part of this century, Washington, DC had "Black Codes" to restrict social and political mobility of people of color. Blacks had to obtain permission in order to congregate, or to assemble for meetings. But, on the day of the Million Man March, over 1.5 million African American men—from every economic, social, political, educational and religious background—united in an unprecedented showing of empowerment, spiritual renewal and atonement, and commitment.

CHARTING THE COURSE

The march was convened by Minister Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, with the Reverend Ben Chavis as executive director. His purpose was a "Holy Day of Atonement and Reconciliation: men coming together and moving forward to chart the course of our future as responsible heads of families, to reclaim and rebuild our neighborhoods, to unify our families and to save our children who will lead us into the 21st century."

The spirit of brotherhood was overwhelming. An energy permeated our nation's Capitol that was astounding. Total strangers shook hands and embraced each other, exchanged business cards and phone numbers, and vowed to establish a network for organizing and communicating in the future.

Listening to the speeches while standing at the steps of the Capitol, an irresistible force of indescribable energy consumed my whole being. I kept turning my head and looking at the hundreds of thousands of my brothers standing together—humble, dignified and strong—a sea of humanity as far as the naked eye can see. We were together as one—one purpose, one spirit, one goal, one love. We shared a mystical, powerful experience we will never forget.

WHY A MILLION MAN MARCH?
The march was needed to bring attention to the conservative/right-wing forces in America that are fostering an increasingly hostile climate for the aspirations of poor and working people in general and the Black community in particular. These forces have succeeded in eliminating many gains achieved in the civil rights struggles of the '50s and '60s.

The recent Supreme Court decisions on affirmative action have set the stage for impeding Black enrollment and graduation from colleges and universities, minimizing business opportunities, and reducing the hiring of minorities.

The legislation has a sordid history of deceit, scandal and greed.

The legislation in question, H.R. 2149/S. 1356, the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1995, has a sordid history of legislative deceit, scandalous politics, and unmitigated greed.

With neither hearings nor debate, the full Transportation Committee reported out the bill for House floor action. Upon advice from the staff, Chairman Shuster offered the bill to the Committee as a "non-controversial" item, before Committee members had the opportunity to study it and before interest groups, such as the ILWU and the IRA, had a chance to analyze its complex language. It had allegedly been drafted by an outside law firm—not the House Legislative Counsel's office, which is charged with ensuring accountability to the public.

Transportation Committee staff reportedly threatened potential opponents with retribution against other legislation if they made trouble for the bill. Stories abounded about one powerful staffer who was willing to cause trouble.

Making the bill to Washington DC were (standing) Philip Alexy, Local 14, Frank Jefferson, Clarence Thomas, Andrew Dulany, Local 10, (front) Howard Decree, Local 34; and Leo Robinson, Local 10. Others who made the trip: Eddie Williams, Kenneth Dukes, Dave Steward, A.J. Michel, Local 10; Malcolm Monte, Local 10; and Jerome Poit. Re- randy Hudson, Jerry Lawrence and Charles White, Local 8.

ILWU INTERVENES

To the great dismay of deregulation proponents, former Republican Congresswoman and Federal Maritime Commissioner Helen Delich Bentley spurred the ILWU into action when she gave a fist-pounding speech to our recent longshore caucus about the impending threat. ILWU members made hundreds of calls to Capitol Hill, prompting several (and ultimately successful) meetings between ILWU representatives and the Democratic leadership. Fearing they no longer had the votes to pass the legislation, Republican leaders pulled it from the House calendar. Trust me. Were it not for the ILWU's intense, aggressive and relentless lobbying, the bill would have sailed through the House like a catamaran on a windy day.

PHOTO CREDIT: Courtesy of Clarence Thomas
THE 1995 GOLDEN TURKEY AWARDS

McDONALD'S & WENDY'S

...whose top execs provide more fodder than food for thought. In a libel suit against two jobless vegetarians who "diss'd" Mickey D as junk food, VP Edward Oakley insisted that McDonald's menu items are nutritious because they "include nutrients." Fellow VP David Green said that means Coca-Cola, too, because it contains water "and that's a part of a balanced diet." Oakley also said that if it weren't for McGarbage, "you will end up with lots of vast, empty gravel pits all over the country." Speaking of "empty" spaces, here's a shot off the mental air gun of Wendy's dad, Dave Thomas, speaking before the Conservative Political Action Conference: "If you don't work, you shouldn't eat." And a happy e-coli to you, Dave.

