ILWU INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER EMERITUS Curtis McClain 1925-2005 pages 8-9

ORAL HISTORY: Sam Kagel: From War Commission Duty to Coast Arbitrator, 1942-1999 pages 6-7

Blue Diamond workers get wide support page 3

INSIDE
President’s Report: California victory lights the way page 2
Washington Report: Why labor should oppose Alito for Supreme Court page 4
Unions beat back Schwarzenegger’s corporate agenda page 5
Tacoma honors Rosa Parks with Local 23 help page 11
**Inside Line**

**KICKIN’ IT**

I grew up in a rough part of town. You had to look out for yourself. Early on my big brother taught me the rules of the neighborhood. “Never hit a guy when he’s down,” he said. “Kick him—it saves both of us.”

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has been beaten and bloodied in November’s election. All four of his anti-worker ballot propositions went down for the count. In fact, every measure on the ballot in his “special” election was defeated (see story page 5), emphasizing what a useless waste of time it was.

Still, Schwarzenegger had his reasons—he was going for the union movement’s jugular. There was no mercy or restraint in his program. But a funny thing happened on the way to the ballot box. The workers rose up, roped that dope and emerged more powerful than ever. If Hollywood were to make this movie, it could only be called “Pumping Irony.”

The labor movement has flexed its muscle and pinned the Austrian body builder. Although he’s been taken down, he still needs to be taken out—like the garbage.

Schwarzenegger is in red ink and George W. Bush would be too if he wasn’t too dizzy-brained to know the difference. What with the Iraq War disaster, the Katrina disaster, the CIA spy leak scandal, the House majority leader Tom DeLay scandal, and indictments happening all over Washington, D.C., Republicans are running scared in all directions, scattering like cockroaches when the kitchen light is turned on.

It all comes directly out of what is known in Greek tragedy as “hubris,” the pride before the fall, the belief that you are so on top of your game that you’re invulnerable. You can do any outrageous thing without consequences because, dude, you rule! You can terminate organized labor from a union town. You can bomb them out of existence. You can redraw the political map of a state or an entire region on the other side of the world. Or not.

Already Schwarzenegger has moved on to Plan B, re-inventing himself. Now he’s changed from confrontation to cooperation. Now he wants to work with Democrats in the legislature and with unions. He’s proposing a massive bond measure to fund long-needed transportation infrastructure and “goods movement” projects, an issue dear to the ILWU.

While the union will do its best to take advantage of the new emphasis on infrastructure, it won’t likely be seduced by the new, nice-guy Arnold. He’s just pulling the old “bait and switch.” But we’ve seen his true colors and we know we’ll see them again if he gets elected for another four years. We must never forgive or forget.

While Napoleon Bonaparte’s advice to never interrupt your enemy while he’s making mistakes has its kernels of truth, so does the 1960s advice “If you don’t hit it, it won’t fall.” We can’t just watch and do nothing. We must understand that as goes California, so goes the nation. Schwarzenegger traveled throughout the country gathering millions of dollars at Republican fundraisers to pass the ballot initiatives aimed at politically disarming the unions. Many of these donors had no particular interests in the state other than limiting the influence of organized workers.

But these nasty attacks awakened and reenergized the labor movement, and the unions used their enemies’ energy against them. And in doing so we not only stopped Schwarzenegger down and reconquered the political forces in the state, we have put the Republicans on notice that they are in trouble as we go into the 2006 midterm elections. We did a number of things right in this election and we need to review them and keep on doing the same thing until we can repeat them and the success they brought us. First and foremost, the labor movement remained united in California through to the November election despite the splits and rancor between the AFL-CIO and Change to Win leaders that made headlines last summer. The California Labor Federation, the central labor councils and the locals working on the ground refused to recognize the divisions among their national leaders. They treated Schwarzenegger’s initiatives as an assault on all workers and responded as one.

