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**Responsibility and accountability**

By Brian McWilliams

ILWU International President

To live a productive life with dignity, health, a decent pension and the peace of mind of having kept up our side of the social contract—and the knowledge that in the process we’ve developed enough muscle to ensure that the bosses keep up their end—is what generations have dreamt of procuring. How close to that mark have we come?

At the very heart of our commitment of our pensioners are any indication, we have succeeded. Continually they provide wisdom, guidance and role models as the union struggles to maintain its strength and direction. And just as they worked and strove to leave no precedents to the outcomes, so we must do the same now that their hooks are hung and the plug has stopped on our numbers.

Our commitment to our retired members in the ILWU is witnessed by the continued improvements in their pension awards and health care our negotiating committees have bargained in both longshore and warehouse. That, too, is part of the social contract we inherited. Along with our responsibility and commitment to our community, this earns us the respect and support we need from those same quarters to be able to effectively carry on.

Throughout the ILWU, and particularly in West Coast longshore, the union has put a program in place that undertakes a continuing responsibility for our pensioners, including protecting their status in the union and their right to continue union activity.

For example, the Area Directors in each major port area through the longshore benefit fund structure. Typically these Area Directors are selected from among our ranks to act as liaisons between our health care providers, the pension office and other social benefit providers and all of our plan participants—particularly our pensioners. That position has stood vacant in Southern California since January, and not for lack of effort on the union’s side.

PMA is balking on the selection of longshore Local 63 member David Miller. This is the first time that the employer trustees have ever rejected a union pick to oversee and implement their contract, and their action ultimately has the result of denying badly needed services to our members and their families in Southern California.

Surely there are people like Local 13 welfare director Richard Amezcua doing a worker’s work to take up some of the slack, but let’s be clear here. Our members are entitled to this benefit—particularly our pensioners and widows. They worked for it, they negotiated for it, it is as much a part of their contractual compensation as the pay checks they take home regularly. It is rightly theirs and must be held hostage to the politics of dysfunctional labor relations. The will of the membership must be implemented. So what is the hang up here?

Interestingly, PMA is raising a question of accountability in its objections to Miller’s appointment. Certain PMA officials, having experienced Miller’s past partisan and spirited defense of ILWU members, doubt whether they will be able to work with him in this new position. And they question whether the union will be able to demand accountability if he cannot service the plan participants successfully.

I agree that all ILWU members and employer trustees must conduct themselves in a responsible and accountable way in public, labor relations and internal union affairs. But the Area Directors’ job is to service our union members and they are accountable and responsible to the recipients of those services. We set the standards they are measured by.

PMA must stop stalling and approve Miller’s appointment immediately. Under the welfare agreement PMA is responsible for helping keep our Area Directors in place and allowing our members to receive the services agreed to. Its representatives signed the agreement, too, and must be held to their word.

My responsibility is to see that our Area Directors aggressively advocate for health care delivery and pension benefits. If they don’t, we, as their employers, need to act quickly to remedy that situation. On the other hand, the employer trustees have another thought coming if they think we will allow David Miller to be held accountable to different criteria than any other worker.

No union worth its salt would stand by while a member is discriminated against in this fashion for union activity. Resolution of this issue has a simple, direct and immediately achievable solution. Fill the position with the applicant chosen by the members he will serve, and measure his accountability on the basis of results.

If our members can’t get what they have negotiated for and it’s because PMA is not complying with our agreement, this means our people are going to work without the contract being enforced. Maybe we need to take action to go talk to Paul Murray about this. I am not so many years ago, when I was Secretary-Treasurer of Local 34, we had a clerk in San Francisco who had been seriously injured at the workplace, and our claim had been crushed. Although his claim was uncontested, weeks went by without any sign of the compensation he was entitled to.

I notified the company that we not only would not be forcing any more workers to that facility because, based on results, there was no evidence that our people were covered under the U.S. Longshore and Harbor Workers Compensations Act as is legally required. Miraculously, a company agent from two states away arrived at the injured clerk’s home within hours. Once again his rent got paid, and, of course, the employer successfully ordered the company to do with this case.

Accountability is always a relevant issue for discussion and that goes for both sides of the table. The contract is the union’s standard—our collective obligation, our commitment to each other and to our employers. We need to hold it precious.

In the selfish interest of keeping what we have secured and of keeping our relationships strong, it is only prudent for us to be vigilant and cognizant of the danger of pushing the system to the brink, of taxing it into meltdown.

I do not advocate violating our contract. Only the most dire and serious actions threatening the existence of the union should be responded to with extreme actions. Selection of an Area Director should not be one of those situations, but when we cannot resolve even simple matters like this, we can only conclude that something is not working right.

More and more frequently basic longshore labor relations issues seem to be stalemated, and that creates the appearance of a system that has broken down. I do not believe the system is broken. But accountability must work on both sides if we are to achieve a bright and beneficial future that serves the members we represent and the industry we work in.
In his 27th floor downtown San Francisco office, Lynch grills Irminger on a wide range of issues, everything from his duties as chair of the ILWU Region to how many times he had talked to The Dispatcher's editor before the Neptune JADE action.

"He was asking very broad questions about all kinds of my activities that I think are just outrageous, but he says he has relevance," Irminger said.

Not until the last hour of the deposition did Lynch get around to asking him about the real issue of the case—the three-day picket of the Neptune JADE at the Yusen Terminal berth in the Oakland port. Lynch's main concern was to try to get Irminger—under oath—to name names of people who planned and/or participated in the picket in an attempt to find more people to sue for the monetary losses PMA claims it incurred because of the demonstration.

"Of course I wasn't identifying anyone who I think are just outrageous, but he says he has relevance," Irminger said.

In refusing to name Irminger cited the same Constitution al right the ILWU successfully used when filing off the PMA subpoenas seeking the same names—the free speech and freedom of association right to refuse to disclose names of people who participate in lawful, peaceful demonstration activity.

