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Return of the Cold War

By Brian McWilliams
ILWU International President

Just as we in the ILWU have been pursuing a proposal to name the plaza in front of the San Francisco Ferry Building after Harry Bridges, some folks have come forward to claim Harry was really a red and a closet member of the inner sanctum of the Communist Party.

We appear to be entering a new era of red-baiting and union bashing. You may have noticed some of the symptom reports, essays, books and television interviews by scholars and politicians about who really was or wasn’t Red, like the irresponsible way both the East and West Coast longshore workers were portrayed in the recent History Channel documentary “Trouble on the Waterfront.”

We are again hearing that the CIA was right fifty years ago when its anti-Communist leadership expelled the so-called left-led unions from the federation. Let’s be clear that when those people talked about “Communist-dominated” or “Communist-led” unions they were really talking about unions that simply refused to exclude communists—or anyone else—from their ranks because of their political views or affiliations.

The ILWU fought expulsion from the CIA because we believed, Harry believed, that there could and should and must be room in the House of Labor for all points of view. That solidarity is strengthened by inclusion of diverse points of view and is fatally weakened by the repressive tactics of those who accompany exclusion. So like many other progressive rank and file unions we went forward with present our case, challenging the ideology that motivated and guided the witch hunters. Only the UE and the ILWU surviving the long, cold winter outside the House of Labor.

The same ILWU policy that led us to fight to stay in the CIA, led us to play a leading role in trying to develop federations of trans- portation unions in the U.S. and around the world—first in the Maritime Federation of the Pacific before World War II, then in the Committee for Maritime Unity and the World Federation of Trade Unions after the war. More recently, this policy of unity and inclusion was affirmed in the 1980s by the AFL-CIO and the International Transport Workers Federation—which made it possible for us to affiliate with both important—perhaps essential—organizations.

Our history is filled with instances of ILWU members defending the rights of workers on the job, in the community and within the union regardless of race or ideology. Were our members misidentifies, Harry believed.

During the 1948 longshore strike the rank and file cast two historic votes during a secret ballot referendum ordered by the federal government under the brand new Taft-Hartley Act. In the first one 97 percent rejected the employer’s contract proposal and in the second 94 percent voted that the ILWU’s elected leaders should not comply with Taft-Hartley’s requirement of signing affidavits about their membership in so-called subversive or Communist organizations.

Now we’re being led to believe Harry duped us all about his membership in the Communist Party. Despite twenty years of prosecution and investigation by a host of police agencies, state and federal— and a parade of informants and inquisitors—the government could never establish its case.

Neither the union busters nor the red-baiters talk very much about the abuses of human rights by corporate power, about who is really in control.

But the alleged diaries of the “civil empire”—the Moscow State Archives—are now being cited to prove a case that could never been proven. Suddenly the archives of the KGB are considered holy scripture.

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The ILWU organizing program is on a roll. In what is being hailed as the biggest labor victory in Portland in decades, workers at the nationally famous Powell’s Books voted for ILWU representation April 22 (see page 9). In one quick moment the victory brought around 350 new members into the union and established a new non-union local in the Columbia River area, a beachhead for further activity.

While the ILWU locals in the area gave much-needed support and encouragement to the Powell’s workers during the recognition drive, that was the easy part. More help will be required as they take on the tough task of negotiating a first contract.

In San Francisco the messenger campaign is moving quickly. Work actions, strikes and demonstrations this month gave the new union activists a handy taste of the power of collective action (see page 13). The 1st election showdown in the 2,000-member industry is scheduled for June 1 at UltraEx. Buoyed by the victories, the city’s councilors are focusing all their intense energy and enthusiasm on this first test of union power in the industry.

Confidence also underlies the move of 100 telefundraisers at Stephen Dunn & Associates in Berkeley, Calif. to file for an election after card check recognition had been refused by the employer (see page 9). Ballots will be cast June 3 and Local 6 looks to have more new members to welcome soon.

By Steve Stallone
Editor

Neither the union busters nor the red-baiters talk very much about the abuses of human rights by corporate power, about who is really in control.

But how terribly ironic it is that the individuals most often spotlighted and vilified for alleged Communist party membership played a central role in codifying in the union’s constitution the principles and procedures that provided and protected free and open discussion and debate. Out of these discussions, over the years, evolved the union’s legacy of militant, democratic, progressive rank-and-file unionism—a legacy perhaps unmatched in this country.

We are proud of our record on fascism, civil rights and civil liberties, international solidarity, racism, world peace, and independent electoral politics. We are proud to hang the hoofer over scab cargo from Australia and the West Coast, and to save the life of Mumia Abu-Jamal. This record was forged and implemented and defended by the rank-and-file members of the union. Policies in the ILWU were not and are not imposed from the top down. That was true in 1934, and it’s true today.

But the new red-busters would have us believe otherwise. They would have us ignore or forget the pain and fear of prosecution and persecution during the McCarthy Era that haunted thousands out of house and home and schoolhouses and factories—and off of ships—and god forbid, there really were reds under our bed! To resurrect the inquisition for whatever reason is to betray and defend the heroic efforts of the men and women who sacrificed so much to build the union and change the world.

Was Harry a red? Frankly, my brothers and sisters, I don’t give a damn!
By Marcy Rein

SAN FRANCISCO—By 8 a.m. April 15 already looked like a perfect beach day. But the 100-some messengers assembled in South Park had business on their minds—and not deliveries, even though Tax Day is the busiest day in the courier trade.

With their colleagues from other companies who have also filed unfair labor practice (ULP) charges, the messengers of DMS, a small parcel company unionized by the ILWU Local 12, were planning to protest management’s attempt to fire union supporter and Clive Lightwood, an ILWU member and an ILWU supporter at UltraEx, one of the companies that have faced unfair labor practices. The protest was part of a larger movement to unionize the industry.

The messengers had a simple goal: to show solidarity with their colleagues and to demand respect and fair treatment from management. As they rode together to DMS’ Third Street office, they chatted about their experiences working for DMS, UltraEx, and other companies.

THE NEXT STOP, THE PICKET LINE

After the filing, the messengers rode together to DMS’ Third Street office and threw up a picket line. Hanging their bicycles on the chain-link fence, they saluted passing trucks with yellow “DMS-unfair labor practice” signs.

The action caught the eye of messengers around the country. The protest gave them a sense that organizing and winning is possible, and that workers have the power to make change. The messengers gathered in front of DMS’ office and threw up a picket line, demanding respect and fair treatment from management.

