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The Dispatcher wins awards

The Dispatcher garnered four awards in the Western Labor Press Association's 1996 Journalistic Contest.

To no one's surprise historian Harvey Schwartz took first place in the Best Column/Editorial category for his Washington Report series. With all the work Lindsay does in Congress for the union if it's amazing he still writes us a column by deadlines every month. But it's a good thing he does because no one knows the Hill from a working family's perspective like Lindsay.

Fred Soloway, a freelance writer and activist in the National Writers Union, received second place in the Best In-depth Story category for his drawings for The Dispatcherer's 1996 Golden Turkey Awards, a collection of his journalism on the Longshore Division, 1934-1938, editor of the

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The Washington representative Lindsay McLaughlin took third place in the Best Column/Editorial category for her Washington Report series. With all the work Lindsay does in Congress for the union if it's amazing he still writes us a column by deadlines every month. But it's a good thing he does because no one knows the Hill from a working family's perspective like Lindsay.

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SAN FRANCISCO—After several tense months of waiting, the 75 telemarketers at the Share Group finally got the union of their choice. Share and ILWU warehouse Local 6 agreed on a union recognition agreement based on a card check May 27, avoiding the usual costly, contentious and time-consuming election process. More than two-thirds of the workers signed cards, enough to ensure an election victory. The agreement was signed in a cordial atmosphere, around a large table in a conference room decorated with the posters of the progressive movements for which Share raises funds. Workers report an improving atmosphere, around a large table in a conference room decorated with the posters of the progressive movements for which Share raises funds. Workers report an improving

By TOM PRICE

Recognition won, contract to go Local 6 gets its Share of success

By STEVE STALLONE

The ILWU scored a significant victory in its ongoing battle over the new coal exporting terminal in Los Angeles when the LA City Council voted unanimously June 24 to postpone the start of operations there until worker safety and environmental issues are resolved. The LAXT facility has been a thorn in the eye for the ILWU ever since its board, according to Bernhard, is the lowest bidder, but is working on using non-union labor. The ILWU considers work at the LA Harbor its jurisdiction and this venture as its greatest threat in recent history. The union has made it clear it will do whatever it takes to protect that jurisdiction. Members of ILWU locals 13, marina clerk Local 63 and walking bosses Local 94, as well as the Coast Guard addressed the council chambers. The TLWU flexed a little muscle, dispatching six bus loads of members from Local 13, 63 and 94 to the meeting and pocketing the council chambers. ILWU President Brian McWilliams, former Local 13 President Ramon Ponce de Leon and Schroeder addressed the council on the union’s behalf and in support of Svorinich’s proposal. Afterwards all 11 of the present councilmembers voted for the measure.

“Of course we’re concerned with our jurisdiction,” Schroeder said. “But we also have to watch out for the health and safety of the workers and the community.”

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“Of course we’re concerned with our jurisdiction,” Schroeder said. “But we also have to watch out for the health and safety of the workers and the community.”
By LINDSAY MCLAUGHLIN
ILWU Washington Representative

We union members have endured unprecedented attacks throughout these last two-and-a-half years of Republican rule in Congress, some times triumphing over the odds, and sometimes losing a hard-fought battle. The attacks are relentless, but they are nothing compared to the onslaught on poor people in this country. From massive cuts in housing, Medicaid and food stamps to the repeal of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program, the poor have been demonized, abused and defeated. Now Rep. Clay Shaw (R-FL) and the majority of Republicans are going in for the kill.

As part of the legislation implementing the budget, Shaw, chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources, will attach a provision which creates a class of workers (recipients of food stamps and other programs for the poor) who will be denied equal protections under the law. Shaw has insisted that welfare recipients who make a transition to work under welfare programs should be paid a sub-minimum wage; should not receive protective provisions against civil rights violations and sexual harassment; and should not have the same legal protections as workers. Most lamentable is the provision that employees working under subminimum wage wages, whereas in the past city union workers performed these functions.

Perhaps Shaw should also pro-

pose that the poor be counted as two fifths of a person, as the U.S. Constitution once counted African-American slaves, since in essence that is the kind of injustice he is advocating. The Shaw proposal achieves this level of injustice simply by denying these workers the legal status of "employee" and allowing states to count the value of the government benefits such as food stamps received by the workers in calculating the pay for welfare workers.

