VOTE!
International Elections
See our special pullout section

Promising Strategy
Or Empty Promises?
The proposed AFL-CIO/Kaiser labor-management partnership
Page 3

Saving Bill Bailey’s house as a labor landmark
Page 7
The Hundred Years War over the eight-hour day continues

The new rules, scheduled to go into effect January 1, 1996, will allow management to extend the working day beyond eight hours without paying an overtime penalty, as long as the workweek does not exceed 48 hours. The new overtime law would affect nearly 8 million, mostly non-union workers.

The California Department of Industrial Relations announced this measure as a "proposal to make California's workweek more worker-friendly.

Involuntary Servitude in America's prisons

American Microelectronics closed its plant in Austin, Texas and moved manufacturing jobs behind prison walls. In a move more, the company offered some of the 1,500 laid off workers jobs in the jail. The company then changed its name to Lockhart Technologies, and began to build a prison facility in San Antonio, Texas and moved its plant in Austin, Texas and changed its name to Lockhart Technologies, according to labor, two business interests and the remaining person "the public."

The business representatives naturally voted to rescind the rule, which was requested by the prison, which makes the Texas prison a major producer of computer parts.

In his deposition Alam admitted he did not know what the initials AFL-CIO stood for and could not identify a member of an unaffiliated professional union. He had withdrawn from his union when it took an anti-Peterson position, but reinstated himself just after Wilson announced his appointment to the IWC.

Commission Chair Robyn Black works for agribusiness and Cynthia Nelson works for an agricultural union. A year ago, Alam, the three voted $900 million out of the pockets of workers and into the coffers of corporations, according to figures provided by the National Agricultural Union. Alam and Black had not been confirmed in the Senate when the IWC voted not to confirm them. Wilson and the remaining person "the public." The two business representatives naturally voted to rescind the rule, which was requested by the prison, which makes the Texas prison a major producer of computer parts.

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Telemarketers want to ring in Local 6

By Marcy Rein

When the AFL-CIO and Kaiser Permanente announced their proposed partnership agreement, debate broke out among the workers. After all, the California Nurses Association (CNA) (non-union) completed a long, low-ceilinged room in a high-rise office building.

“Once they give in to the pressure, we can move. We’re talking about both sides,” said Daphne Ruffner, Local 6’s West Bay Business Agent Fred Pecker.

It’s not that everything stands, but things will not necessarily be revisited,” said Kevin Murphy of the AFL-CIO’s Information Department. Adding that the IUD sees a wide avenue for possible under the pact, and the possible outcomes of insider partnership with Kaiser, but who they should be revising on is work-ers and the community,” she said. The unions are trading their ability to dele-gate effectively for quality of care for easier access to 25,000 unorganized by Kaiser workers. “This is how unions end up with the ‘special interest’ label,” said Rebecca Bernhard, Share’s direc-tor of labor relations.

The contract itself was unpopular. It offered no choice of medical plans, no family coverage, no accidents or greed coverage, and a $1,000 deductible to live on. Worse still, according to Interim Committee member Daphne Ruffner, they felt they were not getting the representation they needed to deal with a sometimes capricious and disorganized manage-ment.

Discipline is often arbitrary, Ruffner said. “One person can do something and it’s OK, another does it and it’s grounds for a write-up.” Everyone has paycheck problems, particularly with overtime and bonuses, she said. “I can count the weeks I didn’t have on my fingers and have fingers left over,” she said.

Finally in October 1996 one of the Share organizers appealed to the NLRB that they hadn’t had a chance to vote on their contract. The Board up-held him. Late in December, Interim Committee member Stan Woods con-firmed that the NLRC should not have granted the petition to have a contract for the telemarketers at the new-defunct Frontline Campaigns in Berkeley.

Ruffy of CWA Local 9410 that covered the Kaiser Oakland-ers and the community” she said. The unions are trading their ability to dele-gate effectively for quality of care for easier access to 25,000 unorganized by Kaiser workers. “This is how unions end up with the ‘special interest’ label,” said Rebecca Bernhard, Share’s direc-tor of labor relations.

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Wary of stepping on CWA turf, West Bay Business Agent Fred Pecker was initially cautious. “We would not make a move until we were sure we could represent them credibly,” he said.

But the first organizing meeting a few weeks later drew 35 people, 20 of whom signed cards that day. Management agreed to card-check recognition. Local 6 set a late January session and arranged for a monitor, but then the campaign reigned. “Our attor-ney advised us to hold off until we heard whether CWA had standing,” said Rebecca Bernhard, Share’s direc-tor of labor relations.

Local 6 filed for a representation election. Share argued at the NLRB hearing that the NLRC would not be able to deal with the issue since the unions involved, arguing that it’s all the same telemar-keting work.

Then followed three months of waiting for the CWA to let go and the NLRC to rule. The atmosphere on the floor deteriorated. Management fired Mike Scott, one of the most vocal union supporters, who was among the company’s top sellers. (He filed NLRB charges May 9.)

Meantime the CWA actively pursued individual and shop-wide grievances. They persuaded man-agement to test the air, because people were getting sick from bronchitis and asthma. They got 15 minutes added to the lunch break, and got two hours’ pay for everyone when Good Fri-day shifts were cancelled on less than a day’s notice. “We made management listen to the people who are working for them,” said Nash.

The NLRC ruled in favor of the union on the bargaining unit issue May 6. Since then Local 6 has secured a multi-employer arrangement modeled on the Longshore Division contract, language Bernhard said looked promising. “We’re hoping to be able to get a recognition agreement,” she said.
By Lindsay McLaughlin
ILA Washington Representative

ILWU political pressure on the Senate resulted May 1 when the commit-
tee voted to amend the Ocean Ship-
ning Reform Act of 1997 to give longshore workers the right to demand that carrier/shipper contracts vital to en-
forcement of the longshore labor law be made public. Passage of the contract, including origin and destination in the case of through international movements, will make secret contract information otherwise would be unavailable to the public or other interest groups who would be injured. The new Act will allow ILWU members to demand union terms to be made public six months after the contract is completed.