When the boss gets tough, you get smart

Employers have responded to the messengers’ actions with a variety of tactics, including cutbacks, layoffs, and attempts to disrupt their job action. The messengers have remained steadfast, using a combination of direct action and civil disobedience to demand respect and fair treatment.

The messengers have also organized a union for other couriers, including those at DMS, UltraEx, and other companies. They are demanding a voice on the job and the right to organize.

The messengers’ actions have inspired other couriers to take similar action. In May, couriers at Professional, a small parcel company, voted to unionize with the ILWU. The vote was called “Who’s in, who’s out?” and a majority of the workers voted in favor of union recognition.

The messengers have also taken their fight to the streets. On May 2, they rode together to UltraEx, a company known for its oppressive management practices. They chanted slogans and held up signs, demanding respect and fair treatment.

The messengers’ actions have been supported by a variety of organizations, including the ILWU and the SFBMA (San Francisco Bicycle Messengers Association). The organizations have provided financial support and legal advice to the messengers.

The messengers’ actions have also been met with resistance from management. DMS management has attempted to disrupt the messengers’ job action, while UltraEx has filed unfair labor practice charges against the messengers.

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The United States is by far the richest country in the world, so rich it should have no problem taking care of the basic needs of its people. Our country, however, is distinguished as the only industrialized nation in the world that does not guarantee health care coverage to all its residents. As a consequence, 46 million men, women and children have no health care. Many of them die because their government seemingly does not care. Despite past failures to resolve the health care crisis, we need a President who has the courage to take on the special interests and solve this enormous problem. Presidential contender Senator Bill Bradley is beginning to talk about universal health care for all Americans.

That's a start. Where are you, Al Gore? The labor movement should demand all contenders for the presidency have a plan to provide health care for all. The last thing we need to do is simply endorse a candidate before getting commitments for social justice.

Although universal health care is vitally important, other issues of immediate concern are before Congress. One is a Medicare strengthening proposal that would privatize the best health care program our country has ever developed. Many working-age people are seriously considering a plan pushed by Senator John Breaux (D-LA) and Rep. Bill Thomas (R-CA) to privatize Medicare. The plan provides each senior with a voucher that covers part of the premium for private coverage. The voucher would track the low-income seniors who do not wish to put their families in a precarious financial situation.

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Pay to a larger premium for the higher quality health care plans. In other words, the proposals seek to herd seniors into managed care plans that may not fit their health care needs. It is worth repeating the immense success of this public health insurance system we call "Medicare." Before the enactment of Medicare, one in five of all seniors had no health insurance. Many had to rely on the good will of family members to get the proper health care. Those seniors with poor families simply went without the health care they needed and deserved. Today 99.5 percent of all seniors are covered. Not only do we honor approximately 39 million seniors and disabled people by providing Medicare coverage for them, but we all benefit from the program. It is a great financial relief for millions of working families who would have had to pay for the health care costs of their parents if it were not for Medicare. Most working families are not in the financial position to be able to adequately pay for the hospital and doctor bills of their parents, and many seniors do not wish to put their families in a precarious financial situation.

Pushing seniors into managed care programs is not an answer to Medicare solvency. Medicare beneficiaries already have the opportunity to join private managed care plans. Their experiences in these private plans have not been a resounding success. The managed care plans of HMOs are lobbying and screaming for larger government payments, and eventually will be successful in grabbing a larger share of the Medicare payments funded by your taxes. Some HMOs are dropping out of unprofitable markets and are cutting back on benefits. Just last year 96 Medicare HMOs deserted more than 400,000 beneficiaries because they did not meet corporate profit objectives.

Privatizing Medicare would leave low-income seniors without proper care, turning back the clock on the progress we have made in ensuring a healthier senior population. Call your Member of Congress and encourage them to abandon any plans to privatize Medicare. Instead, let us use the surplus funds in the budget to take care of our seniors' health care needs.

Furthermore, the Medicare program should be vastly improved. Many of our low-income seniors have to assign a worker returning from family leave to any "equivalent" job, not necessarily the job they left. It fudges the word equivalent to mean different hours or divisions and lets the employer use a broad definition to suit their needs. Former Democratic Senator Tricia Smith, now a lobbyist for the Oregon Business Association, is leading the fight to keep family leave.

"This was passed by the voters of Oregon against the advice of the Oregon Business Association," said CDRC President Art Wagner. "The business community and we were shocked when we can say that Republicans are constantly looking at how we can be the first to harm working people and working families."

Oregon's Republicans hit the workers hard after the elections in the last year's election. Rather than find a positive solution to the state's problems, they adopted a do-nothing approach on anything that might cost money and aimed their attacks on the state's largest business lobbyist's wish list, introduced HB 2498-B to roll back the minimum wage portion of the state's family leave act. The bill would allow a company to choose between buying food or buying prescription drugs—and the cost of those drugs is skyrocketing. Congress needs to contain the cost of those drugs and protect the Medicare patients who so desperately need help in paying for prescription drugs.

We also desperately need a real patients bill of rights, like the one introduced by Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA). Today too many medical decisions are made by insurance company profit-seekers—not by doctors. The Kennedy legislation attempts to ensure patients are protected from unscrupulous insurance companies. The Patients' Bill of Rights guarantees that women will have access to abortion if they choose. Patients will have direct access to specialists. It also guarantees access to emergency care, including insurance for clinical trials where appropriate for patients with life-threatening conditions.

The Republican plan, the "Patient Protection Act," is a cruel joke on the American people. Not only does the Republican plan omit any of the key health issues that patients deserve, it also omits most patients from any protection. The Republican plan is a disaster to the self-funded employer plans. About 113 million Americans, or 70 percent of persons with health insurance, would be left out. Almost everyone enrolled in an HMO would be excluded from protection. How stupid do the Republican leaders think we are? Contact your Congressperson, big business lobbyists and demand no less than the Kennedy proposal.

Universal, quality health care is a right—not a privilege. We must continue this battle to win every other industrial policy fight in order to extend this right to all people until we have won.

Watchdogging Oregon's legislature

By Tom Price

The ILWU's Columbia River District Council (CRDC) and other labor groups keep an eye on the Oregon state legislature during the November elections. Oregon Republicans, in a 20-10 majority in the state Senate and 31-29 in the House, threaten a lot.

"We're watching these folks closely and helping the rest of Oregon's organized labor keep an eye on them as well," said CRDC President Art Wagner. "The legislature is taking steps that could cause serious harm to workers."

We have a legislature led by far-right Republicans who are constantly looking for ways to harm working people and working families.

