Company demands may provoke strike
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Building labor solidarity

By James Spinosa
ILWU International President

These are tough times for the labor movement—workers and their unions are under attack everywhere. In the U.S. President Bush has moved quickly to repeal the ergonomic standards the AFL-CIO fought for 10 years to achieve. He pushed through a trillion dollar tax cut for the rich that will be paid for by cuts in services to working people. He is still threatening to privatize Social Security, putting workers’ retirement plans in jeopardy for the benefit of Wall Street and stockbrokers. And he is furthering the globalization of the economy with the FTAA, destroying labor standards in the U.S. and the entire Western Hemisphere.

The international employer class is consolidating and, as we have seen with the WTO, the FTAA, the IMF and the World Bank, is globalization its control. Their new rules for their new economy have less to do with competing among themselves than with extracting the most possible of workers everywhere. Faster than ever they are making the world one economy—one economy against the workers.

So more than ever working people and their unions need to find ways to join together and need to do so quickly. We need to overcome past animosities and suspicions, while understanding our differences and agreeing to ways to deal with them. We need to realize that we have common problems and that none of us is big enough or strong enough to stand alone.

The ILWU, of course, has always held that belief. The strike that founded our union in 1934 was a maritime strike that included the Sailors’ Union, Masters, Mates and Pilots, Marine Firemen, Marine Engineers, Marine Cooks and Stewards, the Ferryboatmen’s Union and Radio Telegraphists besides the longshore workers. The ILWU has been an active member in numerous multi-industry and international alliances and federations. These days we continue that tradition through our affiliations with the AFL-CIO and the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) among many others. Our recent work in support of the Charleston longshore workers has strengthened and deepened our ties with the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA), the union representing longshore workers in the U.S. East and Gulf Coasts.

The next and most important move the ILWU is making toward such coalitions is the International Dockers Solidarity Conference our union is hosting in Los Angeles July 30-August 2. Representatives from longshore and dockers unions from around the world are planning to gather to share information and exchange ideas. On the agenda for discussion are a number of issues facing all of us. These include: technology implementation and port modernization; port privatization, health and safety and the casualization of dockworkers.

Since we share most of the same employers—the shipping and stevedoring companies we work for on the West Coast also service the East and Gulf Coasts, Europe, Asia and the Pacific Rim—many of the challenges we are facing in, say, the introduction of new technology on the docks, are being dealt with by the other unions. We can learn from each other and better ways to keep employers from using technology to undermine our jurisdiction. And we can figure out ways to support each other in doing that so the employers can’t pit us against each other.

The solidarity we will be building at this conference will serve us well as we look ahead to our longshore contract negotiations next year. Our employer group, the Pacific Maritime Association, has already shown a tendency to try to use new technology as a way to move work that is contractually ours away to other non-union workers. They have also shown an inclination to try to use their influence in Congress to gain what they have not been able to get at the bargaining table. Their ultimate dream is to get the longshore industry put under the Railway Labor Act, making it illegal for the ILWU to strike and to have the government impose a contract on us. If push does come to shove, we will need our international friends.

It has happened before. When the ILWU and other maritime workers went on strike in 1946, President Harry Truman threatened he would bust it by having the Army load and sail the ships. But longshore unions from many countries sent telegrams to the White House telling Truman that he may be able to load and sail the ships, but once they arrived in their ports, they wouldn’t get unloaded. Truman backed down and with that international solidarity we won the strike.

This conference will be an important step towards building a mutual support system—a solidarity system—with dockers around the world. But it is only one step. What we need to have meetings like this on a regular basis, hosted by various ports to continue the dialogue and further each other’s understanding of our cultures and our work.

We can’t wait until we have crises to come together. We need to organize communications and strategies now. We need to make it understood that employer attacks like those at Liverpool, Australia and Charleston can never be successful.
The IBU members who run Hawaii's barge service have been in contract talks with Saltchuk Resources, a multimillion-dollar holding company, that owns and operates the Portland, Oregon-based company called HTB/YB. The union claims that HTB/YB dominates the market for inter-island barge service, and that the company's work environment is unsafe. The IBU members at HTB/YB are seeking higher pay, better working conditions, and union representation for all workers. The union is negotiating with Saltchuk since the company purchased HTB/YB in 1999.

The IBU members at HTB/YB have been trying to negotiate a contract since 2003, but the company has been resistant to union representation. In fact, Saltchuk has been accused of breaking the law by trying to prevent workers from forming a union. The union has filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board, which is investigating the company's actions.

The union is also concerned about the company's safety record. In 2004, a tugboat owned by HTB/YB collided with a train trestle in the Puget Sound area, killing 47 passengers. The union is demanding better safety standards and compensation for workers who are injured on the job.

The IBU members at HTB/YB have been holding rallies and meetings to raise awareness about their struggle. They are calling on the public to support their cause.

The IBU is a union that represents workers in the maritime industry. It is a national organization with more than 20,000 members. The union is known for its fight for better pay and working conditions for its members.
By Lindsay McLaughlin
ILWU Legislative Director

The 2001 ILWU Legislative Conference was finally over the night of Thursday, May 3 after a Congressional reception in the United States Capitol. After four days of political lobbying, the ILWU was exhausted and ready for some relaxation and good music at the Hotel's piano bar. Many of the 32 delegates felt the same way because slacking off is not an option at one of these Legislative Conferences. The ILWU is such a small union in comparison to others that the way we succeed is by working harder than everyone else.

