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Organize Organize Organize

By Brian McWilliams
ILWU International President

The alarm has been sounding for many years now about the declining numbers of organized workers in this country, particularly in the private sector. At each biennial ILWU International Convention we analyze the results of our last three years work and adjust our policies to better reflect our current expectations and resources so that we can build on past accomplishments. At our last convention delegates backed up the commitment to organizing—they put their money where their mouths are—voting for a progressive dues increase to fund this essential activity.

Bringing new workers into the ILWU is as difficult—and rewarding—a job as any one can find in the labor movement. It is truly a higher calling. All the rank and files who have dedicated and rededicated themselves to organizing over the past couple of years can attest to that.

Throughout our history we have also been blessed with a competent and dedicated organizing staff. These organizers provide the necessary depth and back up to support our locals and affiliates in their organizing activities and, when appropriate, conduct drives themselves. These organizing workers need and deserve our unqualified support.

All this organizing work is done with the singular purpose of extending the benefits of unionism to fellow workers who aren’t so fortunate as us, while expanding our ability to represent social and economic issues successfully to our workplaces and our communities.

Organizing is the most effective vehicle to promote the interests of the membership of the ILWU, and our organizing department’s mission is exclusively that. Support for organizing is just an extension of the labor solidarity spoken of in the Ten Guiding Principles of the ILWU. It’s a well spent few minutes for us all to revise these principles and reflect upon the wisdom and experience of them. Number Seven speaks directly to this issue.

"Just as water flows to its lowest level, so do wages if the bulk of the workers are left unorganized. The day of craft unionism—the aristocracy of labor—was over when mass production methods were introduced. To organize the unorganized must be the cardinal principle of any union worth its salt; and to accomplish that is not merely in the interest of the unorganized, it is for the benefit of the organized as well."

As reports from other industrial unions consistently show, organizing program costs compared to the number of workers actually brought under union contract seem incredibly high. Most other organized industries have made for new challenges and new opportunities—recently we started a warehouse organizing drive because of contact with workers via the Internet, and our Website (www.ilwu.org)—there are certain basics that remain as true today as when our organizing forefathers, men like Martin, Robertson and Hall, pled their trade.

- Organizing is a “contact sport”—No organizing happens if our members and staff organizers are not out on the streets in contact with the workers we hope to organize. There is no substitute for these one-on-one discussions. One of the exciting things about our coast/messenger campaign in San Francisco is that I run into messengers all the time on the streets and I can talk unionism with them, ILWU unionism.

- Members make the best organizers—paid professional staff bring years of experience in the strategy and tactics of union building, but members are the best organizers. Our recent victories for the Ilanboats Union at Cal Bay and General Petroleum were realized because one IBU member was able to very effectively preach the gospel of unionism based on his own positive experience in our ranks.

- Organizing requires all hands on deck—Organizing is not an isolated function for paid organizers. Unless every department in the ILWU family—locals, legal, research, communications—is on board, organizing will not happen. Our recent and historic victory at Powell’s Books in Portland happened because everyone at the international worked together in a concentrated fashion to bring home this new workplace. And, of course, Powell’s wouldn’t have happened without the full backing of our Columbia River locals, particularly longshore Local 6.

New conditions require new tools and new thinking, but these principles remain the same. Let’s all put our shoulders to the wheel and roll the ILWU into the new millennium strong and replenished with the energy of new workers.
Sound area seemed to have forgotten the goods from Tacoma to the POS warehouse. The Port of Seattle turned down the work, but union activists in Seattle found the goods are not excluded. They met first with lead-174 leaders and then with Local 23, the Longshoremen. They discussed the matter. And when TTI listened carefully to what we said and the problem was resolved. Lahay leaves a legacy of close cooperation between the inspectors and the longshoremen in the union.
Farmworkers under attack

By Lindsay McLaughlin
ILWU Legislative Director

"F"elipe Ruiz Campos has been busy recruiting as a "guard against labor," proclaimed the Wall Street Journal (6/14/99). Campos is a strike coordinator for the United Farmworkers of America (UFW) out of their farm rather than working on labor conditions of the employees. The Wall Street Journal insists that times have changed and a lot of the berry pickers and growers are largely satisfied with their pay and working conditions and do not want the confrontational style of the UFW.

Labor and management "are like one family," Campos said. "One doesn't want to hurt the other." Isn't that lovely? Meanwhile, in Washington, D.C., the California growers would simply be homeless because the wages are too low for them to pay for affordable housing. Farm workers have worked to shop around for the best wage and the best employer and these growers simply don't want these unsteady workers to live decently. The economic tenets of capitalism favor employers over workers in favor of employers according to these powerful interests. When workers begin to make progress because of union organizing and a perceived under-supply of a workforce in comparison to the demand, the so-called capitalists turn to the government for more workers than they need to ensure a labor surplus. Essentially the agricultural interests are complaining that the economic laws of supply and demand are not working in their favor. Farm workers are working on the labor conditions of the employees. The Wall Street Journal insists that times have changed and a lot of the berry pickers and growers are largely satisfied with their pay and working conditions and do not want the confrontational style of the UFW.