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One of their first targets is Oregon's 100,000 restaurant workers. Voters passed Ballot Measure 36 in 1996, increasing the minimum wage by steps to $6.50 per hour by the year 2000. The measure empowers employers' association vigorously opposed the measure and went crying to their Republican friends in the legislature when they lost. With a house vote of 34 to 26, the Republicans and their allies have succeeded in signing HB 2498A which would allow employers to compute waitresses' tips as part of the minimum wage. The same bill would also establish a sub-minimum wage for workers younger than 18 so they can learn to compete for jobs.

In its publication, The Beacon, the Oregon AFL-CIO countered the restaurant employers' assertion that minimum wage increases would ruin their industry. Figures provided by the State of Oregon Employment Dept, show restaurant employment rising in each year the minimum wage increased. Employment may increase as much as five percent in 1999, according to the industry's own figures.

HB 2303 also targets workers, this time those on unemployment insurance. The bill would require anyone receiving unemployment to take the first job offered, regardless of skill level or pay. Representative Dan Gardner (D-Portland), a member of IBEW Local 48, opposes the bill. "The Republicans don't know the difference between those people on unemployment insurance and well-paying jobs," Gardner said. "They think they're both on the dole."

Representative Steve Harper (R-Klamath Falls), responding to the state's largest business lobbyist's wish list, introduced HB 2498-B to roll back the portions of the state's family leave act. The bill would allow a company
By Paul Bigman

Seattle—A sea of white caps and thunderous chants of “Union power!” greeted rush-hour drivers along Seattle’s waterfront on April 1. In a scene reminiscent of the 1930s, 1,200 workers—ILWU, IBU, Teamsters and their supporters—took to the streets. They began the day at the Seattle Fire Station, where they rallied in front of the IFTT’s “Global Mariner” to emphasize labor solidarity in the face of challenges from the bosses.

The rally was also supported by ILWU Locals 9, 19, 52 and 98, the IBU, Teamsters Local 174, King County Labor Council, Washington Jobs with Justice, high-lighted several related struggles along the Puget Sound waterfront. Key to these is, of course, the upcoming coastwise longshore negotiations.

Jack Mulvany, IBU bargaining chair, said over the longboat, “This is our port! All the jobs you see are our jobs. We are here to demand power!”

The waterfront solidarity had a special meaning for two groups of organizers facing the same trends and the struggles together. “Non-union competition is affecting workers as well as longshoremen and Teamsters need to be here to show solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the U.S.,” ILWU International President Brian McWilliams tied it all together. Citing worldwide efforts to privatize and downsizing, McWilliams noted the connections between these global trends and the struggles on the waterfront.

“We need to support all of these struggles together,” McWilliams stressed. “These are violent crimes against workers. The bosses will deny us all if they can. We hope as trade unions locally, nationally and worldwide is to join together in Canada, America and fight for their rights. We are here to show solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the U.S.”

IBU to vote on new contracts

The Inlandboatmen’s Union, the maritime division of the ILWU, has negotiated new contracts with its two largest employers, and the membership faces ratification votes on them. On the Foss Maritime contract the negotiating committee is recommending a “yes” vote, but the Crowley one goes out with a recom-mended “no” vote.

The only drawback was a man- ning concession. Foss will be allowed to run three of its ten harbor tugs with only twelve yuan men, which could put the cooks who lost their positions.

“I 00% a good agreement in the face of tough bargaining,” Engels said.

The IBU negotiators bargained the Foss contract, which covers some 200 tug boat workers and tankermen in the Puget Sound and Alaska regions, late into the night. April 24 and the deadline the union set and came out with a deal the negotiating committee felt could hold.

“The committee worked its ass off,” said Jeff Engels, IBU Puget Sound Local 174 Special Patrolman/Business Agent and member of the negotiating committee. “IBU negotiations are tough. Foss, we both came in on the last two days of negotiations and helped put it all together.”

The contract provides for a three percent raise for each of the three years of its life retroactive to Oct. 31, 1998, the start date. The Foss agreement also includes maintenance of wages and benefits, tankermen and other supporting crew received additional wage increases, engineers got a small increase in part time and single occupancy living quarters was nailed down.

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“Overall, it’s a good agreement in the face of tough bargaining,” Engels said.

The contract negotiation contract negotiations, covering some 300 tug boat workers and tankermen in the Puget Sound and Alaska regions, was worse. Although they got the same wage increases and maintenance of benefits as the Foss group, disagreement on other working condition issues led the negotiating committee to recommend the membership reject the pact.

The contract was intended on merging in Alaska the traditionally different jobs of AB (able-bodied seamen aboard the boat) and tankermen and shipyard and unload the barges. Besides reducing personnel, the move also brings up concerns of fatigue and inadequate training, and the potential threat to move a large portion of the workforce out of the Puget Sound and San Francisco if implemented in Alaska. Other salary pay increases of the contract proposal include no pay increases for new organizing effort on the Seattle waterfront. Drives need the strength of longshore to win back union wages and benefits—and longshore needs to know that the drivers at the port are union. This can come in loud and clear the message that the Seattle waterfront is guided by the principle that an injury to one is an injury to all.”

In addition to broad participation from Seattle community, the rally had support from the ILWU up and down the coast. Locals from Long Beach to Vancouver participated, with Taco Local 23 joining Local 174, and the IBU, who committed to making this a 100 percent union waterfront. Drivers need the strength of longshore to win back union wages and benefits—and longshore needs to know that the drivers at the port are union. This can come in loud and clear the message that the Seattle waterfront is guided by the principle that an injury to one is an injury to all.”

IBU: The Unions take over the Port of Seattle Pier 66 to demand union power at the port.
Edited by Harvey Schwartz

This month’s oral history features the recollections of Henry Gutman, Elnor Gutierrez, Ruben Hernandez Negrete, Ray Salcido, Sr. and Joe Uranga, five veteran Mexican American longshoremen from Local 13. Their stories provide us with another guide to the early history of the ILWU.

Workers of Mexican heritage have been in the L.A. /Long Beach Harbor area for generations. They were among the founding members of the early International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) local set up in 1933 that pre-dated the ILWU. During the 1934 strike they served as some of the union’s most militant pickets. Yet even after the strike, opportunities for most of them were limited for some time.

Initially the waterfront remained bound by certain pre-strike traditions. For the most part, Mexican Americans only labored in non-ILWU lumberyards a little inland or worked off the ILWU’s longshore lumber list. They also worked some casual jobs that were typically the roughest around.

A few Mexican Americans were in steady general cargo gangs during the 1930s, but not many. And no such gang was Mexican American-led before World War II. Then everything changed. A serious wartime labor shortage dramatically increased the percentage of Mexican American longshoremen in Local 13.