Around the State Houses

Oregon legislature backs attack on the Minimum Wage

Minimum wage workers in Oregon breathed a little easier as the legisla-
ture rejected a Republican initiative to roll back the state minimum wage approved by a majority of state voters in the last November's elec-
tion.
The Oregon Restaurant Association and others who profit from low wage work had poured a fortune into de-
feating the measure when it ap-
peared on the ballot. Failing that they then leaned heavily on their loyal Republican friends in the legis-
lature.

House Bill 2691 lost by only one vote, and that was cast by a host-
er on bill, Terry Thompson, (D-
Newport), who rejected it in the end citing his respect for the majority de-
cisions of the six Republicans who changed their votes once the defeat was clear, showing that it's always safer being on both sides of a contro-
versial issue.

Further attempts are expected to ex-
ept agricultural and foster care workers from the voter-passed initiative.

T. P. and Northwest Labor Press

More mischief from the Oregon Legis-
lature

Three more anti-labor measures are up for grabs in the Oregon Legis-
lature. Senate Majority Leader Gene Derfler (R-Salem) introduced Senate Bills 850 and 851 that would prevent payroll dues check-off for public em-
ployees and eliminate in-lieu-of-dues collection for employees qualified to pay charities instead of union dues.

The House Labor Committee will de-
bate a similar bill, HB 3826, spon-
ored by Representative Bill Markham (R-Riddle).

Robert C. A. Moore, lobbyist for the ILWU Columbia River District Coun-
cil, testified in favor of public workers in the statehouse. "We oppose the bill, not because it will injure us directly, but because it injures present and future workers who will not benefit from the dere-
nationalism that led to its making."

The Ocean Shipping Reform Act as presently drafted is not perfect or even desirable. However, given the strong tide in Congress to deregu-
late every industry, including the maritime industry, the Senate has drafted a bill we can live with. An effort by the ILWU to defeat this bill would likely backfire and embolden the regulatory forces in the House of Representatives to go back to the old, untenable version that would destabilize the maritime industry and jeopardize longshore and other union jobs. The full Sen-
ate will most likely schedule a vote on its version in June.

In its budget reduction frenzy last year more than 90 percent of the cuts Congress made in entitlement pro-
grams came from those directed to low-income people. About $50 billion was cut in assistance to legal immi-
igrants and in the Food Stamp Pro-
gram—in which the vast majority of beneficiaries are children of the work-
ning poor who on average have a fami-
ly income of below $6,500. Congress then made cuts in the capital gains and estate taxes, benefiting the wealthiest among the population. Welfare for poor mothers and chil-
dren was slashed, while corporate wealth escaped unscathed.

Last November the labor move-
ment closed ranks behind Bill Clinton and his promises to invest in the future of working people, spending some $37 million to help him get reelected. But now that the presi-
dent's new budget proposal is more of the same anti-poverty, pro-capitalism programs, the union movement is ob-
jecting. The AFL-CIO Executive Council approved the following state-
tment May 7:

"The budget plan agreed to by the Clinton Administration and the Re-
publican Congressional leaders chose to cut programs working families will depend upon more than the next decade—Medicare, Medicaid, public safety and the environment.

"Instead of investing in tools and resources American families need to prosper in the 21st century, this bud-
pay agreement squanders the opportu-
nity and reduces revenue needless-
ly—locking in capital gains and estate tax reductions that benefit only the wealthiest one percent of taxpayers."

In 1993, the Administration promised to invest in our future by addressing vital national priorities and concerns such as health care, workplace health and safety, crum-
bling roads and waterways, protec-
tion of the environment and housing.

"They were right, and as the bud-
grease of the deal that create greater in-
equality and to change the political atmosphere that led to its making."
Special Election Pullout Section

VOTE!

Make your voice heard

Mail-in Ballot Instructions

An election by secret ballot is being conducted by mail to determine the selection of ILWU Titled Officers, International Executive Board members, and, for Longshore Division locals only, Coast Committee members. The mail ballot procedure is the only method being used for voting in this election. In-person balloting will not be held. The election is being conducted pursuant to the ILWU Election Rules and Procedures adopted at the April, 1994 Convention. By Friday, May 23, 1997 balloting packets will have been mailed out to all ILWU members listed on the Voter Eligibility List.

If for any reason you do not receive in the mail a balloting packet by Monday, June 2, 1997 and if you believe you are an ILWU member who is eligible to vote in this election, you can obtain a balloting packet by calling Sequoia Pacific Systems at 1-888-632-6233. Since most ILWU members should receive their balloting packet from the mailing, telephone calls to Sequoia Pacific Systems will not be accepted until after June 2, 1997. A balloting packet can only be obtained from Sequoia Pacific Systems and not from the ILWU, the ILWU Election Procedures Committee, the ILWU locals and affiliates, or any of their officers and representatives.

Please also note that all voters must return their ballots in the mail postmarked no later that July 2, 1997. A ballot can only be counted if it is postmarked no later than July 7, 1997. Late ballots will not be counted under any circumstances.

Any ILWU member who has a question about the election may call the ILWU Election Procedures Committee at 1-415-775-0533 to leave a voice mail message. If you call before 9:00 am, after 5:00 pm, or on weekends and holidays, dial extension 150 during the answering machine message to be connected to voicemail.
I

in the past 15 years I have dedicated my life to this union and its membership. I have served Local 63 as its president for four terms and as vice-president for three terms. I have also been a Caucus/Convention delegate for the past 10 years. In addition, I served for three years as the California Coast Committeeman. During this time, my emphasis has been directed towards expanding our jurisdiction and creating programs that will lead our union into the 21st century.

