President's Report:
Overtime rollback—page 2

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ILWU International President James Spinosa won a second three-year term as leader of the union in the results of the rank-and-file balloting. Spinosa ran unopposed on the strength of the victory in last year’s longshore contract struggle that maintained 100 percent employer-paid health care, won the biggest pension increases in the history of American unions and laid out a framework to introduce new technology run by union workers.

All four of the ILWU officers who led the union through the successful longshore contract negotiations last year were reelected. Besides Spinosa, International Vice President Robert McEllrath and Coast Committeeemen Ray Ortiz, Jr. and Joseph Wenzl all ran unopposed and are returning for another term. Incumbent International Vice President, Hawaii, Wesley Furtado, also won reelection and Local 23 and International Executive Board member Willie Adams was elected International Secretary-Treasurer to replace retiring Joe Barra.

The new International Executive Board will consist of:

- Southern California Area: John Tousseau, Mike Mitre and Larry Carleton
- Southern California Desert Area: Trinidad Esquivel III
- Northern California Area: Fred Pecker, Kevin Gibbons and Richard Cavalli
- Columbia River Area: John Evans and John Rapp
- Puget Sound Area: Max Vekich, Jr. and Conrad Spell
- Alaska: Pete Hendrickson
- Canada: Tom Dufreese
- Inlandboatmen’s Union: Dave Pruboth

For complete results and a breakdown of the vote by locals, see pages 8-9.
New overtime rules: Back to the bad old days

By James Spinosa
ILWU International President

Since every part of the capital is a story on itself, the entire American labor movement needs to organize to defeat Bush in 2004 before he destroys us and the economy.

Bush is taking away the right to overtime pay for millions of American workers.

Overtime rules. On top of this, Prop. 54 on the same ballot would gut enforcement of Republican scam. They bought themselves into office with big bucks and high-octane rhetoric—Bush will eliminate for millions the right to overtime pay. As President Spinosa reports on page 3, the recall is really another right-wing Republican trick to establish a dictatorship. The intense lobbying force workers to work and in the halls of government, the masters of corporate globalization are trying to take over your dinner table. As we report on pages 6-7, a few huge chemical/biotech companies are developing genetically modified food varieties. The provision gave employers an incentive to not force workers to take away their lives and gave a reward to workers when they had to put in longer hours.

But now President Bush is turning back the clock on the progress workers have made towards reclaiming part of their lives. Through changes in the Dept. of Labor's rules that implement and regulate overtime protections, Bush is taking away the right to overtime pay for millions of American workers. Like nearly every initiative Bush has pushed—from his tax cuts to his free trade agreements—the intent and the result is to further enrich the wealthy at the expense of working people.

In 1999 the Dept. of Labor estimated that nearly 80 percent of all American workers qualified for overtime pay. Bush is drastically reducing that number by redefining and reclassifying who qualifies. The result will be lower pay, longer hours and unpredictable work schedules for millions of American workers.

While the new regulations will raise the minimum salary under which workers will automatically qualify for overtime pay, they will not protect the workers who rely on overtime to help make ends meet at home. The classification of "executive employee" is now defined as anyone with the authority and discretion to fit that category and the amount of time the manager must devote to exercising discretion in carrying out his or her job. The classification of "learned professional" and " administrative employee" categories will be redefined. Now a worker must have the authority to affect management policies or the freedom to exercise discretion and independent judgment in carrying out those policies to qualify as an exempt employee.

The new rules eliminate that requirement. Bush’s new rules are a dream come true for employers who stand to reap billions of dollars in new profits from them. Without the penalty of overtime pay, employers can force workers to put in longer hours, saving the need to hire more workers with the attached costs of benefits. This, of course, increases the number of unemployed—already reaching record heights because of the free trade agreements—and continues to put downward pressure on the wages of those still holding jobs. And the new rules will cut income, putting the pinch on workers who rely on overtime to help make ends meet at home.

Perhaps more than any of Bush’s numerous anti-worker initiatives, this elimination of overtime protections will directly hit workers. Its effects will be so damaging and widespread that Congressional Democrats attempted to pass legislation to stop Bush from implementing the new rules.

But on July 10 the House of Representatives defeated the Democratic plan by one vote. Still, as he did after the vote on the tax cut for the rich that required Vice President Dick Cheney to break a tie in the Senate and as he did after he didn’t actually win the election. Bush pushed forward with this extremism as if there were a national consensus. There could be no clearer reason why the ILWU and the entire American labor movement needs to organize to defeat Bush in 2004 before he destroys us and the economy.

ILWU Titled Officers
JAMES SPINOSA
President

BOB McELLRATH
WESLEY FURTADO
Vice President

JOE IBARRA
Secretary-Treasurer

www.ilwu.org
Warehouse workers master contract

By Marcy Rein

They've watched the economy slide down, plants skip town and health costs shoot up in the four years since the last round of warehouse master contract talks. But two weeks after taking a nationwide strike vote, Northern California ILWU and Teamsters Local 6 locals ratified a new agreement that secured health benefits, provided for pensioners and put a little change in people's pockets.