The lawsuit arises from an action that happened in September 1997. The Neptune JADE, a container ship loaded by non-union labor at a port administered by the same company that had fired the Liverpool dockers, sailed into the Port of Oakland on the second anniversary of the dockers' sacking. The picket line was set up by local labor and community activists and ILWU members did not cross it for three days. The ship sailed out without being worked. It received similar receptions in Vancouver, British Columbia and at two ports in Japan.

This act of international solidarity was so effective the PMA decided to sue the pickets for hundreds of thousands of dollars in an effort to have the picketing stopped and increase the fear that picketing would be unacceptable. Named in the complaint were ILWU SAN Longshore Local 10, Irminger, Local 10 Executive Board member Jack Heyman, the Golden Gate chapter of the Labor Party, the Laneey College Labor Studies Club and the Peace and Freedom Party.

At a hearing March 10 Alameda County Superior Court Judge Henry Needham Jr. threw out the complaints against Heyman and the Labor Party, citing their First Amendment rights protected by the 1st Amendment of the Constitution. The court allowed the PMA to pursue Irminger. The Laneey College Labor Studies Club and the Peace and Freedom Party were never served.

In these efforts to find more defendants to hold responsible for its losses, the PMA subpoenaed all documents the ILWU transmitted to Irminger and locals 10 and 34 have "that relate or refer to the demonstrating" or to "any process of demonstration at the Yusen Terminal in Oakland where the Neptune JADE berthed from Sept. 26 to Oct. 1, 1997. On Aug. 12 Judge Needham ruled that the PMA must provide the IBU Region with all of which were held by The Dispatcher, were privileged under the California Shield Law, and that it must also allow the IBU Region to how many times he was there," Irminger said.

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If union families stay home on Election Day, we will lose everything

By Lindsay McLaughlin
ILWU Legislative Director

credible political scientists are predicting that the upcoming November elections are going to be as close as the pre-union, pro-worker candidates. Prognosticators believe that the holler than thou Pat Robertson followers will storm the polls on Nov. 3 while union families and other like-minded individuals will stay home. Anti-union forces are using the Privacy Act scandal to mobilize conservatives to go to the polls.

The only way to overcome this impending disaster is to vote, vote, vote. Every ILWU member has an obligation to vote. And while we’re at it, we must drag our neighbors to the polls to vote. If we don’t vote in large numbers, we will lose everything.

Skeptical that an overwhelming anti-union majority in Congress spells disaster? Allow me to point to some recent examples of a Republican Congress run amuck which may be a prelude of things to come.

Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-GA) shares Army’s views. His Progress and Freedom Foundation (PFF) has published an article entitled, “For Freedom’s Sake, Eliminate Social Security.”

Do you see what’s happening here? First Congress steals the Social Security funds, then it declares the Social Security heirs as likely criminals, Shaw sneaked it into the so-called Western Hemisphere Drug Interdiction Act. The entire bill was conceived by Speaker Gingrich and a few of his cronies out of the public eye and rammed through the House of Representatives without reasoned debate.

In support of the Shaw bill, Rep. Dennis Hastert (R-IL) said, “I am not an expert on longshoremen. I live in the cornfields of Illinois and we see the products [narcotics] that are moved through our ports. They [longshoremen] are not law-abiding citizens. They would hide the fact.

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) shot back at Shaw and Hastert later that day. “The longshore and port workers in my district work hard,” she said. “They are a proud lot. They are proud of their affiliation with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union—a union dedicated to democracy, economic security for all workers and a peaceful world. The Shaw legislation is a dagger in the heart of these patriotic Americans. Port workers will perceive this legislation as questioning their character and honesty.”

With the help of Lee and others in Congress we are going to kill this bill. Members of Congress must be told that port workers will not forfeit their constitutional rights. Allowing local government officials who may be enemies of the Union to rifle through FBI files on ordinary law-abiding workers will not be tolerated.

You should know that the Shaw legislation provides no safeguards to prevent the dissemination of sensitive information. There are no limits on the information that could be collected under this bill and records could be released dating back years that have no relation to the work of port employees. Workers would have no right to respond to or explain any information uncovered. Given the environment in many ports, there is a significant potential that the information could be used in inappropriate ways.

We can kill this bill—but we need you to contact your member of Congress and tell him or her how you feel about your port workers being questioned. Information on how to contact your members of Congress has been faxed to every ILWU local. By letting your local leadership how to get involved in this effort to defeat criminal background checks.

These people who run Congress are enemies of working people. We may ultimately be able to win this battle over criminal background checks this year, but we can’t hold back the onslaught of attacks forever. We must get out and vote and be heard. Gingrich may be kicked off his pedestal. That will take every available person in the labor movement to mobilize and vote in November to shake things up.

By Lindsay McLaughlin
ILWU Legislative Director

Determined to take advantage of a politically chaotic environment, Speaker Newt Gingrich and his allies taking this opportunity to inflict maximum pain on organized labor and working people. Longshore and port workers are not immune from their rampage. In fact, the Republican-led U.S. House of Representatives has branded these workers “criminals.”

On May 16, 1996, the House passed an amendment offered by Rep. Clay Shaw (R-FL) that allows any “state, county, port authority or any local government entity” to utilize the U.S. Justice Department to perform criminal background checks on port workers. The amendment was first introduced in the form of a bill, H.R. 1076, “The Drug Free Ports Act” on May 22, 1996. Shaw introduced the bill in response to the alleged drug smuggling activities of a few longshore workers in the state of Florida. It was referred to the Judiciary Committee and no hearings were held.

Instead of allowing the Judiciary Committee to review the bill and debate the merits of treating longshore and port workers as likely criminals, Shaw sneaked it into the so-called Western Hemisphere Drug Interdiction Act. The entire bill was conceived by Speaker Gingrich and a few of his cronies out of the public eye and rammed through the House of Representatives without reasoned debate.