Several weeks ago President Clinton announced that when welfare recipients are working, they are entitled to the same legal protections as other workers. Shaw and his Republican friends are hell-bent on overturning this reasonable interpretation of the law by the White House.

The Shaw proposal undermines all workers, not just the poor. If implemented, the proposal will place an incredible burden on the wages of all Americans and force some low-income workers out of jobs. In New York City, for example, thousands of welfare recipients are working for city agencies at the minimum wage or less, while city employees with pensions and union contracts fear for their jobs. The city of New York has not hired any new workers for three years because welfare recipients are being forced to perform city functions for slave wages, whereas in the past city union workers performed these functions.

If Shaw can exempt some workers from legal protections, guess who's next? Union workers!

Perhaps Shaw should join with the churches, organizations for the poor, and other progressive unions to fight at the ballot box to chain the poor to a lifetime of servitude. Write your member of Congress now:

The Honorable
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

POLITICAL ACTION REQUIRES MONEY

Have you ever wondered why the poor and working class always get hammered by the politicians while the recipients of corporate welfare get a pat on the back and a free lunch? Then the word answer: Washington is not the city of angels—in fact, it is swash in money and power. Give the political action committees, and unfortunately many of our progressive PACs, donor one thought to the struggling working poor when dishing out cash. Only the pro-union PACs spend money on education, without money engage in these battles.

Please make out a check to ILWU PAC for $100.00, $50.00, or whatever you can afford. It's for a very good cause. Our union members, as you know, are working class men and women of this country. The contribution form is on page 11.
Montreal conference
Dockers chart global fight against privatization

By JACK HEYMAN

Dockers from around the world gathered in Montreal May 25-30 for the Second International Dockers Conference to develop a global program to fight the union-busting, non-union schemes like deregulation and privatization that are wreaking havoc in the world’s ports from Veracruz to Kobe to Liverpool. Broader in scope than the first conference held last year in Liverpool, this one drew 50 delegates representing 30 unions from 27 ports in 15 countries on five continents. But as soon as the meeting got underway, it became apparent that one of the expected delegates was missing.

The seat of the representative from Brazil remained conspicuously empty, casting an eerie pall over the opening proceedings of the conference. The dockers at Santos, Brazil, the largest South American port, had just waged a militant but isolated battle from May 15-31 for wages and labor standards from 27 ports in 15 countries on 5 continents.

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President of the port operators’ association told Lloyd’s that the reduction in the number of stevedores is the breaking of the system of labor we have had for 30 to 40 years,” the president of the port operators’ association told Lloyd’s. Federal police intervention convinced the dockworkers “Brazil meant business, but not the modernization on the front,” the story said.

Delegates at the Second International Dockers Conference in Montreal. From left to right in front row: Björn Borg, Swedish Dockworkers Union; Marvin Mundis, Transport & General Workers Union, South Africa; Pat Riley, Local 272, Guinness Dock; Cairns Shops Stewards, Australia; Philippe Bilou, Syndicat General des Ouvriers Dockers, France. From left to right back row: Vladimir Vasilev, Dockers Union of Russia; Miguel Murray, Syndicat des Débardeurs, Canada; and Jimmy Nolan, Liverpool dockers, England.

Brazilians dockers delegation visits ILWU

A group of dock worker union officials from Brazil spent a day in San Francisco June 18 with ILWU officials exchanging information about each others’ working conditions, contracts and struggles against private and public sector employers. They included Helio Alves dos Santos, Julio Oscar Rodrigues Goncalves, Abelardo Wickarn Fernades, Mario Teixeira, Edison Hallton Santos de Oliveira, Abdo Ribas, Pedro Henrique Martina and Carlos Eduardo de Souza.

Larry Hansen (Local 19), Hendicksen (Local 200) and Jack Heyman (Local 10). The ILWU delegation, mandated by the Longshore Division Caucus, was led by Norm Parks (Local 8) and included Larry Hansen (Local 19), Lyn Hazelden (Local 131), Pete Hendrickson (Local 200) and Jack Heyman (Local 10).