"We had to do a real balancing act to maintain benefits, take care of our retirees and get something with enough integrity that we could stand up here with it," ILWU warehouse Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker told the July 12 ratification meeting at the local's Oakland hall. "And it was the show of solidarity from the membership that got the employers off their asses."

The four-year pact covers members of ILWU Locals 6 and 17 and International Brotherhood of Teamsters Locals 653, 665 and 247 who work in about 20 houses. Another dozen companies follow the pattern set by the master contract but do not belong to the Teamsters, Retail Employees and Distributors Assn. (IEDA).

ILWU and IEDA negotiated the deal unanimously. Two weeks after the Negotiating Council—headed by Local 17 Secretary-Treasurer Jack Wyatt for the ILWU and Aloise for the Teamsters—recommended a much-improved package to the members. It was management's "last, best and final offer," and if members balked, they would have to walk.

By Marcy Rein

The ILWU and IBT locals agreed to stop competing and start cooperating when they formed the Joint Negotiating Council to bargain with the IEDA in 1960. Those first joint talks yielded a 21-cent raise in the project's maintenance of benefits, handing the employers a $10 for prescriptions by the end of the contract, but the employers agreed to maintain benefits, with a 36-cent increase, and give the officers authority to call a strike. IBT members rejected the proposal and after an hour and a half of presentation and questions, they ratified it 176 to 68.

"We got the big problem all over this nation," said Michael Zob, a member of Owens Illinois. "The others didn't have what we have.

The officers had emphasized that a strike could cost not only lost wages, but the gains made in this proposal. The members listened.

"If we say no, we're on strike," said Antonia Gonzalez from Diageo (formerly Heublein).

And right now it's really bad everywhere.

Local 17 members faced some special circumstances. The 40 who work at the cash-crunch Port of Sacramento took a three-year wage freeze—though if anyone else at the Port gets a raise in that time, they will start getting the increases provided by the master contract.

The 128 seniority workers at Farmers Rice Cooperative had taken a four-year wage freeze in the 1998 negotiations. They wanted to recoup their losses and get up to master contract rates.

At first the company only offered a one-time $500 bonus with no wage increases. Management argued it needed to compete with other rice mills that pay $8-10 per hour with no benefits.

"We're fighting in the last two days, the company was saying, 'No extra wages. We'll take you on strike,'" said Local 17 dispatcher and negotiating team member Everett Burdan.

Members stood firm too. On three civil rights, the day shift punched out at lunchtime and went to eat together outside the front gate. Some swing shift workers came in early to join them and a few people from everywhere came back.

"We sent a message, saying 'We want money and we're ready to walk,'" said then-chief steward and negotiating team member Lance Schueler.

On the very last night, the companysweetened the pot, offering 49 cents over the master contract rates with the same benefits.

"It's a very rich package," Burdan said. "I'm actually amazed the company came up with it." Local 17 members voted 78 to 24 for the master contract and the addenda covering the Port and Farmers.

IBT's Aloise agreed it was a good deal. "We got more than they expected to give, especially in benefits," he said.

California unions rev up to defeat right-wing recall

California's Oct. 7 special election was quickly morphed from media circus to the first high-stakes fight of the 2004 election season. If Republicans succeed in recall- ing Gov. Gray Davis, workers stand to lose all they've gained since his first election in 1990. The hastily scheduled vote could disenfranchise many poor and elderly people of color, and force many counties to consolidate their election resources to groups most in need, and undermine enforcement of hate crimes laws, because 60 percent of hate crimes are based on the victim's perceived ethnicity. Ultimately, it will erode efforts to fight discrimination.

"If you can't collect data, you can't see the problems," said attorney Eva Jefferson Patterson of the Equal Justice League. "This is all about dis- mantling civil rights laws," she said.

The California AFL-CIO and the Building and Construction Trades Council have launched mobilization trainings around the state, including one being hosted by the Harbor Labor Coalition in Southern California Sept. 4. For more info, see www.sbctc.org or call David Sickler at (213)716-3892.

Marcy Rein
The Bush administration will use the same databases to foreclose on members of the ILWU under the Maritime Transportation Security Act. However, it worked hard to incorporate due process procedures into the Act and insisted that the standard for these so-called databases be "security risk" rather than just "security risk." But if the Bush administration can deny rights and liberties to its workers, it will. The only real way to change this dangerous and disturbing trend is to change the regime in Washington. We need a new president who will liabilities to our union representatives and act for social justice.

If you have not already lost your job because of Bush's anti-worker policies, you may be losing some pay. Bush's Labor Department is preparing to implement new rules that would deny overtime pay for million of workers as seen (President Report, page 2). The changes in the Fair Labor Standards Act regulations would affect a wide range of the more than 80 million workers now protect- ed by the Act. They eliminate over- time protections for 170,000 employees and take effect without any public comment period. It is allowed the government to revoke collective bargaining rights to federal workers has nothing to do with secu- rity—it's about de-unionizing the country. We also know Bush pushed for broad criminal background checks on the nation's transportation workers and databases of security-risk individuals to give employers an easy way to rid the transportation indu- stry of union activists and agitators.