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The hiring hall—the heart and muscle of the ILWU

The hiring hall is the heart of the ILWU’s brand of democratic unionism. Since 1934, when thousands of longshoremen shut down the Pacific Coast in the great strike that led to the founding of the ILWU, the principles embodied in the ILWU hiring hall have bound together workers who have sometimes been kept apart by prejudice or favoritism. The ILWU hiring hall—which at times was also put in place in the warehouse division—includes the union’s cherished principle of fighting against persecution and discrimination based on a person’s race, religion or politics.

Efforts have also been the center of the Union’s internal communication and discipline. On a daily basis, the hiring hall has also been a social and political center of the ILWU longshore community. Weakening the hall and diminishing control over dispatching increases employers’ control over work and the workers.

In 1934 men died in the struggle to drive the abuses out of the old “shape-up” system. The shape-up system lent itself to the kinds of abuses where longshoremen had to pay bribes to the employers, shipowners and stevedoring companies in order to get hiring assignments. In 1934, workers were willing to go to any length to maintain complete control over hiring and to drive anti-union workers out of the industry.

In 1934 a union-controlled hiring hall was established on which the other demands would be almost impossible to enforce and protect. There was clear that longshoremen and their seafaring allies were not going to give up their struggle for justice on the waterfront, the employers decided to open the strike piers with gas, tear gas and assorted police agencies—including the National Guard. They provoked pickets and longshoremen to resist. In San Francisco and Seattle, hundreds of strikers—and bystanders—were arrested and imprisoned. That July 5, 1934, after as Bloody Thursday. Rather than break strike, the waterfront was firmly committed to the establishment of a union-controlled hiring hall.

Veteran union members, such as longshore contract negotiations under the Taft-Hartley law. Fighting to exploit anti-labor and anti-union sentiments of the time, the employers sought to dismantle the hiring hall by and throw out Harry Bridges as ILWU President. A bitter strike was waged in 1948, and the union’s solidarity and international support compelled the employers to back off and the hiring hall was preserved.

Experience has shown that where and when the hiring hall is weakened the union is weakened. The hiring hall system determines relationships on the job, between workers as well as between worker and employer. When the basic work units was the gang, which included gang boss, winch driver, lift driver, dock men, and hold men, all members belonged to the union and were closely tied to the local union’s steward system. Veteran union members, such as winch drivers and gang bosses, trained new workers in both how to work and how to be good union members. In this setup the union was the basis of internal discipline on the job and in union meetings.

In the union-based “team” began to break apart in the 1970s, when new methods of work permitted the employers to virtually eliminate the traditional gang system. The employers’ attempt to gain more control over the workforce shifted from an attack on the hiring hall to a new pro-vision in the contract allowing them new skilled utility men (Section 9.43). The employers’ ability to hire by name and price as well as offer individual incentives had weakened the union’s control of the hiring hall. Anil was the union was able to win modification of the steady man system—on a part-time basis—to come closer to equalizing earnings between hall and steady men, and to have the steady men rotate back through the hall on a regular basis. The 1996 contract attempted to eliminate employer “incentives” and put control back in the hands of the union.

Almost lost in every discussion of the hiring hall is the fact that the employers have benefited enormously from the hiring hall system. Centralized hiring provides skilled and competent workers on an as-needed basis throughout the peaks and valleys of maritime schedules without the cost of maintaining a steady workforce, makes possible the orderly allocation of the workforce within and between ports and allows for the rational promotion of members according to seniority after equitable recruitment and training.

Today, the refrain from PMA is to “regain control of their workforce.” Fifty years ago, when the employers set out to smash the ILWU, to place its democratically elected leadership, and to dismantle the hiring hall, they said they “only want to control hiring.” The employers have the same objective today. In 1996 longshore negotiations the ILWU will have to be prepared to wage the same fight with the same solidarity and unity of purpose that in 1934 laid the cornerstone of our unmatched wages and conditions: the hiring hall.

This article is the first in a series about central issues in upcoming longshore contract negotiations under preparation by the members of the Longshore Contract Committee: Joe Wendel (19), Art Almeida (13), retired, David Arian (13), Dennis Bruenecker (54), Keces Clark (40), John Busk (200), and Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz. Research and editorial assistance—provided by Steve Shawlone, Dispatcher Editor, and Gene Vrana, Associate Director of Education and ILWU librarian.
SURFING THE WAVE
Ocean of steel and concrete... two wheels, bicycle messengers pedal eight, nine or 10 hours a day, dodging taxis, trucks and tourists, construction and sudden-opening car doors, running urgent errands for deskbound denizens of the city.

Their counterparts in cars and trucks do the hurry up-and-wait all over the city and the Bay Area, fighting congested traffic to make their deadlines, and wearing out their tires 12 hours at a stretch. Back at base the dispatcher tracks the carriers, feeding them deliveries and fielding irate, demanding or confused customers, pounding the computer all the while.

Bike messengers and drivers, dispatchers and order takers do the work in the same-day urgent delivery business. They've propelled the $4 billion industry's steady growth, ten percent each year for the last 10 years. In return they get piddly pay, handouts of the company, getting delivery orders implementation of the Universal Payout Grid (UPG) system. The UPG replaces couriers' commission, getting "special delivery, San Francisco's third-largest firm, getting delivery orders...""...special delivery...""""special delivery...""""special delivery...""

The pay they get is pitiful. Some charge deposits for pagers, some charge for uniforms, a chunk out of messengers' checks, then giving it back—without even a mention of what's owed. In fact, they say they were fired, small company, getting delivery orders...""...special delivery, San Francisco's third-largest firm, getting delivery orders...""