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The occupation April 15, rekindling the strike in Santos. Around 80,000 dockers walked April 15 when Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande, Porto Alegre, Imbituba and Sao Francisco joined the strike. Three days later, the occupation April 15, rekindling the strike in Santos. Around 80,000 dockers walked April 15 when Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande, Porto Alegre, Imbituba and Sao Francisco joined the strike.

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The British port of Liverpool, birthplace of the National Union of Dock Labourers more than 100 years ago, has become in recent times an international workers’ worldwide fight against privatization and casualization.

The Thatcher government, Britain’s equivalent to the Reagan administration, ramrodded legislation through Parliament in 1989 that abolished the National Dock Labour Scheme. The Scheme was union dockers’ hard-won guarantee of minimum work, dock pay, holidays and pensions. Within four years more than 5,000 steady longshore jobs were lost to casual labor. Accident rates, profits and executive salaries skyrocketed.

Wages took a nose-dive.

In September 1995 a contractor at Liverpool’s Mersey docks fired some 80 workers in a dispute over overtime. They set up a picket line, which more than 300 employees of Mersey Dock and Harbour Co. continued to cross. These workers were fired for illegal "secondary picketing." Mersey Dock Co.—20 percent owned by the British government and built up by public subsidies—immediately sent to maneuver companies to fill the jobs.

Within weeks of the strike’s beginning the dockers’ wives met and organized themselves as Women of the Waterfront (WOW), a support group for the strikers. They walked the picket line and soon began sending delegations around the country and the world to drum up support for the dockers.

On May 1 two of the women, Sue Mitchell and Colette Melia, gave a talk at San Francisco’s New College of California during their tour of the West. Dispatchers Stan Stallones and Marcy Reit a chance to sit down with them and talk about how WOW got started, the work they’ve done and how the strike has transformed them. The following are excerpts from that discussion.

Q: Did you see the dispute coming?

Colette: In 1991 when they forced the men to sign new contracts and also interviewed 1,800 unemployed young men, advertised the jobs in the Liverpool Echo, it was a ploy to force the men to sign these contracts. Otherwise they were on a 90-day notice.

That’s when men were moved from different ports in the dock industry. It wasn’t for any kind of financial reasons, it was just purely and simply to make some kinds of splits in the work force. And some of these men came from a very profitable part of the dock to the least profitable parts of the dock somehow to learn new trades from scratch because they were going to dock in the container base that maybe they’d never worked before.

There was a lot of ill feeling because men weren’t happy with the way they were being treated. But when the engineers, in particular, happened with the younger dock workers and the older dock workers did not cross their picket line, I think that sign of not only solidarity with the younger dockers, but also a light touch against the management, because of the treatment, they didn’t go to the men. They took too much physically, mentally.

They might have earned decent wages, but that was really hard work they had to do to earn that much money. It was a struggle.

Sue: I used to hear different women on the local radio stations ringing up about Mersey Dock and Harbour Co. and saying how since 1989 when it was deregulated that they could see the company starting to use dirty tactics to upset the men, to split the men. And I used to feel, “I wonder who she is?” because I’m like that. My family is, but, my children are affected. How can I get in touch? But I must admit, I didn’t ever make any moves. It used to be just a voice on the radio. I never dreamed I’d be ringing radio stations but I found myself in the end ringing radio stations, agreeing with what the women were saying, because it had taken over our whole life. There was no time for family. Or any more, the hours they worked. Some days it was like 12 hours, some days 14 hours, some days only 10 hours off they were made to come in. Some men refused point-blank, that some people were scared to refuse work because they knew the management would take some action against them. They did every one was living under fear of losing their job. It unsettled the men and the families.

My husband would work long hours and then as soon as they were allowed to pay him overtime they would send him away for a week. They took him when they wanted him and used him and when they didn’t want to pay him any extra they sent him away for a week and they went down the list and looked for somebody else that hadn’t done enough hours and then used him. This is what happened all the time.

Q: You said the wives got together after a few weeks. What was that first meeting like? What did you decide?

Colette: It was quite a tense meeting, really, because there were lots of older dockers, whose husbands had been in the industry 42 years, and there were others like me whose husbands had never been there for five years. Because my husband had set the picket line, they had been unfairly sacked. We felt there may be some tension between the women because they may have been used to the men.