In 1984 a rally by the NLRB gave the ILWU back CFS work within a 50-mile radius. I was hired by Locals 13, 63 and 94 to head up a CFS program in which I brought back 98% of all CFS work. In 1991 as California's Coast Committee man, I participated and achieved moving the organizing war chest, developed strategies and put in place for successful organizing. And we've already seen results. But most importantly, we expanded our organizing budget and program and built a union-wide consensus around it at the recent Convention. We have a clear vision of where we need to go, a carefully charted course, and a united organization ready to embark upon the biggest ILWU organizing drive since the March Inland of the 1930s. We have the tools in hand: now it is up to us to follow through.

To do that we need leadership, people with a track record who have proven they know the job and who you know you can count on to get it done. And I, as International President, need people I can depend on, who can work cooperatively and effectively through productively and will aggressively work to further the interests of every worker of this great union.

The other contested International office is Vice President, Mainland. I ask you to join with me in voting for Lawrence Thibeaux, president of Local 10, a rank-and-file member of Local 10 since 1967, who has held every local office and served on the ILB for six years. He brings the unique perspective, currently serving as the Legislative Representative for the Northern California District Council.

For Coast Committee I urge you to reelect Glen Ramiskey. When Ramiskey came into office three years ago he inherited a huge backlog of work. With his diligence we've worked through that and moved more than 500 referrals through a Labor Relations process that until then were stalled. Ramiskey is the Coast Committee man who is at work every day, fighting for the Longshore Division and getting results and he deserves a vote of confidence.

I appreciate your support over the past three years and need your vote to continue on, but it's not enough. If you're serious about improving the programs of this administration, I need the best team to do the job. My candidates of choice are Thibeaux and Ramiskey.

W

We've come through three tough years for workers, the labor movement and the ILWU. I expect the next three years will be just as tough. However, it remains a privilege to represent our union, whether among ILWU members or unorganized workers, in contract negotiations or business and government forums. You can still "fight the good fight" as part of the ILWU. We can build on the national union's improved financial direction and organizing foundation achieved in the last term of office if we hold unity over and above the "turfs" and keep the struggle to organize on course. We're getting into better shape, but the battles are far from over and we still have some business-as-usual thinking to shake.

The nation, Hawaii in particular, has seen how suddenly and severely an economy can shift. Corporations make a move, and jobs are lost, families and whole communities are devastated. Workers have no choices but to seek work, and the union needs to organize to keep its fighting strength up, living standards up, and hold the community together.

Aside from developing an experienced organizing crew, focusing pressure on employers is the key to a higher level of organizing. That will require members to turn out to neutralize the efforts of Longshore and M&R union-busting unions to gain political advantage, learning and trying to recognize and clarify the tough decisions facing our union.

Every ILWU generation has to make and re-examine their priorities. Each coming decision will determine how much we stand for the working class, and whether we'll be strong enough for anyone to care what we decide. Nothing is going to be easy, but things can be made better. I look forward to trying.

Incumbent International Vice President - Hawaii

Vice President, Local 142 organizer, conducted unique housing program, internal training and education.

ILWU member over 20 years, volunteer projects, experience of the nonunion worker in various jobs.
I am Larry Wing, a two year member of Local 6, and a 38 year member of Local 10, San Francisco. As a candidate for International President I bring to that position the following credentials:

- I have served as Local 10 president for 16 terms.
- I have served since 1969 as a caucus/convention delegate.
- I have served on the Coast Negotiating Committee.
- I have served as Chairman of the Longshore Caucus.
- I have participated in local, state and national elections as a member of the Northern California District Council.
- I have participated in Union Farm Worker strike actions.
- I have participated in virtually all northern California longshore picket lines.
- I have served on the San Francisco Port Ad

Larry Wing
Locals 6 and 10

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT—Mainland

As International Vice President, Mainland, I will work closely with the other officers—whoever they are—to implement the programs adopted by the International Convention. THAT MEANS ORGANIZING. We will not be able to fight unless we grow, we will not be able to win unless we grow and we may not be able to survive for very long unless we grow. This is my number one priority.

As International Vice President, Mainland, I will be available to work with the longshore division locals. I understand the longshore agreement—I have been living with it for 30 years as a working member of Local 10 and as a longshore caucus delegate. I have stayed on top of the new technology in our industry, as well as the changes in business practices. I will therefore be able to work with the International President and the Coast Committee in a cooperative and constructive manner to make sure that this bedrock of our union stays strong and vital.

It is part of every International officer's job to project a positive image of the ILWU out in the community. This includes the entire labor movement, on the coast and across the country, and in the political arena, from Washington, D.C. to our local school boards and city councils. As legislative representative for the Northern California District Council I have an understanding of the ILWU's political agenda. I know my way around the labor movement, the state capitals and the halls of Congress. I look forward to representing the ILWU in a responsible and constructive manner. We are not an island—we have the obligation to share our strength with other workers and the community, and we need their support as well. We cannot allow any individual or group of employers to think they can overcome any segment of our union. Among my priorities will be to implement an intensive organizing campaign. And, to maximize job protection we must provide our local business agents with the tools to educate our members in the strongest means to deal with employer threats to the membership.

Our trip to the 21st Century will not be an easy one. We will need all the strength and determination we can muster to protect and enhance the wages, hours and conditions of our members. I believe that I am the right person to captain that voyage.

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY/TREASURER

Three years ago, a completely new set of International Officers was elected by our entire membership.

Working together, the four Titled Officers successfully dealt with situations left by the prior administration, such as deficit spending and a lack of funds for the organizing program. The finances of the International Union were stabilized. Organizing became the topic of conversation throughout our Union, and the process of actually organizing began throughout our entire Union.

At our International Convention in April of this year, the recommendations of the Officers and the majority of the International Executive Board were overwhelmingly adopted. Those recommendations revolved around organizing and a budget that would fund an aggressive organizing program.

This unity of purpose and the ability to work together were impossible during the prior administration. There was so much divisiveness amongst the International Officers that they could not agree on a single Officers Report to the 1994 Convention, much less the budget which the Convention referred to the new IEB and Titled Officers.

WE DO NOT NEED THIS IN 1997-2000!