And for four days we pounded the halls of Congress, making demands on our elected officials. Did we succeed in getting our message to our elected officials? Yes, in the short run, we made our presence known and sent a strong message in the halls of Congress. It's too early to tell if the momentum created by a successful conference will translate into success in the future. That all depends on the activists in the union—whether they will take the time to get involved in their District Councils and educate union members on legislative and political issues that affect working families. It also depends on whether the delegates share with our members the real story of Washington, D.C.—that is, union members and workers are under a well-orchestrated, right-wing attack that will ultimately destroy us if we do not fight back. Most of the delegates were committed to continuing the work of the conference when they return to their real jobs.

Every morning during the week of the Legislative Conference, the delegates heard from speakers—many of them addressing the issues we were lobbying all week. Sen. Paul Wellstone (D-MN) addressed our women delegates with commitment. Sen. Daniel Inouye, Rep. Pete Stark and Rep. Niki Atkin (all Democrats) addressed the ILWU delegates to back Mink for re-election. Fellow Democrat in the state may have run in a primary against her. Some of our women delegates were particularly impressed when they learned that Inouye was the author of Title IX—an Act that forced schools to fund girls' sports activities.

Other speakers at the conference included Coast Guard Captain Tony Regalbuto, who is writing regulations for seaport security, and Bob Mugge, Director of the Maritime Administration's Office of Custom of possible security problems. We also advocate that ILWU employees be guaranteed the right to vote to the right a job with dignity.

Rep. David Bonior (D-MI), the House Democratic Whip, spoke on Wednesday, May 2 and emphasized the importance of our work on fair trade policies. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) went into great detail about the incredibly horrendous attacks on working people perpetrated by this Congress. "Fairness is not what Washington, D.C. is all about," she told the ILWU delegates. And for four days we pounds the halls of Congress, making demands on our elected officials.

Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI), seated, with (from left to right) Fred Galdones, the president of the ILWU; Pettie Hendrickson, Clayton De La Cruz, Roger Tacdol and Guy Fujimura.

The Conference also hosted a lunch with us and vowed to work with us on issues important to the entire union and all working families. Inouye was particularly persuasive in convincing the ILWU delegates to back Mink for re-election. Fellow Democrat in the state may have run in a primary against her. Some of our women delegates were particularly impressed when they learned that Inouye was the author of Title IX—an Act that forced schools to fund girls' sports activities.

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Tip Credit! Attacks on the Fair Labor Standards Act—As a price for raising the minimum wage, the multinational companies have urged Congress to gut the Fair Labor Standards Act by supporting Comp Time to replace overtime and other outrageous changes to the Act. One that adversely affects ILWU members who are "tipped employees" would allow the federal government to preclude employers belief of the minimum wage for waiters, waitresses and other tipped employees is $2.13 an hour plus tips. That's such a ridiculously low pay that many states such as Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California and Hawaii have passed laws that force employers to pay the state's minimum wage or in the case of Hawaii, close to the state's minimum wage. The ILWU urged members of Congress to pass a substantial minimum wage increase without any, and we mean any, attacks on working people.

The Legislative Conference is a Longshore Division inspired and funded program. Fortunately, members of the ILWU local 142 sent delegates to supplement the work of the Division. The working people of Hawaii are important to this union and they make sure that their Congressional delegation understands the concerns of the entire union—not just Local 142 members. For the first time, 200 in Alaska sent a delegate to lobby Congress and urge the Alaskan Congressional delegation to support the ILWU agenda. Each ILWU region elected leaders that worked with themselves and the delegation to their government representatives and assign tasks to the delegates. Each regional delega-
tion of ILWU members conducted themselves with great dignity and made a strong showing to the members of Congress and staff.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

 Roxanne Lawrence of Local 63 led the Southern California delegation. Her lobbying team included Rayonex Ponce de Leon, President of Local 13, Joe Badradich (Local 13 Vice President), Donald Ruelas (Local 63) and Michael Ponce (Local 13). Perhaps their largest success came during a meeting with Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA) when she called for an end to the labor movement's support for pension reform legislation. Napolitano believes the legislation, which would raise the limit workers can put into their 401(k) plans, was unfair to poorer workers who wouldn't be able to make additional contributions. Local 10 President Roger Tacdol, Kauai Division Head Tony Chang, and VOICE of the ILWU Editor Mel Chang met with Napolitano and told her, "The new Bush Administration and the Republican-controlled House and Senate are the most anti-labor in our union's history." Roxanne Lawrence said at the end of the lobbying blitz, "This is a deafeining wake up call for all of us to go back to our locals, mobilize and organize our members and educate them on our need to vote and support pro-labor candidates.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

 The Northern California delegation led by President Henry Graham met with the Coast Committee and ratified by the Caucus to serve as an advisor to the political and legislative matters. The Washington delegates included Jeff Moore (Local 19) Pajet Sound and International Executive Board member Willie Adams (Local 29), Jerry Johnston (President, Local 4), Jeff Davis (Local 21) and Celso Tolman (Local 52).