But it was unbelievable because everybody seemed to embrace each other. Everyone had been suffering exactly the same things and everybody was so united. I personally felt半岛 being amongst the women because there was no blame towards anybody. Everybody knew it had been coming up for a long time. Everybody seemed to stick together. We organized ourselves and said, “You know, we’re going to have to fight back.” We got this group of women together and we named ourselves Women of the Waterfront.

There was a lady there form the miners dispute (in 1989) and she had organized the miners’ wives, advised them how to start. She told us we needed to choose a committee and put the names forward. That’s what we did, we got a committee of about 10 members and we’ve gone from strength to strength.

We involved our children, our children are being educated beyond belief throughout this. Not only are they so proud of their dads, but it’s unbelievable how people have pulled together, families and children. We never believed this would go on the amount of time it’s lasted.

But it makes you more determined, you know 20 months. We’re not walking away from 20 months. We’ll never be able to drive past those docks again if we knew the children were in there, no trade unions in there. My grandfather was on the dock to other parts of the dock somehow to learn new trades from scratch because they were going to dock in the container base that maybe they’d never worked before.

You’d end up going in there and causing murder because you couldn’t allow it, especially on your own doorstep. You just couldn’t go past the place without feeling so much hatred. And that’s why we come here to San Francisco, it’s nice to look in docks again and see men working. It’s nice to look over with out feeling the hatred we feel when we’re looking in our own docks in our own city and to see the men that are supporting us, we’re really grateful.

Sue: You just can’t walk away: If you walk away you’ve lost your job, you’ve lost your pension, you’ve lost all your rights. And there’s no work in Britain for older men.

I wanted to go on the picket line from day one, but my husband had assured me there were no women there. I found out there were four women there and I made it my business, and I’ve been on that picket line ever since. I’ve got children, they expect when we do delegations. About a month after, they asked us to go on local delegation and speak.

We’re ordinary working class...
women. We come from our homes with our children to say this is not the way, this is not right, not just for dock workers. You can see it happening all over: to teachers, doctors, college lecturers, other workers. And you see that working in a factory, is enough human beings can only take so much of this pressure.

So the women just got organized. And we never ever thought we'd be getting asked for as Women of the Waterfront, because we always thought we were there to support our men—but it just seemed to take off from such a small thing. And I'll go anywhere to talk to people because it isn't just about me, or Colette, it's about working people.

You see the homeless on the street and you think if we lose there's going to be thousands more on the street and this is what it's all about. It's about fighting for people who've got less, even though we've lost a lot. Through all the years your husband's working, and you're just looking at the line, and don't cope, and somebody will say "Come on," and pull you out of it. That's what I feel I've been doing. It's also inspired me to see there are so many people out there facing the same thing. It's sad for me to think about what this is going to mean, if this is going to mean young people working for low pay, and you're going to see more and more crime and more and more of the homeless people on the street. And I am not going to stand by as a person and see that happen. That's why we've got involved with women we'd never met before, even though our husbands had worked together for 30 or 40 years. We were in a fight and we went so far, further than any of us thought we'd go—we always say from the washing line to the picket line to the world platform. We feel lucky to be speaking here, seeing the people who're supporting us. Without the public, without the law enforcement, all the working people supporting us, we would not be able to stay in the fight for the Mersey Docks and Harbour Co.

Q: Do you expect much help from [newly-elected Prime Minister] Tony Blair?

Colette: Tony Blair doesn't know what side of the fence he's sitting on, whether he's Tory or whether he's Labour. So we challenged Tony Blair, one of his shadow ministers, only a couple weeks ago, asked them what they were going to do for the Liverpool dockers. What they said was, "This is a problem between a company and their employees, it's got nothing to do with us," even though they [the British government] are major shareholding. They could turn this dispute around tomorrow.

The true cause is they're trying to get the middle vote. They're going round to Conservative constituencies trying to get them on board, so they're not interested in the working class or the unions, or fighting to defend the unions. It's just, you know, what we say in the Tory party is the same as the Labour Party now. They're just going to put so much pressure on Tony Blair when he gets in. We're just going to follow him around and bound him.

