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Get Bush out of our negotiations

By James Spinosa
ILWU International President

These are the toughest contract negotiations the ILWU’s Longshore Division has faced in a long time. Not since 1948, when our strike broke the old Waterfront Employers Association and the Pacific Maritime Association was set up in its place to resolve the dispute, have we seen an employer so emboldened, so ready and eager to bust the union, so intent focused on making this contract the one that will eliminate the ILWU—if not immediately, then over the long term. It was apparent right from the first day of bargaining that the employers were on a mission in this set of negotiations and it got clearer as we met from day to day. Their opening proposal was full of takeaways. They hit us in every direction. They didn’t leave anything out, from maintenance of benefits, to the dispatch hall to the arbitration system and the workplace.

They’ve done this because they know they have the Bush administration on their side. A secret White House Task Force, including top officials from the Dept. of Labor, the Dept. of Defense and the president’s Council of Economic Advisors, has been established to plot with the PMA and the retailer group, the West Coast Waterfront Coalition, to take out the ILWU. This Task Force has contacted me and the other officers of the Longshore Caucus and made threats. It has threatened to invoke a Taft-Hartley injunction against us. It wants to pass special legislation to restrict our legal collective bargaining rights and to break up our coastwise contract. Most ominously, it has threatened to bring National Guard troops onto our docks.

The PMA knows all about these threats and so the employers have no reason to be reasonable, no incentive to negotiate seriously. Every proposal they have brought to the table was carefully crafted to be unacceptable to the union.

They have tried to provoke us into an action that would bring the Bush administration down on us.

The number one priority of the Longshore Caucus was maintenance of benefits and the PMA knew that. So the employers are trying to undermine deep cuts in our benefits package. They’ve backed down a little, but are still asking for cuts as well as a two-tier benefit system that will eliminate the option of new members to choose their own doctors and eventually that to all members. But the Negotiating Committee has kept to its marching orders and has refused to yield in this area.

The employers are also hell bent on changing our arbitration system that has stabilized our union and our industry since 1948. Sure, we have taken our hits in that system, we have had to take our losses along with our victories. But it protects our contract and we know that we are getting a fair shake from it.

The employers’ attempts to seize our jurisdiction have been nothing short of all. That last three years those employers have been saying their priority is national security. We put a technology proposal on the table, a proposal that we thought would bring the Bush administration down on us.

We will never get to productive bargaining until the Bush administration gets out of our business.

We will never get to productive bargaining until the Bush administration gets out of our business. Bush is creating a new policy that says that union rights are a national security threat. We can see that in how he is trying to take away the union rights of government workers being transferred into the new Dept. of Homeland Security. And we can see it in the way he is trying to take away our rights to economic and job action guaranteed by the National Labor Relations Act. The NLRA is the civil rights law for workers—it recognized and legalized workers’ basic rights to organize into unions, to collectively bargain contracts and to strike. It has been a part of American law and society since 1935.

A union’s strongest weapon is withholding its labor. And let’s not let ourselves forget what we are facing.

The ILWU’s Longshore Division is the 79 multi-national, multi-billion dollar corporations that comprise the PMA. It’s a classic David versus Goliath scenario and all Bush wants is to take away the biggest source of power we have.

The Bush administration’s policy and actions are so abhorrent—especially its threat of military intervention into our negotiations—that the AFL-CIO is making our contract a top priority in the American labor movement. The AFL-CIO is giving us staff and resources and joining us in a national campaign to get the Bush administration out of our negotiations and let us bargain fairly with our employers without interference.

We also have our new solidarity agreement with the Teamsters and the East and Gulf Coast International Longshoremen’s Association, as well as support from the worldwide dockworkers movement through the ITF (International Transport Workers Federation) and the IDC (International Dockworkers Council). We have received pledges of solidarity from unions across the globe.

But it is going to be us—the members of the ILWU—who have to get this done. This is our job. We have to stay focused and never lose sight of where we came from and where we have to go. We have to make sure that we turn over these jobs to those who are going to follow tomorrow.

I urge all members to get in touch with your local officers and volunteer to help in our campaign to get Bush out of our negotiations. Remember, this is a fight for the very existence of the ILWU. This is a fight for your job, your health benefits, your pension. Let’s get on with it.