 Vekich was upbeat about the Conference and the superb job that his team did during their lobbying visits. "Rank and file members stormed the Capitol Hill to educate Congress on our vital issues," Vekich said, "Coached by our professional legislative team of Lindsay McLaughlin and Brian Davidson, our people made a big impact on important issues. The ILWU has a great tradition of activism—we need to follow it up with action—we can't afford to be 'no shows' in the debate on the waterfront and its working conditions in the future of our union in our nation's history. We need an army to combat the rich interests attempted to destroy the House of Labor. Please talk to any of the delegates who attended the Legislative Conference and they can tell you we are in a fight for survival. Get involved—ask the delegates what you can do to promote the ILWU agenda in Washington, D.C. We need a well-prepared, well-educated army to achieve success. As Mark Hamlin said, we are at war!"

ALASKA

 Alaska area International Executive Board member Pete Hendrickson served as Alaska's representative at the conference. In addition to the meetings with the Alaska delegation, Hendrickson met with the State Department to urge them to limit foreign carriers' abilities to use their own crews to perform longshore work in the United States. This practice has become common in Alaska.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

 President James Spinosa, Vice-President Bob McElrath, Vice-President W. E. Furtado, Coast Committee member Joe Wenzl and Coast Committee member Ray Ortiz Jr also participated in the Legislative Conference. They attended the seminars in the morning and attended some of the lobbying visits. In the interim they met for two days with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and the International Longshoremen's Association debating and discussing solidarity and other issues of mutual concern.

"This is about being pro-active on all fronts," Spinosa said. "We see a threat in the political arena and we are responding with ILWU grassroots power. I want the delegates at the Conference to take their enthusiasm and discussion of solidarity and other issues of mutual concern.

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LOCAL 20 RALLIES SUPPORT FOR BORAX NEGOTIATIONS

More than a thousand ILWU members and supporters demonstrated at Rio Tinto Borax’s Wilmington terminal April 27, protesting the company’s take-back bargaining with ILWU’s chemical processing and packaging Local 20. They are in negotiation with one of the largest mining companies in the world over the right to collective bargaining and demands not to be used for union busting. With the contract expiring June 17 and the company demanding major concessions, the rally was held on the brink of what might be the first strike at Borax since 1974.

Four main take-backs include consolidation of 38 jobs without the union being allowed to file a grievance, elimination of life-of-the mine foremen, a go-slow strike on the contract, and the contracting-out of ILWU maintenance work.

Management asked for nearly the same four take-backs in the previous contract but were beaten back then by a show of ILWU solidarity.

Last year the 31st ILWU International Convention passed a resolution giving Local 20 the backing of the entire union in anticipation of the tough bargaining for this year, Local 20 President Gary Harvey said.

“We feel that resolution because we knew the company was coming after us,” he said. “I feel that major stance and the backing of the locals here and the International turned their heads. They thought they could push us around because they’ve been in the habit of doing so. I’ve been on the bargaining team for the past five contracts with Borax, and they’ve never had more than one or two strikers on the table. This time they started out with five.”

Four weeks after the rally, the company withdrew its demands, bowing to the leadership of all the locals and the huge balloon sculpture of the letters “ILWU” brightened up the place, partly covering the Borax company sailboat that berthed the lot.

The Teamsters’ Port Division and sailors from the Teamsters’ Port Division of the ILWU, the ILWU’s president from ILWU Locals 13, 26 and 30 for the rally, read a support message from John Schroeder at the rally. Brief speeches from Marine Firemen’s agent Tony Paplowski, the SAP’s Mark Harlow and David Beattie from Mariner’s Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers’ Union (ICEM), ILWU members waived signs saying “ILWU and ICEM—Global Union Alliance.”

“The Asian Development Bank is a regional financial institution that residents of Hawaii would not welcome into our state. Borax is ILo international financial institutions that promote the exploitation of people and the environment at the behest of large corporations and international investors.

“In Australia, the rightwing government of John Howard called on Rio Tinto’s expertise when drafting its draconian ‘Workplace Relations Act’ in 1996. That law was among other anti-worker measures, companies to ignore collective bargaining agreements and negotiate individual contracts with workers. Rio Tinto and other mining companies have used the law in the last few years to try to bust different locals of the Australian miners union, the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU).

Three years ago Australian marine workers with international labor help, beat back the Howard government’s attempt at breaking their union under that law. Support of the Australian metalworkers union has launched international national labor solidarity efforts through ICEM.

“Delegations of Rio Tinto workers are supporting each other around the world. Last May worker resolutions were put before the shareholders’ meeting in London demanding compliance with ILO standards, particularly the right to organize, and while unsuccessful, the mounting international presence has alerted workers everywhere of the need to curb Rio Tinto.

“Whenever they treat Local 20 usually comes back against us, and that, and the fact that they’re our union brothers, is our major concern,” Bates told The Dispatcher. “The company treats us fair, with not enough respect. I was very proud to see all the other locals there too. It was a good rally for everybody.”

Registered jointly in Australia and the UK, Rio Tinto, one of the world’s largest mining companies, directly or indirectly supports more than 300 workers in 60 countries. The huge, open-pit mine in Death Valley, Calif. is the world’s largest source of borax.

Borax is an ore composed of the chemical element boron, a vital trace element in human nutrition. Boron is added to crops such as cotton to ensure proper development. It is necessary for many forms of medical treatments and high temperature glass and fiberglass. Ore deposits are extremely rare, and the company has a smaller mine in Argentina.