Sue: You can imagine there's lots of stress and strain. Some of us can be very open when we've got problems, but some women hide and keep it to themselves. Then they say they're going to go back to the women's meeting, because it's the only place I can let myself go and be with you all, because I feel like you're all my sisters.

Now we're just like a big family, the company's frightened of us, because we've become a big community.

We do go on delegations, but also we're support for one another, because some days are days when you don't cope, and somebody will say "Come on," and pull you out of it. Same with the men. They may have worked together, they might not have seen each other, but now they've become friendly, we know each other personally. Before we never had time to socialize because the power of the bosses was pressing on us. After 21 years of being just a wife at home, I could never ever go back to being like that. And it's inspired a lot of women to get involved—instead of sitting at home and thinking, "God, isn't that awful," to get out and support other people.

People are looking at the Liverpool dockers. There was 1,800 people the 20th of January actually carrying themselves across the sand. You've got the world on your shoulders willing you to win. You couldn't just go home and say "Oh God, I've got to go back to being a nice little wife and mum."

That's why we go on fighting, because there's so much injustice now on people, working people, homeless people.

It really saddens me to see—after a walk today to see the splendour of San Francisco and see so many beggin-
ging to the streets.

People can get together, like the dockers have organized. I think any-
one can organize, you don't need to be in a trade union. You can just as people, as human beings, get together and fight back for the future, for the children. If you have children think "what the hell are we going to leave them if we don't fight back?" It's going to be
PREVAILING WAGE PREVAILS

California construction workers won a major victory when the First District Court of Appeals struck down a law. Pete Wilson had attempted to lower prevailing wage rates by changing the way they are calculated.

The court ruled that the Wilson's Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) conducted wage surveys of nonunion workers using money not appropriated by the state legislature. The court ruled that violated the intent of the legislation, since lawmakers had handed over DIR's $1.3 million request for funding the survey. The court ruled that Wilson couldn't use state funds "to achieve any purpose which has been denied by any formal decision of the legislature."

Currently the prevailing wage is calculated on the basis of the prevailing wage most frequently occurring, which tends to be the standard union rate. Wilson's plan would use an average of union and nonunion wages. This would be lower due to the large number of nonunion workers added into the mix. Worse yet, such a method would make unionized companies less competitive with nonunion companies. Even those who employ three-quarters of all construction workers.

The legislature reaffirmed its rejection of that method in a resolution passed during hearings that its method would reduce public project construction wages by 20 percent.

In Sacramento, Superior Court Judge Cecil Bond also turned back the DIR in a similar case May 9 with the issuance of a restraining order against the "wage surveying" of the DIR he had imposed in January. The State Building and Construction Trades Council was joined by the Teamsters and a number of signatory contractors in filing the suit. The legislature reaffirmed its rejection of that method in a resolution passed during hearings that its method would reduce public project construction wages by 20 percent.

While Britain's newly-elected Prime Minister Tony Blair used Clinton's brain trust, Reform activists in Canada used their three-quarters of all construction workers. DIR representatives had bragged during hearings that their method would reduce public project construction wages by 20 percent.

In the case of wages, the legislature reaffirmed its rejection of that method in a resolution passed during hearings that its method would reduce public project construction wages by 20 percent. Instead Christiansen left, and this time not to the stodgy of Tories but to a new and vibrant strain of reaction—the Reform Party. The Reform government's shadow prime minister, tipped down the U.S. to visit Gingrich'site nation. In the lab of the Heritage Foundation, a right-wing think tank

Tillman said be doubted whether the Liberals could take damage from the Reformers. "The Liberals have drifted, and positioned themselves as the center party historically," he said. "In the last four years particularly they have moved considerably to the right and lost their social justice side of the party, implementing the NAFTA deal, which was first imposed by the Conservatives. They've made huge changes in unemployment insurance—ten years ago 80 percent of Canadian workers qualified and now only 37 percent, and for lesser amounts.

This things we thought the Conservatives would never get away with the Liberals came in and did. So they've gone very far to the right, continuing the Conservative public sector wage freeze for over six years. British Columbia alone in the last two years has lost 80 million (Cdn) federal funding for education and health care.