ILWU Titled Officers

JAMES SPINOSA
President

BOb McELRATH
WEsLEY FURTADO
Vice President

JOE IBARRA
Secretary-Treasurer

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Steve Stallone
Tom Price
Assistant Editor

The DISPATCHER

JUNE 2002

BLOODY THURSDAY stands as a reminder that we new hero out of the fabric of our own lives. The story on page five gives a snapshot of that story: Federal. As the usual lingers in the background, and threats to call out troops gave this year’s commemorations an extra edge—especially in the light of the whole ugly pattern of government-sponsored union bashing.

Uncle Sam has been scabbing since the Civil War, as Howard Zinn points out in “A People’s History of the United States.” Union Army troops were used to break strikes of mine workers, railroad, and railway engineers in the 1860s. Shootings by Union troops of railroad workers killed 66 people during the wave of railroad strikes in 1877.

In 1919, the UAW and National Guard troops left 100 people dead after the wave of railroad strikes in 1877. National Guard troops, paid by the Rockefeller’s, killed 66 people during the Colorado miners’ strike of 1913-14. Thirteen of the dead were the women and children torched when the Guard set fire to the miners’ camp in the “Ludlow Massacre.” Police shot two strikers during the Minneapolis General Strike in the summer of 1934—not to mention the six West Coast waterfront workers killed by police and troops that same summer.

Many more strikers than these have died, and many more unions have felt the club of the law. ILWU Canada knows well what this feels like. Their leaders have repeatedly been jolted, their members been forced back to the shop floor. And all along the elites have worked their workers’ cherished ideals into the ground. Noting that poorer colonists had little to gain from the Revolutionary War, Zinn wrote that the rich used the myth of a new nation “to hold back a tide of workers’ efforts to make a new society and image.”

Today’s corporate elite stands about the steps the union is taking to transfer to the proposed Dept. of Homeland Security. Legislation sought by Senate Republicans would give the Secretary of Transportation authority to have the Coast Guard break up our coastwise contract. The employers are also hell bent on changing our arbitration system. They have tried to provoke us into an action that would bring the Bush administration down on us.

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Longshore caucus backs plans to turn up heat for a deal

By Steve Stalnake

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It was apparent right from the first day of bargaining that the employers were on a mission. They hit us from every direction you possibly be hit," Spinoso said. "One of the main obstacles, though, that wasn't the 1999 bargaining was the government. They are telling us that not only do they have Taft - Hartley available, but they have the option to strike. They are telling us that not only do they have Taft - Hartley available, but they have the option to strike.

The Negotiating Committee summarised the first two months of fruitless bargaining for the Caucus and then reviewed the PMA's latest proposal, made in response to the union's July 17 offer. That offer consisted of the employer group, the Pacific Maritime Association, did not come to the table. They went to the International Dockworkers' Union and the employers have made it clear they don't want to do business with the ILWU. They're holding out for some Bush-backed union-busting.

The government's got to get out of negotiations," ILWU International President Jim Spinoso told the crowd. "811 was a piercing of all America's hearts, but we are the American people, the working laborers, the veterans. We are the first line of defense of this country and what we need now is for the government to step back and let us do our jobs."

AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson promised the delegates that the AFL-CIO would be there to do battle with the ILWU. "We can't afford to lose the ILWU, we are all next. We can't afford to let that happen."

San Francisco Central Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer Walter Johnson reminded the Caucus of the power of organized labor. "The ILWU is a union that stand with you 1,000 percent," she said. "If they crush the ILWU, we are all next. We can't afford to lose the ILWU, we are all next." She added, "We can't afford to lose the ILWU."

The July 17 proposal granted the employers use of the technology that would allow for a free flow of electronic data from outside sources into the terminal operating systems. This would allow for a free flow of electronic data from outside sources into the terminal operating systems. It would eliminate about 30 percent of the work draying the containers from the dock facility work. The employers have consistently claimed that this new technology as their top negotiating priority—but they refused to meet the union's step towards a deal with one of their own union. Instead, PMA's counter-proposal accepted the new technology, but flatly refused to give the union the planing and off-dock facility work.