Each of you will receive a mail ballot in your mail soon after May 23. It is very important that each of you mark your ballots and return them as soon as possible.

Each of you also has a responsibility to learn as much as you can about the candidates you choose from. You should determine that your candidate is honest and straightforward and is in fact a dedicated trade unionist who will represent all members of the ILWU equally. You should be sure that your candidate's word is good and that he has no hidden agenda.

Your ballot will decide the course of our Union for the next three years. Use it wisely. VOTE FOR JOE IBARRA, SECRETARY-TREASURER.
After serving on the Coast Committee for five years and as Interna-
tional Vice President for three years, I have the experience and the
know-how to effectively represent this membership on the Interna-
tional Executive Board. During my term in that elected office:

• I have presented and won many important coast arbitrations in-
volving registration, jurisdiction and protection of our rights to
bargain picked lines.

• More longshore registration was accomplished than in all the
previous fifteen years combined.

• Of the best ever coast longshore contracts was negoti-
ed—which no longer has mandatory transfer provisions for
low-wage opportunity ports.

• An aggressive ILWU organizing program was instituted.

• The National Executive Board mandated an educational pro-
gram was implemented, including the production of the ILWU video
and the updated ILWU Story.

• I have continued to defend local autonomy within the framework
of the Longshore Division By-Laws and the ILWU International
Constitution.

As your representative on the International Executive Board I will
continue to work for you:

• I will contact all Puget Sound locals prior to IEB meetings so that
my reports to the IEB may accurately reflect the opinions and con-
cerns of the Puget Sound membership.

• After IEB meetings I will report back to each Puget Sound local so
that the membership will be accurately informed about who said what
and what issues were voted up or down.

Because the IEB is the highest decision-making body of the ILWU
between Conventions, you deserve an IEB representative:

• Who will effectively communicate and cooperate with the Puget
Sound locals, the Titled Officers and the rest of the IEB to make the
ILWU strong, unified and effective.

• Whose primary concern is the welfare of the entire ILWU, not
some narrow, self-serving, personal agenda.

• Who knows how the International operates and can put things done
on behalf of the Puget Sound rank and file.

My experience uniquely qualifies me to be your representative. I hope
you agree. Thank you for your vote.

Marc Kalla
Local 27

I am seeking a Puget Sound position on the Interna-
tional Executive Board.

I have been the delegate to several Caucus and Conven-
tions representing my local and the interest of the ILWU.

I have established relationships with ILWU members from many
divisions of our Union.

I am running for International Executive Board with a few basic is-

I will maintain close communications with all the Longshore and
Warehouse locals in the Puget Sound Area. I want to make sure that all of
our ideas and concerns are well represented at the IEB.

I would like the opportunity to further serve our great Union and
to keep the ILWU as the strongest Union in the world. This is the reason
I am asking for your vote.

Lee Braach
Local 23

Larry Hansen
Local 19

John J. Bukoskey
Local 200

those challenges and place us in a

better position of addressing our

Union's needs, which in my

opinion means informed and in-

volved membership behind

strong leaders that in-

clude the Executive Board along with the Interna-
tional Officers.

Coming out of the Inter-
national Convention, it is
clear that the mission for the
Union is to build our membership by its adop-
tion of "Mobilize to Orga-
ize" program through placing more emphasis on
organizing for the next three years. Adopting this program means that
the International Union will
need all the members help, by ask-
ning for their assistance in getting
work covered under a ILWU Labor
Agreement. This will enable those
workers to enjoy the good terms,
conditions and fringe benefits that
our members enjoy.

While I pledge to help the organ-
izing program and to keep all the
members more informed, I ask that
you get more involved by first vot-
ing for this IEB Labor Agreement and
vote for me if I'm in your area.

And secondly, assist in the decision
making of keeping us working with
helping to build our Union with the
additional new members.

I am committed to serving our
Union as a leader and dedicated member.
My name is Rocky Sanches and I have been nominated as the Local 142 General Trades representative to the ILWU International Executive Board. I was born and raised on the island of Lanai, where my grandfather, Teddy's father started, then families stuck together and believed the union was working for the benefit and welfare of all mankind—to win respect and equality for workers everywhere.

I am the fifth child born into a family of nine, and all of us grew up with this union as a part of our everyday lives. During the summer we picked pineapple. Because the ILWU negotiated good contracts with decent wages, we earned our own pocket money and could afford to buy our own clothes for the coming school year. We became independent.

My family remained active in the union and my father was eventually elected chair for Unit 2301. At that time I was serving our country in the U.S. Army. When he wrote to me about becoming the Local Chair I immediately felt—because he represented more than 500 union members, and to be voted into that seat meant that the workers believed in him to be their voice on the job.

Now I am a father—my wife Lorna and I have two sons—and more than ever I see the critical role labor solidarity plays in securing a good life for my family.

In January 1997 I was elected shop steward for the Lanai Water Co. Utilities Department. I am presently on the negotiating team for Unit 2401, Lanai Company, and have been attending negotiation meetings on Lanai, Maui and Oahu with my co-workers. The long hours spent are tiring but ultimately satisfying because our goal is to preserve and to improve on our hard-won benefits as union members.

I attended the 30th ILWU Convention this past April and it was a bacute but valuable learning process for all of us. The experience has helped me to better appreciate and understand my union brothers and sisters. We are not just an organization of workers, we are an extended family devoting our time and effort to help each other. As your ILWU General Trades representative I hope to serve each and every member to the best of my ability over the next three years. And like my father I want to be that voice you can depend on to represent you and to work hard for your interests.

T he International Executive Board Member elect for the pineapple grouping is Teddy Espeleta. Teddy was born and raised at Puu O Kakeha, a small community on the West side of Lanai, where he worked as a truck driver by day and was hired as a truck driver by Maui Land & Pineapple Company, Halimaile, Unit 2007. He was born and raised in Puu O Kakeha. He is my father, Edward, worked the fields for Dole Company. Both his father and grandfather were strong union supporters.