Rio Tinto bought U.S. Borax in 1968. The parent company made $1.5 billion in profits in 2000, an 18 percent increase over 1999. The company is unpopular with labor everywhere it goes. After taking its name from the Rio Tinto region of Spain, where it had a copper operation, the US government asked for the evidence from the fascist government.

In 1974, a report said the industry was not meeting the demands for environmental protection.

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40 more members of ILWU Local 142 joined nearly a thousand other demonstrators in a “March for Global Justice” May 9, protesting against the destructive policies of the Asian Development Bank meeting in Honolulu. Joining dozens of other local and international groups and several activists from affected nations, the marchers hit the streets to tell local officials that residents of Hawaii would not welcome into our state. Borax is ILo international financial institutions that promote the exploitation of people and the environment at the behest of large corporations and international investors.

“The Asian Development Bank is a regional lending institution modeled on its parents, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. It claims its mission is to alleviate poverty in Asia and Pacific nations, but activists and critics from these nations say the bank uses that rhetoric to mask its true agenda: deregulation, privatization, and the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. It claims its mission is to alleviate poverty in Asia and Pacific nations, but activists and critics from these nations say the bank uses that rhetoric to mask its true agenda: deregulation, privatization, and
and liberalization of trade, actions which usually do much more to harm workers and the poor than help them, while giving a hand up to international cronies. “When people in other countries don’t have the power to stand up for themselves we have to help them by standing with them in solidarity to help make their voices heard,” said Local 142 President, Eusebio Lapania, Jr., who had marched with the ILWU contingent at the WTO protests in Seattle in 1999. “We made a good showing today and I’m very proud that we were out there with other activists in the streets.” But just getting the march to happen was a battle since local authorities stacked up roadblock after roadblock to make it nearly impossible for ADB-Watch, the organizers of the event, to get permits. The American Civil Liberties Union finally had to file a Federal lawsuit on behalf of ADB-Watch to force the city to allow the march and protest. Besides being the first labor group in Hawaii to condemn the ADB and pledge support for protests against it, Local 142 joined the class-trum of concerns: human rights, environmentalists, anti-imperialists, labor groups and indigenous peoples in order to prevent the truth about the ADB from reaching the mainstream and elsewhere. Matt Mackenzie of ADB-Watch pointed out that with the police buildup surrounding the meeting, the Governor seemed more intent on making Honolulu “the Qatar of the Pacific” than that of the site of next WTO meeting. Qatar is a monarchy where political dissent is discouraged. There were reports that the World Trade Organization was watching the events in Honolulu to see if it could be a future meeting place for that organization. The actions in the streets sent a strong message that workers and residents of Hawaii would not tolerate their home being used to further the exploitative interests of corpora-tions—and apparently they were successful. The week after the protests, the local business paper editorialized that, “future globalization meetings in Honolulu are not worth the price.” —Erik Harold

SACO PORT ALLIANCE MEETS FIRST GOAL

When the Sacramento Port Commission voted May 7 to award a two-year contract to the Maritime Transportation Trust (MTT, the unions who make up the Port Advisory Alliance cheered. “It is the best thing that’s happened to the port for many years,” said Buddy Linker of ILWU longshore Local 18. “Cargo volume at the Port of Sacramento has fallen 60 percent over the last 10 years. The unions whose members work the port—ILWU warehouse Local 17, longshore Local 18, clerks Local 34, walk- ing bosses Local 91, plus Labors Local 185, Engineers and Scientists of California, and Masters Mates and Pilots—watched in dismay as port commissioners neglected maritime develop- ment. For the past several years, port planning focused more on selling port land or developing the non-maritime properties.” Last summer the unions formed the Port Advisory Alliance to fight for Sacramento’s future as a working port—and their members’ livelihoods. They began an intensive lobbying effort, meeting with the port commissioners and other elected officials from Sacramento and West Sacramento to raise the issue of dredging. “The Alliance identified two initial steps towards reviving the port. One was to put a mar-time economic development plan in place. The other was to find funding to dredge the Sacramento River channel so larger ships can visit the port.” Maritime Trust has a national reputation for helping ports plan projects that will increase cargo flow. It also helps identify potential tenants and develop marketing strategies to attract them. Alliance members had talked about bringing in MTC since they first began to meet. “In a nutshell, the MTC act interrupts the trend toward commercial development and brings the focus back to maritime,” Linker said. MTC also has a reputation for building with union labor and bringing in companies who respect union rights to dealt fairly,” Linker said. Everett Burdan noted. “This way you prepare the ground for future organizing,” he said. The Alliance also lobbied the State funds toward the dredging project. Assembly member Rep. Helen Thompson (D-West Sacramento) is sponsor- ing legislation, AB1491, that says Sacramento and California will have to contribute to the work. With so much state money being channeled into electric companies’ coffers, most appropriations bills are facing a dim future. “If you’re getting city money you should pay a decent wage,” said Local 17 dispatcher/business agent Everett Burdan. “City money should be used to enhance the city, not enrich the investors.” A “living wage” covers the amount a family needs to pay basic expenses and have a little left over for savings. It varies from city to city, but typically means at least $10 per hour with benefits or $12.84 per hour without. “I used to be a farmworker before I was in the ILWU, getting minimum wage, so I know what it’s about,” said Oscar Garcia, retired Local 17 shop steward and executive board member. “Working eight hours a day on minimum wage can’t afford a family, is one paycheck away from being in the street.” Speakers at the May 20 rally included Sacramento Central Labor Council Secretary -Treasurer Bill Camp, State Building Trades Council Secretary-Treasurer Bob Balgnarth, ILWU Organizer Agustin Ramirez and several low-wage workers, Elsa Aguilar among them. Aguilar now belongs to SEIU Local 1877, but used to work for Sacramento Solid Waste Transfer Station, SRTS holds a 15-year city contract to handle and dispose of household waste. It pays the bulk of its workers close to minimum wage and used some of its profits to bust an organizing drive by Local 17 last year. Coalition members are meeting with the Sacramento’s City Manager to discuss wording for a living wage ordinance that would allow the city to award contracts to secure pledges of support from four of the nine Sacramento City Council members. Councilors Dave Jones and Lauren Mack reported the measure, and Councilors Ronnie Pannell and Sandy Sheedy have publicly agreed to support it. The Coalition is also asking residents of the greater Sacramento area to send postcards to the City Council to demonstrate support for the living wage. Cards are available through Local 17. For more information contact Local 17 hall, 916-371-2225, or Ramirez at 916-606-4681. —Marcy Ren
Iearns $18/hour or $3060/month, not counting benefits. At the Loma mine from the mine, it was stopped by 15 costs. A UMWA miner in Alabama compete with its U.S. operations. But in the Port of Mobile and fuels the since 1994 Drummond has closed five about 500 miners.