JOHN SHAHID

...CEO of American United Global, whose mama must have dropped him on his head during breast-feeding. At a picnic for the company's maquiladora in Tijuana, Shahid demanded, got and videotaped a bikini contest of women workers too intimidated not to go along. His lecherous libido apparently shriveled at the thought of his next encounter with the women: facing charges of criminal sexual harassment arising from the picnic and many other alleged incidents, Shahid reportedly closed the maquiladora and ignored subpoenas from Mexican authorities. Afraid of getting stuck in a Tijuana jail? How fitting: a penal implant!

First Place: Rush Limbaugh Wet Tee-Shirt Contest

RADIO STATION KMJ

...that fired forecaster Sean Boyd for correctly predicting the weather. Seems this ultra-conservative talk radio station in California's San Joaquin Valley was gearing up for its annual "Dittohead Barbecue" for Rush Limbaugh fans when Boyd predicted a chance of showers on the day of the event. His boss told him to say, "an even greater chance of no showers." When Boyd balked, the boss bounced him. On a right-wing and prayer, the station went ahead with the barbecue, which was deluged with rain right in the middle of (picture this and try not to laugh) the Miss Dittohead Swimsuit Competition. OK, let's state the obvious: the drips at KMJ are all wet.

STRUCTURAL DYNAMICS RESEARCH CORP.

...which clearly needs to do some "research" on its personnel "dynamics." Last April, a supervisor called worker Bill Means on the carpet, canned him on the spot, and had him escorted off the premises. So? So, it was "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" and the unsuspecting Means had his little girl, Marina, in tow. In one of the more lame examples of corporate spin, company spokesman Donald Newman said this: "The timing of the dismissal of Mr. Means was regrettable." Regrettable? Mistaking hair spray for deodorant is regrettable. Firing a guy in front of his kid is downright detestable. With this award we send a buck. Buy a clue!

AFL-CIO UNION INDUSTRIES SHOW

...the event held in a different city each year to promote union companies, their products, and the union workers who make them. Our friends in the Fed must have had weightier matters on their minds when they let Zenith Corporation have a booth at this year's show in Detroit last May. Two months earlier—and after years of getting wage freezes and other contract concessions from some 4,000 members of the IBEW—Zenith shut down its last U.S. television plant and moved to Mexico. How'd the AFL-CIO explain that one? Now you Zenith, now you don't? (Proof positive: We do roast our own! We do not, however, eat our own. We leave that to conservatives, now licking their chops after polishing off Colin Powell.)

REPRESENTATIVE JACK METCALF

...for hacking away at Medicare, cutting back benefits for the poor, lopping off great portions of worker protections, slashing regulations on everything from the environment to affirmative action, and then serving it all up as "trimming" the budget. Meanwhile, as people programs starve, the Ravenous Repubs continue to feed their fat-cat contributors a rich diet of tasty tax breaks, corpulent corporate welfare, and plenty of prime pork. When the Great Gobblers of the GOP come scratching for your vote next fall, don't mince words. Tell 'em to stuff it!
This month we turn to the reminiscences of Charles A. Hackett, a Local 6 veteran who worked at McKesson-Robins Drug Co. in California during the 1930s. A shipworker who never ran for office but served on the grievance committee for decades, Hackett also devoted countless volunteer hours to caring for Local 6's archives in the 1980s. Hackett—who always preferred to be known simply as "Brother Hackett"—here provides an inside view of rank and file militancy on the job and on the picket line during the union's early years.

**Brother Hackett**

"When the strike was settled we'd nearly doubled our wages. Now you had a feeling of dignity. Before, you were just a machine, a nonentity. The end of the 1930s, our stewards ran the place." I was born in San Francisco on September 15, 1914, two days ahead of Labor Day. So you can figure I was born to be a labor man. My father worked in the shipyards and was in the Boiler Makers Union from 1910-1925. Later he worked for the city and paid dues into the Laborers Union for 40 years; even after he retired he still kept up his membership. I got out of high school in 1931, during the Depression. There was no work to be had. To make money I gambled: blackjack, poker, dice. I used to make $15 to $30 a week. Work was scarce. We went on strike in September 1931. I made less! The job was an errand boy. I made $8 a week, about $300 a month. The warehousemen weren't getting much better. Four years later, in '36, just before the union came, I was only making $30 a month as a checker.