The family moved to Maui in 1972 when Teddy's father started work at Maui Land & Pine. In the summer of 1978, Teddy became an ILWU member as a seafarer and pineapple picker. After graduating from Maui High School Teddy pursued other interests, but he eventually returned to Maui and was hired as an ILWU—gets our fair share of attention and support—working mother, I can relate to the needs of these workers and communities.

As a young working mother, I can relate to the needs of these workers and communities. Like my father I want to be that voice you can depend on to represent you and to work hard for your interests.

Why do I want to serve on the IEB? My involvement in the labor movement started in 1994 as the Unit Chair at Kapalua Bay Hotel. Until then I was not active in the union, although I was not opposed to standing up and let my feelings be known. As a front desk attendant, I would inform my managers if I were dissatisfied with any activity in my department and was able to resolve problems that occurred.

In 1994, when the Unit Chair left his position, my union brothers and I strongly encouraged me to fill the vacancy. I went in thinking that it would be a short term situation, but I have enjoyed the challenge that I have encountered to date. At first it is very frustrating, but it is also gratifying to see the smiles on the faces when I'm able to help them.

We are an organization of workers, we are an extended family devoting our time and effort to help each other. As your ILWU General Trades representative I hope to serve each and every member to the best of my ability over the next three years.

I also bring a personal awareness of the effect the stagnant economy has on the financial security of working people and their families. My company was recently sold, so I know the uncertainty many workers feel today: "Will the company bargain in good faith? Will the union contract be recognized? Will I lose my job?"

I will do everything I can to help our organization ride out this tides wave of economic uncertainty, anti-worker legislation, and corporatism. I will work with other IEB members to re-build our dwindling membership. I will do my best to ensure that Local 142—the largest single local in the ILWU—gets our fair share of attention and support—working mother, I can relate to the needs of these workers and communities.

As a young working mother, I can relate to the needs of these workers and communities. Like my father I want to be that voice you can depend on to represent you and to work hard for your interests.
T
he Flotte family has over thirty years in the ILWU. Roberto has served Local 6 as a Business Agent since November 1990.

His organizing has brought almost 450 new members into the ILWU family over the past year. The now-famous Rubber Stampede was, resulting in a resounding victory for Latina women workers, is a product of Local 6's bold new organizing agenda—the New March in a Day—1 t h a Roberto helped forge.

As a B.A., he has negotiated over eighty contracts, resulting in substantial improvements in wages, benefits and working conditions for hundreds of East Bay warehouse and factory workers.

Last year, Roberto was elected to fill a vacancy on the International Executive Board by the Northern California District Council. He has used his rank and file position to fight for the rights of the lowest paid, most exploited workers—Latinos and other immigrants, people of color and women. ROBERTO'S RECORD OF AC-

ompishment speaks for itself. He's loyal to Harry Bridges’ vision of progressive, democratic unionism. He's out there, bringing its benefits to thousands of union members and workers who need them. Vote for a proven leader who can help carry the ILWU into the 21st Century as a powerful organizing and fighting force for all working people.

La familia Flotte lleva más de 30 años en la ILWU. Desde noviembre de 1990, Roberto ha ocupado el cargo de agente de nego-
cios del Local 6. Como producto de sus esfuerzos, cerca de 450 nuevos miembros se han afiliado a la ILWU únicamente en el último año. La ya famosa huelga de Rubber Stampede, la cual terminó con una contundente victo-
ria para las trabajadoras Latinas, fue el resultado de una estrategia audaz—La Nueva Marcha Hacia el Interior—desplegado por Rober-
to y el Local 6.

En su cargo de agente de negocios, Roberto ha firmado unos 80 contratos que han mejorado salarios, beneficios y condiciones de trabajo para centenares de trabajadores en el Estuario de la Bahía.

El año pasado, Roberto fue electo por el Consejo del Distrito del Norte de California para llenar un puesto vacante en el Mesa Executiva Interna-

tional. En este cargo, Roberto se ha empeñado por conseguir (1) una campaña más fuerte para organizar a nuestros miembros, (2) más democra-
tica interna, empezando desde las bases, (3) mayor defensa de los intereses de los más explotados—es decir, los trabajadores inmigrantes, las mujeres, la gente de color.

LOS LOGROS OBTENIDOS POR ROBERTO HABLAN POR SI MIS-

MOS: Roberto se mantiene firme y leal a la visión de Harry Bridges de un sindicalismo progresista y democrático. Su record es de gran logros para miles de trabajadores no organi-

zados. Vote en favor de un dirigente que ha demostrado en los he-

chos que tiene la capacidad de eje-

tar a nuestro sindicato hacia el siglo XXI como una fuerza combativa, devi-

diendo a todos los trabajadores.

As you know, the union is only as strong as the men and women who stand behind it. So I am pleased and proud to know that there are men and women who stand behind it. I've been a longshoreman for 28 years, I've served on the Local 10 Executive Board, as an officer of the Northern California District Council, and as a dele-
gate to the International Conven-
tion, officer of the Northern Califor-
nia District Council, and as a dele-
gate to the San Mateo and San Francisco Labor Council. I will work hard to make sure that the whole union is moving in the same direction. They implement policies set by the members. They have to see the bigger picture. The Inter-
national Officers and the Interna-
tional Executive Board have to make sure that the whole union is moving in the same direction. They implement policies set by the members. They must project a positive image of the ILWU to the rest of the community.

As a member of the International Executive Board, I will work hard to make sure that we keep the faith and keep our promises. I whole-
heartedly support the ILWU's re-

newed emphasis on organizing. I've worked on organizing campaigns in every division of the ILWU. I want to help make sure our organizing pro-

gram works, that it produces real results. I've participated in union affairs at all levels—as a member of all union committees and the Local 6 Executive Board, as a member of the Northern California Security Council, and as a dele-
gate to the San Mateo and San Francisco Labor Council. I will work hard to make sure the needs of our Northern California members are represented at the International.