Employers want the ability to exploit foreign workers and ignore American workers. The growing industry eliminates the employer obligation to attempt to recruit U.S. workers, especially when there is an abundance of cheaper foreign labor. Once here in the U.S., the growers want to prohibit any enforcement of employment at other farming operations where the wages and working conditions may be better. The growers desire to lock in their workers for a period of time is tantamount to indentured servitude practiced a century ago.

Employers want the Congress to reduce wages for farm workers. They have cleverly asked Congress to reverse the decline of wages and working conditions for farm workers. Employers are told to the government that it will guarantee the existing price for all Hawaii sugar regardless of the potential flood of imports. Another is to make it part of a labor landmark site at Islais Creek Park near Chinatown.

Bill Bailey's cottage saved

Volunteer stone masons, teamsters, riggers and ironworkers beat the gennuine clock and saved the cottage legendary Local 10 longshore worker Bill Bailey lived in for most of his 140 years. From June 23 to the MUNI bus repair yard at Islais Creek after San Francisco Architectural Heritage took temporary possession to save it from the wreckers.

Dave Astol from Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen Local 3, with help from John Palmer and Raoul Holder, shored up the cottage for its move off Telegraph Hill.

Crane operator Eric Anderson from Operating Engineers Local 2 lifted the cottage the size of a chubby 25 foot container 30 feet in the air, passed it over the trees and onto a flat bed truck driven by Teamster Local 85 member Larry Alexander. With the help of rigging foreman Guy Tunnel, also from Local 3, the lift was carried out the day. Astol was awarded a challenge coin for a job well done.

Bailey first entered the headlines in 1935 when he and a mate evaded security and boarded the German cruise ship Bremen in New York harbor. To the cheers of the 5,000 anti-Nazi demonstrators on the dock they tore the Nazi flag from the Copra Crane monument. The workers under NAASTA would rise to defend Bailey. In August the workers at C&H were meeting with Local 142 and International President Brian McIlvain at Crockett, California. C&H Refinery is still operating and employment has risen modestly over the last few years. Someone is not telling the truth to these workers.

C&H Refinery does have some legitimate concerns about getting enough high quality sugar to operate at full capacity. However, management's callousness in threatening the jobs of workers if they don't get everything they want is inexcusable.

C&H management has also told its workers that they will not be able to get access to union stewards to represent their interests. C&H workers have said this effort to replace American sugar workers with foreign sugar The C&H Refinery does have some legitimate concerns about getting enough high quality sugar to operate at full capacity. However, management's callousness in threatening the jobs of workers if they don't get everything they want is inexcusable.

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Molokai Ranch dominates the island whose name it bears, which owns a third of the land on Molokai, some 54,000 acres, and is the largest private employer on the island of 6,800 people.

"If you say you’re going after Molokai Ranch and they look at you sideways," said ILWU International Vice President Leonard Hoshijo.

Before Dole Pineapple pulled out, it employed around three-fourths of Molokai’s workers. "It really put the hurt on Molokai when Dole left," said Joe Kalipi, let about 142 vice chairman at the Kaluakoi Hotel golf course (U.S. Department of Labor).

Unemployment on Molokai still hovers around 14 percent. The island, Hawaii’s fifth largest, remains undeveloped—and unsullied. There are no streetlights and no big concrete buildings. The first fast food franchise just opened recently. Nevertheless, the cost of liv- ing is high. Media reports say Molokai residents pay per capita electric bills than anyone in the country.

The ranch needed community support for its expansion. And at first Brieley’s development looked like something good. The company paved roads, improved the water supply and gave jobs to local residents. But its rapid expansion of the ranch began to stir antagonisms in the community.

Activists dedicated to preserving Native Hawaiian culture objected to the ranch’s encroachment on traditional burial grounds and worship sites. Many locals resented the ranch closing public access to areas used for hunting and fishing.

"From the get-go there were lots of broken promises," Kalipi said. "They went back on their word on housing projects and on jobs." Before the permit process, the ranch employed close to 200 people. After Brieley secured the permits, it laid off around half the workers.

The remaining workers worked long hours, most for no more than $7 per hour. "They were overworked and underpaid," said a community sup- porter of the union drive. "Everybody was very happy when 200 people were taken on-call or casual positions. This deprived them of benefits, even when they put in full- time hours.

The steady workers, already ner- vous about job security, got another shock last winter when management announced its plans to subcontract the work done by four departments. At the same time, the took away dental benefits and slashed medical.

"When the workers spoke for them- selves with the numbers in the elec- tion. Now we need to pull people together so we can effectively bargain a contract," Furtado said. "Once we’re running under an ILWU con- tract, people should come over and experience this beautiful island."

CRUISE HOSTESSES PRESS THEIR RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

If nothing else, employer’s bullheaded refusal to respect labor law makes the stakes in the organizing effort by the Cruise and Tour Services (CTS) hostesses perfectly clear.

Some 400 workers provide ground services and transportation to passengers cruising out of the Port of Los Angeles. They—and the indepen- dent truckers—are the last non-union workers on the docks.

"We are working in a union atmosphere. Everybody is union around us," said CTS hostess Myrna Mendoza.

"Why not have the last group of us on the team instead of having one bunch pulling away?" said her co-worker Kathleen Daquisto-Calkins.