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ILWU Voting Recommendations for Puget Sound

**U.S. CONGRESS:**
- **U.S. Senate:** Patty Murray (D)
- **U.S. House:**
  - 1st Congressional Dist: Jay Inslee (D)
  - 2nd Congressional Dist: Gretha Cammermeyer (D)
  - 3rd Congressional Dist: Brian Baird (D)
  - 4th Congressional Dist: No Endorsement
  - 5th Congressional Dist: Brad Lyons (D)
  - 6th Congressional Dist: Norm Dicks (D)
  - 7th Congressional Dist: Jim McDermott (D)
  - 8th Congressional Dist: Heidi Behrens Benedict (D)
  - 9th Congressional Dist: Adam Smith (D)

**WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE**

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<td>Kathy Haigh (D)</td>
<td>Mike Harvey (D)</td>
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<td>Mary Lou Dickerson (D)</td>
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<td>Sharon Tomiko Santos (D)</td>
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<td>46TH</td>
<td>Jim McIntire (D)</td>
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<td>Jack Cairnes (R)</td>
<td>Ken Jacobsen (D)</td>
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<td>48TH</td>
<td>Luke Esser (R)</td>
<td>Steve Van Loven (R)</td>
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<td>49TH</td>
<td>Val Ogden (D)</td>
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**WASHINGTON STATE BALLOT INITIATIVES**

- I-200 Campaign to defeat affirmative action . . . . NO
- I-688 Raise and index state minimum wage . . . . YES
- Ref-49 Transit plan put on ballot by legislature . . . . NO
- I-694 Abortion plan . . . . NO
STATE RACES

Governor ............................................. Gray Davis
Lieutenant Governor ............................. Cruz Bustamante (D)
Attorney General ................................. Bill Lockyer (D)
Secretary of State ................................. Michala Alito (D)
Controller ........................................... Kathleen Connell (D)
Treasurer ............................................. Phil Angelides (D)
Insurance Commissioner ........................ Diane Martinez (D)
Superintendent of Public Instruction .......... Delaine Eastin
Board of Equalization ......................... Johan Kiehs (D)

STATE BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

1 Prop. 13 Exemption ............................ Yes
2 Transportation Money Use .................. Yes
3 Presidential Primary ............................ Yes
4 Animal Traps .................................. Yes
5 Indian Gaming ................................. NR*
6 Horsemeat Sales ............................... Yes
7 Air Quality Tax Credit .......................... No
8 Wilson’s Education Initiative ................. No
9 Utility Rate Payer Funds ..................... NR*
10 Tobacco Tax .................................. Yes

* NR—No Recommendation

U.S. CONGRESS, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

U.S. SENATE:  Barbara Boxer (D)

U.S. HOUSE:

1st Congressional Dist. ................. Mike Thompson (D)
2nd Congressional Dist. .......... Roberts (Rob) Braden (D)
3rd Congressional Dist. .......... Sandle Dunn (D)
4th Congressional Dist. .......... David Shaprio (D)
5th Congressional Dist. .......... Robert Matsui (D)
6th Congressional Dist. .......... Lynn Woolsey (D)
7th Congressional Dist. .......... George Miller (D)

STATE LEGISLATURE, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

NDC ENDORSEMENTS

2nd State Senate Dist.  Wes Chesbro (D)
3rd State Senate Dist.  Mark DeSio (D)
4th State Senate Dist.  Jackie Speier (D)
5th State Senate Dist.  Don Perata (D)
6th State Senate Dist.  Jack Cagle (D)
7th State Senate Dist.  Dianne Feinstein (D)
8th State Senate Dist.  Tom Torlakson (D)
9th State Senate Dist.  Lloyd Doggett (D)

STATE LEGISLATURE, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

CAL. FED. ENDORSEMENTS

18th State Senate Dist.  Jack O’Connell (D)
20th State Senate Dist.  Richard Alarcon (D)
22nd State Senate Dist.  Richard Pan (D)
24th State Senate Dist.  Hilda Solis (D)
26th State Senate Dist.  Kevin Murray (D)
27th State Senate Dist.  Debra Bowen (D)
28th State Senate Dist.  Martha Escutia (D)
32nd State Senate Dist.  Joe Baca (D)
34th State Senate Dist.  Joseph Dunn (D)
36th State Senate Dist.  George Swift (D)
38th State Senate Dist.  No Endorsement
40th State Senate Dist.  Steve Peace (D)

ILWU Voting Recommendation

Prepared by the Northern California District Council (NCDC), The Southern California District Council
for Governor
for U.S. Senate

LOCAL RACES

SAN FRANCISCO
CITY AND COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Tom Ammiano
Amos Brown
Mark Leno
Gavin Newsom
Mabel Teng

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Eddie Chin
Mauricio Vela
Dan Kelly

COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD:

Anita Grier
Andrea Shorter
Lawrence Wong

SAN FRANCISCO MEASURES:

A Retirement—Police Officers ..... Yes
B Custom Service Plan ..... No
C Retirement—Fire Dept. Paramedics ..... Yes
D Tax Commission ..... Yes
E Central Freeway ..... No
F Stadium Operator Tax ..... Yes
G Owner Eviction ..... Yes
H Hotel Tax Surcharge ..... Yes
I Bay Bridge Rail Service ..... Yes
J Universal Health Care ..... Yes

ALAMEDA COUNTY
Superintendent of Schools ..... Cheryl Hightower

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL
District 6 Carole Ward Allen

OAKLAND SCHOOL BOARD
District 6 Dave Creque

SAN MATEO COUNTY

Daly City Council
Madelyn Agrimonti
Michael Guingona
Carol Klett

EAST PALO ALTO COUNCIL
Myrtle Walker
Sharifa Wilson

MENLO PARK COUNCIL
Nicholas Jeffins
Bernie Valencia

PACIFICA COUNCIL
Maxine Gonzales
James Vreeland

REDWOOD CITY COUNCIL
Ian Bian

SACRAMENTO-YOLO-SUTTER-PLACER COUNTIES

WEST SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL
Wes Beers
Christopher Cabaldon