"knowing that their country's hostile political climate and egregious human rights violations." C olombia is the world's fourth-largest coal exporter and coal is the country's third-largest source of energy. Since 1994, the government of Colombia, United Confederation of Workers (CUT), about 3,900 trade unionists have been assassinated in Colombia since the CUT was founded in 1986. Out of every seven trade unionists killed in the world, over three are Colombian, according to a recent U.N. report. This violence has provoked a wave of protest from unions around the world.

U.S. unions are increasingly vocal participants. U.S. unions do not pay for their own security, the union leadership understands. The union itself, but the power of the policies of the Colombian unionists, the union help by an agreement allowing them to sleep overnight at the mine. The company did neither.

Another assassinated union leader, Ricardo Orozco, vice president of the Colombian Mining Workers' Union, was named on a list of 50 leaders in the area of Barranquilla circled by the paramilitary death squads. He was shot in April, and his death was followed by April, and two days of national labor protest.

T he AUC is held responsible by unions for almost all of the trade union assassinations. Rob Kirk, who monitors human rights abuses in Colombia for Human Rights Watch, said that there are strong ties between the AUC and the Colombian military.

The Colombian military and intelligence apparatus has been virulently anti-communist since the 1980s," she said, "and they do target trade unionists as subversives—as a very real and potential threat. Generally they see groups on the left as linked to the ideology that led to the formation of guerrilla groups."

The AUC, which by numerous press accounts operates in cooperation the military, with the backing by some elements of the business and economic elite behind the scenes. "There are powerful economic interest that support the paramilitaries," Kirk said, "and they do target trade unionists, and attack union leaders again and again."

Violence against trade unionists is part of a larger campaign of violence against community leaders, human rights activists and advocates for social change generally. According to the Colombian Commission of Human Rights, 6,000 Colombian workers were killed as the result of social and political violence in 2000. The CCO attributes 80 percent of the cases to the paramilitaries, five percent direct to the government, and 15 percent to left-wing guerrillas.

"In the case of the paramilitaries, you cannot understand the operation of government forces," Roberto Molinos of the CCO told a delegation of U.S. unionists.

"In the case of the paramilitaries, you cannot understand the operation of government forces," Roberto Molinos of the CCO told a delegation of U.S. unionists.

Kirk draws a distinction between union assassinations by the AUC and those by the guerrillas. "The guerrillas sometimes kill people who belong to unions because they believe they are cooperating with the AUC," she said. "But the paramilitaries kill people because they are trade unionists." The Colombian government also views trade union activity as a threat because it challenges its basic economic policy. In March, another labor federation, the General Confederation of Democratic Workers, organized a 24-hour strike of thousands of workers, including 300,000 teachers and education employees, protesting mass layoffs of unionized workers, another fruit of economic reforms.

The Colombian Federation of Educators (FECODE) led a 48-hour in early May over a proposal to cut the education budget by $340 million. "If this bill is approved, it will have a very negative effect on educators and health care workers throughout Colombia," said FECODE President Gloria Ines Ramirez. Health care workers threatened to strike "because we are not paid a living wage, and nothing to provide the guns and money which make the carnage possible.

I n mid-March Valmore Locarno Rodriguez and Hugo Orensita were riding from their jobs at the Loma coal mine in northern Colombia. Locarno and Orensita were chairman and vice-chairman of Colombia's two coal miners' unions. As the company bus neared Valledupar, 30 miles from the mine, it was stopped by 15 gunmen, some in military uniforms. They began checking the identification of the two union leaders, the gunmen weren't satisfied with the ID, and the two men were segregated from the bus and driven back to the mine. Once they were in the mine, they were dragged from their buses and shot in the back of the head. The two union leaders were dead within three hours of the shooting.

Locarno was hit in the head with a rifle butt. One of the gunmen then shot the head so the bus driver wouldn't see the body. The bus body was later found; his fingernails had been bitten off.

