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When we celebrate Bridges’ birthday, we should be rededicating ourselves to the bedrock principles of the ILWU.

Happy birthday, Harry

By James Spinosa
ILWU International President

On June 28, 2001 ILWU members up and down the Coast will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birthday of the founder and first International President of our union—Harry Bridges. Weekend festivities are planned in the Los Angeles/Long Beach harbor area and the dedication of the new Harry Bridges Plaza on the San Francisco waterfront will be held (see pages 6-7).

And Bridges deserves the honor for a lifetime of accomplishments. He was the main political leader of the 1934 maritime strike that established the longshore union on the West Coast. He led the union through its successful strikes in 1936, 1946 and 1948. He oversaw the union’s “March Inland” warehouse organizing campaign of the late 1930s. He led the organizing of Hawaii in the 1940s. With great foresight he guided the union through the process of bringing containerization technology to West Coast ports, all the time protecting the ILWU’s jurisdiction that established the longshore union on the West Coast.

Great leadership simply means recognition. It is right and proper for us to celebrate and rededicate ourselves to these bedrock principles of the ILWU.

Bridges himself would have been a little embarrassed.

by all his hoopla in his name, all the credit he is given for what the ILWU accomplished. He knew he did not do it alone. He knew there were many other people without whom the ILWU could never have become the great union it is.

For instance, Bridges was not the only one prosecuted by the government—international Vice President Bob Reardon and Coast Committeeman Harry Schmidt were also under the gun. Jack Hall did most of the organizing work on the ground in Hawaii and was himself prosecuted by the government for it. While Bridges was occupied defending himself in court, International Secretary-Treasurer Lou Goldblatt did the day-to-day work of running the union and the list goes on and on.

But most importantly it was the rank and file who made things happen, and Bridges never forgot that or failed to acknowledge it. He often downplayed his own role. He once said, “I just got the credit for a lot of it. I was just a working stiff who happened to be around at the right time.”

It is important to remember that Bridges was a man with faults and foibles like all the rest of us. It was the union he helped create, the united workers committed to each other and the principle of working class solidarity that gave him the opportunity to walk onto the big stage of history and accomplish so much. It is important to remember that because the union also offers each of its members a similar opportunity, a chance to become all they dare, a chance to make a difference in the world. We are all just working stiffs, but like Bridges, with the union, we can do great things.

So while we participate in the Bridges birthday celebration, let us remember that this is more than a tribute to a great man and unionist. It is a time to remember where we came from and where we are headed. It is a time to reflect on what the union and those who have come before us have done for us and a time to commit ourselves to making our union better and stronger.

June 2001

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The Dispatcher

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Published monthly except for a combined July/August issue, for $5.00, $10 non-members, a year by the ILWU, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6898. The Dispatcher welcomes letters, photos and other submissions to the above address. © ILWU, 2000.

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June 2001
**Not On Our Watch**

Local 23 pickets non-union barge company

by Tom Price

fter Devin Mason finished tying a ship at the Tacoma scrap iron dock one day last year he walked down the pier and noticed the old Sea-Tac Marine barge operation had started up. The Local 23 longshore worker saw trucks coming in and out, and a barge loaded with lumber. However, the Local 23, along with the IUB and organizers from the International, researched the issue carefully. This spring the local decided to act to protect area standards.

"We had a rollover meeting April 12 and voted unanimously to take on the fight," Mason said. Soon 350 members had signed on to walk an area standards picket line at Sea-Tac Marine and follow the cargo to the lumberyards and hardware stores in the area with an informational picket. They also pledged to donate $5 per month each to pay for it.

"At one time we ran lumber out of Seattle from the same company to Alaska on what we used to call the hydro train run," Inlandboatmen's Union Puget Sound Region Business Agent Alan Coté said. "It was all union then, and they moved down to Tacoma to use non-union labor."

Coté helped with Local 25's work in the past year Local 23's workers have found out that the barge workers weren't protected by a union contract, and even worse, they were being dispatched out of a temporary employment outfit—today's equivalent of the filling fish.