FOLSOM CITY COUNCIL
Steve Miklos
Kerni Howell
Cindy Dow

GALT CITY COUNCIL
Christina De La Cruz
Darryl Clare
Rex Albright
William Dufur

for Governor
for U.S. Senate
### U.S. CONGRESS

**U.S. HOUSE:**
- 1st Congressional Dist.: David Wu (D)
- 2nd Congressional Dist.: Kevin Campbell (D)
- 3rd Congressional Dist.: Earl Blumenauer (D)
- 4th Congressional Dist.: Peter DeFazio (D)
- 5th Congressional Dist.: Darlene Hooley (D)

**STATE OFFICES:**
- Governor: John Kitzhaber (D)
- State Superintendent of Public Instruction: Margaret Carter
- Supreme Court: William Riggs
- Court of Appeals: Robert Wolheim
- Mult. County Circuit Court: Jan Wires

**STATE BALLOT INITIATIVES:**
- Measure 59: Political contributions from union dues
  - **Recommendation:** No
- Measure 62: Campaign fund disclosures
  - **Recommendation:** Yes
- Measure 63: Super-majority required to change laws
  - **Recommendation:** Yes

### OREGON STATE

- 1st State Senate Dist.: Joan Dukes (D)
- 3rd State Senate Dist.: Brad Avakian (D)
- 5th State Senate Dist.: Richard DeLora (D)
- 9th State Senate Dist.: Frank Shields (D)
- 12th State Senate Dist.: Monroe Sweetland (D)
- 13th State Senate Dist.: Ken Libby (D)
- 14th State Senate Dist.: Rick Metsger (D)
- 16th State Senate Dist.: Lloyd Kumley (D)
- 17th State Senate Dist.: Peter Courtney (D)
- 18th State Senate Dist.: Cliff Trow (D)
- 20th State Senate Dist.: Susan Castillo (D)
- 21st State Senate Dist.: Lee Beyer (D)
- 22nd State Senate Dist.: Tony Corcoran (D)
- 26th State Senate Dist.: Lenn Hannan (R)

### OREGON STATE HOUSE

- 1st House Dist.: Jackie Taylor (D)
- 3rd House Dist.: Larry Landauer (D)
- 4th House Dist.: Terry Thompson (D)
- 5th House Dist.: Jim Hill (D)
- 6th House Dist.: Eric McGuire (D)
- 8th House Dist.: Ryan Deckert (D)
- 9th House Dist.: Robin Smith (D)
- 10th House Dist.: Mike Smith (D)
- 11th House Dist.: Anitra Rasmussen (D)
- 12th House Dist.: Chris Beck (D)
- 13th House Dist.: Dan Gardner (D)
- 15th House Dist.: Randall Edwards (D)
- 16th House Dist.: Jeff Merkleyn (D)
- 17th House Dist.: Gary Hansen (D)
- 19th House Dist.: Jo Ann Bowman (D)
- 20th House Dist.: Ellen Juett (D)
- 21st House Dist.: Randy Leonard (D)
- 22nd House Dist.: Laurie Anderson (D)
- 23rd House Dist.: Kurt Schrader (D)
- 24th House Dist.: Richard Devlin (D)
- 25th House Dist.: Tom Civiletti (D)
- 26th House Dist.: Kathy Lowe (D)
- 27th House Dist.: Andrea Hungerford (D)
- 28th House Dist.: Steve Rasmussen (D)
- 31st House Dist.: Loren Collins (D)
- 32nd House Dist.: George Bell (D)
- 33rd House Dist.: Dick Stocky (D)
- 34th House Dist.: Frank Lonergan (D)
- 35th House Dist.: Lane Shelterly (R)
- 36th House Dist.: Barbara Ross (D)
- 37th House Dist.: John Donovan (D)
- 38th House Dist.: Dan Wilkerson (D)
- 39th House Dist.: Frank Lonergan (D)
- 40th House Dist.: Kitty Piercy (D)
- 41st House Dist.: Floyd Prozanski (D)
- 42nd House Dist.: Vicki Walker (D)
- 43rd House Dist.: William Morrisette (D)
- 44th House Dist.: Al King (D)
- 45th House Dist.: Robert Keating (D)
- 46th House Dist.: Bob Montgomery (R)

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### ILWU Voting Recommendations for Oregon

**PREPARED BY THE COLUMBIA RIVER DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**ILWU Voting Recommendations for Oregon**

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**Your decisions, the Council’s suggestions**

**Measure 59 sponsored by the far right, would restrict public sector union members’ abilities to make voluntary contributions through pay-check withholdings.**

While this measure only affects public employees, it is the foot in the door to impose restrictions on all workers’ rights to collectively participate in the political process. The right wing is placing these anti-worker measures on the ballot state-by-state. As with Proposition 226 in California, the measures restrict workers’ rights to contribute to campaigns while imposing no similar restrictions on corporations.

**Vote no on 59 to protect public workers’ free speech.**

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### ILWU Voting Recommendations for Alaska

**IBU Alaska Region Endorsements**

**U.S. CONGRESS:**
- Senate: Frank Murkowski (R)
- House: Jim Duncan (D)

**STATE RACES:**
- Senate Dist. B: Kim Elton (D)
- 1st House Dist.: Bill Williams (D)
- 2nd House Dist.: Ben Grussendorf (D)
- 3rd House Dist.: Beth Kertula (D)
- 4th House Dist.: Bill Hudson (R)
- 5th House Dist.: Al Kookesh (R)
- 6th House Dist.: Alan Austerman (R)
The Spiller said.