The union's number one priority for this contract. The PMA proposed creation to a new longshore health plan. New longshore workers would only have access to the HMO coverage and never have the option to choose their own doctors under the indemnity PPO and 80/20 plan, and all members would eventually lose that option. The Safety Negotiating Committee unanimously recommended a "no vote on the proposal and the Caucus unanimously concurred. After further discussion and agreement on the direction the Negotiating Committee should take when talks resume, the Caucus showed its complete support for the Negotiating Committee's peace, and resources the ILWU needs to strengthen its political work, yet members in many local meetings. The delegates left the Caucus to team up with an AFL-CIO field staffer and resource person to lobby the national campaign. In Southern California, they included Mike Ponce (Local 13), in Northern California it will be Kevin Gibbons (Local 10), in the Puget Sound area it will be Rudy Finn (Local 19) and Vance Lelli (Local 23).

On the Tuesday of the week-long gathering AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson addressed the Caucus. She told the delegates that the A-F-C-I-O believes the ILWU's contract negotiations matter to the entire American labor movement. "Your struggle affects not just the West Coast, but the whole country," she said. "We're all tied together."

The delegates left the Caucus to return to their home ports and update their members on the latest news about the ILWU.

Hooks gleaming in the sun, ILWU longshore Local 10 Drill Team members yelled agreement with speakers at the June 24 rally in front of Pacific Maritime Asan, headquarters in San Francisco.

The drill team had led the way as hundreds of ILWU members and supporters strode downtown, their T-shirts turning the California Street Hill into a sea of bright yellow and navy blue. The Longshore Caucus assembled for the rally and the delegates joined the chants. "I say 'U,' you say 'Nite!'" the marshals called into the bulwarks. "LI-NITE!" the crowd shouted in response.

"I say 'Fight,' you say 'Together!'" the marshals roared. "Fight together!" yelled the crowd—loud, proud and determined. Negotiations for the new contract had started in good faith. But with two months of stall-and-crawl at the table, the employers have made it clear they don't want to do business with the ILWU. They're holding out for some Bush-backed union-busting.

"The government's got to get out of negotiations," ILWU International President Jim Spinoso told the crowd. "811 was a piercing of all America's hearts, but we are the American people, the working laborers, the veterans. We are the first line of defense of this country and what we need now is for the government to step back and let us do our jobs."

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The July 17 proposal granted the employers use of the technology that would allow for a free flow of electronic data from outside sources into the terminal operating systems. This would eliminate about 30 percent of the clerks' work, saving the employers more than $100 million per year in labor costs on top of the increased productivity the system would bring. In return, in the spirit of the M-K agreement, the union demanded all the clerk jobs the new technology would create, the return of all out-sourced vessel, rail and yard planning work, the jobs operating the employers' off-dock container yards and the right to negotiate longshoremen from the port to those yards.

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Employer refusal to pay overtime is another particularly widespread type of theft. Even an employee with the supported think tank, the Employer Policy Foundation, estimates workers would get an additional $19 billion a year if the overtime law were followed. The Labor Department has concluded that one out of every 50 workers has been illegally denied overtime pay.

Sometimes corporate malfeasance brings deadly consequences, as when large companies put safety of workers ahead of their stock option plans.

Today's corporate crime du jour is Enron-style accounting fraud, stealing money (lots of it), and depriving investors and employees of their rights. Enron employees worked hard and expected a fair wage and job security. Instead they were given minutes to clean out their desks and get the hell out of there. Corporate law, management denied severance packages to workers who refused to sign documents giving up the right to sue Enron for defrauding them. Together the Enron and WorldCom collapses due to criminal fraud wiped out the savings of more than 100,000 workers.

The media hoopla about Bush and the conservative, right-wing Congress getting tough on corporations is almost laughable. Congress always leaves town during the month of August. President Bush is going on vacation at his ranch in Texas. But before they left, these two co-conspirators left American workers with nothing and multinational corporations with big bags of money.

Legislation is the pits

Congress did little to safeguard savings for American workers and their families. Corporate accountability legislation failed to give workers a voice in running their 401(k) plans. Congress failed to counterbalance Enron-style employer efforts to seduce workers into buying high levels of company stock and took no action to reverse the tide of corporate practices offering employees unregulated stock option plans rather than real retirement security that can be achieved through a defined pension plan. Congress and Bush conspired to make it virtually impossible for a disinterested worker to disclose bankruptcy and get a fresh start. The bill will let credit card companies collect from poor people for years they have sold off their assets in bankruptcy court, and does nothing to stop credit card companies from pushing cards on people already in debt. This bill does nothing to protect workers' severance in corporate bankruptcies or put workers ahead of insider creditors in bankruptcy proceedings.