Modern temp agencies look a little cleaner than the pre-ILWU "shanghai" system, where longshoremen were expected to parade before gang bosses like debutantes at a cotillion. These labor wholesalers are among the largest employers in the country and over the last decade they've sprung up like Starbucks at a strip mall. The Bureau of Labor Statistics' Daily Report estimated 3 million U.S. workers toiled as temps in May, down from 3.5 million last September. This startling loss in employment reflects the agencies' value to the employer—the worker is truly the variable component their profit equation. A temp can be let go at a moment's notice with no inconvenience to the contractor and no compensation to the temp.

Temps are fully employed workers begging for jobs. The agency pays the taxes and other employers' expenses, and sends the buyers of their products. This agency can mimic that flexibility and the temp agencies also see opportunities. While the flexible labor demands of the shipping industry are well served by union hiring halls, the agency might be seen as a "secondary boycott," unlawful under the Labor-management Relations Act of 1947, the Taft-Hartley Act, as amended by the Landrum-Griffin Act of 1959. The 1947 and 1959 amendments to the National Labor Relations Act of 1935, the Wagner Act, were put in place to weaken pro-labor provisions of that law, and have been politically opposed by the ILWU for more than half a century. Still, area standards picketing is protected under NLRA.

"We can hold picket signs at the worksite, and ask people there not to cross and respect area standards," Boespflug said. "Off the worksite, when we go to the stores who sell his products, the companies that make his products, we can't carry signs because it might look like a strike, not an informational picket. We hand out leaflets instead."

The picketing continues, workers are under some legal constraints as to just what they can do. Any kind of picketing at non-work sites may give the impression the union is on strike against the barge company or the buyers of their products. This might be seen as a "secondary boycott," unlawful under the Labor-management Relations Act of 1947.

The local asked the company to change its ways, and when they didn't answer, the workers began picketing June 4. Dividing into teams of 25, at least four will be on-site at any given time. They can legally ask people not to go to work at the employer's primary site on the pier until Sea-Tac Marine pays area standard wages and benefits. The union carefully informs pickets of their legal responsibilities and the strict guidelines required for area standards picketing.

"Our demands are that Sea-Tac Marine raises their wages up to the longshore standards, and if they don't, the longshore workers will not quit picketing until they do," Mason said. "If other barge companies try to come to Tacoma, they will know the longshore workers will not tolerate substandard wages."

Since the picketing began the flow of trucks into the site has diminished. UPS drivers have refused to cross the line, as have electrical workers and even the drinking water suppliers.

"Now the company can't get fresh water for their coffee," Boespflug said.

Temp agencies typically charge $25 an hour for their leased workers. The agency pays the taxes and other employees' expenses, and sends the company a bill. The agency is also the employer of record. The client companies could cut out the middleman and pay $16 an hour to the worker and put $9 an hour into benefits and expenses, Mason said, and the worker would benefit without additional cost to the employer.

"We had a roll-call meeting April 29 and voted unanimously to take on the fight," Mason said. Soon 350 members had signed on to walk an area standards picket line at Sea-Tac Marine and follow the cargo to the lumberyards and hardware stores in the area with an informational picket. They also pledged to donate $5 per month each to pay for it.

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ILWU, PMA Exchange Views at Government Hearing

By Lindsay McLaughlin
ILWU Legislative Director

It was supposed to be a routine hearing on port and maritime congestion. The ILWU was invited by the U.S. House of Representatives Transportation Committee to testify before a panel of members of Congress May 23 and offer solutions to a critical national problem.

In the major port areas the roads are a virtual parking lot of trucks carrying containers. The waterways need to be dredged to be able to handle the new, larger class of vessels. The volume of cargo handled by our ports has greatly doubled in recent years and congestion continues to worsen.

There are no national plans to deal with either the present or future congestion problems related to the explosion of trade. The ILWU Longshore Legislative Action team of Mike Mitre (Local 13), Peter Peyton (Local 13), Mark Hamlin (Local 835), and Jeff Vekl (Local 24), in consultation with International President James Sinopos, carefully prepared testimony for the House Committee. At the hearing on the spaghetti system rather than dozens of different systems, Standardization would also assist shippers in their ability to track containers through the international supply chain.