The unions also used a campaign strategy that tied our cause directly to the larger social good. For instance, the teachers made it clear that they were opposing Schwarzenegger’s cuts in public school funding. That hit home for every parent in the state who understood how that affected their children and their future. The nurses made it clear that their fight with Schwarzenegger over smaller nurse-to-patient ratios wasn’t just about making their work load lighter, but about better care. Every one who has in a hospital or has tended a family member in a hospital knows what a difference that makes.

Unions are the most progressive political voice speaking for all working people in society today and we showed it in the campaign.

California victory lights the way

By James Spinosa
ILWU International President

The California special election proved not only to be Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s undoing, it proved the union movement can still stop the fanatic attacks of right-wing Republicans. And it proved the formula to do it.

The Republicans need to turn this election into a national referendum against unions, understanding that as goes California, so goes the nation. Schwarzenegger traveled throughout the country gathering millions of dollars at Republican fundraisers to pass the ballot initiatives aimed at politically disarming the unions. Many of these donors had no particular interests in the state other than limiting the influence of organized workers.

But these nasty attacks awakened and reenergized the labor movement, and the unions used their enemies’ energy against them. And in doing so we not only stopped Schwarzenegger down and reconquered the political forces in the state, we have put the Republicans on notice that they are in trouble as we prepare for the 2006 national midterm elections. We did a number of things right in this election and we need to review them and keep on doing the same thing until we can repeat them and the success they brought us.

First and foremost, the labor movement remained united in California through to the November election despite the splits and rancor between the AFL-CIO and Change to Win leaders that made headlines last summer. The California Labor Federation, the central labor councils and the locals working on the ground refused to recognize the divisions among their national leaders. They treated Schwarzenegger’s initiatives as an assault on all workers and responded as one.

The unions also used a campaign strategy that tied our cause directly to the larger social good. For instance, the teachers made it clear that they were opposing Schwarzenegger’s cuts in public school funding. That hit home for every parent in the state who understood how that affected their children and their future. The nurses made it clear that their fight with Schwarzenegger over smaller nurse-to-patient ratios wasn’t just about making their work load lighter, but about better care. Every one who has in a hospital or has tended a family member in a hospital knows what a difference that makes.

Unions are the most progressive organized political voice in society today speaking for all working people and they showed it in the campaign.

ILWU Titled Officers

JAMES SPINOSA
President
ROBERT MCELRRATH
WESLEY FURTADO
Vice President
Vice President
WILLIAM E. ADAMS
Secretary/Treasurer

Published monthly except for a combined July/August issue, for $5.00, $10 non-members, a year by the ILWU, 509 Bertha Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6665. The Dispatcher welcomes letters, photos and other submissions to the above address. © ILWU, 2005.
Blue Diamond workers get strong shot of hope

by Marcy Reif

SACRAMENTO, CA—The phone speaker muffled Sharon James' crisp voice around the phone after work were to report to them on the solidarity actions taken around the world that day to back up their fight.

"People cannot believe this is going on," organizing committee member Gene Esparza said. "But the longer it goes, the more people understand."

Blue Diamond runs the world's largest almond processing plant, employs 300 people, and sells almonds to operators and other producers. The workers are not thriving. The workers are not thriving.

"World's Finest is not the target," Chicago JwJ Director James Thindwa patiently reassured her. "We simply want it to use its moral influence." 

The howl echoed in Denver, where 336 unions, also stepped in to help.

"Trade union cooperation should not stop at national borders." The ITF includes the French Federation General Secretary J. P. Chaubey visited another Blue Diamond distributor in Mumbai. At the first distributor the refusal to talk with them. The delegates stood their ground and chanted loudly: "We have been sent strongly worded letters to the company."

On Oct. 31, the word bounced around the country in the "Halloween Howl for Justice for Blue Diamond Workers."

Blue Diamond workers get strong shot of hope

During the Halloween Howl for Justice, members of New York Jobs with Justice, along with rank-and-file members of the ILA, leafleted in front of the Hershey's Chocolate shop in Times Square. Some of the leaflets got into the spirit of the day by dressing as Hershey's kisses.

On the International Day of Action, delegates from all the ITF affiliates in South Korea visited the Buses offices of the World Food Company, a major distributor of Blue Diamond products.