Bush is not the only anti-union worker attacker. In the fall of 2002 Bush insisted on language in the Homeland Security bill that eliminated collective bargaining rights and civil serv- ice protections for 170,000 employees in the Department of Homeland Security. He followed that outrageous act with a bill that raised the wage floor for 60,000 newly federalized air- line screeners. We are not the only union that has been slapped by Bush's anti-union attack.

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Bloody Thursday remembered up and down the Coast

ILWU workers took a day off July 5 to remember those who fell 69 years ago during the birth pains of the union. Off the docks, they marched on a scab encampment and were fired upon. Dickie Parker died in the arms of his brothers while John Knudsen died later from his wounds.

In Seattle workers fought with scabs almost daily for more than a month. Late in the night of June 30 strike delegate Shelley Duffon was jumped down, and 19 days later striking sailor Olaf Helland was hit in the head by a gas grenade and killed.

In Portland police fired into the lines, but workers stood firm. The cops were so out of control they fired on Senator Wagner's (D-NY) car, the same senator who would push the Wagner Act (National Labor Relations Act) through Congress a year later. That "Bill of Rights for Labor" set up a federal board to hear labor law issues and recognized worker's rights to oral and written representation.

In San Francisco some 800 cops, with National Guard backup, attacked 2,000 strikers Thursday. July 5 in an attempt to reopen the port. The battle raged for most of the month, though nearly everyone stopped for lunch. Workers gathered quietly in front of the union hall on Newstreet and then cops pulled up and started firing into the crowd. Longshoreman Howard Sperry was hit in the back. Nick Bordoise from the Marine Cooks and Stewards Union was at right.

But the ports stayed closed. Workers paid their last respects to 2,500 people in remembrance of those who fell in 1934. From the stage most of the ports, with one employer member told the story of the birth of the union. Elected officials abounded, including Ohio Congressman and presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich, who declared a pair of boxing gloves and led the whole park in a chant: "Knock out Bush!"

Other politicians attending included Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn, Councilwoman Jonie Hahn, Alan Lowenthal 54th Assembly and Jenny Orpea 55th Assembly. Longshore Local 13's David Ross acted as chairperson.

"It's our Independence Day, we celebrate it just like the Fourth," Ross said. "Bloody Thursday is our most important day.

"I think it was a sign of something very important that there were so many local, state and federal politicians and candidates who showed up at the Bloody Thursday picnic," Ross said. "There are a lot of people getting excited because they feel George Bush can be beaten," Peyton said. "A lot of people are wondering what's going on in this country. White collar workers are the frontline everywhere.

The Democrats are starting to get a foothold on a message to lead in this next presidential election. Whether it's federal or state, the decisions the Bush administration are now down to a point where kindergarten could be eliminated due to Bush's tax cuts for the rich.

"The LA locals don't do anything halfway, we had as much fun as we possibly could while still staying within the law," Local 63 President Mike Zuliani said.

SAN FRANCISCO

The raw foggy morning and the mournful trumpet tones of "Indian Joe" Morris playing "Taps" chilled many people's bones at the opening of Northern California's Bloody Thursday, Sunday. Some ILWU members and families came to the commemorations, which began with the traditional wreath-laying in front of the longshore Local 10 hall and ended with a cruise around the San Francisco Bay. Pensioners Ciephas Williams gave the tone of the day's reflections and rededication.

"When you travel in other parts of the world, as my wife and I have been blessed to do, you know it's to have free speech," Williams said. "This is one of the things we have with this new administration about, taking the liberty of free speech away from us. We like to talk about it in the ILWU, in the trade union movement. We like to remember our history, where we came from and what we're going to and what we did in the past relates to what's going on now.

"You get a lot of knowledge listening to the older guys," said Local 10's C.T. "Bap" Baptiste, Jr. "And you're getting first-person, first-hand information, not just reading out of a book."

Local 10 member Josephine Ellis also relished the opportunity to soak in the union's history. "Each year is a new experience," Ellis said of the July 5 events.

After the brief ceremony, the crowd moved inside to mix and munch and hear more speakers. George McCartney of the Seafarers' International Union and Dave Connolly of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific paid their respects. Local 10 President Henry Graham, Secretary-Treasurer John Castanho and Pensioners Joe Lucas, Rog Therault and Osborne Hills addressed the gathering.

Hills dressed down the younger generation like an irate grandfather. "You take three jobs to another guy's job, you don't deserve to be in the union," he said.

"You think Bloody Thursday won't return? Hills asked. "Only you have to think of the Oakland police on April 7. The only difference is if you don't protect your rights and interests on the docks, it will be back."

Graham connected the historical dots, quoting Harry Bridges' 1984 Bloody Thursday message.

"Sure, we might be taking a beating now, as we were in the years before 1984, but that's nothing new," Graham said. "What saved us then was our faith in each other...We showed the world that united working people could stand up against guns and tear gas, against the press and the courts, against whatever they threw at us."