"We had started cutting wages about 1930, taking ten percent here and ten percent there. After the third or fourth cut your $3 a day was down to $2 a day. But before the union, people took the wage cuts. Better ten percent cuts than no job at all. You were in a position where you couldn't bargain. The boss was in the driver's seat and you had no choice. We'd go to the company and say, 'We're working tonight. Here's half a buck, go get dinner and get back here at six. We're working ten.'"

When I was a checker in early 1936, there was no hourly rate. They gave you that $30 a month, and that meant all the work they could get out of you for that. You'd work your regular eight hours, then they'd come up to you at 4:20, a quarter to five, and say, 'We're working tonight. Here's half a buck, go get dinner and get back here at six. We're working 'til ten.' They'd do this two, sometimes three times a week. And you'd have to be at work at eight o'clock the next day. Then they'd bring you in on Saturday 'til five. We were putting in a hell of a lot of time, and we were getting practically nothing. I first bumped into the Warehouse Union in March or April 1936. I had a feeling there was something going on with a few warehousemen. I put a call into Local 6, and they got back to me as a man, not as a damn dog. Now they asked you to work overtime; they didn't tell you to work overtime. And we got a seniority list, which meant you couldn't fire someone indiscriminately.

The steward system was set up now too, so you had some body to go to but for a union. A steward could go to the superintendent and say, "This guy's working as a checker, and he's only getting x amount of dollars. Let's get him checker's wages," or "That work is too heavy for one man. Put two or three on the job." After the 1936-1937 strike everybody organized. You went around the neighborhood on your lunch hour, found someone having lunch, and started talking to them. If they didn't belong to a union, you asked 'em what wages they were getting. When you found out how little they were being paid, you'd say, "We just joined the Warehouse Union, went out on strike for a lousy couple of months, and doubled our salary." The guy'd say, "Just lead me to it." The strike lasted nine months. We had a meeting every week. There was always fifteen, fifty, or a hundred two hundred people wearing union. The people were just waiting in the woods for somebody to hit them with a stick. It was just like a great awakening or a crusade.

Before 1910-1925 McKesson locked us out with the rest of the ware- house industry. When the lockout was the Warehouse Union got the master contract they still have. In 1938, we didn't have 24-hour picket duty. It was just days. There were too many men at McKesson, so they picked five or six of us and threw us down the street to Mutual Drug. There was a time we had to build a shelter for our pickets. We built it so we could take it apart because the cops con us. We had some boxes that were good sized crates. We'd set them up or we'll cite you before the grievance committee.' The company stalled us in negotiations. We pulled the pin and went out. We carried the rest of the drug houses out too, and finally most of the City's warehouse industry was out. Between the end of October, 1936 and January, 1937. The brass at the hall did the negotiating for us. We were con- cerned primarily with keeping the place closed and doing our picket duty.

"We came out on the streets, got some wooden boxes together, and set on 'em. There weren't any specified shifts. You stayed on the picket line until you got tired and went home. Sometimes it was two or three days. Nobody wanted to go home because what was the point of going home? The action was down here. I was down there for a week. I only went home to bathe and come back. We had some boxes that were good sized crates. We'd set 'em up on end for a wind break, get a 50 gallon drum, scrub out some wood, and make a fire. It was cold—this was November and December. At this same time, the Maritime Federation of the Pacific was on strike too, including the longshoremen. They had a soup kitchen down on the Embar-
continued from page 4

Shorty after the new Republican majority took control of Congress, the National Transportation Labor Conference (NTC-League), comprising the largest multinational corporations in the maritime and longshore industries, called for a complete deregulation of the maritime industry—a proposal that would create massive social and economic chaos and job loss. A subcommittee of the Transportation Committee held a hearing on the subject in February, at which time the ILWU staff and worker delegates from the ILWU unions opposing the deregulation voiced their views:

"I cannot and must not allow a group of shippers concerned only about their own and not their country's interest to dictate the future of the United States-flag merchant marine, the viability of America's ports, and ultimately the economic competitiveness of America's export trade."

Since then, new and existing union alliances have formed a coalition to fight the deregulation efforts and made significant progress.

I personally asked the chairman of the Transportation Committee, Rep. Bob Shuster (R-PA), if he was going to allow this travesty to occur. He replied, "Not on my watch!"