The howl started on the East Coast, with members of New York Jobs with Justice giving their names and years of seniority didn't qualify for paid time off, because they didn't log enough hours in a year. People went to work hurting with carpel tunnel and other injuries, they said, "We are workers."

When the workers tried to orga- nize, Blue Diamond brought on what a company spokeswoman called "an aggressive public relations campaign." It hit the workers with more than 30 anti-union flyers and forced them to attend individual and small group meetings where they were interrogated about their support for the union and fed anti-union propaganda. It threatened that people would lose their pensions and see the plant closed if they joined the union. It fired four union supporters for the simplest of reasons, (one Camilo was the first).

Camilo had a spotless record after 35 years in the plant—and joined the committee members who outed themselves in an April 15 letter demanding that Blue Diamond respect their right to organize. On April 20, two supervisors walked him out of the plant. They claimed he "willfully con- taminated" almonds with his breath to make a one-eighth-inch cut on his hand. On April 21, he got fired.

"I felt angry and betrayed," Camilo said.

On the International Day of Action, delegates from all the ITF affiliates in South Korea visited the Buses offices of the World Food Company, a major distributor of Blue Diamond products.

managers and supervisors. An NLRB administrative law judge will hear the case Dec. 5. Organizing committee members hope findings in their favor will motivate others to fully back the company's campaign.

"If any of this goes through, it will really open people's eyes, especially if any of our guys get their jobs back," committee member Irma Rincón said.

But the union is not relying on the law alone. It is spreading the word of the workers' fight to all parties who have relationships with Blue Diamond, with one simple request: Ask the company to remain neutral and let the workers decide for themselves whether or not they want a union.

On Oct. 31, the word bounced around the country in the "Halloween Howl for Justice for Blue Diamond Workers."

The howl started on the East Coast, with members of New York Jobs with Justice giving their names and years of seniority didn't qualify for paid time off, because they didn't log enough hours in a year. People went to work hurting with carpel tunnel and other injuries, they said, "We are workers."

When the workers tried to orga- nize, Blue Diamond brought on what a company spokeswoman called "an aggressive public relations campaign." It hit the workers with more than 30 anti-union flyers and forced them to attend individual and small group meetings where they were interrogated about their support for the union and fed anti-union propaganda. It threatened that people would lose their pensions and see the plant closed if they joined the union. It fired four union supporters for the simplest of reasons, (one Camilo was the first).

Camilo had a spotless record after 35 years in the plant—and joined the committee members who outed themselves in an April 15 letter demanding that Blue Diamond respect their right to organize. On April 20, two supervisors walked him out of the plant. They claimed he "willfully con- taminated" almonds with his breath to make a one-eighth-inch cut on his hand. On April 21, he got fired.

"I felt angry and betrayed," Camilo said.

On the International Day of Action, delegates from all the ITF affiliates in South Korea visited the Buses offices of the World Food Company, a major distributor of Blue Diamond products.

managers and supervisors. An NLRB administrative law judge will hear the case Dec. 5. Organizing committee members hope findings in their favor will motivate others to fully back the company's campaign.

"If any of this goes through, it will really open people's eyes, especially if any of our guys get their jobs back," committee member Irma Rincón said.

But the union is not relying on the law alone. It is spreading the word of the workers' fight to all parties who have relationships with Blue Diamond, with one simple request: Ask the company to remain neutral and let the workers decide for themselves whether or not they want a union.

On Oct. 31, the word bounced around the country in the "Halloween Howl for Justice for Blue Diamond Workers."

The howl started on the East Coast, with members of New York Jobs with Justice giving their names and years of seniority didn't qualify for paid time off, because they didn't log enough hours in a year. People went to work hurting with carpel tunnel and other injuries, they said, "We are workers."

When the workers tried to orga- nize, Blue Diamond brought on what a company spokeswoman called "an aggressive public relations campaign." It hit the workers with more than 30 anti-union flyers and forced them to attend individual and small group meetings where they were interrogated about their support for the union and fed anti-union propaganda. It threatened that people would lose their pensions and see the plant closed if they joined the union. It fired four union supporters for the simplest of reasons, (one Camilo was the first).