"We can do it again."

SEATTLE

Seattle area ILWU members, friends and families gathered at Vasa Park on the shores of Lake Sammamish July 5 to remember Bloody Thursday.

Coast Committeeman Joe Wenzel was the main speaker. He reminded the new members of the history of the union and how they and their families carry on a tradition that goes back nearly seven decades. Later he summarized his remarks for The Dispatcher.

"This generation of longshore workers stood the test under the direct attack from the government and employers during this last contract fight," he said.

"Through our solidarity we will meet new challenges together. I especially thanked the pensioners who have already left us and the ones who were with us for the Coastwise contract, the dispatch hall and our history of solidarity."

—Marcy Rest

The ILWU Local 10 drill team opens the San Francisco Bay Area's Bloody Thursday commemoration. At their feet lies a copy of the chalk outlines, flowers and testimony left on a San Francisco sidewalk after the first Bloody Thursday.

The outlines signify the spots where Nick Bordoise and Howard Sperry fell. The inscription reads, "Police Murder. Men Killed. Shot in Back."

—Tom Price

Local 10 members laid a wreath on the Northern California's Bloody Thursday. Some ILWU members and families came to the commemorations, which began with the traditional wreath-laying in front of the longshore Local 10 hall.
**Monsanto sues Maine dairy over GM hormones NOT in its milk**

by Tom Price

O akhurst Dairy, a small outfit in Portland, Maine, became the unlikely target of Monsanto's corporate road rage over a sign on Oakhurst's trucks reading—"Our farmers' pledge: no artificial growth hormones in our milk."

The giant took offense at the implication that artificial growth hormones in milk might be unhealthy and actively blocked the fleet, citing a regulation from the U.S. District Court preventing Oakhurst from using the signs. The action brought together the meeting gave activists companies a chance to hark their own:

**Just before the meeting started, the**

**UFW, SEIU, IFPTE and the**

**Machinists were scattered through**

**the rally stage and activists from the**

**Ukraine to Sixth Street.**

**Commons with a home-made signs and ad-hoc commit-**

**The action brought together activists working on food policy and**

**seeking alternatives to corporate globalization. The heavy lifting on the organizing came from the**

**California office of Public Citizen, Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy, the Pesticide**

**Action Network and the Sacramento Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture. Participants streamed in from all over Northern California. Peace groups from Ukiah to Fresno were represented, as were environmental organizations like Rainforest Action Network and the Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture. The rally featured several speakers, including Linda Fisher, who resigned her number was two spot at the EPA July 11, was vice president of Monsanto between 1995 and 2000. She administered its lobbying funds, $4 million in 1998 alone. For ten years before that she was an EPA administrator. A major recipient of Monsanto's largesse was then-Senator and now Attorney General John Ashcroft. Former U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor, a prime negotiator of the WTO and NAFTA agreements, now sits on Monsanto's board.**

Monsanto sues to protect its technology and the heavy-handed corporate and government policies used to introduce it. Scientists and lay people alike questioned the widespread introduction of new crops when the long-term effects are unknown.

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**WHO CARES, AND WHY?**

Protesters at the Sacramento ministerial made their concerns evident and visual. Some carried a 10-foot high inflatable ear of corn. Others dressed as strawberries and tomatoes and donned monarch butterfly wings.

The action brought together activists working on food policy and seeking alternatives to corporate globalization. The heavy lifting on the organizing came from the California office of Public Citizen, Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy, the Pesticide Action Network and the Sacramento Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture. Participants streamed in from all over Northern California. Peace groups from Ukiah to Fresno were represented, as were environmental organizations like Rainforest Action Network and the Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture. The rally featured several speakers, including Linda Fisher, who resigned her number was two spot at the EPA July 11, was vice president of Monsanto between 1995 and 2000. She administered its lobbying funds, $4 million in 1998 alone. For ten years before that she was an EPA administrator. A major recipient of Monsanto's largesse was then-Senator and now Attorney General John Ashcroft. Former U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor, a prime negotiator of the WTO and NAFTA agreements, now sits on Monsanto's board.**

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**WHO CARES, AND WHY?**

Protesters at the Sacramento ministerial made their concerns evident and visual. Some carried a 10-foot high inflatable ear of corn. Others dressed as strawberries and tomatoes and donned monarch butterfly wings.

The action brought together activists working on food policy and seeking alternatives to corporate globalization. The heavy lifting on the organizing came from the California office of Public Citizen, Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy, the Pesticide Action Network and the Sacramento Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture. Participants streamed in from all over Northern California. Peace groups from Ukiah to Fresno were represented, as were environmental organizations like Rainforest Action Network and the Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture. The rally featured several speakers, including Linda Fisher, who resigned her number was two spot at the EPA July 11, was vice president of Monsanto between 1995 and 2000. She administered its lobbying funds, $4 million in 1998 alone. For ten years before that she was an EPA administrator. A major recipient of Monsanto's largesse was then-Senator and now Attorney General John Ashcroft. Former U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor, a prime negotiator of the WTO and NAFTA agreements, now sits on Monsanto's board.**

Monsanto sues to protect its technology and the heavy-handed corporate and government policies used to introduce it. Scientists and lay people alike questioned the widespread introduction of new crops when the long-term effects are unknown.