"Protesting the deaths, 1,200 miners at Loma stopped work.

The Loma mine is owned by a U.S. multinational corporation, Drummond Co., Inc., based in Birmingham, Alabama. Drummond opened the Loma mine in 1994. At first, according to Ken Zinn, North American regional coordinator of the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions (ICEM), the company promised workers in its U.S. mines that its Colombian coal wouldn't be imported into the U.S. to compete with its U.S. operations. But since 1994 Drummond has closed five mines in Colombia and is laying off thousands of workers. The union leaders of Colombia's dirty war against unions. Colombia's dirty war against unions.
Workers at the Keauhou Beach Hotel won representation by ILWU Local 142 on May 19. They became the only union hotel in the Keauhou area on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Until Tennessee-based Resort Quest International bought the company in 1998, Aston Hotels and Resorts had been one of the biggest locally owned hotel management companies, having purchased owners of several hotels in Hawaii contract out the manage- ment. ILWU Local 142 then makes contracts with the management company.) Aston has about 35 properties on four islands—Maui, Oahu, Kauai and the Big Island.

The Keauhou Beach Hotel attracts local visitors as well as mainland tourists. The 61 people who work there as housekeepers, housemen, pool attendants, a contract staff, PBX operators, bell staff, reservations clerks and maintenance staff use the same union that represents Hawaii Local 5. Then the hotel closed for ren- ovations and reopened under new ownership and Aston union steward. HERE elections in 1999 and 2000 failed.

"Every time they tried to get the union, management would make promises in a small-way with the workers working with the ILWU on the Big Island. After the union went away, they would not keep their promises," the union steward said.

The workers said enough is enough. First they called the ILWU in December 2000 and the drive took off in January.

Speedup and management indif- ference pushed the housekeepers to table in one of the organizing committee members. A worker can comfortably do a good cleaning on 16 rooms at a shift, but they were get- ting assigned 18, 19, 20 rooms, she said.

"Our vacations wouldn't work, we were always short of things—laundry supply, towels. Managers promised to look into it and then nothing happened," she said.

Before Aston took over the hotel in 2000, several hotel owners and managers were represented by the same union. The ILWU paid $23,000 for the property, but they couldn't come near the $80 million winning bid by Leucadia, a New York- based financial services firm. Leucadia awarded the management contract to Aston.

Aston made noises about re-hiring the current workers, but then staged a hiring fair at a shopping center several miles from the hotel May 22-23.

The union is also gathering community and political support for the workers with a petition drive aimed at state and U.S. legislators. The Honolulu City Council passed a reso- lution June 5 that "respectfully urged" the hotel owners and man- agers to pay the workers the vacation and severance due them and re-hire them on the same terms and conditions.

Aston said it would soon be negotiating with two Aston-managed properties on Maui, The Whaler on Kaanapali Beach and The Mau Lo hotel. Before Aston took over The Whaler resort and condo in June 2000, some 300 workers there represented and some had HERE. Aston decided it wanted to deal with just one union. The ILWU won an October election to represent The Whaler's 42 housekeeping and main- tenance workers. Bargaining could begin June 12.

"At the Maui Lu we want restoration of holidays, severance and pension benefits and substantial increas- es to make up for what we lost in '95," said the unit chairperson, refer- ring to concessions the union made after a long contract fight then.

"The last fight was so long, the workers know what has to be done," the chairperson said.

Aston's newest location, the ILWU is fighting to keep jobs and rep- resentation for some 240 workers. Local 142 had contracts with the Hawaiian Waikiki Beach Hotel since 1989. The hotel was the very end of the beach turned a good profit, its owner defaulted on the mortgage last year and the hotel went up for sale at a May 16 foreclo- sure. Management had already announced that all current off workers would be terminated when the ownership change kicked in at the end of June. Many of the laid off workers had 25 to 30 years of service. The ILWU campaign kicked in with a rally on auction day. The workers dramatized their stakes in the sale by making their own bid. They collected $100 pledges and offered $25,000 for the property, but they couldn't come near the $80 million winning bid by Leucadia, a New York- based financial services firm. Leucadia awarded the management contract to Aston.

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Plan for the 34th Annual PCPA Convention move ahead

A committee composed of ILWU Puget Sound groups is making plans for the 34th Annual Convention of the ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners Association to be held Sept. 17, 18 and 19, 2001. The PCPA Executive Board will meet on Sunday, Sept. 16 at 9 a.m. the day before the convention.

To welcome all delegates and guests, a barbecue is planned for Sunday, Sept. 16 at 4:30 p.m. at one of the piers on the Seattle waterfront. Buses will be provided to and from the convention hotel for those participating in the barbeque.

On Monday the convention will convene at 9 a.m. and recess at 11 a.m. to partake in tours for the participants. The Port of Seattle had provided the committee with a tour of the Seattle waterfront, but they hired a non-union tour boat. So the committee was forced to refuse the offer. The committee is looking into other options, including a tour of the Space Needle and a tour of the Maritime Museum that are both worth seeing.

The highlight of the Convention will be Monday evening when delegates and guests will attend a buffet dinner at the University of Washington hosted by the Harry Bridges Chair. This event will give ILWU pensioners a first hand opportunity to see what the Harry Bridges Chair is all about. You will be able to learn how the money you have donated is used. The Harry Bridges Chair is all about. You will be able to learn how the money you have donated and are still donating is helping to educate young people on labor history and the need for labor unions.