Advanced Courier took pay to a new low when it hired people at 43 percent commission last summer, said Pieper. That was too much for him and his co-workers. They circulated a petition asking to get printouts of clients' charges along with their paychecks. In support, nearly 100 veteran messengers outside the company signed a petition declaring they'd never work for Advanced. The company responded by firing three workers.

SFBMA also has been active in an efficiency move after 3,000 consecutive days of not firing a worker. SFBMA organizers persuaded DMS to rehire Carlos "RKO" Ruiz, laid off in an efficiency move after 3,000 consecutive days on the job. And when the company suddenly took $1,000 out of a driver's paycheck, claiming he'd been overpaid, the SFBMA/ILWU representatives persuaded the company to give the money back and work out a payment plan.

"The DMS experience has also kept people vital to lame stuff happening at other companies," said Pieper.

Treasurer Lance Gordon's treasurer David "Slants" Schroeder.

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U.S. NAFTA PANEL CITES U.S. FIRM FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WORKERS IN MEXICO

The U.S. National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has found Echlin Inc., a U.S. subsidiary of the Mexican manufacturer Wolf Automotive Corporation, guilty of violently disrupting a union vote.

The decision, issued July 31 by the NLRB, is the first case in which NAFTA, the U.S.-Canada-Mexico trade agreement, has been invoked to overrule a labor side agreement under which Mexican workers have the right to form and join unions.

The NLRB found that Echlin used private security guards to physically assault and intimidate union members who participated in a secret ballot vote to establish a union at Echlin's plant in Mexico. The vote was scheduled by the National Autoworkers Union de Trabajadores del Hogar of Mexico, a union which has been critical of Echlin's labor practices.

The NLRB also found that Echlin had violated the collective bargaining agreement with the union, which had been extended to the plant under the terms of NAFTA.

The NLRB has ordered Echlin to cease and desist from violating the labor side agreement and to reinstate the union members who were fired for participating in the vote.

HYUNDAI STRIKERS SEND MESSAGE TO IMF

Nearly 3,000 workers and their families at the Hyundai auto factory in Ulsan, South Korea, occupied the plant and shut down production for a month to beat back a company plan for massive dismissals.

Using the current Korean economic crisis as an excuse to impose austerity on its workforce, Hyundai Corp., the country's largest auto manufacturer, announced its intentions to fire 15,000 workers. The workers responded by occupying the facility July 20.

Workers were furious over the large number of their co-workers and activists fired, including President Kim Kwang-shik. According to the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), 70 percent of the rank-and-file activists were included in the sackings.

Hyundai Motor Workers Union (HMWU) President Kim Kwang-shik and 300 shop stewards shaved their heads in protest of the company's actions. Three former presidents of the HMWU scaled the 300-foot tall smokestack, remaining there till the end. The chimney became the center of an occupation area almost two miles across.

The situation grew tense as thousands of cops in full riot gear surrounded the workers. In the past the company could always rely on repression and punishment, as in the 1987 strike when cops and workers battled each other with bulldozers and clubs.

The company tried to reopen the plant July 28 without success. Despite the workers, the strikers, but the government stayed unusually neutral. The KCTU and the Korean Federation of Trade Unions (KFTU) organized a massive general strike if the cops were used, and the government offered mediation instead of the military to the parties.

After several meetings, the sides reached a settlement that ended the occupation August 25.

The Korean trade ministry reported a loss of $167 million in export earnings because of the strike, and auto exports fell by two-thirds.

The settlement, seen by international investment advisors as a second victory in four weeks auto-workers achieved against international financial institutions. The KCTU, along with the UAM, CNTE in Mexico, and the QCTU in Colombia, has been able to stymie the IMF's offer to relocate a parts plant to Mexico.

The KCTU has been able to secure a deal with Hyundai Motor Works Corporation, the parent company of Han Young, to use a union victory to force Hyundai to reinvest in South Korea, yet the IMF told the South Korean government that it would not intervene in another country's labor disputes.

The KCTU has been able to negotiate a deal with Hyundai that includes a $2 billion investment in the South Korean economy and the creation of 10,000 new jobs.

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Supporters of striking Han Young maquiladora workers expanded their protest to other Hyundai subsidiaries, most recently to the San Francisco offices of Hyundai Precision Corp., the parent company of Han Young. Protestors informed the crowd that Hyundai Precision has a $1 billion dollar contract with the U.S. Department of Defense to assist with corporate salvation.

"It's nice to see that the U.S. government is recognizing workers' rights abuses by U.S. corporations in Mexico," said Teamsters Vice President Tom Gilmartin. "But the fact that the government can't enforce any remedies against Echlin is an example of what's wrong with free trade agreements like NAFTA."

In addition to the U.S. and Teamsters, the petitioning unions were the Frente Autentico del Trabajo de Mexico, Steelworkers (in both the U.S. and Canada), UAW, Canadian Auto Workers, Machinists, Paper Workers, Papermakers Union 611, and UNITE!

HYUNDAI PICKETED

HYUNDAI STRIKERS SEND MESSAGE TO IMF

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The Hyundai strike followed a year labor troubles in South Korea in which workers conducted general strikes against the burden of international financial institutions (IFIs) austerity, which falls almost exclusively on the working class. Last December the government agreed to an IMF bailout of $8.35 billion, with the tiger's share going to corporate salvation.

The austerity plans imposed by the IMF offered little for workers. South Korea formerly had practically guaranteed full employment. Unemployment insurance and welfare are non-existent in South Korea, yet the IMF offered only $2 billion to help the millions of workers losing their jobs.

The IMF's demand that the Bank of Korea allow the IMF to intervene in another country's labor disputes.

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The IMF's demand that the Bank of Korea allow the IMF to intervene in another country's labor disputes.
Local 6 Recyclers Win Contract

Local 6 pulled out the stops, using community support, political pressure and union solidarity to wrest a contract out of a recalcitrant employer for its new recycling sorter members.