Camilo had a spotless record after 35 years in the plant—and joined the committee members who outed themselves in an April 15 letter demanding that Blue Diamond respect their right to organize. On April 20, two supervisors walked him out of the plant. They claimed he "willfully con- taminated" almonds with his breath to make a one-eighth-inch cut on his hand. On April 21, he got fired.

"I felt angry and betrayed," Camilo said.

On the International Day of Action, delegates from all the ITF affiliates in South Korea visited the Buses offices of the World Food Company, a major distributor of Blue Diamond products.

managers and supervisors. An NLRB administrative law judge will hear the case Dec. 5. Organizing committee members hope findings in their favor will motivate others to fully back the company's campaign.

"If any of this goes through, it will really open people's eyes, especially if any of our guys get their jobs back," committee member Irma Rincón said.

But the union is not relying on the law alone. It is spreading the word of the workers' fight to all parties who have relationships with Blue Diamond, with one simple request: Ask the company to remain neutral and let the workers decide for themselves whether or not they want a union.

On Oct. 31, the word bounced around the country in the "Halloween Howl for Justice for Blue Diamond Workers."

The howl started on the East Coast, with members of New York Jobs with Justice giving their names and years of seniority didn't qualify for paid time off, because they didn't log enough hours in a year. People went to work hurting with carpel tunnel and other injuries, they said, "We are workers."

When the workers tried to orga- nize, Blue Diamond brought on what a company spokeswoman called "an aggressive public relations campaign." It hit the workers with more than 30 anti-union flyers and forced them to attend individual and small group meetings where they were interrogated about their support for the union and fed anti-union propaganda. It threatened that people would lose their pensions and see the plant closed if they joined the union. It fired four union supporters for the simplest of reasons, (one Camilo was the first).

Camilo had a spotless record after 35 years in the plant—and joined the committee members who outed themselves in an April 15 letter demanding that Blue Diamond respect their right to organize. On April 20, two supervisors walked him out of the plant. They claimed he "willfully con- taminated" almonds with his breath to make a one-eighth-inch cut on his hand. On April 21, he got fired.

"I felt angry and betrayed," Camilo said.

On the International Day of Action, delegates from all the ITF affiliates in South Korea visited the Buses offices of the World Food Company, a major distributor of Blue Diamond products.

managers and supervisors. An NLRB administrative law judge will hear the case Dec. 5. Organizing committee members hope findings in their favor will motivate others to fully back the company's campaign.

"If any of this goes through, it will really open people's eyes, especially if any of our guys get their jobs back," committee member Irma Rincón said.

But the union is not relying on the law alone. It is spreading the word of the workers' fight to all parties who have relationships with Blue Diamond, with one simple request: Ask the company to remain neutral and let the workers decide for themselves whether or not they want a union.

On Oct. 31, the word bounced around the country in the "Halloween Howl for Justice for Blue Diamond Workers."

The howl started on the East Coast, with members of New York Jobs with Justice giving their names and years of seniority didn't qualify for paid time off, because they didn't log enough hours in a year. People went to work hurting with carpel tunnel and other injuries, they said, "We are workers."

When the workers tried to orga- nize, Blue Diamond brought on what a company spokeswoman called "an aggressive public relations campaign." It hit the workers with more than 30 anti-union flyers and forced them to attend individual and small group meetings where they were interrogated about their support for the union and fed anti-union propaganda. It threatened that people would lose their pensions and see the plant closed if they joined the union. It fired four union supporters for the simplest of reasons, (one Camilo was the first).

Camilo had a spotless record after 35 years in the plant—and joined the committee members who outed themselves in an April 15 letter demanding that Blue Diamond respect their right to organize. On April 20, two supervisors walked him out of the plant. They claimed he "willfully con- taminated" almonds with his breath to make a one-eighth-inch cut on his hand. On April 21, he got fired.

"I felt angry and betrayed," Camilo said.