Tuesday, Sept. 18 the convention will reconvene at 9 a.m. until noon at which time a buffet lunch will be served for a cost of $8.00 per person. The convention will reconvene at 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. A banquet dinner will be held with a no host bar from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and dinner served 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Music for your dancing pleasure will be provided during and after the dinner. The cost of the banquet is $25.00 per person.

Wednesday, Sept. 19 the convention will again reconvene at 9 a.m. and continue until all business is concluded. A Hospitality Room will be open every morning and also before all sessions of the convention. Transportation will be provided to all events not in the convention hotel.

Make plans to attend. This event is a good time to swap stories about the good old days, meet old friends and make new ones. PCPA conventions are no longer just boring events meeting in one specific area. We travel up and down the Coast so that we meet in a different area each year and discuss our common problems. With delegates from Canada and the U.S., it has become an international conference. So be there—you will not regret it.

The convention will be held at the Best Western Executive Inn, 200 Taylor Avenue North, Seattle Wash. 98109. The room rate is $105 plus tax per day up to four people per room. Call 206-445-9444 or 800-351-9444 for reservations. The Travelodge, which is two blocks north of Harry Bridges, is at 300 Sixth Avenue North, Seattle Wash. 98169. Rooms are available at $104 plus tax. For reservations call 206-441-7678 or 800-884-7081. Make sure you tell them you will be attending the ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners Convention to get the reduced rates.

For additional information or forms to sign up for the events you want to participate in, contact your local pensioners club or call or write the ILWU Seattle Pensioners Group, 3440 East Marginal Way South, Seattle Wash. 98134 or call 206-343-0504. 

Annie Eaves
PCPA Secretary-Treasurer

ILWU hotels in Hawaii

As summer begins and vacations loom, here is a list of ILWU-organized hotels and condos in Hawaii for union members to patronize.

Maui
Diamond Resort
Grand Wailea Resort, Hotel & Spa
Hyatt Regency Maui
Kaanapali Beach Hotel
Kapalua Bay Hotel and Villas
Lahaina Shores Beach Resort
Mau Eldorado Resort
Mau Li Resort
Maui Prince Hotel
Napili Shores Resort
Ritz-Carlton Kapalua
Royal Lahaina Resort
Renaissance Wailea Beach Resort
The Westin Maui
Wailea Ekahi
Whaler at Kaanapali Beach
Outrigger Wailau Resort
Maui Beach Hotel

Lanai

Lodge at Koeele
Manele Bay Hotel

Oahu
Hawaiian Waikiki Beach Hotel
Honolulu Airport Hotel

Molokai
Molokai Ranch

Hawaii (Big Island)
Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel
Hilton Waikoloa Village
King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel
Mauna Kea Beach Hotel
Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows
Orchid at Mauna Lani

Kauai
Hyatt Regency Kauai

“Bread & Roses,” the stirring saga drawn from the real-life struggle of immigrant office cleaners in Los Angeles, who joined forces in SEIU’s Justice for Janitors campaign to show the world that every job deserves dignity and respect.

See the movie, then join in a national day of fasting for workplace justice and immigration reform on June 15.

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 will not favor or disfavor 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 his/her pro rata 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 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 either or both divergences if, in their judgment, 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 they so desire, in advance of the member making his/her dues payment to the local union for the month in which the diversion occurs. Those members who do not wish to have any portion of their per capita payment diverted to the Political Action Fund, but wish to make political contributions directly to either 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 for the entire amount of the Political Action Fund contribution ($1.50) prior to July 1, 2001."

"Less than $1.50—I do not wish to contribute the entire amount to the ILWU Political Action Fund. I will contribute _________ and I understand that the International will send me a check for the difference between my contribution and the entire amount of the ILWU Political Action Fund ($1.50) prior to July 1, 2001."

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

"NOTE: CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT DEDUCTIBLE AS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS"

RETURN TO: ILWU, 1188 Franklin Street • San Francisco, CA 94109
Evelyn Wakefield, who served the ILWU for many years as an Administrative Assistant to the Joint Committee, died Thursday, May 31, 2001 after a short illness. “Evey was the heart of the longshore division,” said retired Committee Bill Ward, who worked closely with her for many years. “She knew the contract better than most, she understood the industry and she loved the union. She educated most of us.”

The ILWU, however large or small, will help to make these proposals a reality. All contributions of $25.00 or more will receive a commemorative ILWU lapel pin.

The ILWU Legacy Fund

In 1994 the ILWU established a Legacy Fund to leave a legacy to the ILWU. The Legacy Fund is a way to earmark general funds for educational and organizing, and to receive voluntary donations to be used only for organizing and educational programs (such as those mandated but not funded by the 1994 Convention). The Legacy Fund will require no additional legal activity at high schools, colleges, museums and libraries. "The ILWU Legacy Fund is a way to earmark general funds for educational and organizing, and to receive voluntary donations to be used only for organizing and educational programs (such as those mandated but not funded by the 1994 Convention). The Legacy Fund will require no additional legal activity at high schools, colleges, museums and libraries. "

The Legacy Fund will stand as a tribute to the men and women who built this Union, and the Fund’s income and disbursements will be entirely under the direction and authority of the elected representa- tion of the rank -and -file members of the ILWU—the Titled Officers—who will report to the International Executive Board on the status of the Fund.