MAJOR POINTS OF THE ILWU TESTIMONY

The testimony before the government panel focused on saving money for terminal operators rather than dealing with the serious issue of congestion. Although Minacie argued that utilizing new technology will help coastal communities handle the newer, larger ships, roads leading to and from the ports are in a desperate need of improvement. Plans to alleviate the congestion problems on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, the San Diego-Tijuana border and the 710 freeway in Los Angeles/Long Beach must be implemented.

MAJOR POINTS OF PMA TESTIMONY

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Most union workers have pension funds that grow with every paycheck through employee contributions. Union trustees administer these funds and they are charged with formulating the maximum amount of interest in order to ensure comfortable retirement for workers. But what really is a "maximum" return? If a chain store makes its clothes in the Third World and sells them at home at inflated prices, it may show a hefty profit on next quarter's statement, but the returns on these investments are all about the long run—workers lose as capital flows out of the country seeking lower wage costs. So is an investment in "Sweatshops R Us" such a great deal?

ILWU Canada thinks not. Back in 1991 the union founded Working Enterprises Ltd. (WE) to provide a financial power to improve the lot of workers in British Columbia and Canada, maybe the world.

"We is now one of the major labor-sponsored mutual funds in Canada," ILWU Canada President Tom Dufrene said. "It helps to develop independence of workers. It has built up. It was founded by six unions, including the ILWU during the time Doug Smith was here. The idea was to have a union-run travel agency, health insurance plans, a brokerage house, and basically to provide the supply of any union social issues of the time."

At the same time WE established the Shareholder Assn. for Research and Education (SHARE), an investment vehicle that helps union pension trustees invest $500 billion in pension funds and improve the lot of workers. Founded in 1991, WE Ltd. is now owned by ILWU Canada and eight other unions in Canada and the B.C. Federation of Labour.

"The directors also founded the Columbia Foundation in Vancouver, B.C. as a union-backed foundation," Tom Dufrene said. "SHARE's study of socially responsible investing of union pension funds. Speaking for union shareholders, SHARE introduced anti-sweatshop resolutions at the Sears Canada annual meeting. Sears was asked to follow ILO standards on right to organize, elimination of child and forced labor, and to report to the shareholders on progress made. While the giant corporation defeated the measure at its April 17 meeting in Toronto, if the controlling shares owned by U.S. Sears had been discounted, the measure would have gathered 30 percent of the vote. Another proxy fight will study the effect of the retirement of baby boomers on pension plans and on those left behind at the workplace."

"We asked what role will baby boomers have as they retire on our society?" David Daveg, director, Columbia Foundation; Tom Dufrene, President, ILWU Canada, (not shown) Jerry New, President, Local 376, OPEU, and Barry O'Neil, President, Canadian Union of Public Employees. in Canada? Where can we start planning immediate changes is through their investments. Boomers are one of the wealthiest groups in our society, and as they retire and look for a place to put their assets I think they need to look at shareholder activism as one element, creating social funds for socially targeted investments."

"Many workers in transportation and warehousing will be retiring soon. We need to think carefully about encouraging younger workers to get active in the labor movement and how they can learn from the baby boomer generation before we lose all their activism and history," she said. To that effect Columbia donated $14,700 to fund the "Boomerang Research Grant," a project to encourage intergenerational communication.

Davide worked for an organization to reform corporate practices before taking on the directorship of Columbia.

"I felt that corporations couldn't change the world, it's the workers in those companies who can change the world," she said.

ION Price

SOLIDARITY RAISES SPOURS "VICTORY AT BORAX"

After a final 23 and a half hour marathon bargaining session, Rio Tinto Borax and ILWU chemical processing Local 20 signed a five-year agreement. The first breakthroughs began shortly after more than 1,000 water-front workers rallied on the docks at the company's Wilmington dock, representing the ILWU workers.

"We got back some work the company dropped a "labor-management team" proposal that would have allowed managers to do union work and required workers to supervise themselves without pay. That left five.

The first breakthroughs began shortly after more than 1,000 water-front workers rallied on the docks at the company's Wilmington dock, representing the ILWU workers.

Borax entered the negotiations this spring with six demands that might have provoked a strike, and the union braced for the impact. Early on the company dropped a "labor-management team" proposal that would have allowed managers to do union work and required workers to supervise themselves without pay. That left five.