While hundreds of trade unionists were petitioning to leave the current regime and the state-intervening ENC, a state-intervening ENC-partner, SEALAND, were holding clandestine meetings in the back rooms of the Capitol. They struck a sleazy deal in the dark to give SEALAND and NIT-NEC an enormous tax cut and, thus, monopolize the market and inflate their profits. This "darkroom" deal would have plowed labor, particularly small and medium businesses and other carriers in jeopardy. It became H.R. 2149.

"STAFF INFECTION"

The momentum turned toward the Senate, President's Bill Williams, ILA staff and I met with Republican whip Rep. Richard Stallings and others. We paid a detailed explanation from McWilliams about why this legislation was bad for ports and labor. After the November 1 hearing, Lott appointed key Democratic Senator John Breaux and offered to work with him to draft a bill more favorable to maritime workers. Later, during a speech in New York City, Lott pronounced maritime deregulation dead in the water this year. WEASEL WATCH

On November 9, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation created an independent agency to oversee the longshore labor assessment agreement and other deals that had been cut during the strike. This was a crucial ILWU demand and a victory for the ILWU.

But having worked in Washington for the last ten years, my instincts tell me that we must continue to watch out for these entities vigilantly. They are sneaky, greedy soundbites who will do anything to get what they want. I wouldn't be surprised if they try to pull another fast one at the end of the year.

These new words have made life very difficult for these people, and we will continue to do so. With your help, we can be engaged in the process next year to fashion a bill that is fair to labor.

Worker's writings of workers working worthily & other
in a while wrong


REVIEWS BY GENE VRANA
ILWU Associate Education Director

This is book is for anyone who doubts workers create all wealth and are denied their fair share of it. Written by Local 10 retiree Reg Theriault, How To Tell When You're Tired, is a thoughtful celebration of work and workers, a clear and concise meditation on the angers, joys, and satisfactions of hard physical work.

"What better way to spend the day," writes, "than working with others."

Theriault mixes a curious blend of anarchism, free market economics, and asserted radical philosophies with his personal experiences as an agricultural worker and longshoreman. Theriault constantly challenges the reader to think about major issues like automation, class conflict and the worth of union leaders—including Harry Bridges.

His best writing describes the rituals and rhythms of various jobs (like discharging bagged coffee), and he is at his most passionate when musing over the social and political implications of workers working together:

"Nobody knows how to work like a cooperation with each other... The results could be a celebration of work and workers, a clear and concise meditation on the angers, joys, and satisfactions of hard physical work."

I've long agreed with Reg's argument that there really is no such thing as "unskilled" work. That is a definition cooked up by those who want workers to work in cooperation with each other the results can be astonishing.

Triumph, sort of

Based on the lives of ILWU cannerymembers Gene Vieves and Silmo Domingo, their 1981 assassination, the involvement of the Marcos regime, and the sensational trial that resulted, the book makes for good reading. Particularly fascinating are Theriault's portrayal of the Filipino workers who have allowed these extraordinary events closely. It is more than fifty per cent fictionalized, according to Terri Mast, Domingo's widow and current IBU National Sec'y-Treasurer. On the other hand, Mast says author Thomas Churchill provides insight about the anti-Marcos movement, particularly in California, and how pro-longshore groups participated in. Forward by Cindy Domingo. $14.95. Paper. Back 168 pages. Open Hand Publishing.

"If it ain't broke don't fix it."

"The last thing black men—or any men—need is leadership from a white man who is not a part of a local. I am disheartened to learn that the ILWU Marine Clerks Local 63, of which I have been a member of 15 years, has an all-white leadership."

Jim Grodnik
ILWU Warehouse Local 6
San Francisco, CA

Ed. note: The resolution passed by the ILWU Longshore Local 13, Retired Pres., of Cal. Historical Societies, was passed on December 20, 1995. "To Zine or Not To Zine...

Arthur A. Almeida
ILWU Longshore Local 13, Retired Pres., Cont. of Cal. Historical Societies

I'll repeat what I heard at the caucus. If it ain't broke don't fix it. This is a labor union not a publishing house. Keep it simple!

Isaiah Butler

BHP SOA-AOK

The Statement of Policy that our National Executive Board adopted in August regarding the Harry Bridges Institute, in my opinion, is sorely needed and long overdue.

It seems the leaders of HBI distrust the membership when it comes to making decisions about policies, officers, etc. Otherwise, why all the phony rules in the HBI by-laws, why all the financial pitting of officers against officers? It is a shame. Oh well, the rank and filers are the ones voting who want and who don't want their local union officers.