Mendoza, Daquisto and their col- leagues began organizing with ILWU Local 63 last spring, after Royal Caribbean Lines contracted out their jobs to CTS. When CTS owner Jim Woods refused to re-hire two of the most experienced workers, they began to worry about their job securi- ty. When Woods set about cutting their hours, breaking their contracts and imposing numerous noxious work rules.

When the hostesses began infor- mational meetings with Local 63 OCU, Woods responded by firing

Mendoza, along with Pauline Becker and Jeannie Tober. The NLRB charged Woods with violating labor law by the firings. An administrative law judge upheld the Board April 15, ordering Woods to reinstate the workers and pay their back wages with interest.

Woods appealed the decision—willing until the afternoon of the last day before the deadline to file his papers. The ILWU now has until July 2 to file in the appeals. The NLRB in Washington, D.C. will review the case and issue a written decision.

That could take several months, according to ILWU attorney Bill Carder. New Board charges filed April 21 still pending.

"This just buys Woods more time to keep on intimidating his workers," said Mendoza.

Woods settled other NLRB charges brought last fall by agreeing to post a notice renouncing wrongdoing. "He put the NLRB notice high up on the wall in a corner with a big chair and he told us it’s not his problem," Mendoza said. "There’s no right to strike, all he’s done is closed the shops.”

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Harbor Commissioners pro- posed to double the passenger cruise fee, raising the levy from $5.50 to $17 per person, on and off. The move drew fire from several—crusie lines, terminal operators, and local businesses catering to cruise passengers, and ILWU longshoremen to protest what they call a "casino tax.”

This could run business away from L.A.," said Local 63 President Tom Warren. "As a union, we do understand the port’s needs. Last year over one million people came to Los Angeles as a port of departure for cruises. We want not only means money for the port, but also exposure and revenue for the city of Los Angeles as a whole."

The hostesses hope to use the recent increase as a leverage again train the public spotlight on labor practices at the port. They have already started the support of the Angeles City Council, which issued a resolution March 24 backing "their right to free of threats and intimidation."

Now they plan a rally and appear- ance at the California Labor Federation meeting, most likely July 28.

"We’re in agreement with the cruise lines that the commission should not implement the tax and risk driving business out," said Warren. "Yet we feel they should pay their workers a good living wage, and we support the hostesses’ interest in joining the ILWU."

For more information: ILWU Organizer Mike Diller, 916-385-2770.

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Story and Photos by David Bacon

WATSONVILLE, CALIF.—When state labor board agent Mauricio Nuño reeled out the vote totals after counting the ballots cast in the Coastal Berry union election May 28 Jose Rojas couldn’t keep tears from spilling out of the corners of his eyes. Rojas had campaigned for three and a half years for the United Farm Workers among his fellow picketers at the world’s largest strawberry grower.

On hearing the results, his friend Isabel Rendon leaned in shock against a wall in a corner of the Salinas office of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board. She also had voted just hours earlier, feeling optimistic. Both were rehired two years ago after being blacklisted for union activity, and Rendon hoped that with the election “these abuses will finally end.”

But instead the UFW received 589 votes, while the Coastal Berry of California Farm Workers Committee won with 670. Eighty-three workers voted for no union at all.

A week later, on June 4, the experience was repeated in a runoff. The UFW’s 589 votes were overcome by 688 for the committee. While 92 disputed ballots remained to be investigated, the committee would gain the handful it needed to win outright.

Since the election Rojas’ and Rendon’s shock has been duplicated many times over among UFW activists at the company, while thousands of union supporters nationwide wonder what happened.

Since the spring of 1996 the union has mounted one of the most challenging campaigns in its history to organize the entire industry. But in 1997 the UFW changed its focus. It decided to concentrate on a single grower, a division of the Monsanto Corp. called the Gargiulo Company. Monsan- ton said Gargiulo was a member of the Pro Worker Committee and AGWA. Their industry-wide structure mirrored the UFW’s original strategy of organizing the entire industry at the same time.

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company accused him of harassing other workers and threatening to drive the company out of business if it signed a contract with the UFW.

Company president Ernest Farley wouldn't comment on the firing.

UFW supporter Sergio Rojas said that despite its enlightened image, Coastal Berry actually pays less than other companies. Rojas, who works for the Driscoll Company, said "We used to get at the end of the season $8,60 per box of berries, he explained, while Coastal pays $4,60 per box, and 70c box. "We've never had vacations," he added, "and we want back the bonus we used to get at the end of the season, which sometimes amounted to $600-700.

Mark Brenner, deputy general counsel for the ALRB's Salinas office, claimed the board didn't have to consider the normal criteria for unions in putting the committee on the ballot.

"The board uses a very liberal standard," he said.

The committee has not filed forms the U.S. Department of Labor requires from unions, which show their sources of income and the salaries of their officers, "I don't think the state looks at federal requirements," Brenner said.

According to Leal, the group has no constitution or bylaws, and issues no public notices of meetings.

"The law doesn't require groups to go through hoops prior to elections," declared ALRB General Counsel Paul Richardson. The trigger is filling something saying they wish to represent workers, and step two is getting enough signatures.