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The movement to free the Charleston Five picked up support, momentum and wider media coverage with a major march and rally in Columbia, South Carolina June 9. Some 7,000 unionists and other activists converged on the state capitol and demanded that Attorney General Charles Condon drop the criminal charges against the five longshore workers and that the scab stevedoring company WSI drop its civil suit for $1.5 million against the Charleston locals and 27 individual members.

The Charleston Five, members of the International Longshoremen’s Association Locals 1422 and 1771, are facing felony rioting charges punishable by up to five years in prison after 600 riot-equipped police attacked their picket line set up against a scab operation at their port Jan. 20, 2000. The movement to free them from prosecution has garnered widespread national and international support for workers’ rights to picket in defense of their jobs. With the long-delayed trial now expected to begin in September, supporters moved to ramp up the pressure to free the Charleston Five.

The participants assembled in Memorial Park at 11:00 a.m. and were warmed up with a few speeches. Then in the steaming heat they marched the several blocks to the state capitol, led by Charleston Local 1422 President Ken Riley, AFL-CIO Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson, International Longshoremen’s Association President John Bowers and ILWU President Jim Spinosa.

A contingent of some 60 ILWU members representing locals from every area of the West Coast marched along with their banners and white caps. The ILWU Local 10 Drill Team performed their routines along the parade route, drawing cheers and cameras even though the police confiscated their decorative cargo hooks, claiming they could be used as weapons in the demonstration. ILA members and other unionists and activists swelled the crowd. They came from Canada and around the U.S., from New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Savannah, Jacksonville, New Orleans, Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago, Puerto Rico and elsewhere.

Once the marchers reached the state capitol they got a glimpse of what the largely African American Charleston local has to contend with in the right-to-work state of South Carolina—the Confederate flag was still flying on the capitol grounds. As they gathered around the rally’s stage, South Carolina AFL-CIO President Donna DeWitt, who organized the rally in cooperation with the South Carolina Progressive Network, welcomed the demonstrators.

“Attorney General Charles Condon to free the Charleston Five!” she said. The crowd picked up the chant, repeating “Free the Charleston Five!”

DeWitt then introduced Ken Riley, who offered a message to the Attorney General.

“You saw a small local union down there in Charleston and decided that you would attack us, but you didn’t know that the rest of the world was watching,” Riley said. “Charlie Condon, take a good look, take a very good look, because we are well connected.”

Then, emphasizing Riley’s point, AFL-CIO Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson took the microphone and pledged the entire American labor movement’s support for the Charleston Five. She was followed by ILA President John Bowers who highlighted the importance of the case for unionists all over the country.

“If the shipping companies can get away with it here, it’s just the start of destroying the labor movement,” he said. His speech was followed by the crowd spontaneously taking up the chant, “Shut the ports down!”

Then ILWU President Jim Spinosa, calling out...
to all his members there to make themselves heard
and seen, pledged his union's continuing support,
as they have been there for the Charleston Five
from the beginning of the struggle.

"We're here today to let everybody know that,
as Ken Riley said, they're not without friends,"
Spinosa said. "I can guarantee you this—that the
ILWU stands at the ready to do whatever we have
to do in support of the ILA, Ken Riley, his local and
especially the Charleston Five."

ILWU Vice President Bob McEllrath quickly
took the microphone after Spinosa. "Brothers and
sisters, my speech will be short, but our fight for
the labor movement will go on forever," he said,
presenting Riley with a check for the legal defense
fund from ILWU Hawaii Local 142.

Bjorn Borg, president of the Swedish
Dockworkers Union, came to represent the
International Dockworkers Council, an organi-
zation of dockers unions from around the world.

He referred to the international impli-
cations of the Charleston cause and
hinted at the consequences of their
prosecution.

"The violation of workers' rights
here in South Carolina is of importance
to every longshoreman, where ever he
or she is," Borg said. "I can assure you
all that if the charges have not been
dropped and if the Charleston Five are
not set free, on the day of the trial
against our brothers in Charleston,
that day will not go unnoticed in ports
around the world."