"Seeds are a central element of our lives and culture," said Silvia Ribeiro, researcher and program director of the Cooks Union Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration. "They tell us trans-"
We're confronting our government and telling them, "We want the right to participate," said Al Rojas of the Central Labor Council's Bill Camp (right) at the June 23 rally in Sacramento.

"No technological fix is required to address the human element," said Tom Price, a farmer from Columbus, Ohio. "We'd like the nerve of the corporate agribusiness to be really afraid of us to have to sit down and say, 'What are we doing wrong? Why are we in this business?'"

"We have to fight this whole free trade, modified food plan these corporations are driving, because it's one issue everyone shares," Bill Camp said. "Food—everybody shares it. So we must organize and take the leadership in fighting this, because it's the people who build a common bond and demonstrate the solidarity among all people."

We're raising tulips for export, and cattle feed—being colonized all over again," she said.

"We need more examples of the good things that are happening in this country," said Torn Price, a farmer from Columbus, Ohio. "We'd like the nerve of the corporate agribusiness to be really afraid of us to have to sit down and say, 'What are we doing wrong? Why are we in this business?'"

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Several participants in the Sacramento demonstration June 23 sported Monroe butterfly wings, calling attention to the ripple effects of genetic engineering. A two-year field study by University of Iowa researchers found that pollen from genetically engineered insecticidal corn posed substantial risks to Monarch larvae.
# INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

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ILWU International Vice President Robert McEllrath (left) shock hands with Kenji Yasuda, chairman of the All Japan Dockworkers’ Union (JDU) after signing the renewal of a unity statement at the 38th Convention of the JDU June 5. The pact, originally signed at the ILWU’s 31st Convention in Portland May 1, 2000, commits both unions to work together and support each other to improve their members’ working conditions, union rights, living standards and social welfare in both countries. The agreement is designed to be renewed every three years as a way to reaffirm the relationship between the two unions.

McEllrath told the convention delegates about the ILWU’s long struggle to get a longshore contract last year, about the Bush administration’s threats to militarize the docks, the lockout, the imposition of the Taft-Hartley injunction and the eventual contract victory. After his speech the floor was opened and McEllrath fielded questions from the delegates for more than three hours.

Their questions reflected the fact that they are having similar problems with their government in their contract struggle,” McEllrath said.

McEllrath’s trip was part of an ILWU good will tour to thank international unions for their support during the longshore contract struggle and continue to promote solidarity with dockworkers around the world. He also visited the All Japan Seaman’s Union and the ITF Japanese Affiliates’ Coordinating Committee, where he met with union officials and presented them plaques in appreciation of their support and solidarity.

FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY STATEMENT
between
Zen Nihon Kowan Rodo Kumiai (All Japan Dockworkers’ Union) and the
International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU)
June 5, 2003
This Agreement made in Toyohashi, Japan, this fifth day of June, 2003, by ZEN NIHON KOWAN RODO KUMIAI (ALL JAPAN DOCKWORKERS’ UNION), hereinafter “ZEN KOWAN”; having its principal office at 10-2 Kamata 5-Chome, Ohta-Ku, Tokyo, Japan 144-0052, and the INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE AND WAREHOUSE UNION (hereinafter “ILWU”), having its principal office at 1185 Franklin Street, San Francisco, California 94109 U.S.A.

WHEREAS, ZEN KOWAN and the ILWU desire to maintain and continue to strengthen the friendship and solidarity established through their Unity Statement signed on May 1, 2000; and

WHEREAS, dockworkers and all port and transport workers, in Japan, America, and internationally, share many of the same issues, concerns, and experiences in regard to multinational employers and government regulation and intervention; and

WHEREAS, ZEN KOWAN and the ILWU will mutually benefit from continued friendship, solidarity, and the exchange of ideas.

THEREFORE, it is agreed that ZEN KOWAN and the ILWU will:

• Make every lawful effort to enhance labor activities in the port and transport industries in the United States and Japan in order to improve working conditions, union rights, living standard, and social welfare of union members and their families in Japan and the United States. It is also our common objective to advance the living standard of our fellow workers everywhere in the world.

• Respect the political, economic, and social positions of both unions in their respective countries.

• Communicate and cooperate closely and continuously in order to strengthen union meetings or negotiations with government agencies or officials in each country.

• Continue to exchange communications and delegations in order to strengthen the longstanding relationship and friendship between the two unions.

This agreement shall be effective from June 5, 2003 through June 5, 2006. The parties hereby execute this agreement by causing their corporate seals to be hereunder affixed and signed by their duly authorized representatives, this fifth day of June.

Coast holds arbitration seminar
Coast Committeemen Joe Wenzl (left) and Ray Ortiz, Jr. listen as ILWU attorney Rob Remar (right) presents information on how to conduct longshore arbitrations at an Aug. 6-7 seminar. Nearly 80 local officers and active members from every area on the Coast attended the event.