On the International Day of Action, delegates from all the ITF affiliates in South Korea visited the Buses offices of the World Food Company, a major distributor of Blue Diamond products.
Why labor should oppose Alito for Supreme Court Justice

By Lindsay McLaughlin
ILWU Local 786

WASHINGTON, D.C. Nov. 1, 2005

T he organized right wing has forced President George W. Bush to bow down before them. They have fully trampled upon the Supreme Court. Justice nominee Harriet Miers, a Bush crony and legal counsel, claiming she was not conservative enough. Then they pushed Bush to nominate Federal Appeals Court Judge Samuel Alito, the more Sandman than D. C. Connie replacement. While the media has focused on Judge Alito's rulings on several hot-button issues such as abortion rights and gun laws, there is an unstated却to be the quality of life of working people. Alito has a long record on issues of concern to working people and strongly suggest he sides with big business over ordinary people.

ALITO IN COURT

In Casey v. Planned Parenthood, the Third Circuit Court upheld a system that the company and the unions operating it had to process grievances over violations of the contract without losing pay or benefits. Alito, who in the past practices in union shops and one that had been a part of the company's plant for more than 18 years. In the wake of a strike, the company suddenly challenged the operation of the Grievance Board sought to have it overturned by the courts. The Third Circuit rejected the company's argument and Alito sought to overturn the practice to benefit the company and disallow union grievance procedures.

In this case, Alito dissented on a very narrow interpretation of the wording of the Labor Management Relations Act by interpreting compensation for work as "wage income" and "by reason of" work as fringe benefits, effectively excluding workers in union shops and the employer negotiated in good faith, their collective bargaining contract. Had Alito's position been in the majority, the unions would have been unable to bar workers to benefit from collective bargaining positions, such as grievance chairman. It also would have severely limited union rights to collective bargaining contracts. Contracts would only be allowed if the company agreed, excluding whatever else the union argued for.

The majority, unions would be unable to cover wages and benefits or other collectively decided upon arrangements. Contracts would only be allowed through an implied contract agreement between the parties. But Alito ruled against the unions.

In Federal Labor Relations Authority v. U.S. Department of Navy, the majority found that the Navy was violating federal labor law for public employees in refusing to give a union the names and address of employees it was seeking to organize. Alito dissented, vetoing the disabling of the organizing drive by denying the union access to the employee names.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

In a case of great importance to retirement and pension matters, Alito rejected the court's ruling that the Navy was violating federal labor law for public employees in refusing to give a union the names and address of employees it was seeking to organize. Alito rejected the majority's view that the Navy's refusal to provide the name and address of employees was a violation of the law. Alito dissented on the principle of the majority's opinion. He asserted that the majority holds that any per- son who performs any listed activity under any circumstances is subject to the Mine Safety and Health Act, not what the majority ruled. They had a much narrower scope than Alito intended.

Alito, who in other cases is excessively verbose when it comes to narrowing the meaning of language, noted, "While this interpretation may not be the most literal reading of the statutory language, it seems to me to represent the best we can do with the unfortunately worded provision that confronts us." Here, Alito throws out the literal interpretation of the statute, focusing on the best interest of big business.

MINIMUM WAGE PROTECTION

In Reich v. Gateway Press, the majority found that the newspapers were not paying their workers the minimum wage. In a case involving the Seattle Mariners, Alito voted in favor of a lower court ruling that the workers were entitled to receive the minimum wage. In a case involving the Seattle Mariners, Alito voted in favor of a lower court ruling that the workers were entitled to receive the minimum wage. Alito rejected the majority's view that some minimal hearing was required beyond the initial accusation—in this case a drug charge never proven in court—to justify loss of a job. Alito declared that a mere accusation justified loss of pay and employment.

RETIREMENT AND PENSION CASES

In one case of great importance to retirement and pension cases, Alito voted in favor of a lower court ruling backing the Teamsters Pension Trust Fund, the Third Circuit found that a Teamster driver, who had worked in a union pension fund, was entitled to a pension. Alito dissented, finding the court's decision to be contrary to law. Alito rejected the majority's view that the Teamster driver was entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that the Teamster driver was entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that the Teamster driver was entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that the Teamster driver was entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that the Teamster driver was entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that the Teamster driver was entitled to a pension.