Cecil Roberts, president of the
United Mine Workers, stirred up the
crowd with his hellfire-and-damnation
preacher routine. With his voice crack-
ing from overuse in the march Roberts
told the Attorney General he made a
big mistake taking on the labor move-
ment.

"Back in West Virginia they say
don't kick the bear. If you see a bear
sleeping in the woods,
don't kick him, leave him
alone," he said. "Well,
Charlie, you kicked the
bear, brother."

The high point of the
rally came when movie
star Anne-Marie Johnson,
representing the Screen
Actors Guild, introduced
family members of the
Charleston Five. By advice
of their attorneys, Elijah
Ford, Peter Washington,
Kenneth Jefferson, Rich
Simmons and John
Edgerton did not make an
appearance at the rally.

But on stage family mem-
bers held up large, poster-
size photos of them and gave emotion-
al testimonials to the men who, with-
out ever receiving a pub-
lic hearing or any kind of
due process, have been
enduring the punish-
ment of house arrest for
17 months, requiring
them to stay at home
from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.
unless they are at work
or at a union meeting.

Franklin
Washington, son of Peter
Washington, told the
crowd how much his
father means to him and
how the unfair house
arrest has affected their
family.

"He taught me that if I fall, get up and try
again," Franklin said. "My father can't attend
church get-togethers with us. It hurt when my
father couldn't attend my grandmother's memorial
service."

Ashley Ford, the 13-year-old daughter of Elijah
Ford, told how her father is unable to be active in
her life, not allowed to attend simple PTA meet-
ings or watch her cheerleading at school basketball
games.

Throughout the afternoon activists circulated
petitions calling on South Carolina Governor Jim
Hodges to intervene in the case and get the
charges against the Charleston Five dropped.

After the rally many of the ILWU members
who flew out to South Carolina took the buses
back to Charleston with Local 1422 longshore
workers. They spent the evening partying and
talking about their work and their unions, con-
necting in a special way that longshore workers
around the world do.

"It felt like we were reuniting with our long
lost brothers," said Local 10 member Trent Willis.
The IEB reviews finances, sets health care policy

Ibarra reported that currently the International Executive Board has "minimal" financial reserves. "We are spending more than we are taking in, mostly on unanticipated expenditures such as the rerun of the International Vice President, Hawaii election," Ibarra said. "It's not as bad as it could be because almost all International departments are running under budget.

President Bob McEllrath reported on the organizing program, informing the board of the National Organizing Committee's plan to shift resources to Southern California to take on organizing the new warehouses along the Alameda Corridor.

The board also passed three Statements of Policy on Boycotting World Bank bonds, supporting an effective patients' bill of rights and calling for the creation of a Medicare prescription drug benefit (see below). The board will meet again Sept. 27 and 28.

# Statements of Policy passed by the IEB June 20-22

**STATEMENT OF POLICY ON BOYCOTTING WORLD BANK BONDS**

Together with the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization, the World Bank is a principal architect and enforcer of the corporate globalization policies that have undermined democracy and lowwaged standards for working families in the United States and throughout the world.

The board calls for its development loans the World Bank imposes a narrowly defined, export-led growth model on Third World countries so they can earn hard currency to make payments on foreign debts. To achieve this increase in exports, policies are imposed that include slashing public spending, increasing interest rates to exorbitant levels, deregulat- ing markets, devaluing currencies and reducing existing labor protections. The impact on workers and their families is devastating. Workers face massive layoffs and wage cuts, while prices of basics such as food, housing, energy and transportation skyrocket. The World Bank also promotes "user fees" on access to primary health care and basic education, which have kept children out of school and prevented them from receiving medical care.

The World Bank does not respect the rights of people to organize, and refuses to respect the internationally recognized core labor stan- dards of freedom of association and the right to engage in collective bar- gainings. It aggressively promotes privatization, including privatization of basic public services such as educa- tion, health care, water, and public pension systems like our Social Security system. By keeping the governments of low-income countries dependent on new infusions of capital from high-income countries, the World Bank has reinforced an 'external allegiance' of these governments, making them more accountable to World Bank managers than to their own people, diminishing any real chance of mean- ingful development or democracy in these countries. The World Bank operates in a secretive fashion and is neither accountable to the majority of people in the developing countries where it operates, nor to the taxpay- ers of the United States, which is its principal shareholder.