Joseph "Safeway" Beachum Local 10

Unions are essential in today's cli-

tical landscape. Workers cannot go into battle without their armor. The union is that armor. Major corporations are making their goal to break the unions by try-

ing to make the workers see that they are taking care of their interest and the need of a union is not essential.

Robert Flotte Jr. Local 6

I would like to thank the rank and file of the Oregon-Columbia River Area without whose support I could not have served the last six years on the International Executive Board.

Those same members have taken a leadership role in internationalism, supporting dockers around the world. Such solidarity has been rec-

ognized by dockers worldwide, cre-

ating opportunities for dockers to unite with action worldwide against casualization and privatization. Our future is tied to dock workers around the world. In their success fighting global capitalism we en-

sure our own survival.

Fred Pecker Local 6

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD—Northern California Area

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD—Columbia River Area

Norman S. Parks Local 8
I am a candidate to be re-elected to serve your interests on the International Executive Board. The International Executive Board is the governing body of the Union between conventions and is the link between the members, the locals, and the International officers. It is important that our union be accountable, and run in the interest of our members. We work too hard to be ignored.

It is important that your voice, the rank-and-file voice, be heard at the International level, and not be drowned by power politics, or taken for granted.

ILWU members are the Union. ILWU locals and members are facing various threats: replacing workers with technology, downsizing, speed up, privatization, re-engineering, organizing, and for the 31 years that I have been an ILWU member, the by-product of honesty, openness, communications, dedication and hard work.

I have had the privilege of your support, enabling me to continue to fight for your rights, as an IEB member since 1983. Thank you for your support.

As a member of the International Executive Board, I will be a Proactive Board member with working knowledge of problems that exist in the Locals. I will seek the resources within all Divisions and Locals for assistance.

I will create "team work," stability and to enforce programs adopted by the Rank-and-File. "True Unity is the by-product of honesty, openness, communications, dedication and hard work."

To create "team work," stability and to enforce programs adopted by the Rank-and-File. I will create "team work," stability and to enforce programs adopted by the Rank-and-File.

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I have been a two-term International Executive Board member, served four terms as President of Local 13, and have been an Executive Board member, business agent and caucus delegate. I believe with this experience I can be an asset to the organization, and give back what this great union has given me.
Leadership at the coast level does not mean title, privilege or power. It means hard work, responsibility and, most of all, accountability. It means helping to clarify the direction of our longshore industry. It means weaving the needs and goals of the rank and file within the strategy of the union. It means knowing the contract and representing the union’s position with employers. Leadership at the coast level means protecting and enforcing our contractual rights and benefits. It means supporting and representing an energized and united workforce. I have these qualities and experience.

Experience: Having served on the Coast Committee in 1993-1994, I understand what it takes to work together with other titled officers. I have served on the negotiating committee for the contracts in 1999 and 1996, representing the small ports in the Columbia River and Pacific. I have served as a Caucus delegate for the past 12 years, and a Convention delegate the past four conventions. I have been a Rank-and-File member of Local 4 for 27 years, and have served my Local as Dispatcher, LRC, and Executive Board.

With direction from the Rank-and-File, I can deliver at the Coast level. It takes strong leadership with an intense commitment to our organization and the day-to-day integrity. Brothers and Sisters, you must be wholehearted convinced of your leaders’ integrity and commitment.

Communication: My goal is to establish and maintain two-way communication. I will initiate and welcome input from locals, report back openly and honestly on the status or results at the coast level. I will listen, and make every effort to understand the concerns in each area. I intend to use this perspective and integrate it with the unique view one gains from the coast level in order to work towards solutions. I will tell it like it is, even if it may not be what you want to hear. You can count on being clearly and regularly informed of all issues.

Commitment: I offer my energy and willingness for hard work in order to meet the challenges facing our industry, while drawing on my deep held values of brotherhood and unity for all our members. We must be constantly vigilant for possible threats and opportunities facing our industry.

I have said it before, and will repeat it here. I believe we must face the new century as united as we were when we earned our place in labor history. The ILWU must forge ahead with a common agenda that will allow us to survive and prosper through the inevitable changes in the industry. My ability lies in the strength of my personal resolve for our future.

Remember, your vote counts. You must cast your vote, and your vote will set the direction for the ILWU for the next three years. Let’s make our Union the winner. Vote!

Bob McEllrath
Local 4

I am the one with the qualifications to continue building on the progress of the past. I bring almost 30 years of industry experience to the job, including 15 years at the Port of Long Beach. My background includes experience as a stevedore, a labor lawyer, and as a labor relations specialist.

As the Coast Committee, it is our responsibility to protect the rights and interests of all union members. I have a proven record of standing up for our members and fighting for what is fair and just.

My focus will be on ensuring that our members receive the benefits they deserve. I will work to negotiate contracts that provide fair wages and working conditions, and I will be a strong advocate for the ILWU in the classroom and on the job.

As a labor leader, I understand the challenges we face and I have a proven track record of fighting for our members. I believe that the ILWU is strongest when we work together, and I will always put the needs of our members first.

I am the one who can deliver for the ILWU. Please vote for me and support the ILWU's future. Thank you.

Ray Ortiz, Jr.
Local 13

M&R, and Planners) becomes the job of the future. The training programs become very essential, as does organizing and international solidarity. We will not let this go into non-union hands, and suffer the fate of the Liverpool Dockworkers.

I believe it is the job of the Coast Committee not only to protect the contract and rank and file, but to fight for democracy and integrity of the union. I stand for equality for all union members, regardless if you’re a small break-bulk port or a big container port. The strongest weapon that Harry Bridges gave us was the coast-wide contract, where we stood and united from Long Beach to San Diego.

In a time when labor is being attacked globally with challenges to our contract, jurisdiction, and our health and welfare, and a right to exist as organized labor, we cannot longer have the luxury in dealing with petty issues which are absorbing much of our time and strength of our union and weakening our advantage into the future.