Alito was, in a lone dissent, argued for preserving the worker's retirement and for denying the worker credit for early years of work. In his dissent, Alito argued that promises made to a worker may not apply if that worker did not continue to work. Alito rejected the majority's view that a worker is entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that a worker is entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that a worker is entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that a worker is entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that a worker is entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that a worker is entitled to a pension.

In a case of great importance to retirement and pension cases, Alito voted in favor of a lower court ruling backing the Teamsters Pension Trust Fund, the Third Circuit found that a Teamster driver, who had worked in a union pension fund, was entitled to a pension. Alito dissented, finding the court's decision to be contrary to law. Alito rejected the majority's view that the Teamster driver was entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that the Teamster driver was entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that the Teamster driver was entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that the Teamster driver was entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that the Teamster driver was entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that the Teamster driver was entitled to a pension.

Alito, in a lone dissent, argued for preserving the worker's retirement and for denying the worker credit for early years of work. In his dissent, Alito argued that promises made to a worker may not apply if that worker did not continue to work. Alito rejected the majority's view that a worker is entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that a worker is entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that a worker is entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that a worker is entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that a worker is entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that a worker is entitled to a pension.

FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

The Family and Medical Leave Act guarantees most workers up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a loved one. In 2005, the Supreme Court upheld this law reversing a 2004 Court ruling by Alito, who found that Congress exceeded its authority in passing the law to allow workers to care for a sick family member or a new baby. Lawmakers who penned the bill wanted to rectify what they considered "inadequate job security" for working mothers, who often bear the brunt of child-rearing responsibilities. In the 2000 campaign season, Republican v. Department of Community and Economic Development, Alito upheld a lower court ruling backing the state of Pennsylvania, taking Congress to task for enacting the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Business Week ran a story on its Nov. 1, 2005 issue entitled "Why Big Business Likes Alito." The article further states that Alito's 15-year record on the Philadelphia-based Third CircuitCourt argues that, given facts in the case, it was up to a jury, not judges, to decide if discrimination had occurred. The court found that evidence was "relevant to a key aspect of the case," and decided the exclusion illegally undermined the plaintiff's right to a fair trial.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

Alito argued for a panel of judges to decide. In Glass v. Philadelphia Electric Company, a race and age discrimination case, Alito would have upheld a lower court's refusal to allow a black employee to cross-examine his employer about the hostile environment he experienced. The majority of the court found that evidence was "relevant to a key aspect of the case," and decided the exclusion illegally undermined the plaintiff's right to a fair trial.

FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

While this interpretation may not be the most literal reading of the statutory language, it seems to me to represent the best we can do with the unfortunately worded provision that confronts us." Here, Alito, instead, of interpreting the law, interpreted the language in the best interest of big business.

MINIMUM WAGE PROTECTION

In one case of great importance to retirement and pension cases, Alito voted in favor of a lower court ruling backing the Teamsters Pension Trust Fund, the Third Circuit found that a Teamster driver, who had worked in a union pension fund, was entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that the Teamster driver was entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that the Teamster driver was entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that the Teamster driver was entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that the Teamster driver was entitled to a pension. Alito rejected the majority's view that the Teamster driver was entitled to a pension.
November 2005

The DISPATCHER

California worker action defeats corporate agenda

by Tom Price

ILWU members hit the street boards, pounded the sidewalks and pressed the flesh in a big effort to get the vote—and it worked. The defeat of Governor Schwarzenegger’s pro-business agenda in the Nov. 8 special election was owed to ordinary workers standing up to a corporate bully.

“Schwarzenegger and his business friends backed four ballot measures designed to bypass the elected legislatures and turn California into a corporate free-fire zone. Instead, the pro-business agenda in the Nov. 8 vote went down in flames and the locals, mobilized volunteers to let people know the governor does not have their interest at heart,” the NCDC said.