Some 80 percent of the resources controlled by the World Bank come from the sale of World Bank bonds to institutional investors, including pension funds, and these resources are used to carry out its destructive poli- cies. The ILWU joins the popular movement of unions, fair trade organi- zations and other citizen activist groups boycotting World Bank bonds, and pledges not to purchase those bonds until the World Bank respects labor rights, stops promoting privatization, cancels poor country debts, respects the right of countries to dem-ocratically determine their own national economic development poli- cies and ceases and desists from its destructive policies. The ILWU joins the popular movement of unions, fair trade organi- zations and other citizen activist groups boycotting World Bank bonds, and pledges not to purchase those bonds until the World Bank respects labor rights, stops promoting privatization, cancels poor country debts, respects the right of countries to dem-ocratically determine their own national economic development poli- cies and ceases and desists from its destructive policies. The ILWU will communicate its support for the boycott of World Bank bonds to institutions and groups with which it is affili- ated, to Members of the United States Congress, the World Bank and to the news media. The ILWU will also send a letter directing all of its pension trusts to adhere to this policy statement.

**STATEMENT OF POLICY ON PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS**

Managed care began as a way to encourage patient wellness by covering preventative care. Unfortunately, the focus has shifted over the years to managing costs rather than manag- ing care. This emphasis on the bottom line rather than quality of care by managed care plans has led to pressuring hospitals and health care providers to cut corners and reduce costs. Decision-making has been taken from health care professionals and given to plan managers. This has resulted in sending patients home too early from hospitals/nursing homes; denying patients access to specialists and blocking emergency treatment.

Working men and women are understandably insecure about the quality of care they will receive when facing a crisis. Thousands of Americans have been denied the right to a specialist and the right to emer- gency room care by HMO bureaucrats who have no knowledge of the patient's needs. The managed care industry has been taken over by the forces of greed.

The ILWU believes that strong consumer protections covering all Americans must be adopted. Federal law, that is easily enforceable, must guarantee that all consumers have access to quality health care when they need it most. Insurance compa- nies/managed care plans cannot be allowed to overturn patient care deci- sions made by medical professionals or deny access to specialists. Emergency care must not be blocked by red tape. Medical professionals who fight for quality care for their patients should be protected from retaliation by bureaucratic threats.

**STATEMENT OF POLICY ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

Medicare has never covered the cost of prescription drugs taken out- side the hospital. But medical care has changed dramatically since Medicare began thirty years ago. Drugs are now such an important and costly part of care that many employ- er-sponsored plans spend more on drugs than on hospitalization.

Prescription drug benefits are the fastest rising component of overall health costs. For the elderly, the ris- ing costs of prescription drugs are surpassing their ability to pay for needed medicines. Increasingly, sen- iors are forgetting needed prescription drugs, or taking half the recommend- ed dosage. Many elderly are faced with a choice of paying for food or elec- tricity or paying for prescription drugs.

The ILWU believes that health care is a right—not a privilege. We continue to advocate for affordable, quality health care coverage for every person in the United States. Medicare is a successful program because it does provide for the health care of our seniors. It is time, however, to treat prescription drugs as a key part of health care.

For these reasons, the ILWU strongly supports the creation of a Medicare prescription drug benefit. It is critical that a medical prescription drug benefit be done right if it is to improve the health care system. The ILWU believes that a Medicare prescription drug benefit must be available to all Medicare-eligible persons regardless of income or health status—means testing or limiting the bene- fit to those who do not have coverage from other sources is not acceptable. Means testing would discriminate against those employers, both union and non-union, who have provided benefits for their retirees and place them at a competitive disadvantage. It would also put pressure on these companies to dump prescription drug coverage for retirees.
July 2001

Fundraising giant announced plans to keep their jobs.

Some of the callers looked at the MSGi gig as just a day job, something they could do with their time and a more stable and predictable pay structure to replace the company's erratic system. But on the first day of contract talks, the tele-workers had signed union cards, but still, they were not recognized as MSGi employees.