Unless my facts are wrong, David Ariyan has been an officer at the executive director. Nice arrangement. Harry Bridges would have repudiated this.
Maher is ILWU liaison to IFT women's project

PORTLAND—Peggy Maher has another job—that is, in addition to (not in place of) her post as Secretary-Treasurer of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF). She now the ILWU's liaison to a special national work database project being developed by the ILWU, the ITF, and the Federation.

The ITF wants women transport workers throughout the world to be able to access and share information about collective bargaining, and other matters, non-discrimination and other issues. Like her counterparts from other unions, Maher has supplied the ITF with her ideas about what working women need: skills training, advancement through general seniority, and the ability to participate fully in their local and international unions.

The project will specifically target Smolinar Scholarships Awarded

SAN FRANCISCO—The trustees of the Smolin Scholarship Fund, Norman Leonard, Reino Erkkila and Gene Vreana, have decided to reduce the value of the $750 each to seventy-five children of union members, for the college year 1995-1996.

Carlos Abreu, UCLA-Joseph Bap-
tiste, Stillman College; Michelle Beachum, CSU-Hayward; Cristin Brady, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo; Cecilia Yvette Burnley, Golden Gate University; Leach Creighton ($500.00), UC-Santa Cruz; Dedra Haywood, Utah State University; Ramon Romero, SFSU; Jean Williams, UC-Berkeley.

With these awards, the Smolin Scholar-
ship Fund has distributed over $140,000 to seventy-five children of Local 10 members. The fund was established in 1988 by the will of Victor and Haywood, the late husband of Mrs. Betty Olivera, University of San Francisco; Ramon Romero, SFSU; Jean Robertson, Bethany College; Charles Farnsworth, SFSU.

In keeping with the Smolins' wishes and general sentiment, the trustees of the fund have awarded scholarships to every applicant who met the basic qualifications set forth in the will—but declining interest rates and scores of scholarships have slowly but steadily reduced the fund's potential for fulfilling the late Haywood's will. For that reason and because of the increasingly large number of qualified applicants this year, the trustees have reluctantly reduced the 1995-1996 awards to $750. Each. The trustees have therefore decided to repeat their encouragement of donations to the Smolin Fund in the form of direct contributions, or by memo-

If you can help, please contact Nor-

Local 21, Longview

Local 21, ILWU, Longview, Washing-
ton, will hold its final election December 22, 1995. The following officers shall be elected for a two-year term: presi-
dent, vice-president, secretary-treas-
urer, marshal and three guards. In ad-
dition to the three dispatchers, a relief dispatcher will be elected. The fifteen-
tember executive committee will be elected for a two-year term with eight retiring and seven following the format of last year's election.

The three-member nominations committee shall be elected for eighteen months with one retiring every six months. The election meeting will be at the December 13, 1995, election. The meeting will be on December 22, 1995 in the main hall at 617 - 14th Avenue, Long-

Local 27, Port Angeles

Local 27, ILWU, Port Angeles is now conducting a mail ballot to fill the position of secretary-treasur-
er, IFT Women's Project, is one of only two women on the business board. The three trustees shall be elected for three-year terms with one retiring each year. The three-member nominations committee shall be elected for eighteen months with one retiring every six months.

Local 502, New Westminster

Longshore members in New West-
million.

The quake brochure unfolds to tab-
lage and can be hung on a wall for ready access. It has lots of information about what to do before, during and after an earthquake, including how to secure your home from stepping in their apartments. It bears the following inscription:

"This brochure is dedicated to the memory of Joseph Stevenson, a mem-
ber of the International Longshore-
erns and Warehousemen's Union for over 50 years.

Candice Stevenson says she is com-
forted to know that thousands of these
brochures have been distributed to
renters and landlords throughout San Francisco. "I hope it will save many lives," she said.

Stevenson quake brochure saves lives

SAN FRANCISCO—Candice Stev-

attending the march were asked to get
involved in an organization or institu-
tion in the community for the purpose of grassroots political action. One of the pledges taken by march participants was to get eight persons to register to vote. During his speech, Farrakhan stressed the importance of being orga-
nzated. He suggested that people go
home to join organizations that are
committed to positive change.

The march is forming a political base and in the cash drawers in the busi-
ness community.

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