It took a while, but after the war the better jobs and the opportunities to be local committee men, dispatchers, and officers came along. Mike Salcido was elected Local 13 Secretary, Rudy Rubio and Art Chavez were elected as presidets, ten years later, they became an International Vice President. By the mid-1970s, if not even earlier, Local 13’s Mexican Americans had achieved the full participation they had always merited.

Special thanks to Ruben Gutierrez and Mike Salcido for their help with this month’s article.

JOE URANGA

I was born in 1910 in Clifton, Arizona. My father worked in a smelter there. He’d been a labor leader in Mexico. My mother died in the flu epidemic of 1918. Then my father and I left Clifton and came to live in San Pedro. He got a job at the Los Angeles Ship Yard, which is Todd Ship now. He became a longshoreman in the 1930s.

It was rough living with my dad alone. He used to take me to eat at the San Pedro Cafe. I’d get all my kid friends and we’d go through the ticket in two days, one day. Finally my dad said, “That’s it. You gotta live on bread, pork and beans, and water. Go bustle your own meal.”

Before the ’34 strike they had the employers’ “fink hall” with the shape-up hiring system. There was a ramp, like a new ramp, that ran from the tall of the hall to the other. We’d go around there for extra work about 1928, 1929. The dispatchers would stand on top of this ramp, especially the “white boat” days. There were two white Matson Navigation Co. ships, the Isle and the Harvord. I’d work about two to three hours at rams that speed to unload.

Bob was the guy that used to come in to dis- patch workers to the white boats. He’d have a stack of cards about so high. All the guys that worked over there steady used to anticipate what white cargo went. They were already there. But all the extra men he picked out of the fink hall. He’d come in and give you a card, give you a card, and give another card. Guys would cry, “Gee, Bob, hey, Bob, gimme a card!” You wanted his attention, the son of a bitch. Finally he’d get tired, and he’d take these cards and throw ‘em out everywhere. Then, if you didn’t get a card, you’d get the streetcar to pier 175 to see if you could pick work up there.

We used to call working the white boats “the race track.” You’d get up there, you’d stand in line, you’d hold. The guy was watching you, saying, “Come on, let’s go, come on, let’s go.” You ran yourself wild. You tried to impress this Bob on one and Bob, as they’d think. “Hey, that guy’s a good worker, he don’t stop, he keeps on going.” If Bob or one of the guys we called “pushers” on the white boat docked you back, you didn’t have to go down to the fink hall the next day. He’d give you a card to come back.

Back then all the old-time longshoremen were Anglos —Swedes, Germans, Norwegians, Portuguese, Italians. They had Italian gangs, Swedish gangs, Portuguese gangs and things like that. They didn’t have any Mexican gangs. The few Mexican Americans worked were mostly on the fink hall’s lumber list, like my father. It was a job that never stopped. They never loaded lumber here, but they went out. They were always moving. It was a different kind of job.

Lumber handling was just something the Mexicans got into. They had more Mexicans working lumber than on freight because freight was a little more dangerous and the wages were lower. All those Mexicans did were making money and working with that. It was a good job. It was more than just like throwing open new avenues and living.

RAY SALCIDO, SR.

I was born in Chi- huahua, Mexico. I came to San Pedro in 1917. I worked pick and shovel when I was young. My brother and I worked for American Smelting Company in Arizona and laid railroad track for Union Pacific in Nevada. After World War I, we came to San Pedro to stay with my uncle, Chu Chisol. My uncle was a longshoreman. My mother was in the longshore union later.

In Arizona I’d been in a miners strike when I was at sixteen. Quite a few of us strikers went to jail. We was doing everything we can to stop strike breakers, like throwing rocks. I was in jail for 30 days.

In the 1920s I worked for Patton Binn Lumber Company on the L.A. waterfront, where Chu Chisol was working. He helped me get the job. The workers were mostly Mexican Americans. We was there in the lumberyard hard there to keep up the pace. We separated and stacked lumber that came from the steamers. We was there working for nine years.

By 1934 I’d left the lumberyard and was work- ing on the waterfront unloading lumber from ships. During the ’34 strike we stopped the strikebreakers. They was working for the railroad company. So we got stuck. The police came. We couldn’t run fast enough because there was too many policemen.

I was with Dick Parker when he was killed. Him and I was together around the tent where they had the strike breakers inside. He said, “Ray, I’m shot.” Then I picked him up and get him out of the tent.

After the strike they dispatched by hours. The ones that had the fewest hours went out to jobs first.

There were dispatch boards for different categories after ’34, too—jitney drivers, lumber men, freight men, and shovel men that shoveled coke. I was on the lumber board, where most of the men were Mexican Americans.

HENRY GAITAN

My parents came from Mexico, but part of my people are from Italy. I was born here in the United States in Missouri in 1914. My father was working for the railroad at that time. I was taken to ILWU ORAL HISTORY Volume III The Mexican Longshoremen of Local 13 1934-
California when I was three and a half. I grew up in San Pedro speaking Spanish.

I started working in 1931 for the Long Beach Dispatch, and I became a cooper. I could fix wooden barrels. I stayed until 1934. But only very few times was there a break in my work a day and a half a week. So prior to the ‘34 strike I also worked at the ILA. He was Spanish and belonged to a union group in Wilmington, the one that organized the Almeida steamship crew, the one that fought in Spain. He was always talking about unions and conditions and he induced me into getting in the longshore union.

As a young Mexican then I was welcome into the union because I paid my dues and I was one of the few Mexican workers there that were sworn in at the very first meeting of the ILA. It was at Victoria Theater. During the ‘34 strike I was a picket and got arrested twice.

In the beginning of the union the Mexicans always got these jobs where the work was the heaviest. That was the way they used to get the most were handling lumber and handling cargo. After the war, they were begging the Mexican people to come in. After the war Art Almeida looked into it. By then there were 37 percent Mexican workers, 37 percent Anglos. The rest were Blacks. It was something like that.

So before the war there wasn’t many Mexicans, and you couldn’t get on the winches, you couldn’t go to the beach. You had to go to the escape hatch. At that time we didn’t have the union here, we had to work. We used to work a lot of hours. But if you were a cooper you had 14 cents an hour. You had to work really hard. When World War II started and Black workers came on the waterfront, White guys would say, "I don’t want to work with that n—r." When the Blacks started coming in, even the Mexicans had the tendency to feel the same way. I said, "Wait a minute, what’s the matter with you, damn fools, they’re takin’ the pressure off of our neck." By the second World War, the White longshoremen who hadn’t liked Mexicans had changed their mind. They thought the Blacks were okay if they were willing to work or if they’d work together. One time there was a Black guy and nobody wanted to work with him. I said, "I’ll work with him." I walked with him. We had this wool coming from Australia. When I saw him load that wool, I knew he knew his business. So I listened to every word of the local’s politics and I was not as tired as I would have been otherwise.