The seminar, presented by Remar and his law partners Peter Saltzman and Chris Hwang, covered everything from the union’s duty to fairly represent those working under the contract to identifying the correct grievance procedure to use in particular cases to preparing an opening statement and examining witnesses to a review of the clerks’ technology jurisdiction issues.

The seminar was part of a member education program the Longshore Caucus mandated and funded at its meeting last May. To maximize the impact of the training the Coast officers had the event videotaped. Copies of the video and of the documents used in the seminar will be distributed to all longshore locals so more members can benefit from it.

“We will be arbitrating this contract for the next five years,” Wenzl said. “Part of your task as participants in this seminar is to pass this training on to others in your locals. Negotiations are only successful if the language. Our efforts on the job and through arbitration are what’s going to carry this division forward.”
Activists discuss future of Iraqi labor movement

by Tom Price

When it came time to divvy up the spoils of the re-composed IRAQ, Stevedoring Services of America had a longshore contract line. The same SSA that gave the ILWU and fellow employers so much trouble in the last longshore contract negotiation got the concession to run Iraq's only big port at Unna Qaar, a city under military control.

Now workers' rights activists are asking—will there be labor rights in Iraq? Dockers around the world have good reason to doubt SSA's commitment to more than a poorly paid workforce toiling under the guns of the British Army might make any employer's mouth water; it certainly is not conductive to good unionism.

To counter this dreadful scene a group of labor activists gathered in Geneva, Switzerland June 14 and 15 to put pressure on the International Labor Organization designated to Conference in Defense of ILO Conventions (IC) has much more the last ten years to lobby the ILO to do more for workers' rights. The ILO's 2,500 delegates for are the same time.

Established under the Treaty of Versailles that ended WWI, the ILO came under United Nations jurisdiction in 1945. Its mission: international labor standards but has been far worse than we are told, our determination continued until General Abdul Kassem was overthrown in Baghdad.

Since 1904 the ships of the Royal Navy had run on oil, so British firms took over Iraqi wells.

Three years after liberation, the Iraqis were ready for rebellion. British rule united the various religious and ethnic groups in a common front.

Winston Churchill reflected his government problems would undoubtedly flare up as Iraq's long, bloody history that denied treatment to most citizens. They also opposed the minister Unemployed in Iraqi Aug. 2. The Iraq's long, bloody history

Iraqi medical workers took material—rejected it.

As we go to press no WMDs have been found and all links to Al Qaeda have proved false.

When the peace in Iraq turning out to be more lethal than the war, the world's attention is focusing on the reasoning behind the U.S.-led invasion. Did the Bush administration really believe its own propaganda that Iraq would welcome its invaders? Many current administration figures urged President Clinton to go to war against Iraq in 1999, a year before they took power in the dubious 2000 presidential elections and two years before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11. Why didn't they do a better job of planning what happens after the conquest? Iraqi unionists offered a chilling suggestion at the IC.

"Under Saddam the unions were state-run, but there were dissidents," a member of the IC said. "They reports secretly from Iraq. Their point was to actually promote the chaos and looting, which U.S. troops did nothing to stop. It was amazing how all the government buildings (except the oil ministry—ed.), hospitals, museums and even the nuclear facility were looted with American troops standing by. They believed the U.S. consciously promoted the look of disorder and enterprises to make privatization easier. The dissidents believe the chaos is a form of terrorism, and it will soften people up so they accept authoritarian rule and control.

Ethnic tensions and religious problems will undoubtedly flare up as the post-Saddam Iraqi population fights for power. Unfortunately, this suits U.S. purposes quite well. Unions of the workforce can be an asset to ethnic conflict and racism. For example, Gutmans and former slave laborer E Ray Marshall put it in the July 12 Los Angeles Times.

The "Mourning Mothers," representing Iraqi women who lost children in the war, demonstrated June 5 in front of Bechtel's world headquarters in San Francisco. Several people were arrested protesting the no-bid, $680 million contract the U.S. government awarded the company. The anti-protesting demo drew 200 people at 7 a.m. on a weekday.

The demonstration held sit-ins at various places around Baghdad during the previous five days and were released the following day thanks to international and UN pressure. They vowed to continue in their demands for unemployment insurance and worker rights in Iraq.

But Iraqi workers face many more obstacles to forming independent US-run Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance plans on figuring out how to privatize state-run, but there were dissidents," a member of the IC said. "They believed the U.S. consciously promoted the look of disorder and enterprises to make privatization easier. The dissidents believe the chaos is a form of terrorism, and it will soften people up so they accept authoritarian rule and control.

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Guards call on friends, get a deal

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO—In union with the recent ILWU Convention, the 51st Quadrennial Convention of the East Coast International Longshoremen's Association, held July 19-24th in San Juan, Puerto Rico, focused on the need to defeat President George Bush and Republicans in the Congress in the 2004 elections.

ILA Director of Legislative and Government Affairs John Bowers Jr., called for electing "progressive minded legislators, as he characterized defeating Bush as "the most daunting challenge to the ILA and its members.