MAJOR CHANGES IN CANADA'S PARLIAMENT

When Liberal Party Prime Minister Jean Chrétien dissolved Parliament and called an election a year and a half earlier, he believed his party would win seats.

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WEBSITE SHOWS CEO PAY, TOOLS TO FIGHT BACK

As the peak season of annual shareholder meetings begins, corpo rate reality is in for a surprise. The exorbitant pay packages of top CEOs are on a website for all to see.

The AFL-CIO launched Executive Paywatch (http://www. paywatch.org) to expose and challenge the CEOs' excesses. The website allows users to click instantly to the total pay of the CEOs of large corporations—drawing illustrative comparisons to the user’s or average worker’s earnings—and it gives working families the tools and resources they need to take action against excessive executive compensation packages.

The website also exposes the true costs of privatization, that allows the website owners to take in revenue. The website shows CEO pay, tools to fight back.

New Data on Welfare Reform

Two studies of different aspects of welfare reform on opposite sides of the country paint a gloomy picture of the law's effect. In Los Angeles County, the law will shake the region's fragile economic recovery, according to a University of Southern California report. In New York, an increase former welfare recipients' children's well-being.

For example, a study conducted by the Economic Policy Institute shows that before welfare reform, one out of three children lived in a household with an income of less than half of the poverty line. After welfare reform, the percentage of children living in poverty increased to one out of two children.

This highlights the need for continued support for social safety net programs and a comprehensive approach to addressing poverty and inequality. In both cases, the studies emphasize the importance of addressing the root causes of poverty and providing stable, sustainable solutions for those in need.
Miami conference

ITF gathering unites dockers

The International Transport Workers Federation (ITF), the 100-year-old organization of dock workers and seafarers, held its conference in Miami, Florida the second week of June. At its Dockers' Section Conference last month, delegates from 49 countries gathered to exchange ideas on the working conditions in their ports and to review and develop strategies for the ITF's Flag of Convenience (FOC) campaign. And through the intervention of ILWU delegate Coast Committeeman Glen Ramiskey, the conference came to consensus on actions to be taken in support of the Liverpool dockers.

Even before the delegates reported on the problems in their ports, the scope and pervasiveness of privatization was driven home by Sidney Rezende of the United Nations' International Trade, Transport and Financing Division. Rezende laid out how the UN and the International Monetary Fund, which lends much of the money for port modernization, see privatization and "labor reform" as the road to efficiency and higher productivity and are actively promoting their vision.

Then the delegates lined up to tell their stories of how privatization is wreaking havoc on their unions and the living standards of their dock workers.

Bob Baete, head of the port section of Belgium's transport workers union, gave the European report, explaining how employers throughout the continent are attacking established labor laws. Rotterdam and Amsterdam are threatening sanctions against European dockers, he said.

The delegate from New Zealand submitted a report on how the right wing government of that country has been privatizing and deregulating its ports since 1984. The process has led to publicly owned ports being reorganized as private companies; unions losing their exclusive bargaining rights for all port workers; the elimination of compulsory collective bargaining and arbitrations; and companies hiring their own non-union workers instead of going through the established labor bureau to employ union workers.

Delegates from Asia and Africa also reported moves toward privatization and the use of non-union labor in their ports. The ILWU's Ramiskey reported on the struggle our union is having against the attempt to use non-union labor at a new coal terminal (LAXT) in Los Angeles, at the Texaco facility in Anacortes, Washington and at the Hugo Neu scrap metal terminals in Los Angeles and Hawaii.

FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE

The conference also reviewed the ITF's Flag of Convenience (FOC) campaign. Ship owners regularly register their vessels in countries with few or no laws regulating taxes, safety or treatment of crews. The ITF, through its network of inspectors and through solidarity actions of dock workers, tries to establish and enforce wage and condition standards for sailors. In 1990 alone the ITF won $5.8 million from FOCS in compensation for crew deaths and injuries and another $35 million in back pay.

The conference planned a two-week long series of actions sometime this year to press for compliance with basic standards for sailors on ships calling on ports from Tokyo and Portland, and the US and Canada. Patterned after a successful program in Europe, the ITF will mobilize an army of inspectors so that during that time no ship on the Pacific Rim will be able to escape scrutiny.