Mr. budget, Mr. Congress! Why the U.S. House of Representatives passed Fast Track legislation after a big push from the President, Bush? Fast Track will let multinational corporations exploit even more workers and move more pollution, without a low-wage deal. It even let trade agreements that give unlimited power to multinational companies and their lawyers. The Senate had to do its part, too.

"This bill actually weakens protections of workers rights and the environment, slights health care protections for workers who lose their jobs and puts provisions designed to protect U.S. domestic trade legislation," said Robert Borsage, Co-director of the advocacy group Campaign for America's Future.

The bill, which came out of a Senate-House conference, does nothing to correct the absurd provisions of NAFTA that allow multinational corporations to challenge health and safety legislation in secret trade tribunals. The burgeoning U.S. trade deficit is unsustainable, but instead of fixing problems in current trade agreements, Congress gave Bush unlimited authority to let multinational corporations run amok over the global economy.

It should be no surprise to anyone that the American people continue to be looted by the large corporations. Both the President and the Vice-President of the United States come straight out of the corporate culture. According to CorpWatch, an organization formed to hold corporations accountable, then-businessman George W. Bush held a seat on the board of Hallibur Energy Company from 1987 through 1989. Despite the fact that Harken reported multi-million dollar losses, Bush was granted $180,375 in unsecured loans. These so-called loans were later "forgiven." Of course, due deference would be given to the son of then-President George Herbert Walker Bush.

In 1990 Harken won a contract to drill for oil in the nation of Bahrain. The contract came at a critical time when the country was flat broke. In fact, Harken owed $2 billion to banks. Harken was given a contract to drill at a time when the country was flat broke. In fact, Harken owed $2 billion to banks. Harken then rose dramatically as a result of the contract with Bahrain. In June 1995, Cheney and Andersen counted over 200,000 shares of Harken stock. Bush failed to file the required Securities Exchange Commission form that provides the SEC with information to determine whether there was any inside knowledge based on knowledge not yet available to the public. In fact, less than a month before Bush got a memo from Harken CEO Mikel Faulkner that expressed doubts about the company's liquidity.

Several weeks after Bush made out like a bandit on his stock sales, Harken filed for bankruptcy, and lost $23 million. The SEC closed its investigation of Bush without ever investigating the role of Vice-President Cheney.

Vice President Dick Cheney was appointed CEO of Halliburton (primarily an oil services company) in 1989. Cheney stayed in as Vice-President. Cheney and his accounting firm, the now-disgraced Arthur Andersen, thousands of pages of books by counting contested revenues (bills customers had refused to pay) showing that the company got away with a billion dollar losses, Bush was granted $190,375 in unsecured loans. These so-called loans were later "forgiven." Of course, due deference would be given to the son of then-President George Herbert Walker Bush.

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As we learned from the Enron and WorldCom scandals, cooking the books is virtual mumbo-jumbo. Companies can let credit card companies collect from poor people for years they have sold off their assets in bankruptcy court, and does nothing to stop credit card companies from pushing cards on people already in debt. This bill does nothing to protect workers' severance in corporate bankruptcies or put workers ahead of insider creditors in bankruptcy proceedings.

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June 2002

West Coast traditions upheld for Bloody Thursday

By Tom Price

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each year longshore workers up and down the Coast take off July 5 to honor their fallen brothers. On that "Bloody Thursday" in 1934 police killed two workers near the union hall in Mission and Steuart streets in San Francisco. All told, six were murdered: two in San Pedro, two in San Francisco and two in Seattle. Longshore Local 10 President Cleophas Williams in San Francisco. He referred to hundreds of mainly immigrant laborers who line up along that street in hope of a day's work.

FIRST SHOTS
The story began May 9, 1934 when workers struck cowseashadow in what would become the Big Strike. They were tired of being told to "shape up" in front of foremen who threatened a general strike if they didn't. The pay was low and the hours long, and an injured worker or worker who was thrown away like a broken tool.