At that “yes” on Prop. 75 was leading by a wide margin, Radisich said.

SCDC started an education program, going to the locals with point power presentations to educate members and keep them from being fooled by TV commercials that tried to make Prop. 75 look like a pro-worker proposition.

“We started with dispensing all the myths,” Radisich said. “We sent out written material and at the same time did an e-mail blast to 1,500 people in the ILWU banks.”

Then they put out written material and at the same time did an e-mail blast to 1,500 people in the ILWU banks. The warehouse Local 26 hall became a gathering point for canvassers.

“The LA area union movement took over our whole hall except for a few clerical spaces,” Local 28 President Luisa Gratz said. “That was fine. Their enthusiasm was incredible. These people mobilized the community. They brought in who had never been active before.

Nurses took this traveling billboard to their anti-Schwarzenegger demonstrations.

But he plowed on with the others.

The ILWU endorsed 11 port commissions for Port Angeles and other problems that threaten maritime jobs. In answer, ILWU members are running for port commission participation. But huge corporate contributions to the governor’s ballot measures made it an uphill battle.

The NCDC will work to find ways to raise more money. “But money is always minimal when compared to human beings,” Pecker said.

The two measures for the ILWU ports up and down the Coast were most personally invested in were Proposition 75, which would have directly funded the Washington State Labor Council and labor councils in phone banking and canvassing. The governor’s personal backing of his favorite propositions meant opportunities to confront him the streets. No other governor in Washington has Thom Thompson in his ear.

With much bravado Schwarzenegger challenged the state’s unions with a series of ballot measures. His meanest one, an attempt to eliminate defined benefit pensions, the retirement security of public employees, was most closely identified with the Governor election next year, is that the tax funds were absolutely necessary to make it easier to develop, and can become an economic engine for the areas we live in.”

One of these, on Hegenberger Ave. in Oakland, just down the street from the warehouse Local 26 hall, brought out ILWU members and more than 200 people.

Not everyone was comfortable knocking on doors or calling on the phone, so this way they could still participate in the demonstration, and this affected the outcome of the election.” Local 6 and NCDC Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker said. “We got good media coverage and it set a positive tone for us.”

But the ILWU needs to improve on getting its rank and file out to participate. Pecker said.

“I think the street pressure put people in mind that this was something urgent and there were a lot of different kinds of actions going on,” Pecker said.

The ILWU will work to find ways to raise more money. “But money is always minimal when compared to human beings,” Pecker said.

The NCDC will work to find ways to raise more money. “But money is always minimal when compared to human beings,” Pecker said.

But he plowed on with the others.

Prop 74 would have curtailed the union rights of teachers, extending the probationary period when they could be fired without a cause or a hearing from two to five years. It was soundly defeated 44.9 percent to 55.1 percent, a more than 10 point difference.

Prop 75 would have made public employee unions (including teachers, nurses, firefighters and police) get annual, individual approvals from members to use any dues money for political campaigns. The cost and bureaucracy of these requirements would have effectively taken these unions out of the political process. The measure went down 46.5 to 53.5 percent, a seven point spread. In the process the unions’ political clout and organization gained strength rather than being crippled as Schwarzenegger planned.

The two measures for the ILWU ports up and down the Coast were most personally invested in were Proposition 75, which would have directly funded the Washington State Labor Council and labor councils in phone banking and canvassing. The governor’s personal backing of his favorite propositions meant opportunities to confront him the streets. No other governor in Washington has Thom Thompson in his ear.

With much bravado Schwarzenegger challenged the state’s unions with a series of ballot measures. His meanest one, an attempt to eliminate defined benefit pensions, the retirement security of public employees, was most closely identified with the Governor election next year, is that the tax funds were absolutely necessary to make it easier to develop, and can become an economic engine for the areas we live in.”

One of these, on Hegenberger Ave. in Oakland, just down the street from the warehouse Local 26 hall, brought out ILWU members and more than 200 people.