Richardson, appointed by ex-Governor Pete Wilson five years ago, is perceived by the UFW as the growers' point man at the ALRB. He refused to say whether he had discussed the status of the committee with Cepayan prior to the decision to place the organization on the ballot.

Salinas attorney James Gumberg represented the committee during this year's election. According to Mike Johnston, an official of Teamsters Local 690 in Salinas, Gumberg has represented growers and packers in negotiations.

"He's definitely a management-side lawyer, and those people don't switch sides," he said.

"This guy's from the ranchers," Gumberg confirmed in an interview. "He works for us for free.

Gumberg denied he was being paid for his work for the committee by other growers. "That absurd," he said. "I thought they were worthy and being oppressed. They're really small group of people taking on big labor and a big company." But Gumberg admitted he had never represented a union before. When told that Leal said the committee wasn't paying him, Gumberg noted, "...my work's just starting.

A leaflet circulated among Coastal Berry's Ventura County workers the day before the first election day indicates possible grower support for UFW. UFW organizer Alfredo Cererecer said he saw a pouch in a crew's hands the day before handing out a flyer before work started. It listed the names of over 600 workers, in Spanish, saying, in English, "We, the workers in Oxnard, have been watching for months. We know who is supporting the UFW."

"The growers in Oxnard, have been watching for months. We know who is supporting the UFW. The leaftet said the workers listed "are the only people who signed for the UFW out of the 671 workers in Oxnard."

Cererecer says that workers who received the leaflet took it as a threat that they would be blacklisted if they supported UFW. "All the people on the list are union supporters," he explained.

Despite mounting accusations of grower support for the committee, the ALRB refused to consider the issue before placing it on the ballot.

"It's not an issue," Capuyan said. "I'm not concerned with that.

While the UFW filed charges alleging grower sponsorship of the committee last year, during the first election, "those charges were dismissed," he noted. The charges were dismissed, however, because the board held that the UFW standing to object to the 1996 election because it refused to participate.

"We have to be presented with evidence of grower assistance," Brenner said. "The board didn't have any effort to determine the answer to this question."

When asked if the board should have tried to find the answer before putting the committee on the ballot this year, Richardson said the UFW could file unfair labor practice charges or objections. "All the evidence is pretty clear," he said. Both processes, however, involve investigations only after workers have already voted.

The sale of Coastal Berry to a neutral owner was supposed to guarantee workers the ability to vote freely for the union, without fear the company would retaliate for a UFW victory. The company itself had already voted on the deal.

Foremen hire the workers on some crews, that neutrality was hard to maintain. "Foremen can fire workers. Foremen can lift them out of the punishing labor of picking, and give workers less onerous and better-paying jobs as punchers, stackers or drivers. Often those jobs become a source of favors and plums for relatives and friends," Huerta says. By organizing this section of the workforce into the Pro Worker Committees and AOWA, growers gained a core of anti-UFW support inside Coastal Berry, she charged.

Furthermore, David Smith, hired by Gladstone as Coastal Berry president, was a former executive with the Dole Farming Company, which has battled the UFW for years. Smith was replaced in January by Ernest Farley.

According to Sergio Leal, "We had to push Smith harder. Ernie is a better friend of ours, so we didn't have to push him. I told the people that it was a waste of money for us to have strikes this year.

During the first year of the UFW's strawberry organizing drive, the union helped workers in the picking crew to organize inside the crews to fight the foremen on the ground and stop the committee. Perhaps no pledge of neutrality at the top can guarantee rights for workers they aren't strong enough to win for themselves. Furthermore, if workers organize a union that can win immediate battles over treatment and conditions, they have a much better chance of winning an election, even against a company union.

While suffering a setback in the strawberries, the union has used this more traditional strategy with greater success at other companies.

At Bear Creek Production Company in the San Joaquin Valley, the world's largest rose grower, a strong worker committee won a contract for 1500 to Glayos in 1996, against a company union. The UFW/ UFW appealed to Gladstone to rein in the UFW/growers.

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Overall, the UFW has won new agreements in 18 companies, covering 7000 workers, since the death of Cesar Chavez in 1994. It now claims about 27,000 members.
The World Trade Organization: writing the
Reclaim the streets demo: prelude to Seattle

More than 1,000 activists marched through San Francisco's downtown streets June 18 in an internationally coordi-
nated "Reclaim the streets" demonstra-
tion. They were targeting corpore-
te globalization and visited ten local companies deemed to be worse offenders of worker rights and most prolific destroyers of the environment. In 40 other cities around the world protest-
ers marched on their own financial districts to do the same.

The G-8 meeting in Köln, Germany provided the catalyst for the worldwide protest. Representa-
tives from the eight richest countries in the world met there to plan the next phase of globalization, some-
ting the organizers of San Francisco's protest called "the most fundamental redesign of the planet's political and economic arrangements since the Industrial Revolution."

"This is the kick-off to a massive protest in Seattle against the World Trade Organization's Millennium Round of plans for globalization," said Juliette Beck of the California Fair Trade Campaign. The WTO will meet Nov 29 through Dec 3 in its Ministerial Summit to plan the next round in its campaign to make the world one market it controls. The international coordination of protests is but a sample of what will happen in November, Beck said.