The conference also devised and signed an International Solidarity Contract wherein ITF-affiliated unions pledge to support each other wherever they confront privatization and casualization attacks in their ports.

The pact will be printed as posters and distributed where trans-Atlantic seamen can see it and witness the solidarity and commitment of unions around the world.

The conference also adopted two other resolutions, one on privatization and other port reforms and the other on the role of the trade union movement in reforming port industry. Both motions stress that any process of reform, restructuring or privatization should involve consultation with port workers' unions.

CONSENSUS ON LIVERPOOL

The Liverpool dockers and the leaders of their union, the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU), had been at odds over the union's inability to officially support their strike due to Thatcherite secondary boycott laws. They also had a dispute over who would be the British dockers' official representatives at Miami. But once there, all agreed on a course of action.

In his report on Liverpool, the TGWU's National Docks Officer Graeme Stevenson took a conciliatory approach, calling the Liverpool dockers' "cream of the working class" and saying that in Jimmy Nolan, the chair of their shop stewards, the dockers "could not have a better leader." Stevenson acknowledged that the company's latest offer came nowhere near meeting the dockers' minimum demands and, if voted down by the rank and file, TGWU's leadership would back further action.

The conference had planned to adopt a resolution expressing "its full support for the attempts of the TGWU to reach a final negotiated solution to the dispute and is prepared to take appropriate action in support of the TGWU's attempts." However, the Liverpool dockers felt this fell far short of the kind of support the TGWU would need.

Ramiskey stepped in with an amendment to the resolution defining what the "appropriate action" would be, inserting the two stage strategy adopted at the Montreal conference two weeks before (see story page 5). The first stage calls for another International Day of Action including work stoppages of up to 24 hours where legal and possible. And if that did not get the dockers reinstated, stage two calls for continuous actions and any dockers services to the Port of Liverpool, in particular the main companies CAST, CanMar and ACL. All conference participants agreed to that interpretation.
CA: "Write on!"

As you know, our strike on April 30 was incredibly successful. It drew together over a thousand workers, activists, community leaders, other union members, and patients in a way that will make possible our working for a health care system based on just and sound principles. We brought delivery-based care, not one geared toward profits and corporate greed.

I wish to say "thank you" for the excellent coverage you provided us here, despite the hard and the strike. Good media coverage is critical for building awareness within the community, and you played a critical role for us in helping do that.

The recently released federal report that highlights severe safety problems at the Kaiser Richmond and Oakland facilities (see story, page 4) serves to underscore the urgency of the ongoing fight for a health care system that restores humanity and dignity to the critical decisions that must be made by nurses and doctors every day to save lives.

Please know that we remain that CNA are truly grateful for your work, energy, and solidarity. We know that we will ultimately win this fight, and your enthusiasm and willingness to stand and stand for what is right will help realize this victory.

Rose A. DelMaro
Executive Director
California Nurses Association

Un retirees, down with Bill "Parity... The quality or state of being equal,..."

Too bad our brothers on the negotiating committee in 1993 didn't pay attention to the strike. They were handed out a huge $1,000 a month increase and in 1996 when they failed to bring the pre-1993 retirees up to parity.

Let's start now to alert future negotiating brothers to rectify this inequity. We should make this one of the main issues of the ILWU's 30th Convention this fall. There should be no salary increase for the ILWU's Locals until pre-1993 retirees are brought to parity, even if it takes two or three contracts.

Thanks for "a breath of fresh air" for your article in the April Dispatcher. We are working to finally get all retirees against Clinton about something. I'm referring to our ILWU Washington Representative Lindsay McLaugh- lin's article about NAFTA.

I have saved a copy of the Sun Bernardino Sun newspaper printed November 8, 1993. The headline reads "Clinton Denounces Labor Unions." This was when he and Joe Rallo signed the Traditional Succession Paper. Apparently trying to show NAFTA and GATT and GOT through our throats. He had a golden opportunity to get some real labor legislation passed in his first two years in office, when he had a Democratic Congress.