And I’ll tell you, some of those Blacks have been better union men than some of those people who already had. I always say, you gotta work with what you have. You gotta make the best. If you have a confrontation with people, you got something in between you that later on will backfire on ya.

RUBEN HERNANDEZ NEGRETE

My grandfather came here from Mexico way before the turn of the century. On my mother’s side they were armadillos in Mexico. I was born right in Long Beach and was raised in Los Angeles County. My father did truck gardening on the other side of Maywood. The depression hit us in ‘32 and made me go to work. My father lost everything. I was only 16 or 17 years old. In ‘36 I moved to Wilmington and started in the lumberyards near Broadway.

I worked like a mule there from ’35 to ’41.

I came down to the waterfront during the Second World War in ’44. At that time they were anybody. Most of the guys—what you call the Anglo—who had been working as longshoremen, were off jobs at the shipyards or went to sea. Before my time, prior to ‘41, I think there was ten percent of the local that was Mexican. During the war, they were begging the Mexican people to come in. After the war Art Almeida looked into it. By then there were 37 percent Mexican workers, 37 percent Anglos. The rest were Blacks. It was something like that.

So before the war there wasn’t many Mexicans, and you couldn’t get on the winches, you couldn’t go to the beach. You had to go to the escape hatch. At that time we didn’t have the union here, we had to work. We used to work a lot of hours. But if you were a cooper you had 14 cents an hour. You had to work really hard. When World War II started and Black workers came on the waterfront, White guys would say, "I don’t want to work with that n—r." When the Blacks started coming in, even the Mexicans had the tendency to feel the same way. I said, "Wait a minute, what’s the matter with you, damn fools, they’re takin’ the pressure off of our neck." By the second World War, the White longshoremen who hadn’t liked Mexicans had changed their mind. They thought the Blacks were okay if they were willing to work or if they’d work together. One time there was a Black guy and nobody wanted to work with him. I said, "I’ll work with him." I walked with him. We had this wool coming from Australia. When I saw him load that wool, I knew he knew his business. So I listened to every word of the local’s politics and I was not as tired as I would have been otherwise.

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RUBEN HERNANDEZ NEGRETE

I’ve had good feelings toward this union since I started. Even though we worked hard during the war, we knew we were doing something for the country. And the wages were good, better than the lumberyard, better than anything else. Another thing, after the war, they wanted to get rid of the Blacks. They were low seniority guys. In ‘46 we were went on strike. They didn’t have any more sponsorship. I had a charter member sponsor me. He worked in the lumber part of the longshore industry. He was a Mexican fellow named Manuel Lopez. By the end of the war maybe 25 percent of the Local 13 members were Mexicans.

HISTORY PROJECT

the III, Part III

American longshoremen of Local 13, 1934-1975

Joe Uranga: "In the pre-union years the Mexicans also used to work as ship scows, scraping off the barnacles underneath raised up boats and painting the outside. We used to stand in line for that, too. We used to make 50 cents an hour."
The ILWU contingent led the huge April 24 march in San Francisco demanding justice for Mumia Abu-Jamal.

ILWU closes coast for Mumia

Marching behind a huge banner reading "An injury to one is an injury to all," ILWU members walked from long-shore, warehouse and the IBU led a demonstration of 25,000 people throughout the streets of San Francisco April 24 to demand justice for death row prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal.

The demonstration, part of a national mobilization supporting Abu-Jamal's appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court for a new trial, brought out thousands of unionists, social justice activists and progressive, community and religious groups on a warm, sunny day to march from Dolores Park to Civic Center for a rally. At the direction of the Longshore Council, ILWU ports were shut down for the first shift that day as longshore locals coastwise the ILWU's action was widely praised and Jeff Mackler, co-chairman of the ILWU's support to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal, led the crowd in a chant of: "ILWU!" Among the firebrand speakers introduced were Jack Heyman, longshore Local 10 executive board member who presented the resolution to close the Coast to the Caucus, ILWU International President Bruce McWilliams and ILWU International Vice President Jim Spinoso.

"We're fighting for the basic political struggle in which working people not only call for the end of the war in Iraq, but build an alternative to it," said Bruce Lawton, one of the speakers at the rally. The ILWU has never before taken this action. "It's now time to put to rest the myth that the labor movement is synonymous with the human rights movement. The bloody results of human rights are persecuted against workers and people of color," he said.

The ILWU says Abu-Jamal's cause has garnered. Among them were California Federation of Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer Art Pulaski, San Francisco Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer Mike Thomsen, ILWU Canadian Local 10 executive board member who presented the resolution to close the Coast to the Caucus, ILWU International President Bruce McWilliams and ILWU International Vice President Jim Spinoso.

The diverse group of speakers at the rally noted that the ILWU of Mumia Abu-Jamal's cause has garnered. Among them were California Federation of Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer Art Pulaski, San Francisco Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer Mike Thomsen, ILWU Canadian Local 10 executive board member who presented the resolution to close the Coast to the Caucus, ILWU International President Bruce McWilliams and ILWU International Vice President Jim Spinoso.

Messages of support also came from Congressmen members Barbara Lee (D-California) and John Lewis (D-Oakland) and John Lewis (D-TK). The ILWU received messages of soli-arity for the stop-work action from delegates from the Transport and General Workers Union, the Amalgamated Transit Union President Karega Hart, Sail Francisco Board of Supervisors President Tom Am- miano, Angela Davis, actors Ed Aner and Peter Coyote, Oakland School Board member Ken Rice, Gloria La Riva of the Workers World Party, Father Bill O'Donnell of St. Joseph the Worker Church in Berkeley, Carl Pinkston, co-chair of the Sacramento Civil Rights Network, Bernida Regan of the National Lawyers Guild, Amsterdam Women of the American Civil Liberties Union, Gerry Nicolls of the Oakland chapter of PEN and many others.

The ILWU leader spoke to the police department Scan- dal uncovered in 1995. It exposed the brutality, corruption and frame-ups in the police department that led to 300 convictions being thrown out and many innocent victims set free. The ILWU contingent led the huge April 24 march in San Francisco demanding justice for Mumia Abu-Jamal.