Activists are already planning for the massive gathering that will bring to Seattle workers, environ-
mentals and fair trade activists to sell the WTO that no new trade deals should be made for corporate benefit only.

Carrying giant puppets, including an octopus with its tentacles repre-
senting global capitalism's reach into the lives of workers everywhere, the marchers presented a very serious

message in a humorous way. Chevron, with its participation in mili-
tary repression in Nigeria, was the first stop. The Gap, with its use of sweatshop labor in the U.S. colony of Saipan, was next. A puppet of its CEO, Donald Fisher, received a pie in the face from protesters.

Marchers visited PG&E and Bechtel, voicing protests of those companies' dams and overseas engi-
neering projects.

Wells Fargo received special attention as locked out steelworkers Jan and Howard Pacheco from Oregon Steel in Pueblo, Colorado announce passing the boycott of Wells Fargo, the bank financing their employers' lockout.

The WTO has been sold to the public as a means of getting govern-
ment regulation out of world trade and leveling the playing field. But in more than 150 cases already it has used supra-state power to impose the will of a corporation or the interests of an industry on sovereign govern-
ments and their people. It has never ruled that the interests of the envi-
ronment outweigh corporate rights, or that labor rights need to be pro-
tected at the expense of profit.

The current split over who will head the WTO is significant because the industrial nations are touting Moore as less anti-labor than Panitchpakdi. Cheap labor, after all, is one of the most profitable com-
modities developing nations have to sell on the world market.

"We disagree with using labor problems as a trade condition," Thai government spokesman Akapol Sorauchart said to Thailand's Business Day. "It is a trade barrier. Wholesale Panitchpakdi and Moore will fight it out later this year in a process more mysterious than the selection of a Pope and bloodier than the ascen-
sion of a Roman Emperor for a job more powerful than both combined. One of them will most likely take over the position of Director General of the organization whose previous leader, Renato Ruggiero, claimed was "writing the constitution of a new global economy."

As the various factions in the WTO line up for the fight one thing is clear—only the most infinitesimal fraction of the nearly six billion peo-

tle in the world will have a say in who writes the rules for the new world order. How could this come about with barely a whisper from our rulers and near-total silence from our television sets and newspapers?

FROM BRETTON WOODS

TO THE WTO

In 1944 the leaders of the western nations met at a small town in New Hampshire to discuss the shape of the post-war world eco-
nomic order. Bretton woods, N.H., became the birthplace of the World Bank and the I nternational Monetary Fund (IMF). The original plan involved development projects to help recon-
struct Europe and the world from World War II. By 1947 world lead-
ergainst again met to dis-
cuss tariff regulations, complaints against trade barriers and remedies, result-
ing in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). But the agreement had no provisions to enforce it.

The eighth round of GATT discussions in Uruguay in 1986 led to the eventual estab-
lishment of an organ-
ization with teeth in December 1993, the WTO. The Clinton admini-
questioned the legi-

Supporters of Han Young workers' independent union in Mexico sign protest letter to Hyundai. Han Young's own letter delivered to Hyundai Precision's San Francisco office during the June 18 demonstration.
textual content requirements for imported manufactured goods. Canada's claim to protection of domestic culture fell on sympathetic ears as the WTO ruled, as it so often does, in the interests of the very rich. It certainly did not serve the struggle of developing countries to keep their culture separate from the U.S. violated corporate rights.

U.S. banana growers declared Europe's preferences for buying bananas from former French and Belgian colonies an unfair trade practice and had no problems convincing the WTO of its case. Although American growers don't produce a single banana in Latin America, the U.S. government backed them anyway. The Europeans paid their former colonial subjects enough for their bananas to allow the workers to make a decent living, unlike those toiling in the repressive, anti-union environment in the U.S. Workers in the U.S. were never a concern in the WTO.

American agribusinesses recently won a huge victory in the case of blueberry shipments. Canada challenged the U.S. importation of shrimp caught with methods that the U.S. banned. The WTO's decision in Canada's favor was a setback for the Sea Turtle Protection Act of 1988. When foreign shrimp companies complained to the WTO, that body ruled against the U.S. on Oct. 1998 and with the stroke of a pen wrote the death warrant for the sea turtles.

"Farm exports are five times higher than in 1979 and net farm income in 25 percent more in 1999 than in 1998, which is a great improvement," Canadian National Farmers Union President Cory OIliver told the Canadian House of Commons. "For farmers, increased produce a single banana in the U.S.,

Farmers Union President Cory Oliver, testifying before the Canadian House of Commons. "For farmers, increased produce a single banana in the U.S.,

The phrase "Fair Trade" may be a new term for many of U.S. workers, but it is nothing new in the developing world. The OECU tried to secretly impose similar regulations to protect food imports from Brazil or the US. But when the shear of U.S. profits, it was impossible to monitor labor rights there. Since only governments can file claims against the WTO, no one would have standing to make a claim against China, as its extremely low wages will profit corporations in all nations. Even if by some miracle the WTO wanted to beg China for worker reform, there is no trade-based barrier to world commerce posed by slave labor.