He chose not to. And what a shock it was when he took the right to strike away from the ILWU's Union. He stands on NAFTA and all the scandals that have gone on is why I could not support him. This is not longshore blood!

Don Hibbard Local 17 Huntington Beach, CA

EDITOR'S NOTE: The ILWU's 30th Convention passed a resolution requiring the Dispatcher to restate and resurface survivors column and we begin to do so page 11 of this issue. For the record, the two deaths on Bloody Thursday in San Francisco were Nicholas Cordesa, a member of the Teamster Union who was killed at the hands of the ITU after he refused to work at a non-union warehouse, and Howard Sperry, a seaman on shore at the time. Also, the warehousemen on the San Francisco waterfront represented their old ILA charters and became ILA Local 34-44 month later, in August 1934.

To Nonchargeable Expenditures (hereinafter called the "Procedures.") Said procedures outline the ILWU and/or Coast Pro Rata Committee for nonchargeable expenditures to total expenditures. Nevertheless, financial core members are still legally required under a valid union security clause to pay union dues and any required initiation fees and may, by writ-

In calendar year 1996, certified accountants confirmed that no more than 30% of the regular ILWU and/or Coast Pro Rata Committee for nonchargeable expenditures to total expenditures. Nevertheless, financial core members are still legally required under a valid union security clause to pay union dues and any required initiation fees and may, by writ-

in "Workplace Organizing," with labor attorney Will Flynn teaching "Labor Law," and Labor Studies Committee Coordinator Albert Lannon teaching "Crisis in the Labor Movement," and a class on the "History and Values of the American Labor Movement."

This 32-page booklet includes every-thing the reasons why people work, and see themselves as future workers. By the end they will have applied for a job, worked at it, learned about cooper-}

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Dutch Holland, a 15-year member of Local 40 and two-year president of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association, died at home of cancer March 26.

When he retired in 1980, Dutch asked Jesse and Lois Strahan to put him to work in support of the pensioners and the union. At this year’s Convention, Lois recalled his words: “I want to work with the Columbia River Pensioners. I want to do whatever I can.”

He began by working on the Columbia River Pensioners’ newsletter, The Old Timer, then served as the organization’s president for nine years and as president of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association for two years. He also participated actively in the National Council of Senior Citizens, the Labor Party and the Harry Bridges Institute.

“Dutch was a prime mover in putting the pension club in support of the 2-4-24 organizing fund drive— which helped our club raise more than $8000 for the program,” Jesse Strahan said.

Bugs as he was with union activity, Holland also found time to volunteer for 10 years with the Shriners Hospital for Children, receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award in 1993.

“For one of the little fundraisers he had, he would come to the hall and take orders and sell onions to benefit the hospital,” and Lois Strahan.

Gayle Holland, Dutch’s daughter, delivered a eulogy for her father at ILWU’s 30th Convention in Hawaii two April. PCPA acting President Lou Loveridge and Lois Strahan also spoke. International President Brian McWilliams moved that the Convention be dedicated to Brother Holland’s memory and the motion carried unanimously.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ON ILWU POLITICAL ACTION FUND

Delegates to the 30th Triennial Convention of the ILWU, meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, on 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 of:

1. any voluntary contribution of $1.50 to the ILWU Political Action Fund. I understand that the International will send me a check in the amount of the contribution or less if they know she was hiring the future Executive Director of the Benefit Plans, she might have asked a few more questions in that interview. It has been my privilege to work with and learn from Shirley this past quarter of a century. May she live long and prosper in her future career as a retiree.

—Hollis Greenwood

Shirley Brummell has been like a fixture in the office for many years. My association with her goes back to when the Benefit Plans was located in the basement of 150 Golden Gate Avenue. I will miss her for her knowledge—she was always ready and willing to help solve a problem), strength and compassion. Though she is a small person with tiny feet, her’s are big shoes to fill.

—Susie Patrick

NOTE. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT DEDUCTIBLE AS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS
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. $7

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 longshoreming in the ILWU since the 1930s. $16.50 (hardcover)

A Terrible Anger: The 1934 Waterfront and General Strike In San Francisco
By David Setvin: 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. $7

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 Vavert, Brian Nelson and Frank Silva. $25

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copies of Longshoremen at Work @ $25 each = $

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