In Los Angeles scabs worked while workers went hungry. Late in the night May 14, some 300 members of the Pedro Local (then the dock force) marched on the scab encampment on the docks. Shots rang out from the scabs and cops, and when the air cleared two strikers lay mortally wounded. Dickie Parker, a graduate of San Pedro High, died in the arms of his mother. "Cleophas Williams," said the coroner from Lomita died later of his wounds.

In San Francisco, a group of strikers lay down the Bay Area in the greatest general strike in U.S. history. When all was said and done, the waterfront workers won most of their demands, including a hiring hall, joint labor-management, and choose their job, it is an affirmation of that victory won in 1934. A crowd at the hiring hall is a monument to their struggle. Every day when members of this union go to the waterfront and choose their job, it is an affirmation of that victory won in 1934.

Several hundred attended longshore Local 19's Bloody Thursday event at the Port of Port Arthur in Galveston. Former ILWU International President and current Port Commissioner Brian McWilliams, Supervisor Sophie Maxwell and Landmark Board member Archie Green said "Even if they unloaded a couple of barrels it was only symbolic, but workers remember it as the Atlas Warehouse, after the ad-hoc trucking firm the employers set up to move cargo off the dock. It's on King Street, a few blocks from Cesar Chavez Street at all the people gathered to pass on the story of those who rose and said a few words. Local 10 President Dave Haggard told The Dispatch that the laborers would be thrown away like a broken tool.

Accordingly the trucks were driven by employers, including the owner of Folger's Coffee.

The bosses didn't anticipate the reaction of the picketers, who pelted the trucks with bricks.
The battle raged for two days, then everyone took the Fourth of July off. Green said, "Even if they unloaded a couple of barrels it was only symbolic, opening the port would take days. After they got a couple trucks through they failed, it was a highly theatrical gesture."

After the Fourth of July holiday came Bloody Thursday.

Shown left to right above: San Francisco Labor Council's Walter Johnson, San Francisco Supervisor Sophie Maxwell and Archie Green.

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In San Francisco, a group of strikers lay down the Bay Area in the greatest general strike in U.S. history. When all was said and done, the waterfront workers won most of their demands, including a hiring hall, joint labor-management, and choose their job, it is an affirmation of that victory won in 1934. A crowd at the hiring hall is a monument to their struggle. Every day when members of this union go to the waterfront and choose their job, it is an affirmation of that victory won in 1934.

Several hundred attended longshore Local 19's Bloody Thursday event at the Port of Port Arthur in Galveston. Former ILWU International President and current Port Commissioner Brian McWilliams, Supervisor Sophie Maxwell and Landmark Board member Archie Green said "Even if they unloaded a couple of barrels it was only symbolic, opening the port would take days. After they got a couple trucks through they failed, it was a highly theatrical gesture."

After the Fourth of July holiday came Bloody Thursday.

Shown left to right above: San Francisco Labor Council's Walter Johnson, San Francisco Supervisor Sophie Maxwell and Archie Green.

West Coast traditions upheld for Bloody Thursday

By Tom Price

F
each year longshore workers up and down the Coast take off July 5 to honor their fallen brothers. On that "Bloody Thursday" in 1934 police killed two workers near the union hall in Mission and Steuart streets in San Francisco. All told, six were murdered: two in San Pedro, two in San Francisco and two in Seattle. Longshore Local 10 President Cleophas Williams in San Francisco. He referred to hundreds of mainly immigrant laborers who line up along that street in hope of a day's work.

FIRST SHOTS
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Lee Brown gave more than six decades to labor and civil rights activism with a heart set on justice.

After sixty years on the line, activist Lee Brown passes

Lee Brown, who organized for labor and civil rights for more than sixty years, passed away on June 27, 2002. His first labor experience came in 1939 as a railroad worker in Cleveland, Ohio. He later served as a steward and then rose to the position of vice president of Local 207 of the Warehouse and Distribution Workers Union. Brown's activism extended beyond the workplace, as he was an active member of the NAACP, working to get better parts for black actors in Hollywood. He also organized with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), where he helped organize to get better pay for black workers.

Brown served two years of a three-year sentence under the Taft-Hartley Act in 1956, but he died before serving his time. An all-white jury convicted him of violating the Taft-Hartley Act. The act required a union official to sign a form saying he or she is not a communist. Brown quit the Communist Party before becoming a union official, and wrote in a form that he was not a member.