The Seattle Round of WTO, also called the Millennium Round, begins Nov. 29 and runs through Dec. 3. The APEC-CIO, fair trade activists and others are planning massive demonstrations in the streets of Seattle that week to protest this attempt at imposing on a new corporate world order.

A Glossary of the New World Order

GATT—General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. An agreement on tariffs with limited enforced created in 1947 that evolved into a forum for trade talks and reduction. After the Uruguay Round of meetings (1986-1994) binders, members of the WTO can threaten to terminate the WTO.

WTO—World Trade Organization. Created in 1994 and forced into law by a lame duck Congress in 1999. This agreement gives a three-person committee the power to determine if a country's laws are limiting competition and make it change them.

USTR—United States Trade Representative. Currently the executive Branch of the federal government, responsible for negotiating trade deals and enforcing corporate complaints through the WTO.

NAFTA—North American Free Trade Agreement. A tariff reduction agreement between Mexico, Canada, and the U.S. created in 1994 over the opposition of organized labor in all three countries. It led to the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs in the U.S. and Canada and turned Mexico into a huge sweatshop.

Fast Track—legislation passed by Congress giving the president negotiating authority on trade agreements without Congressional oversight. The president can only vote yes-or-no on agreements brought before them, and needs a two-thirds vote in both houses to override him. The U.S. Constitution requires the Senate to pass treaties by a two-thirds vote. TRIMs—Trade Related Investment Measures. A secret deal negotiated by the OECD, temporarily on hold until it terms of worldwide outrage. Core provisions would prevent developing countries to skip local laws in developing countries. Critics have pledged the WTO Seattle Round of discussions later this year. See TRIMs.

TRIMs—Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights. Under WTO rules corporations can claim international patents and copyrights to control the use of their products or inventions to ensure the return of profits to the corporation.

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You want fries with that?

Everyday the news reports some scattered story of a thousand layoffs here or there. The Department of Labor reports the number of jobs is monthly and lost in manufacturing jobs, and it's printed somewhere in the back of the paper. In February 1999 the net loss was 50,000. While it may be as exciting as eating the phone checkout. The average retail worker makes $8.96 an hour, without benefits, while the average industrial worker makes twice that. And each manufacturing job supports more than four other jobs, while the retail job supports less than one. An autoworker supports more than six other jobs.

The engine driving these jobs is offshore is usually called "globalization." But if it is just another force of nature, like the wind or gravity. But profit is driving the engine of organized labor. In 1996, the General Accounting Office reported 25 percent more in 1999 than in 1998, which is a great improvement," Canadian National Farmers Union President Cory Oliver told the Canadian House of Commons. "For farmers, increased produce a single banana in the U.S.,

performers from Art and Revolution stage a protest dance in front of Victoria's Secret against sweatshops.

trade agreement, NAFTA and the WTO agreement has yielded few, if any, measurable benefits.

Entire species face extinction, as in the case of the sea turtles. The U.S. Endangered Species Act outlawed the importation of shrimp caught without turtle excluders in the nets. When foreign shrimp companies complained to the WTO, that body ruled against the turtles and U.S. environmental law. The WTO Appellate Body ruled against the U.S. in Oct. 1998 and with the stroke of a pen wrote the death warrant for the sea turtles.

pharmaceutical companies are using the intellectual property provisions of WTO against African countries that market generic AIDS drugs. U.S. drug manufacturers claim this violates their property rights and are asking relief. If they are successful AIDS patients in Africa will have to pay several times their annual income each year to hold off the disease.

The WTO comes to Seattle.

Just after Thanksgiving the Third Ministerial Meeting of the WTO will be held in Seattle. The ministers will consider extending its trade over intellectual property and international investments, as well as China's admission into the WTO.

The proposed "Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs)" would allow corporations to patent and copyright internationally everything from seed grains to bio-engineered life forms. Anyone anywhere in the world would be required to pay a fee to the corporation holding the patent.

The new WTO rules on foreign investments set up a test of wills between the industrialized and developing world. The OECU tried to secretly impose similar regulations to protect corporate investments in Brazil or the US. But when the shear of U.S. profits, it was impossible to monitor labor rights there. Since only governments can file claims against the WTO, no one would have standing to make a claim against China, as its extremely low wages will profit corporations in all nations. Even if by some miracle the WTO wanted to beg China for worker reform, there is no trade-based barrier to world commerce posed by slave labor.

The AFL-CIO vigorously opposes China's admission to the WTO because it would be impossible to monitor labor rights there. Since only governments can file claims with the WTO, no one would have standing to make a claim against China, as its extremely low wages will profit corporations in all nations. Even if by some miracle the WTO wanted to beg China for worker reform, there is no trade-based barrier to world commerce posed by slave labor.

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The new WTO rules on foreign investments set up a test of wills between the industrialized and developing world. However, the phrase "Fair Trade" may be a new term for many of U.S. workers, but it is nothing new in the developing world. The OECU tried to secretly impose similar regulations to protect corporate investments in Brazil or the US. But when the shear of U.S. profits, it was impossible to monitor labor rights there. Since only governments can file claims against the WTO, no one would have standing to make a claim against China, as its extremely low wages will profit corporations in all nations. Even if by some miracle the WTO wanted to beg China for worker reform, there is no trade-based barrier to world commerce posed by slave labor.