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Canadian ILWU Pensioners win court battle

Eight ILWU-Canada pensioners arrested for picketing last August were found "not guilty" April 9 by the British Columbia Supreme Court. The pensioners were supporting locked out Local 518 sailors and testers whose jobs had been taken by a non-union contractor. Management obtained a court order prohibiting the union from picketing and the pensioners, aged 63 to 75, were bust- ed for contempt of that injunction. The verdict also shifts court costs to the ILWU. The ILWU has never before taken this action. "It's now time to put to rest the myth that the labor movement is synonymous with the human rights movement. The bloody results of human rights are persecuted against workers and people of color," he said.

The diverse group of speakers at the rally noted that the ILWU has never before taken this action. "It's now time to put to rest the myth that the labor movement is synonymous with the human rights movement. The bloody results of human rights are persecuted against workers and people of color," he said.

The diverse group of speakers at the rally noted that the ILWU has never before taken this action. "It's now time to put to rest the myth that the labor movement is synonymous with the human rights movement. The bloody results of human rights are persecuted against workers and people of color," he said.
ILWU representation. The April 22 election victory capped six months of longshore local in the campaign, the workers at Powell's and the workers themselves. It brings the 350-plus non-management employees of the nation's largest independent bookstore into the union and labor's largest in decades.

"We're urging people to get out and vote," said organizing committee member Miranda Outman. "It's not often you get a chance to challenge the balance of power in an institution and shift it."

The drive drew attention partly because Powell's stands out as a local cultural institution and certified tourist attraction—and partly because owner/operator Michael Powell built his reputation as a champion of free speech and civil rights. He hired and retained employment from frequenting Powell's and shared their interest in unionization.

"We're thinking of reserving 'Woods' defense is nothing but a sham and an afterthought," Litwak said in his April 15 ruling. "I'm hoping people will finally get a chance to challenge the worst union boss in an informational vote, 'June 21.'"

"Woods fired Myrna Mendoza, Pauline Becker and Jeanie Tober in June for going to an informational union meeting. The NLRB charged Woods with violating labor law by investigating them in a series of meetings focused on Powell's as much a customer as a competitor, said organizing committee member Jerry Martin. "This could be the start of something good," said Dacquisto-Caulkins.

"Everyone else who works at the port is union. Why shouldn't we be too?"

STEVE DAVIS

TELEFUNDRAISERS GET ELECTION DATE

"I'm voting yes and I don't care what the feds say, it's mine."

The telefundraisers at Stephen Dunn & Associates (SD&A) in Berkeley want a union, and they're not about to be swayed: not by captive audience meetings or anti-union flyers, personal chats with supervisors or even a $1 per hour raise in their base pay. After seven months of organizing, they demand a neutralthird-party card check April 8. After management twice refused, they filed for an election and got a June 3 date.

Even with the raise I can't afford health insurance," said organizing committee member Jacob Tillman.

SD&A workers don't get sick days or vacation days, much less medical or dental insurance, though they raise millions of dollars for progressive, humanitarian and cultural organizations.

Their base pay—with the raise—maxes out at $8 per hour, $2.25 per hour less than their counterparts at the Share Group, a telefundraising firm organized by ILWU Warehouse Local 6 twice was a leader in an all-union, accountable to his reputation, and credit them with contributing to helping to ensure a fair election.

"We can't afford to pay union wages, cit- ing Amazon.com," she said. "I'd love to vote for them but I can't be as representative as possible," said Edwards. Membership in the new bargaining committee is open to anyone willing to help find out what their co-workers want in a contract. First plans call for bargaining surveys and a series of meetings focused on bargaining unit make less than $9. A living wage for a single person with no children in Portland is $10.36 per hour, according to a study by the Oregonian, "We will learn quickly how to incorporate the changes in the union will bring. We are all committed to making this work."

As the workers put together their contract proposals, the two issues that sparked the organizing drive will top the list: workers want a living wage and a voice in company operations.

Michael Powell sounded a conciliatory note after the election, telling "We're thinking of reserving "This is about being swayed: not by captive audience meetings or anti-union flyers, personal chats with supervisors or even a $1 per hour raise in their base pay. After seven months of organizing, they demanded a neutral third-party card check April 8. After management twice refused, they filed for an election and got a June 3 date.

"This could be the start of something good," said Dacquisto-Caulkins.

"Everyone else who works at the port is union. Why shouldn't we be too?"

STEVE DAVIS
The IEB reviews affairs, sets policy for the union's affairs. The Trustees Committee reviewed the income and the dues payments against the budget and found the International's finances to be sound. The Treasurer Joe Ibarra noted that the trustees asked the International Officers to formulate a plan in case of a long-term strike and the union. Ibarra also requested the officers give an overview of the candidates for the 2000 Convention at the next meeting of the Trustees.

Elections Procedures Subcommittee submitted its report to the board. The board established the subcommittee recommendations as the International election rules in the union's Constitution, and to make recommendations to the board with a number of ambiguities and questions that have arisen since the process since the ILWU changed to mail ballots in 1994. The subcommittee's recommendation would be submitted to the membership by the mail ballot this year.

In response to a request by the Vietnam General Confederation of Labour the board agreed to have Joe Ibarra visit the U.S. and ask the Coast to pay for another conference in Torreon, Mexico of the International Worker's council. International Secretary-Treasurer Joe Ibarra attended the Confederation's Congress in Hanoi last November.

The board also agreed to send Ibarra and Northern California board member and Local 6 West Bay Business Agent Fred Pecker to a two-day conference in Denver, Mexico of low-wage worker organizations in Mexico and the U.S. The purpose of the conference is to continue to coordinate and support member groups' organizing efforts on both sides of the border.

The board passed three Statements of Policy, one held over from the last board meeting on March 26's 2-4-24 organizing assessment indebtedness, one on the escalating military budget and the elusive peace dividend and another supporting the call for freedom for political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal and endorsing the demonstration for him April 24 (see below).

The board adjourned in memory of departed Local 23 President Lee Bransch.

STATEMENT OF POLICY ON POLICING

WHEREAS: Last October the Pennsylvania Supreme Court denied the appeal of death row prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal who was framed and falsely convicted in 1981.

WHEREAS: Mumia Abu-Jamal, a radio journalist, was the target of the Philadelphia police since his youthful arrest in the late 1960s, reminding us that police brutality and corruption often lead to death row, as well as to other injustices.

WHEREAS: The notorious Judge Sabatino was on the trail and was, a member of the Fraternal Order of Police. His decision has resulted in the murder of 53 police officers twice as many as those killed in the U.S. and worldwide.