The 58 workers at California Waste Solutions (CWS), who sort and process recyclables, said in May that CWS made threats of INS raids and plant closings to the union, making it nearly impossible for them to find new work.

But the organizers contacted local City Council meetings, becoming eyesores and a political embarrassment to a body that considered itself supportive of organized labor. The council had passed a "Living Wage Ordinance" earlier in the year requiring all businesses with city contracts pay their workers at least $8 per hour plus benefits.

The strikers became regular attendants at City Council meetings, becoming eyesores and a political embarrassment to a body that considered itself supportive of organized labor. The council had passed a "Living Wage Ordinance" earlier in the year requiring all businesses with city contracts pay their workers at least $8 per hour plus benefits. Although the ordinances did not retroactively apply to the CWS contract, which had been signed the year before, that contract had similar provisions for worker wage rates. The union continually pressed that point and got local newspaper coverage of its fight.

But the wheels of the city's bureaucracy moved slowly and the workers, mostly immigrant Mexicans who had been working for a mere $5.30 per hour, were running out of patience and reserves to sustain themselves. Negotiations were moving along and most economic issues were resolved, but every time an agreement seemed within reach, the employer threw in an obvi- ous deal-breaker, a contract-out clause or a demand that an unlimited number of hours, but for an amount too small to allow to work at the facility without belonging to the union. His starting tactics were meant to starve the workers into submission.

Workers were forced to use local food banks and gathered bags of groceries so the workers' families could eat, but they were piling up. So the union turned to its own for help. Responding to the desperate plea, the union donated $10,000 to the strikers and longshore Local 10 added more than another $2,200. This act of solidarity helped the workers to hold out until the political pressure took effect.

"Locals 34 and 10 really came through for us," said Roberto Flotte. "With the help, we would not have been able to hold out until the political pressure took effect." The longshore Local 10 gave the strikers a new hiring hall.

First Contract At CleanCare

It took many a long and hard negotiating session, but Local 23's new members at CleanCare Corp., an environmental cleanup and recycling company in Tacoma, finally got their first contract.

The workers, who collect and process waste oils, solvents, antifreeze and other chemicals, said they were members of ILWU Local 6, and that CleanCare was going to try for ILWU recognition last December. From there Local 23 Labor Relations Committee representatives spent weekends preparing the new unit for bargaining. He and Vance Lelli from Local 23's negotiating team then helped their new members in negotiation.

"The company contract is well known as the 'get to know you' contract," Boespflug said. "This was the first time this company ever dealt with a union, so the employer came in really skeptical. It took us a month and a half just to get to where he felt like we weren't trying to take advantage of him."

The employer resisted the union, but eventually a deal was struck. Negotiations took place and the contract was ratified in no time, and by Labor Day, Local 23 had no history of any kind to finish until the last week in July.

"There were some things we'd like to have gotten that we didn't, but we got pretty much everything we needed in the contract," Boespflug said. "It's a basic contract with all the union protections its supposed to have."

The workers were previously under an "employment-at-will" clause and had no control over their situation. So getting a little say-so on the job was of most importance. They won a seniority system for shift preference, job assignments and overtime, health and safety, and a grievance procedure.

The contract gives us a process, something we can use to make the employer listen to what we say and it keeps him from being a bully," said Jack Baker, who works in the oil filter recycling area. "He used to come in and arbitrarily fire people. He's not going to do that anymore."

The workers also bargained a standardized wage structure to replace the arbitrary pay scale in use.

"A few people weren't really happy with the contract, but most were," said Baker. "They were hoping for more, but I was satisfied not so much because we all got raises, but because the contract set up a structure for future increases. As it was, the company would say, 'Here, we're going to do that anymore.'"

The workers voted to approve the one-year contract Aug. 8.

"The one year was by design," Baker said. "We just wanted to get something and that gives us time so that everything we didn't get or didn't think of at the time, we can go back and get on the next one."

---Steve Staloro

CONTACT YOUR ORGANIZER

International Director of Organizing
Peter Olney 415-775-0533

Southern California Organizer
Mike Diller 310-385-2770

Northern California Organizer
Jerris Martin 415-775-0533

Puget Sound Organizer
Magda Ramirez 415-775-0533

Columbia River Organizer
Michael Cannarella 503-223-6057

---Steve Staloro

September 1998
AN OPEN LETTER TO THE TITLED OFFICERS AND ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE ILWU

(The following is a Statement of Policy and open letter to all active Brothers and Sisters of the ILWU, from the 1998 Annual PCPA Convention, Longview, Washington, September 1998.)

We, the members of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association have serious concerns about what we perceive to be ongoing adversarial politics being played out at all levels of our Union. We don't like the PMA news releases in the media attacking the Longshore Division in general and our officers in particular, but we don't have any control over the PMA propaganda machinery and can't expect a fair shake from the press in any event.

What we are concerned with, however, are those few members who seem to get their facts jumbled from time to time and reе over publishing their views that often incite and mislead us, who do not get the wrong, we embrace healthy argument, debate and disagreement in union meetings; that is work-and-file democracy at work, but let's keep personalities out of the discussion and stay on the job. We need more of that, and we need more fodder for the employer.

We are attempting to explain to you, however, that our concerns are not out of any self-serv- ing motivation or political agenda, but are coming from a profound feeling of our union and pensioners and widows. We, the longshoremen, have a vested interest in our great organization. We believe that your concerns can be resolved.

First of all, we want it known that we do not intend to become involved in the day-to-day internal workings of either the International Union or the local union. Neither do we want to be involved in contract ratification voting nor in the process of electing International Officers or local union officers. We do, however, want to make it crystal clear that our belief in preserving the collective bargaining rights of the pensioners and widows. Ears. We earned this inalienable right by virtue of our union. We will be calling you overpaid thugs and mobsters. If you have ever been hurt on the job, you know how fast your replacement gets there.