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**City College of San Francisco**

Classes start Aug. 21 and end Dec. 22. The cost is $128 per unit, plus a one-time $11 student health fee. Financial aid is available. Students can register in class during the first two weeks of class.

**WEEKEND CLASSES**

Monday—Labor and Employment Law 7-10 pm. Work Tales-Labor Theater Workshop 6:30-9:30 pm.

Tuesday—Who Built America? (American Labor Movement) 7-10 pm.

Wednesday—Collective Bargaining 7-10 pm. Labor Relations in Health Care 6-9 pm.

Thursday—Economics for Labor Leaders 7-1 pm. Rockin’ Solidarity: The Labor Heritage Chorus 6:30-9:30 pm.

**WEEKDAY CLASSES**

Monday and Wednesday, 9-10 am—Labor Relations in Agriculture.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 11 am-12 noon—Labor Relations in Automotive.

Tuesday and Thursday, 9-3 pm—Who Built America?

Capilano College, Vancouver, B.C.

For registration information call Jan O'Brien, LSP coordinator 604-866-1911 or 604-866-1911.

**Union hotels in Hawaii**

Taking off for a summer vacation on the Islands? Be sure to make your accommodations at a union hotel. Here’s a list.

**HAWAII (ISLAND)**

Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel
Hawaii Marriott Hotel
Hilton Waikoloa Village
King Kamehameha’s Kona Beach Hotel
Kona Surf Resort
Mauna Kea Beach Hotel
Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows
The Orchid at Mauna Lani
KAUAI
Hyatt Regency Kauai
LANAI
The Lodge at Koele
Manele Bay Hotel

**MAUI**

Diamond Resort
Grand Wailea Resort Hotel & Spa
Hyatt Regency Maui
Kaanapali Beach Hotel
Kepaniwai Historic Village
Lahaina Shores Beach Resort
Maui Eldorado Resort
Maui Prince Hotel
Napili Shores Resort
The Ritz Carlton Kapalua
Royal Lahaina Resort
Renaissance Waikoloa Beach Resort
Village Resorts
Wailea Ekahi
Wailea Waldorf

**HAWAIIAN WAIKIKI BEACH**

Hilton Hawaiian Village
Hyatt Regency Waikiki
Marriott Waikiki Beach Resort
Mandarin Oriental
Outrigger Waikiki on the Beach
Royal Hawaiian Resort
Sheraton Waikiki
Waikiki Beach Marriott
Westin Hotel

**ORANGE**

Diamond Resort
Grand Wailea Resort Hotel & Spa
Hyatt Regency Maui
Kaanapali Beach Hotel
Kepaniwai Historic Village
Lahaina Shores Beach Resort
Maui Eldorado Resort
Maui Prince Hotel
Napili Shores Resort
The Ritz Carlton Kapalua
Royal Lahaina Resort
Renaissance Waikoloa Beach Resort
Village Resorts
Wailea Ekahi
Wailea Waldorf

**L.A. Trade-Technical College, Labor Center**

Labor in American Society Tuesdays, Aug. 26 9-10:30 am (326).

Location: ILWU Memorial Hall Executive Board Room 231 W. C Street, Wilmington.

Email and call for the first night.

For more info call Cathy Mayne at 310-547-4519 or The Labor Center, L.A. Trade-Technical College at 213-774-9470

**Federated Auxiliaries Convention Report**

The 29th Biennial Convention of the ILWU Federated Auxiliaries was held from May 21 to May 24 at Longshore Local 21 in Longview, Wash. Ten out of 12 active auxiliaries were represented and discussed subjects which included: The Federated Auxiliaries’ meeting cycle and membership requirements, survivor pensions and extended terminal illness care, victims rights and stiffer penalties for repeat offenders, food stamp reform, gender apartheid in Afghanistan, and countering negative stereotypes of longshore and other blue collar workers.

Margo Erickson from Auxiliary 1 in Newport, Ore., presented a new Federated Auxiliaries banner made and presented it to the officers at the conclusion of the convention. She advised an informative bus tour of the facilities at the Port of Longview and guest speaker Ty Gertson, president of Local 21, spoke about present activities and future plans for longshore workers in the Longview area.

New officers were elected. President—Jean Ordano, Auxiliary 39 in Chemainus, British Columbia; Vice President—Carolyn Williams, Auxiliary 1 in Newport, Ore.; Secretary—Pat Marks, Auxiliary 14 in Longview; Treasurer—Pat Dunlap, Auxiliary 4 in Everett. Regional officers were also elected.

California Vice President—Josie DeAngelis, Auxiliary 8 in Wilmington; Oregon Vice President—Margo Erickson, Auxiliary 1 North Bend; Washington Vice President—Dawn Fowler, Auxiliary 14 Longview; Canada Vice President Marlene Foulds, Auxiliary 26 New Westminster, B.C.

The next ILWU Federated Auxiliaries convention is planned for June of 2001 in Benor, Calif. The Northwest Conference, which includes the Canada, Washington and Oregon Auxiliaries, will be held in Tacoma, Wash. May 20-30. The Federated Executive Board meeting is scheduled for October 2000 in Portland, Ore. The location and date of the State Convention will be announced at a later date.