WHEREAS: The Philadelphia Police Department, according to a 1979 federal court report, is rife with corruption and police brutality; and

WHEREAS: In 1966 the Philadelphia police scandal was highlighted in newspapers across the country with accounts of officers who were stealing and framing, resulting in the release of 300 innocent people from jail, many convicted by juries from which blacks were routinely excluded; and

WHEREAS: Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge has signed to permit Mumia’s death warrant and is set to begin the execution process of an innocent man; and

WHEREAS: The National Urban League is calling on the international business community to shift its investments from the war economy to the peace economy and to support demonstrations to demand justice for Abu-Jamal and the other victims of police violence.

WHEREAS: Last year Mumia endorsed the victorious Nujabi-Neke defense campaign of the ILWU and the IBEW, called on his colleagues to support 20-20-20" program reporters during the Abu-Jamal circus, and called on the national labor union organizations to support the International and Mumia Abu-Jamal;

WHEREAS: Last year Mumia has supported the International Union to stop the 20-20-20" program reporters during the Abu-Jamal circus, and called on the national labor union organizations to support the International and Mumia Abu-Jamal;

WHEREAS: Last year Mumia endorsed the victorious Nujabi-Neke defense campaign of the ILWU and the IBEW, called on his colleagues to support 20-20-20" program reporters during the Abu-Jamal circus, and called on the national labor union organizations to support the International and Mumia Abu-Jamal;

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RESOLVED: That the ILWU go on record to:
1) Support the San Francisco demonstration April 24 and the Lenox Square December 20-20-20" program reporters during the Abu-Jamal circus, and called on the national labor union organizations to support the International and Mumia Abu-Jamal;
2) Mobilize our membership on the coast to participate in the April 24th demonstration "In Solidarity with the Free Mumia!";
3) Have the ILWU International President write a letter on behalf of the International Executive Board to President Bill Clinton demanding Abu-Jamal’s freedom and protection of reporters who do their work;
4) Be present at the demonstration April 24, 1999, there will be national demonstrations to demand a stop to the execution of an innocent man and to support the International’s stand on the Abu-Jamal circus, and called on the national labor union organizations to support the International and Mumia Abu-Jamal;

STATEMENT OF POLICY ON THE ESCALATING MILITARY BUDGET AND THE ELUSIVE PEACE DIVIDEND

WHEREAS: The U.S. military budget has never received the Peace Dividend due them after the end of the Cold War; and

WHEREAS: It is 40 years ago that President Dwight Eisenhower warned us that the military industrial complex that he set up would find endless ways to justify every growing military expenditure; and

WHEREAS: President Clinton’s call for a $110 billion increase in the 1996 defense budget is part of the international demonstrations; and

WHEREAS: This drive to deploy weapons in space segregates the Anti-ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM) as well as continued Nato expansion into Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary now means the Russian will postpone ratification of the Start II treaty that would have dismantled thousands of U.S. and Russian nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS: One in five U.S. children now lives in poverty due to the actions of the African American men are in some phase or another of the criminal justice system and the U.S. is the only industrialized nation without a universal health care system; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the ILWU publicly opposes any increased military spending and instead proposes a Peace Dividend for to our cities, save our children from the war economy and provide quality health care for all American workers.

STATEMENT OF POLICY ON LOCAL 26 2-4-24 ORGANIZING ASSESSMENT INDEBTEDNESS

Local 26 has failed to pay a single cent of the $57,118. Local 26's organizing assessment voted up by the membership in 1996. Based on the per capita reports by Local 26 with the International, the amount of the organizing assessment owed by Local 26 to the International is $57,118. Local 26's request for exoneration of the payment owed by Local 26 was rejected by the IEB and that Local 26 has not met the Constitutional requirements for exoneration, no oppose any further exoneration of Local 26 as the funds owed the International are vitally important for its growth and expansion through its organizing program. Furthermore, exoneration of all or part of the funds Local 26 owes the International would send a message to other locals and divisions that they can easily resolve their financial problems on the backs of the rest of the members of the ILWU. Our compassion for the financial troubles of locals and divisions must be balanced by the financial needs of the rest of the ILWU.

We do not recommend nor authorize trusteehip or receivership for Local 26 regarding the organizing assessment owed the International. We do, however, advise Local 26 that Article X, Section 2 of the International Constitution is not going to be followed. That section states, “In order to be entitled to send delegates to the Constitutional Convention and receive vote and vote, a local must have its dues in per capita, and to any or all overdue indebtedness to the International, paid up one month prior to the Convention.” Therefore, failure of Local 26 to pay the $57,118 organizing assessment one month prior to the 2000 Convention will result in the local being denied representation at the Convention, as per the Constitution.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ON ILWU POLITICAL ACTION FUND

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

"SECTION 2. The International shall establish a Political Action Fund which shall consist exclusively of voluntary contributions. The union shall not favor or disadvantage any member because of the amount of his/her contribution or the decision not to contribute. In no case will a member be required to pay more than the 2-4-24 organizing assessment, the amount of the contribution or less if they so desire, in the advance of the member making his/her dues payment to the local union for the month in which the diversion occurs:

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

No contribution--I do not wish to contribute to the ILWU Political Action Fund. I understand that the International will send me a check in the amount of $1.50 prior to March 1, 1999.

Less than $1.50--I do not wish to contribute the entire $1.50 to the ILWU Political Action Fund. I contribute $ toward the International political fund and the uses to which the voluntary contributions of the members are put will be made to the International Executive Board.

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

"Up to One Dollar and Fifty Cents ($1.50) of each March and July's per capita payment to the International Political Action Fund, where it will be used in connection with federal, state and local elections. These contributions are only available to individuals who are free of trade union commitments. The union shall not favor or disadvantage any member because of the amount of his/her contribution or the decision not to contribute. In no case will a member be required to pay more than the 2-4-24 organizing assessment, the amount of the contribution or less if they so desire, in the advance of the member making his/her dues payment to the local union for the month in which the diversion occurs.

NOTE: CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT DEDUCTIBLE AS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

RETURN TO: ILWU, 1188 Franklin Street • San Francisco, CA 94109

(Continued and included with this document is a card that can be filled out and returned to the Benefit Plans office by May 31 for the change to be effective July 1.)
Local 23 President Lee Braach leaves early

Local 23 President Lee Braach shook his family, friends and union brothers and sisters when he collapsed outside his hotel in Frankfurt, Germany and died Feb. 27 at the age of 84. Braach was in Europe as part of a Longshore Division delegation visiting ports in the back of the truck, speaking to those workers who had not yet joined the strike. He helped persuade the dockers that joining was in their best interests, and the 800 who knew him as an athlete, out- doorsman and vigorous union activist.

Braach was born December 31, 1934 in Anaconda, Montana. His family moved to Seattle in 1959 where he went to school. He was a star athlete in school and captain of both the football and track teams in his senior year. In 1972 he became only the second high school junior in the country to clear seven feet in the high jump.