"We must register every member of our union and their families' and 'place GOTV as an agenda item on every local union meeting,' he said.

Many guest speakers chimed in with that same message, including AFL-CIO National Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka, who warned against the "big right-wing ideologues who have us in their sights."

"We have had our alliances and our falling outs, but we have always returned to each other in acts of solidarity because we know that our bonds are far greater than our differences," Spinoso said.

"They locked us out and hit us with Taft-Hartley. Nonetheless, with the protection the contract offered. The agreement ratified the ILUW during contract negotiations.

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The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is backing the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in its court challenge to California's employer neutrality law, better known as the "Cedillo law." The measure, authored by state Sen. Gilbert Cedillo (D-Los Angeles), bars companies that get state funds from using any of those funds to "subsidize or deter unionizing." It also orders a detailed accounting of corporate use of the state's funds.

NLRB General Counsel Arthur Rosenfeld filed a friend-of-the-court brief on the Chamber's case with the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, after getting a 3-2 go-ahead vote from the Board members May 28. He argued the Cedillo law illegally usurped the federal government's power to make labor law. "The issue here is whether states are free to use their spending power to pressure employers to adopt neutrality policies. The answer, we submit, is that under established federal preemption principles, they are not," Rosenfeld said.

The law also erodes employers' rights to free speech, he argued. "The purpose and likely effect of the California statute's financial incentives and enforcement mechanisms is to regulate private employer speech that Congress intended to be unregulated," Rosenfeld said. "It makes an assumption that partisan employer speech interferes with free speech.

Rosenfeld began his legal career working for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and its roots are showing, said Sen. Cedillo's Chief of Staff Dan Savage.

"This action sends a clear signal of where the current administration stands, and it's not with workers," he said.

The legislation, drafted while Cedillo was in Congress, appeared to explicitly give Coke control over labor relations in the bottling plants. It could show Coke has the power to stop the violence if it wants to.

The measure, authored by state Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) and passed by the state Senate with a three-to-one margin, would have allowed unions to sue employers for losses in pension and retirement funds that Enron workers lost when the company declared bankruptcy. The suit adds.

"We demand that these assassinations be investigated by the U.S. and Colombian governments. We demand justice for the families of those assassinations. We demand the removal of the paramilitaries from Colombia and the application of international law to hold them accountable for their crimes. And we demand that the U.S. government use all of its tools and resources to stop this violence and to bring those responsible to justice.

The Court of Appeals will not hear the case until at least next May, its official told Press Associates Union News Service. The effects of the ruling could ripple far beyond California. New York has a neutrality law similar to the Cedillo measure, Illinois is in the process of passing one and governors in other states have issued executive orders with the same goal.
Local 21 and SSA announce scholarship winners

Longshore Local 21 and Stevedoring Services of America recently announced $1,000 scholarship winners for the 2004 academic year. SSA’s Longview General Manager Joe Abram, Jayme Whiteside, Michelle Rutherford, and George Fox University. Dana Mackey will return to Lower Columbia with her award. She is the daughter of Mike and Cindy Mackey. Jayme Whiteside, daughter of Ellen and Jerry Whiteside, will also return to Lower Columbia. Michelle Rutherford, far left, is the daughter of Scott and Lori Rogers. She will attend Lower Columbia College and George Fox University. Dana Mackey will return to Lower Columbia with her award. She is the daughter of Mike and Cindy Mackey. Jayme Whiteside, daughter of Ellen and Jerry Whiteside, will also return to Lower Columbia. Michelle Rutherford, far left, is the daughter of Scott and Lori Rogers. She will attend Lower Columbia College and George Fox University. Dana Mackey will return to Lower Columbia with her award. She is the daughter of Mike and Cindy Mackey. Jayme Whiteside, daughter of Ellen and Jerry Whiteside, will also return to Lower Columbia.

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Local 19's Bob Lindsey passes

By Tom Price

Robert Dalton Pawsey Lindsey was born March 29, 1937 in Ketchikan, Alaska. He was of Tsimshian tribal descent, a native Alaskan of the Killer Whale and Wolf clans. The Native American branch of his family lived on the land between Prince Rupert, B.C. and Ketchikan, and used the coastal and river waters for trade and travel. Lindsey joined the Marines in 1955. He returned to Ketchikan when his hitch was up and later married Caroline Nelson, who would remain his wife for the next 42 years. He worked in commercial fishing before moving to Bainbridge Island in 1962, and became a longshoreman the following year out of Local 19.

He would serve his union on many committees and held numerous posts over the next 40-plus years. "He was a great union man," Benefits Officer Nick Buckles said. "He was dedicated to the union, but he was also a fun-loving guy. He had a lot of laughs and smiles, and a few frowns too. The first time I met him was at a LRC meeting when I heard this great booming voice laughing behind me."