The ILWU Auxiliaries would like to take this opportunity to invite all women relatives of the ILWU and its affiliates to join the auxiliary in their area. Only through participation can we understand and support our union and its principles.

—Marylin Richards and Josie DeAngelis

Publicity Committee

**Federated Auxiliaries Convention Report**

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, shall not be used or not be disadvantageous to or against any member because of the amount of his/her contribution or the decision to not to contribute. In no event will a member be required to pay more than his/her proportionate share of the union's collective bargaining expenses. Reports on the status of the 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 Union shall be diverted to the Political Action Fund where it will be used in connection with federal, state and local elections. These deductions are suggestions only, and individual members are free to contribute more or less than that guideline suggests. The diverted funds will be contributed only on behalf of those members who voluntarily permit that portion of their per capita payment to be used for that purpose. The Titled Officers may suspend diversions if, in their judgement, the financial condition of the International warrants suspension."

"For three consecutive months prior to each diversion each dues paying member of the union shall be advised of his/her right to withhold the contribution or any portion thereof otherwise made in March and July. Those members expressing such a desire, on a form provided by the International Union, shall be sent a check in the amount of the contribution or less if so desired, of the member making his/her decision to do so for 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—Do not wish to contribute to the ILWU Political Action Fund. I understand that the International will send me a check in the amount of $1.50 prior to July 1, 1999.]

[Less than $1.50—Do not wish to contribute the entire $1.50 to the ILWU Political Action Fund. I will contribute... I understand that the International will send me a check in the amount of the difference between my contribution and $1.50 prior to July 1, 1999.]

[More than $1.50—I wish to contribute the minimum voluntary contribution of $1.50 to the ILWU Political Action Fund. Enclosed please find my check for $]
ILWU Reading List

Compiled by Gene Vrana
Associate Director of Education and Librarian

Over the years, several books have been written about the ILWU. The following list details the author, title, publisher, price, main subject or title, and publisher. These and other publications about the ILWU can also be read at the ILWU Library.


File built the union, and often took a different combination of oral histories, photographs, and insights into the Union's leadership and the CIO.

Buchanan, Roger. Dock Strike: History of the Los Angeles, 1979. An overview of the origins and early impact of the historic longshore strike at the ILWU.


Magden, Ron. A History of Seattle Waterfront Workers 1884-1934. ILWU Local 19, Seattle, WA 98134. ($29.95). An invaluable account of longshore unionization in the Northwest, particularly Seattle and the Puget Sound region. Available by mail from David Vidal, Sr., ILWU Local 19, 3440 East Marginal Way South, Seattle, WA 98134 (checks or money orders only in the amount of $15.00 per copy, payable to the ILWU Local 19 Centennial).


The ILWU video

The ILWU video

June 1999

The ILWU video

We are the ILWU—the 30-minute video produced by the ILWU Research and Communications Department—has gotten attention from audiences outside the union.

The video has won several national and international awards. It won a silver WorldMedal from The New York Festivals, representing media from 39 nations as one of the "world's best" in non-broadcast programming. It also received a "First Award" from the AFL-CIO's International Labor Communications Association in Washington, D.C. and a CINDY Award for Excellence from Cinema in Industry in Los Angeles.

We are the ILWU highlights the principle and the philosophy of the Union. The video, directed by Maria Brooks, was produced as an educational tool for new members of the ILWU. But a John Uno use the program in their classrooms. The video may be purchased for $7.00 from the ILWU library. See order form on the back page of The Dispatcher.
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. $6.50

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 longshoring 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. $7.00 ($5 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

**ORDER BY MAIL**
copies of ILWU Story @ $7 ea. = $
copies of Work on the Waterfront @ $7 ea. = $
copies of The Big Strike @ $6.50 ea. = $
copies of Workers on the Waterfront @ $13 ea. = $
copies of Reds or Rackets @ $11 ea. = $
copies of The Union Makes Us Strong @ $15 ea. = $
copies of A Terrible Anger @ $16.50 ea. = $
copies of We Are the ILWU @ $15 ea. = $
copies of Life on the Beam @ $28 ea. = $
Add 52.00 per item for orders outside the U.S. Total Enclosed $

Name ___________________________ Street Address or PO Box ____________
City __________________ State ______ Zip ______

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

Prices include shipping and handling. Please allow at least four weeks for delivery.

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) 547-9966

ADRP—Northern California George Cobbs 400 North Point San Francisco, CA 94133 (415) 776-8363

ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION DARE—Northern California Gary Atkinson 255 Ninth Street San Francisco, CA 94103 (800) 772-8288

ADRP—Oregon Jim Cogg 3054 N.E. Glisan, Ste. 2 Portland, OR 97232 (503) 231-4862

ADRP—Washington Richard Borschel 506 Second Ave., Rm. 2121 Seattle, WA 98104 (206) 621-1038

ILWU CANADIAN AREA EAP—British Columbia Bill Bloor 745 Clark Drive, Suite 206 Vancouver, BC V5L 3J3 (604) 254-7511

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!