Another all-white jury convicted Local 207 President Andrew Steven Nelson, an African American, under the Taft-Hartley Act in 1956, but he died before serving his time. A fellow organizer at the Mark Hopkins Hotel, who died in 1968, Brown said, his political activism right up until his death, working with such diverse groups as the NAACP and the Black Panther Party. Later on he worked with the Senior Action Network. Along the way, he published many articles in newspapers and magazines, and with Robert L. Allen wrote "Strong in the Struggle: My Life as a Black Activist," an autobiography.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ON ILWU POLITICAL ACTION FUND

Dellegates 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. 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 the International's Political Action Committee,其它 sections. These deductions are voluntary, 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 diversions 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, 2002.

"Less 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
Former Coast Committeeeman Bob Olvera passes

By Tom Price

Bob Olvera earned the nickname "Bulldog" during the many years he handled the docks as a longshoreman in Southern California. He would take hold of an issue with the employer and not let go until it was resolved in a way he thought fair.

"Many would say that from the beginning he was a fair and decent man and was a welcome addition to the longshore ranks," Local 13 retiree Bruce Krieger said in Olvera's eulogy. "He earned his stripes as a good worker first, and when the calling came, as a Business Agent and ultimately as a Coast Committeeman."

He was born Jan. 3, 1933 in West Pittsburg, Calif. After attending schools in San Diego, he joined the Navy in October 1951. During the Korean War he served on the battleship USS Iowa and the heavy cruiser USS Baltimore.

He returned to West Pittsburg after his Navy hitch with six service ribbons in the fall of 1955 and got a job in the steel mills. After moving to San Diego he soon found himself again on salt water, working aboard the SS Lurline. Then he started working on the docks as a casual, and on Nov. 16, 1959 he was registered Class B in longshore Local 13, the beginning of his long career in the ILWU.

Olvera worked four years in the hold and registered Class A on Oct. 4, 1960. It was then he became increasingly interested in the union and won election to the local's Executive Board. In 1964 he was elected to the street boss. In 1972 he was elected Night BA, and re-elected him again a year later.

By 1975 Olvera was seriously injured in a fall. He was on disability for about five years, and when he came back in April 1981 the members elected him Day BA. He lived up to his "Bulldog" moniker soon after in his tenure as a defense of injured workers.

"One of our employers had an especially aggressive investigator," Krieger said. "Whenever there was an accident the investigator would run out there with a tape recorder and make the guys speak to him on the recorder before he'd let the guy go to the hospital."

Local 13 elected Krieger 33 times to serve as Health Benefits Specialist between 1981 and his retirement in 1989.

"One day Bob hears there's an accident and he runs out to the dock and sure enough, there was a guy on a stretcher and the investigator trying to get a statement," Krieger said. "Well Bob grabbed the tape out of the recorder and brought it back to the office. The company was really mad, and tried to get Bob de-registered. It took years, but he stuck it out." By 1983 Olvera was ready for higher office. The membership elected him Coast Committeeman that year, and elected him again in 1987.

In June 1985 Pacific-Hawaiian Lines tried to load a barge in Vancouver, Wash., with non-ILWU labor. Responding quickly Olvera and Coast Committeeman Dick Wise joined International President Jimmy Herman on the line in Vancouver.

All Columbia River area locals responded to longshore Local 4's aid, and after an especially militant picket nearly 1,000 members swarmed into the yard where lumber waited for loading. Management soon gave in and hired a PMA-affiliated stevedoring company, and 150 workers volunteered to clean up the lumberyard.

That same month another serious incident occurred in the Los Angeles docks, and again Olvera was in the forefront. Ships' crew had removed lashings at sea, a serious violation of the law and safety rules. Local 13 member Steve Suryan went on deck to begin discharging containers.

"Steve had ridden the spreader beam down to the deck," then-Local President Dave Arian told The Dispatcher. "After he got off, the crane operator raised the beam up. It snagged on a turnbuckle, and when it finally came loose it swung and hit the head."

Suryan died instantly. Local 13's Executive Board met in emergency session to come up with a safety pro-

gram. Olvera and ILWU Safety Coordinator Russ Bargmann met with the employers, who made proposals outside the safety area.