With the PMA now under new leadership and trying to enforce the MOU with their "view of the negotiations," it is important that the Coast Committeeman has the ability to work with the other International Officers, President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and the Northwest Coast Committeeman.

Article VII, Section 2-D-3 of the International Bylaws states: "The Coast Committee shall meet among themselves prior to each meeting with the employer for the purpose of reviewing and developing the union’s presentation on outstanding disputes.” It is important that the International Officers be prepared and keep the rank and file informed, because the strength of the union comes from the bottom up. As long as the rank and file is not properly informed and represented, we can make the right decisions for the future of the longshore division and the ILWU.

I will stand strong and I will fight for you. We don’t want hands that feed us, but we don’t want that hand snapping us around either. Thank you.

Richard “Ole” Olson
Local 13

No photo or statement submitted.
Fabiola Letelier fights extension of trade agreement
Chile, human rights and NAFTA

photos and story by Fred J. Solowey

In the aftermath of the bloody U.S.-backed coup that overthrew the democratically elected pro-worker government of Salvador Allende in 1973, no U.S. union was more steadfast in its solidarity and defense of human rights in Chile than the ILWU. And no individual in Chile better symbolized the courageous defense of human rights than attorney Fabiola Letelier del Solar, who risked her life standing up to the generals who replaced Allende. She fought a seemingly impossible but ultimately successful 19-year battle to bring to justice the high-ranking officers who ordered the murder of her brother Orlando, Allende’s ambassador to the U.S.

Today the Clinton Administration and multinational corporations are pushing for inclusion of Chile as the next step in the expansion of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) throughout Latin America and the Caribbean—and Letelier, now 68, continues her fight in defense of human rights. As one of the most visible activist figures in Chile she raises the issues of NAFTA and human rights at numerous forums in her home country and internationally.

Letelier sees a strong link between the murders, the widespread torture and the disappearances and firings of the past and the even more widespread economic and social violations of human rights today. She was already taking on the brutal dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet long before she became an outspoken human rights lawyer working for the Catholic Church when Orlando and a young American associate, Ronnie Moffit, were murdered by a car bomb in Washington, D.C. September 21, 1976.

Letelier later co-founded the Committee to Defend the Rights of the People (CODEPU) and continues to serve as its executive secretary. As she did during the Allende years, she uses her persuasive power to bring attention to the killing of social leaders and the mass jailings and firings of workers. She has endured by a car bomb in Washington, D.C. September 21, 1976.

"From the perspective of the big investors and those who want to expand NAFTA, this model has been successful. The economy has grown and profits have been high for more than a decade."

But that success has come at the expense of the economic and social rights of workers. People have become 'competitive' because wages are kept so low and labor laws and unions weak." said "Millions live in poverty and millions more live just above the poverty line only because women and children have worked for large numbers. Our environment is being ravaged for short-term profits that will mean misery in the future."

Agricultural and port workers—women who now find it virtually impossible to organize effective unions—face an unstable work, extremely low wages and a work environment in which they have been privatized. And since the formerly nationalized social security and health care have been privatized, they also have to fend for themselves in the realms of health care and retirement, and now even have to pay for public education.

"Before the coup, you could feed your family with one or two shifts per week," recalls longshoreman Arnold Rajs. "Now we can barely survive and feed our families on four longer shifts—and we only get that many during the fruit harvest. We've been stripped of our rights, our dignity and our profession. We just have to survive now and the work is open to anyone."

His co-worker Roberto Carcamo noted that the suffering will get worse with NAFTA. "The transnationals want the treaty because now they can push for inclusion of Chile as the next country and have been a success story." (See main story.)

Letelier sees a strong link between the murders, the widespread torture and the disappearances and firings of the past and the even more widespread economic and social violations of human rights of human beings. They are both products of the extreme free market views of the nature of human rights that will mean misery in the future."

"My country cannot have a promise of the future based on justice nor a truly democratic system without a full accounting for the sins of the past regime," she said. "And that justice includes economic aspects and the sins include economic sins that continue and that must yet to even worse with NAFTA."
From Russia with love
My name is Igor Klimov, and I am one of the research officers in the International Department of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FNPR), which is the largest independent trade union center in the Russian Federation.

Since 1986 I have been connected with Soviet and Russian trade unionists, mainly with unions like The Sea and River Workers' Union, the USKK, and now with the FNPR, and I am still learning a lot from your newspaper.

I am not a member of your union, though I hoped to do so while I was an officer of the Sea and River Workers' Union, at the invitation from your organization. On two or three occasions we were, unfortunately, denied visas by the U.S. Department of State.

As a researcher, I am studying developments, materials and discussions around problems and tasks your membership and leaders, and other U.S. trade unions, are engaging themselves. I am particularly pleased to learn from The Dispatcher about your organization's respectful attitude and memory keeping towards your famous and world-renowned veteran leaders and rank and file.

I am working at my own initiative on the history of your Independent Trade Union, (industrial, policy and political) information, I am still able to connect my thoughts to that period of my younger days, when I had the greatest satisfaction of being involved in the tremendous movement of Independent Unions in the USA as well as to accompany some of your great leaders through the USSR. Among them were Harry Bridges, Louis Goldblatt, L.B. Thomas, Mike Mott, John Flink, Bob Robert- hen, Henry Smith, John Babin, Pat Tobin, Chili Duarte and many others, including members of your union's rank-and-file delegations travelling around the world since the late 50's. From our end I was for some time personally responsible for the reception of them and many individual visitors from your organization, and official memories are still vivid.

In conclusion, may I express the hope that the forthcoming 1997 May Day issue of The Dispatcher and some other of your union's publications and materials pertaining to problems and policies, industrial and political education activities, etc., I am at the moment trying to collect material of trade union character for a comparative study of the U.S. trade union's participation in the political activities around Bill Clinton's elections. By now I have completed a description of the first election period, having used exclusively trade union periodicals ("in their own words"). Looking forward to hearing from you, with best May Day wishes, and congratulation to your union's members and leaders on the occasion of the ILWU's 60th anniversary.