Lindsey began his long elected service on the LRC in 1979. A year later he was involved in the Inland Boatmen's Union strike. After the IBU strike Lindsey continued his long service on the LRC and as a Caucus Delegate. He was also a member of the 1993 longshore contract negotiating team. In 1989 and 1991 members elected him vice president; in 1991 he served his first term as president. He continued his role as a Caucus Delegate between 1990 and 1998 and won re-election as president in 1993, 1995 and 1998.

As president he helped to establish Global Gateway North, a major terminal expansion that created as many as 1,500 new jobs in the 1990s. He played an important role in organizing mechanisms into the union in 1990. He fought for the expansion of the port and helped bring major cruise lines to Seattle during his presidency.

Lindsey was known to catch Little League and was a referee for Bainbridge Island's Pee Wee Football program. He was a fun guy and a good sport.

"He was always told you what he felt, whether you agreed with him or not," Buckles said. "He shot right from the hip, at the caucuses or wherever. That was his strongest point."

Lindsey was also remembered for his generosity. "He had a nice place on Bainbridge Island, and every Christmas time he sold trees or gave them away to the halls," Buckles said.

Bob Lindsey died May 21 of a long illness. He is survived by his wife Caroline, daughter Patti sons Bob and Mike, sisters Loretta, Janice and Mike, brothers Randy and Pat. The family requests memorial contributions be made to:

The Harry Bridges Chair and Center for Labor Studies
University of Washington
College of Arts and Sciences
Box 353560
Seattle, Wash. 98195-3560.

New Longshore pension plan gets government approval

By George Romero

Coast Benefits Specialist

As expected, the Pension Guarantee Corporation (PBGC), the government agency that insures employer-paid pension plans, approved the ILWU Longshore Division 2002 MOU pension improvements July 31, 2003. The PBGC's approval marked another milestone in building a pension plan timeline on the foundation of the 1934 strike, when conditions were horrible and pension plans didn't exist. The Law and Disability Pension Plan has advanced brick by brick, from the first payments in 1952 to veterans of the strike, on through the successful 2002 bargaining. Over this time the family concept applied by the Longshore Division has reduced the different benefit tiers from 11 to three, and substantially raised the benefit limits for current and future pensioners and survivors.

The purpose of a pension is to provide a decent level of security in return for years of productive working service. The 2002 negotiated improvements move the Longshore Division closer to that goal and are something we can take pride in. In addition to improving the family concept, the negotiators were able to add welfare coverage for surviving spouses whose husbands died active before spousal vesting or before their husband had enough years to qualify for immediate pension and welfare coverage. This was not only evidence of our commitment to the family concept but also evidence that the employers have the capacity to do the right thing.

The full text of the PBGC approval can be viewed at:
http://www.pbgc.gov/laws/lawsregs/fe
deralreg/3909664.htm

NOTICE

1990 or later, or are currently active and had a qualifying year for 1976 or earlier that was cancelled, it may be restored. If you, or anyone you know, has such a cancelled year and has not yet had it restored, please call or write the Benefit Plans Office at (415) 673-8500 or 1188 Franklin Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94109.

"B" REGISTRANTS IN LOCALS 10, 19, 46 & 54 IN THE YEARS 1969 THRU 1973

Under a Dec. 9, 2002 letter of understanding, if you retired Jan. 1, 1990 or later, or are currently active and held "B" registration in Local 10, 19, 46 & 54 during the years 1969 through 1973, you may be eligible for pension credit for any of those years in which you worked at least 50 percent of the average "B" hours. If you have not received credit, please call or write the Benefit Plans Office at (415) 673-8500 or 1188 Franklin Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94109.

ACTIVES AND THOSE WHO RETIRED JAN. 1, 1990 OR LATER & THEIR SURVIVORS

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Local 23 Election Notice

Longshore Local 23 will hold its primary election December 5 and final election December 19 and 20 to fill the offices of president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, recording secretary and 18 members of its executive board. Nominations will be made in October and November. Polling will be between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. at 1306 Alexander Ave., E. Fife, Washington.

The full text of the PBGC approval can be viewed at:
http://www.pbgc.gov/laws/lawsregs/fe
deralreg/3909664.htm

WIDOWS AND DEPENDENT CHILD SURVIVORS WITHOUT WELFARE BENEFITS

The 2002 Negotiated Agreement provides welfare coverage for Surviving Spouses and Dependent Child Survivors of Actives who suffered a pre-retirement death before July 1, 1999 with a minimum of 5 pension qualifying years. Most of those eligible have already signed up. However, if you or anyone you know had a Spouse who was Active, had at least five pension qualifying years and died before July 1, 1999, and does not have Welfare Coverage, please call or write the Benefit Plans Office at (415) 673-8500 or 1188 Franklin Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94109.
**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
- **The Union Makes Us Strong:** Radical Unionism on the San Francisco Waterfront By David Weilman: 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 Se!yin: 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. $5.00
- **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
- **The Dispatcher** Beautiful, hardcover collections of The Dispatcher for 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 are now available. These are a must for Locals and individuals keeping a record of the union’s activities. Get your copies of the ILWU’s award-winning newspaper while the limited supply lasts. Send a check for $50.00 for each volume (year) to The Dispatcher at:

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