 MSGiDirect's Berkeley Calling Center won big when the NLRB ordered the company to return to the bargaining table May 29 under the ILWU Warehouse Local 6. But on the first day of contract talks, the tele-workers had major announced plans to close the Center and move the jobs to Los Angeles.

"This is clearly a ploy to avoid the union and a very violent act," said Marlene Taft, Executive Director and negotiating team member. "MSGi is robbing us as surely as if they put a gun to our heads. They're trying to force us by being, convincing and manipulating from day one."

At first the news stunned the 90-some callers and verifiers at the Center. Some got demoralized. But outrage and necessity have brought them together in a determined effort to keep their jobs.

Some of the callers look at the MSGi gig as just a day job, something they could do with their time and a more stable and predictable pay structure to replace the company's erratic system. But on the first day of contract talks, the tele-workers had signed union cards, but still, they were not recognized as MSGi employees.

They began trying to unionize in January 1999, seeking basic benefits like health care, sick and vacation time and a more stable and predictable pay structure to replace the company's erratic system. System-wide wages they were getting.

A few were not surprised. "I worked for this company in my sickness and pain because I had no insurance. I had to work hard for our company and we need a few things—a living wage, sick time, some of us need vacation time."

By March 1999 a majority of callers had signed union cards, but the June election went against them. After the election, the NLRB began pressuring the company to sign a so-called Stephen Dunn & Assoc: for violating labor law during its anti-union campaign.

The Board only asks for such orders if it believes the employer's actions are so bad that a fair election would be impossible, and only if a majority of workers supported the union before the violations took place.

A few of the sales prosecution could take some time, the Board also went to federal district court and asked for an injunction that would put the bargaining order in place immediately.

The District Court turned the Board down, but the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed that decision so severe that it sought a bargaining order, which requires the employer to bargain with the new council, had won the election.

They chose the first day of court-mandated bargaining to announce they were moving for purely economic reasons. That seems like a ridiculous claim," she said.

"The company's recent history of union-busting makes its rationale "The campaign for non-food workers in the area. We're hoping you can help us so we can continue this fundraising and negotiations," she said.

"We come to the community because we are part of the community, we spend our money in the community, we go to Ross and Dress For Less on our lunch break," Sheila Ross said. "They got on a roll, rhyming and preaching."

"On the day after the Fourth of July they gave us our walking papers. How American Pie was that of MSGi, the corporate lie? They're like a Pharaoh said, those people have to go. But god say, 'Let my people stay!"' her co-workers quoted, and held up their hand-painted signs, and chant back, "Stay! Stay! Stay!"

"We're asking the city to help MSGi find a new location because we need our jobs," said Edith Sanford. "Without these jobs some of us might be homeless. We don't sell anything. Our work is for non-profits that help people in the area. We're hoping you can help us so we can continue this fundraising and negotiations," she said.

"We need our jobs," said Edith Sanford. "They're like a Pharaoh said, those people have to go. But god say, 'Let my people stay!"' her co-workers quoted, and held up their hand-painted signs, and chant back, "Stay! Stay! Stay!"

"We need a few things—a living wage, sick time, some of us need vacation time."

"We chose the first day of court-mandated bargaining to announce they were moving for purely economic reasons. That seems like a ridiculous claim," she said. "This taught me everything about organizing," Catania said. "I learned the value and virtue of patience. I learned that without it, nothing will happen. I learned that just when things look hopeless, something's gotta give, and usually does, and that you just need to have faith, whichever faith you choose to believe."
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**IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

The Committee for Harry Bridges Plaza, in conjunction with the ILWU San Francisco Bay Area Pension Fund and the San Francisco Port Commission, will formally name the plaza in the front on the Ferry Building on the San Francisco waterfront for Harry Bridges Saturday, July 28 at 9:00 a.m.

The official ribbon cutting ceremony will be San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, San Francisco Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer Walter Johnson, former ILWU International President Harry Bridges, San Francisco Port Commissioners Brian McWilliams, San Francisco Supervisors Sue Bierman, Aaron Peskin and Gavin Newsome and various other dignitaries, including Bridges wife Nuriko & ‘Nikki’ Bridges Flynn and his son Robert Bridges. The celebration, featuring free birthday cake and food, will sponsor its annual boat ride/fundraiser on the bay, which includes dinner, dancing, a raffle and a no host buffet.