Igor Klimov
Head Researcher
International Department, FNPR

Pensioners for organizing
At our regular meeting May 5 our Seattle ILWU Pensioners Club voted to contribute $25 per member (our constitution limit) to the ILWU organizing campaign. We would like to thank the PCPA for publishing this in The Dispatcher.

We feel it would set an example for other PCPA Clubs to follow.

De Cecco
Recording Secretary, Seattle PCPA Seattle, WA

Important Notice on ILWU Political Action Fund
Delegates to the 30th Triennial Convention of the ILWU, meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, April 7-11, 1997, amended Article X of the International Constitution to read:

"SECTION 2. The International shall establish a Political Action Fund which shall consist exclusively of voluntary contributions. The union shall not favor or disadvantage any member because of the amount of his/her contribution or the decision not to contribute. In no case shall a member be required to pay more than his/her pro rata share of the union's collective bargaining expenses. Reports on the status of the fund and the uses to which voluntary contributions of the members are put will be presented to the International Executive Board.

"The voluntary contributions to the Political Action Fund shall be collected as follows:

"Up to One Dollar and Fifty Cents ($1.50) of each March and July's per capita payment to the International Union shall be diverted to the Political Action Fund, where it will be used in connection with federal, state and local elections. These divertions are subject to the invitation only, and individual members are free to contribute more or less than that guideline suggests. The diverted funds will be contributed only on behalf of those members who voluntarily direct that payment to be used for that purpose. The Titled Officers may suspend either of both diversions if, in their judgement, the financial condition of the International warrants suspension.

"For three consecutive months prior to each dividend such dues paying member of the union shall be advised of his/her right to withhold the contribution or any portion thereof otherwise made in March and July. Those members expressing such a desire, on a form provided by the International Union, shall be sent a check in the amount of the contribution or less if they so desire, in advance of the member making his/her dues payment to the local union for the month in which the diversion occurs.

"Those members who do not wish to have any portion of their per capita payment diverted to the Political Action Fund, but wish to make political contributions directly to either of the Political Action Fund or their local union, may do so in any amounts whenever they wish."

"No contribution - I do not wish to contribute to the ILWU Political Action Fund. I understand that the International will send me a check in the amount of $1.50 prior to July 1.

"Less than $1.50 - I do not wish to contribute the entire $1.50 to the ILWU Political Action Fund, but wish the International will send me a check for the difference between my contribution and $1.50 prior to July 1.

"More than $1.50 - I wish to contribute more than the minimum voluntary contribution of $1.50 to the ILWU Political Action Fund. Enclosed please find my check for $.

Signature
Name
Address

Local # Unit #

Return to: ILWU, 1188 Franklin Street * San Francisco, CA 94109

NOTE: CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT DEDUCTIBLE AS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS
A campaign to save Bill Bailey's house

By Jonathan Nack and Nedy Williams

As tourists stream up Telegraph Hill to visit Coit Tower, one of San Francisco's premier tourist attractions, they pass an unassuming green cottage just around the bend from the Tower. The tiny wooden structure stands out against the luxuriously large buildings, with their commanding views of San Francisco and the Bay, which lie just on the other side.

For 37 years this cabin was home to Bill Bailey, a rank-and-file militant, ILWU member and seafarer who died in 1995. It was slated for demolition, to give way to a four-story large condos on San Francisco's Telegraph Hill at the top of the Filbert Steps. (Inset) Bill Bailey circa 1984.

Bill Bailey's cabin nestled between large condos on San Francisco's Telegraph Hill at the top of the Filbert Steps.
30th Convention Photo

Color prints of the official 30th Convention photo are available through The Dispatcher. This beautiful 20x26 print, suitable for framing, is a memorable keepsake for all Locals and anyone who was there.

Just mail a $30 check to:
Convention Photo
C/O The Dispatcher
1188 Franklin St 4th floor
San Francisco, CA 94109

ILWU Book & Video Sale

Books and videos about the ILWU are available from the union's library at discounted prices!

BOOKS:

- New The ILWU Story: unrolls the history of the union from its origins to the present, complete with recollections from the men and women who built the union, in their own words, and dozens of rare photos of the union in action. $5
- The Big Strike
  By Mike Quin: the classic partisan account of the 1934 strike. $7.50
- Workers on the Waterfront: Seamen, Longshoremen, and Unionism in the 1930s
  By Bruce Nelson: the most complete history of the origins, meaning, and impact of the 1934 strike. $11
- Reds or Rackets: The Making of Radical and Conservative Unions on the Waterfront
  By Howard Kimeldorf: a thoughtful and provocative comparison of the ILA and the ILWU. $10.50
- The Union Makes Us Strong: Radical Unionism on the San Francisco Waterfront
  By David Wellman: the important new study of longshoring in the ILWU since the 1930s. $38 (hardcover)
- A Terrible Anger: The 1934 Waterfront and General Strike in San Francisco
  By David Se'yin: the newest and best single narrative history about the San Francisco events of 1934. $16.50

VIDEOS:

- New We Are the ILWU
  A 30-minute color video introducing the principles and traditions of the ILWU. Features active and retired members talking about what the union meant in their lives and what it needs to survive and thrive, along with film clips, historical photos and an original musical score. $5
- Life on the Beam: A Memorial to Harry Bridges
  A 17-minute VHS video production by California Working Group, Inc., memorializes Harry Bridges through still photographs, recorded interviews, and reminiscences. Originally produced for the 1990 memorial service in San Francisco. $28
- Longshoremen at Work
  A 17-minute VHS video adaptation of a stunning slide/sound presentation about work on the waterfront by Mike Vawter, Brian Nelson and Frank Silva. $25

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Make check or money order (U.S. funds) payable to "ILWU" and send to ILWU Library, 1188 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109

Prices include shipping and handling. Please allow up to four weeks for delivery.