The employer seemingly wants to push us into a strike so that they can go to the media and publicize our wages and conditions. I guarantee you, with preserving family wage and ben-

THE PACIFIC COAST PENSIERS ASSOCIATION

President, Pacific Coast Pensioners

COURAGE, SOLIDARITY, Unity

Associated Press, Sept. 13, 1998 reports that the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) sued the ILWU in a federal court in Los Angeles asking for a "permanent injunction to force the union to adhere to a no-strike clause contained in a contract that took effect in July, 1996." Why now? I believe that the PMA, which represents the big shipping corporations, is alarmed by the recent demonstration of international longshore and dockworkers' "No, no, no, no work on scab cargo!" They want to change that to "Yes, the ILWU will work scab cargo." (Also involved are health and safety advocates.)

All over the world, including the U.S., workers are under attack. Employers and others like unions—except the docile "company unions" that have been bought off by the CIO in the 1930s and before the 1934 longshore strike. What will it take to defeat this new assault? Courage, solidarity and unity. And that's what this letter is about.

Our delegates from the Bay Area ILWU Pensioners' Club brought back disturbing reports of internal dissension at the recent meetings of the International Executive Board. From their reports it seems that the meetings contained a lot of back-biting and character assassination. Dogma—not unity.

I joined the ILWU in 1942. As a member of Local 10 I served on many committees, the Local 10 Executive Committee, and the Strike Committees in the 1946 and 1948 strikes. Not since the time of the crucial 1948 strike do I remember such internal dissension as we see now—and very low level at times.

To go back a way: In the Local 10 Longshore Bulletin of February 5, 1998, a 14-line "poem" was printed. The first letter in each line spelled out "Fuck McWil-

LILLY LOCAL 8 Secretary Portland, OR

THERE'S A LITTLE OF HARRY BRIDGES IN ALL OF US

I have been a member of the ILWU for 30 years (October 1968). Prior to that, I was a merchant seaman (MOWF) for five years. My entire adult working life has been in the maritime industry.

When I first came down to the "coast" everyone was overpaid and helped each other out. If someone could not do the job or needed help, we showed or shared each other what we did.

In recent years, things have changed. Now, clerical operators are pitted against each other to do more moves and the more moves they can do the better their reward from the company. Some of them even go so far as to go to management and blame other longshoremen or clerks for slowing them down.

Some clerks who are steady don't want to try to help other clerks. This allows them to tell the boss how much better they are and that they deserve more perks. This mentality has carried over to the International! It started with David Arian and has gotten progressively worse with Brian McWilliams. Everyone com-

Pat Callahan

Local 34

San Francisco, CA

"I intend to make this a drug-free workplace.... Cancel the employee prescription program."
PCPA holds 31st Annual Convention

The ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners Association held its 31st Annual Convention in Longview, Wash, Sept. 14-16, 1998. The convention drew participants from Alaska to San Diego, including ILWU members from the mainland and affiliates from the island, resulting in an international convention.

While the members entered into serious discussion about the problems of pensioners and the internal problems within the ILWU, they and their guests took time out to enjoy a tour of Mount St. Helens Volcanic Monument, a bucket list item for a few of the guests. The luau was put on by local Hawaiians who migrated to the mainland because of poor work opportunities. Longshore Local 21, Walking Bosses’ Local 92 and Auxiliary 14 served over 200 delegates and guests a pancake, egg and sausage breakfast.

Recent Pensioners:

Local 7—James Rundquist; Local 8—George Mosley, White, Donald, Robert Mosley, Joe White, Debbie White; Local 10—Jeff Raymond; Local 21—Arlie Price, Robert Janisch; Local 34—Edward Perry; Local 63—Thomas Barry; Local 63—William Van Tress; Local 94—Raymond R. Hernandez. DECEASED:

Local 8—Harold Weinborn (Rose), Robert Proffitt (Shirley), Gentry M. Mayo, Lillian Mayo, Mary Pedersen; Local 98—Janet; Local 24—Mary Pedersen, Perez, John, Redding, Gordon Willard; Local 21—Melva Mitchell. For more info: 510-594-4303 or 415-641-4440 or www.labornet.org/worker/}

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The delegates reaffirmed the need for parity in pensions and increases in widows' pensions. They called for no more increases in pensions negotiated after 1993 until all pensions have been brought to parity. Life insurance for retirees should be increased to $10,000, they said.

Recent Pensioners:

Local 7—James Rundquist; Local 10—Valerie, Dick, Larry, White, Donald, Robert Mosley, Joe White, Debbie White; Local 10—Jeff Raymond; Local 21—Arlie Price, Robert Janisch; Local 34—Edward Perry; Local 63—Thomas Barry; Local 63—William Van Tress; Local 94—Raymond R. Hernandez. DECEASED:

Local 8—Harold Weinborn (Rose), Robert Proffitt (Shirley), Gentry M. Mayo, Lillian Mayo, Mary Pedersen; Local 98—Janet; Local 24—Mary Pedersen, Perez, John, Redding, Gordon Willard; Local 21—Melva Mitchell. For more info: 510-594-4303 or 415-641-4440 or www.labornet.org/worker/jade/
**BOOKS:**
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. $7.00

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 Krenzker: 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 longshoreing in the ILWU. $15.00 (paperback)

A Terrible Anger: The 1934 Waterfront and General Strike in San Francisco By David Selvin: the newest and best single narrative history about the San Francisco events of 1934. $16.50

Work on the Waterfront: A Longshore Artist's View By Jean Gundlach and Jake Arnautoff: wonderful line drawings and text about longshore work. $7 (5 benefits Bridges Chair at the University of Washington)

**VIDEOS:**
We Are the ILWU A 17-minute VHS 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. $17

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. $128

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