**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 disadvantage any member because of the amount of his/her contribution or the decision not to contribute. The International shall not be required to pay any part of an individual’s 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 will be put may 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) per each March and July paycheck. Per capita contributions shall be diverted 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 diversions if, in their judgement, the financial condition of the International warrants suspension.

These 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 Political Action Fund.

I understand that the International will send me a check for the entire amount of my per capita payment to the Political Action Fund if I choose not to contribute to the Political Action Fund in any form.
Fred Pecker honored as Organizer of the Year

More than 200 unionists ponied up $100 each to see San Francisco Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer Walter Johnson (left) give ILWU Local 6 Business Agent Fred Pecker (right) the Council's Organizer of the Year Award. Testimonials to Pecker's unflagging organizing work were given by ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Joe Iarrar, various other ILWU officers and union activists from the San Francisco labor movement, as well as the many bike messengers he was helped win union contracts.

ILWU-SSA scholarships

ILWU Local 21 and Stevedoring Services of America have awarded scholarships to the 2001 school year. This year's recipients of the $1,000 awards, shown above with Local 21 Scholarship Committee members Mike Robinson (far left) and SSA General Manager Longview Joe Abrams (far right) are (left to right) Amanda Mackey, Bethany Mackey, Jayme Whiteside and Christie Brister (not pictured).

Longshore retirees, deceased and survivors

Recent retirees:
Local 8—Virgil Shipley; Local 10—Douglas Schmidt, Mario Da Rosa, James Bailey, Edward Oliver; Local 52—Laurence R. Glimberg; Local 54—Tony L. Machado; Local 75—Walter Moretti Jr.

Deceased: Local 4—Walter Bryant (Laurie); Local 8—Henry Cavanaugh (Naomi), Robert McLean (Frances), Laura; Local 8—Henry Cavanaugh (Naomi), Robert McLean (Frances), Laura; Local 14—Anthony Jansen; Local 23—Carl Sandell (Edna), Carl Warmendahl; Local 34—Kenneth Fox (Rose), Edward Klein, Harold Williams; Local 65—John Targos (Mildred); Local 75—Wych Poryser; Local 91—Harvey, Cellini (Jeanette); Local 92—Edith Larson (Bernice), Andy Kavanich; Local 98—Robert Robinson (Anna).

(2001) Yoneda Award to Chris Friday

Members of ILWU Local 5 in Portland were presented with the Making Labor History in 2000 Award at the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association Convention held in Portland, Oregon May 3, 2001 for their historic job of organizing Powell's Books. Receiving the award from PNHLA President Russ Reider (right) on behalf of the local were (left to right) Ryan Van Winkle, William Kramer, Diane Brodie and Local 5 President Mary Winiwig. The award bears the following text: "We didn't know if we could do it. Those machines had kept going as long as we could remember. When we finally pulled the switch and there was some quiet, I remembered something: that I was a human being, that I could stop those machines, that I was better than those machines anytime."

Sit-down striker, 1936
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 Sehun: the newest and best single narrative history about the San Francisco events of 1934. $15.00

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

ORDER BY MAIL

copies of ILWU Story @ 5.75 ea. = $
copies of The Big Strike @ 6.50 ea. = $
copies of Workers on the Waterfront @ 13.00 ea. = $
copies of Reds or Rackets @ 11.00 ea. = $
copies of The Union Makes Us Strong @ 15.00 ea. = $
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copies of We Are the ILWU @ 7.00 ea. = $
copies of Life on the Beam @ 28.00 ea. = $
copies of The March Inland @ 9.00 ea. = $

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

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...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 670 West Ninth St. #201 San Pedro, CA 90731 (310) 547-9966

ADRP—Northern California George Cobb 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 Copp 3054 N.E. Gilsan, Ste. 2 Portland, OR 97232 (503) 231-4882

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

ILWU CANADIAN AREA

EAP—British Columbia Bill Bloor 745 Clark Drive, Suite 205 Vancouver, BC V5L 3J3 (604) 254-7911

Bound Dispatchers for sale

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