Braach was one of only two high school athletes to be invited to the 1972 national AAU track meet that most amateur athletes have to compete in to go to the Olympic Trials. He did not qualify that year. But he went to the trials in 1976.

Braach was in Washington State University on a football scholarship and played starting outside linebacker in 1975. In 1976 he joined a Longshore Division delegation visiting ports in the back of the truck and met with stevedoring technology there and had extended his trip to vacation.

Lee Braach

Karen Kushman in September 1978 and in November 1988 Braach's daughter Dana was born. Lee and Karen separated in early 1990 and he started a new life with his companion Kelly Camura and her son Chris, but Dana remained as always the focus of his life.

Braach got his casual card and started longshoreing at Local 23 in 1979. Braach became a B-man in 1980. In 1986, at Local 23's 100-year celebration of a longshore union in Tacoma, he became an A-man and Harry Bridges put his ILWU pin on at the ceremony. Braach's intelligence and talents were recognized quickly and he rose through the ranks, being selected for various positions in the local such as Labor Relations Committee Chair, Caucus delegate, negotiating committee member in the 1996 bargaining and finally President of Local 23. He was going to be on the negotiating committee again this year.

Tiny Thronson, giant of the '34 strike

By Tom Price

Truman Alden "Tiny" Thronson was 29 years old when he and the Flying Squad climbed onto trucks for the drive up to Seattle to close down the docks in the 1934 strike. The 600-strong squad left Tacoma May 12 and were joined by another 200 from Everett.

The longshoremen reached Seattle and drove from Nac-Dock to the Bell St. Terminal with Tiny's six-foot-four-inch, 250-pound frame up in the back of the truck, speaking to those workers who had not yet joined the strike. He helped persuade the dockers that joining was in their best interests, and the 800 workers in the squad behind him took his accomplishment in stride.

A back injury in 1976 ended Braach's sports career. After college and with his back healed he took a job building modular houses and soon started his own construction company. He married Dana remaining as always the focus of his life.

For his part Thronson always credited three factors outside the immediate struggle for the 1934 victory: support from the community, from other labor unions and political action.

"Tiny fought the fight when we needed him to fight, the fight and then he taught the next generation how to fight the fight, why to fight the fight," said Local 23 President Roger Rosenberg.

Braach was born in Tacoma in 1934 and in November 1988 Braach's daughter Dana was born. Lee and Karen separated in early 1990 and he started a new life with his companion Kelly Camura and her son Chris, but Dana remained as always the focus of his life.

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Secretary of the ILA and Vice President of the entire International Longshore Association based in New York. He was one of the longshoremen opposing ILWU jurisdiction for Tacoma and a leader in the fight to overturn the NLRB ruling that gave the ILWU that jurisdiction. They would stay out until January 1957 when ILA 38-97 was charted into the ILWU as Local 23.

Thronson joined the U.S. Army in 1943 and earned the Legion of Merit decoration fighting the Japanese in the Aleutians. That 15-month battle through winter and thaw ended the last threat to American soil in World War II. He returned to found a towing company and finished his career in 1970 as a manager for Rothschild Stevedoring. Despite the fact that he worked in management, Local 23 pensions invited him to join their pensioners' association. He gladly accepted, and in that role helped political organization in the area.

In 1983 the Propeller Club voted Thronson Master Mariner of the Year, and the following year he spoke at the Fiftieth Anniversary of the '34 strike. He spoke every anniversary since, and was scheduled to speak at the Sixty-fifth later this year. In his memory Local 23 plans to establish a Tiny Thronson Community Service Award to recognize members who, like Thronson, give back to the community.

Thronson died at home in Tacoma of natural causes April 1, 1999. He is survived by his wife Genevieve, his sister, daughter, two granddaughters, a grandson and a great-grandson.

The following is a list of longshore Local 19 elected officials left out of the last issue.

Dispatchers: Robert Dalzell, Larry Fowler, John Holmes and Storm King.

Delegates: Larry Hansen, Robert Dalzell, Joe Wendel, Jeff Vigma, Pat Vukich, David Bates.


Jeff Vigma, Charles Dean, Janette Fenton, Paul Norton.

PSCD: WT. Lassiter.

Shop Steward Chair: Joe Wenzl.

Janitors: Larry Samples, Jim Burns.

Executive Board: Larry Samples, Chuck Alexander, Joe Wenzl, Lanny McGrew, Randy Brown, Jim Burns, Dennis Sorenino, Dan Kuntz, Dennis Bulis, John Mackner, Nicholas Kenny, Bill Proctor, Robert Hawran, Mark Rosenberg, Ricky Bussanick.
ILWU Book & Video Sale

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

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. 16.50

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. $13.00

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. $11.00

The Union Makes Us Strong: Radical Unionism on the San Francisco Waterfront By David Wellman: the important new study of longshore in the ILWU. $15.00 [paperback]

A Terrible Anger: The 1934 Waterfront and General Strike In San Francisco By David Saltin: 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 Arntscoff: wonderful line drawings and text about longshore work. $7.00 [55 benefits Bridges Chair at the University of Washington]

VIDEOS:
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. $7.00

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. $28.00

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copies of The Union Makes Us Strong @ $15.00 ea. — copies of Reds or Rackets @ $11.00 ea. =
copies of A Terrible Anger @ $16.50 ea. —

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BACK TO BASICS IN 1999

The ILWU has always come together during contract years. Now is the time for the membership to show the employers and the world that we understand who we are and what we want. This union was founded on the principles of protecting longshore workers through protecting our hiring hall, protecting our conditions on the job, protecting those who came before us with a good pension and protecting our families through good medical coverage.

White Hat Day EVERY THURSDAY

To show our colors the Coast Committee is asking the membership and their families to wear the Lundeberg Stetson, the old longshore white cap, EVERY THURSDAY until we have the contract we deserve!

A Helping Hand...

...when you need it most. That’s what we’re all about. We are the representatives of the ILWU-sponsored recovery programs. We provide professional and confidential assistance to you and your family for alcoholism, drug abuse and other problems—and we’re just a phone call away.

ILWU LONGSHORE DIVISION

ADRP—Southern California
Jackie Cummings
870 West Ninth St. #201
San Pedro, CA 90731
(310) 547-9996

ADRP—Oregon
Jim Copp
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Portland, OR 97232
(503) 231-4882

ADRP—Northern California
George Cobbs
400 North Point
San Francisco, CA 94133
(415) 776-8383

ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION

DARE—Northern California
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255 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
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ADRP—Washington
Richard Borsheim
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Seattle, WA 98104
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