The membership held a stop-work meeting, and pledged to shut down operations if necessary. The employer met again with Olvera and the union and agreed to union safety proposals.

The membership re-elected Olvera to another term in 1987, and he served until he experienced severe chest pains in December 1989. He went in for a heart bypass operation and suffered a few days a heart attack.

Recent retirees:


Deceased:

Local 10—Guy Hoskin, Harry Fave (Gertrude), Gerald Walker (Tammy), Gordon Hooker; Local 10—Chris Dansen, John Boyling, Ronald Wanger, Local 13—Keithy Brossard (Troussant), Earnest Bryant (Sarah), Charles Boyle (Francis), William Conner (Cleo), John Green (Bernadine), David Greenfield (Maritan), Walter C. Jones Jr.; Local 12—Vinicio Hashi (Hazel), Robert Humphrey (Eleanor), Theodor Mikowski (Alice), Fred Friedrich (Griduta), Local 13—Marie Femandino (Anna), Charles Robinson (Zerline), Richard C. Boto, Alvin Nelson (Eliezer), Fred Davis (George); James Adelman (Ermadene), Edward Valdez (Marty), Ronald Rye (Sarah), David Bustamante (Jennifer), Matthew Brunsbokle (Lucille), Wilburn Helm (Marie), James Christel (Skow), Frank Tran (Linda), Carlos Arreola (Estela), Graciola Molina (Emilia), Vernon Howe (Nancy), Gary Bronner (Evelyn), Marion Chuka (Joy), James Pease (Grace), Local 19—George Connell; Local 21—Charles N. Bailey, Sarah Thomas, Dennis Osborne (Nancy); Local 23—Jay Allen, Carl Einhaus (Emma), Local 24—Arne Askainen (Maudeulla); Local 26—Don Justesen (Taima); Local 27—Evelyn Osato; Local 19—Alfonso Torres (Adelle); Local 28—Gary Perry (Larrias Ann); Local 34—James Eldridge (Ycenne), Raleigh Geraghty, James Bohenna (Arlene), Reginald Rogers; Local 49—Charles Hoff (Gladys), Bert Durbin, Local 50—Warren Skaggs, (Earlena); Local 52—John Bruce (Alicia), Alfred Teeters Jr. (Gladya), Matt Budischeck; Local 54—Nick Rallios (Tillie), Richard Freeman (Concha), Frank Jaworski; Local 63—Maurice Porter (Cierre), Kimberly Lovatto (Marie), Randy King and James Thomas Carr (Olivia), Ralph Bambach, Local 75—Leonard Williams; Local 91—David Machado (Marianna), Jesse Johnson (Irma), Robert Webster (Carolyn), Local 92—Robert Harrison (Dona), Local 94—John Prohobert (Vera), Donald Gardner (Judyp); Local 98—George Mattson (Betty). (Survivor in parenthesis.)

Deceased survivors:

Local 4—Laura Bryant; Local 8—Mary Cottinari, Marjorie Brown, Edna Zetterberg, Venice Kilby, GWyneth Swiss, Local 10—Evelyn De Pelle, Florence Mackey, Salemany Harris, Virginia Cansner, Violet Lemonedge, Theresa Trotman; Local 12—Evelyn Grove; Local 19—Laura Jimenez, Agnes Vidolin, Gary Perry (Larrias Ann), Local 21—Mary Kellar, Local 24—Ruth Hill, Sagas Erickson, Local 26—James Oberg, Local 34—Lillian Zatarain; Local 35—Wendy Hull, Local 37—Kathleen Strauss; Local 46—Rachel Marvel, Phyllis Shaw; Local 47—Effie Melsaas; Local 51—Ester Ryan; Local 52—Lillian Zatarians; Local 54—Berta Kahune, Local 63—Helen Duthie, Vivian Wason, Bertha Luc, Rosina Hite, Treva Spira; Local 91—Sylvia Christiansen; Local 94—Josephine Barnes, Catherine Tousseau, Irene Stamich, Sylvia Roberson, Martha Calandrino, Edith Wilbur; Local 98—Normadale Sproul.
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The Big Strike By Mike Quin: the classic partisan account of the 1934 strike. $6.50

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