Evey was an absolutely essential link in every thing back to the Union. Because she had terrific judgment and she understood the industry and organizing, the Titled Officers suggest that we formally establish the ILWU Legacy Fund, and that an ongoing request for donations appear in The Dispatcher. Donors will receive a special pin in recognition of their contribution, which will also be acknowledged in our newspaper. The Legacy Fund is a way to earmark general funds for education and organizing, and to receive voluntary donations to be used only for organizing and educational programs (such as those mandated but not funded by the 1994 Convention). The Legacy Fund will require no additional legal activity. All contributions of $25.00 or more will receive a commemorative ILWU lapel pin.

The ILWU Legacy Fund

Contribution to the Legacy Fund are needed to finance:

• Production of non-English language editions of “The ILWU Story” and our award-winning video, “We Are the ILWU.”

• Holding advanced leadership training workshops for members who complete the highly successful Leadership Education and Development Institute (LEAD).

• Establishing an audio-visual center in the ILWU library for use and duplication of audio and video materials, including the ILWU oral history project interviews.

• Increased involvement in community outreach programs, including ILWU participation in labor history conferences and development of exhibits and other activities at high schools, colleges, museums and libraries.

• Classes and materials for newly organized ILWU members and/or new units or locals in the ILWU family.

• Matching funds for a major grant to conserve, arrange, describe and exhibit the photo and graphics collections in the ILWU library.

Your contribution to the Legacy Fund, however large or small, will help to make these proposals a reality. All contributions of $25.00 or more will receive a commemorative ILWU Lapel Pin.

Committee did,” said Ward. “International Presidents Harry Bridges and Jim Herman depended on her, and so did the rest of the Joint Committee for all those years. She was principled, she was smart, she had terrific judgment and she was a fine human being. We will all miss her.”

Evey is survived by her husband, Bud Massey. Local 91, retired, daughter Becca Wakefield and her husband Gil Schaeffer, daughter-in-law Kui Chun So "Sue" Wakefield, step children Howard Massey, Gail Massey, David Massey and Tom Massey of Washington State and various grand-children. She was predeceased by her son David Wakefield.

Longshore retired, deceased and survivors

Recent retirees: Local 8—Raymond Bur; Local 10—Glenn Cotton; Local 12—Richard Fertig; Local 19—Franky Searles; Local 21—James Davis; Local 23—Richard Ralston; Local 34—Arthur Kinsey Jr., George Sibbett; Local 52—Warren Maurice; Local 98—Theod Leoran.

Deceased: Local 4—Jacob Vail (Eula); Local 8—Carl Wilt (Myrtle), Richard Billbre (Retha), Victor Todd, Richard Kirchmayer; Local 10—John Grant (Audrey), Clarence Betty (Lyla), Noldon Green, Ed Johnson, Chester Brooks; Local 12—Donald Musher (Merrill), Ellen; Local 13—Seven Harold (Ellen), Jose Sanchez (Concuela), Ronald Lupin (Wilma), Landes Johnson Jr.; Local 21—Harold Workman (Marian); Local 24—Thomas Hill (Ruth); Local 34—Anthony Sanchez (Agnes); Local 52—Ralph Morrison (Madeline), Glenn Henriksen; Local 54—William Trotter (Helen); Local 63—Delbert Long (Joan), Richard Cordero (Gina); Norman Adams (Francis); Local 94—Sam Lazzaro, Irving Wright; Local 98—John Keveshi (Mary), James Carey (Diane). (Survivors in parenthesis.)

Deceased survivors: Local 4—Wilma Koch; Local 8—Ange Lewsmworth, Local 10—Francisina Soares, Odell Cook, Ann Dmello, Leona Celestine, Ethel Laws, Pearlme Harris; Local 13—Alta Miller, Helen Deale, Helen Aamer, Josefa Rodriguez, Elba Brakefeld; Local 18—Nadine Phillips; Local 19—Gertrude Griffin; Local 21—Eleanor Lindstrom; Local 23—Mila Dashil; Mary Buchalski; Local 24—Mary Brucher; Local 34—Vera Cabral, Agnisia Oliverier; Local 52—Willia Birkes, Cecelia Maurice; Local 92—Marie Swanson, Virginia Kersten; Local 94—Eleanor Luera, Local 200—Carol Weis.

The ILWU Legacy Fund

Evey Wakefield, longtime Coast administrator

Evelyn Wakefield, who served the ILWU for many years as an administrative assistant to the Joint Committee, died Thursday, May 31, 2001 after a short illness. "Evey was the heart of the longshore division," said retired Committee Bill Ward, who worked closely with her for many years. "She knew the contract better than most, she understood the industry and she loved the union. She educated most of us."
## 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**
- The March inland: Origins of the ILWU Warehouse Division 1934-1938 By Harvey Schwartz: new edition of the only comprehensive account of the union’s organizing campaign in the northern California warehouse and distribution industry. **$9.00**

### 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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### 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.

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

**ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION**

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- San Francisco, CA 94103
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**ADRP—Oregon**
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- Portland, OR 97223
- (503) 231-4882

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- Richard Borsheim
- 506 Second Ave., Rm. 2121
- Seattle, WA 98104
- (206) 621-1038

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- 745 Clark Drive, Suite 205
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