Not everyone was comfortable knocking on doors or calling on the phone, so this way they could still participate in the demonstration, and this affected the outcome of the election.” Local 6 and NCDC Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker said. “We got good media coverage and it set a positive tone for us.”

But the ILWU needs to improve on getting its rank and file out to participate. Pecker said.

“I think the street pressure put people in mind that this was something urgent and there were a lot of different kinds of actions going on,” Pecker said.

The ILWU will work to find ways to raise more money. “But money is always minimal when compared to human beings,” Pecker said.

The two measures for the ILWU ports up and down the Coast were most personally invested in were Proposition 75, which would have directly funded the Washington State Labor Council and labor councils in phone banking and canvassing. The governor’s personal backing of his favorite propositions meant opportunities to confront him the streets. No other governor in Washington has Thom Thompson in his ear.

With much bravado Schwarzenegger challenged the state’s unions with a series of ballot measures. His meanest one, an attempt to eliminate defined benefit pensions, the retirement security of public employees, was most closely identified with the Governor election next year, is that the tax funds were absolutely necessary to make it easier to develop, and can become an economic engine for the areas we live in.”

One of these, on Hegenberger Ave. in Oakland, just down the street from the warehouse Local 26 hall, brought out ILWU members and more than 200 people.

Not everyone was comfortable knocking on doors or calling on the phone, so this way they could still participate in the demonstration, and this affected the outcome of the election.” Local 6 and NCDC Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker said. “We got good media coverage and it set a positive tone for us.”

But the ILWU needs to improve on getting its rank and file out to participate. Pecker said.

“I think the street pressure put people in mind that this was something urgent and there were a lot of different kinds of actions going on,” Pecker said.

The ILWU will work to find ways to raise more money. “But money is always minimal when compared to human beings,” Pecker said.

The two measures for the ILWU ports up and down the Coast were most personally invested in were Proposition 75, which would have directly funded the Washington State Labor Council and labor councils in phone banking and canvassing. The governor’s personal backing of his favorite propositions meant opportunities to confront him the streets. No other governor in Washington has Thom Thompson in his ear.

With much bravado Schwarzenegger challenged the state’s unions with a series of ballot measures. His meanest one, an attempt to eliminate defined benefit pensions, the retirement security of public employees, was most closely identified with the Governor election next year, is that the tax funds were absolutely necessary to make it easier to develop, and can become an economic engine for the areas we live in.”

One of these, on Hegenberger Ave. in Oakland, just down the street from the warehouse Local 26 hall, brought out ILWU members and more than 200 people.

Not everyone was comfortable knocking on doors or calling on the phone, so this way they could still participate in the demonstration, and this affected the outcome of the election.” Local 6 and NCDC Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker said. “We got good media coverage and it set a positive tone for us.”

But the ILWU needs to improve on getting its rank and file out to participate. Pecker said.

“I think the street pressure put people in mind that this was something urgent and there were a lot of different kinds of actions going on,” Pecker said.

The ILWU will work to find ways to raise more money. “But money is always minimal when compared to human beings,” Pecker said.

The two measures for the ILWU ports up and down the Coast were most personally invested in were Proposition 75, which would have directly funded the Washington State Labor Council and labor councils in phone banking and canvassing. The governor’s personal backing of his favorite propositions meant opportunities to confront him the streets. No other governor in Washington has Thom Thompson in his ear.

With much bravado Schwarzenegger challenged the state’s unions with a series of ballot measures. His meanest one, an attempt to eliminate defined benefit pensions, the retirement security of public employees, was most closely identified with the Governor election next year, is that the tax funds were absolutely necessary to make it easier to develop, and can become an economic engine for the areas we live in.”

One of these, on Hegenberger Ave. in Oakland, just down the street from the warehouse Local 26 hall, brought out ILWU members and more than 200 people.

Not everyone was comfortable knocking on doors or calling on the phone, so this way they could still participate in the demonstration, and this affected the outcome of the election.” Local 6 and NCDC Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker said. “We got good media coverage and it set a positive tone for us.”

But the ILWU needs to improve on getting its rank and file out to participate. Pecker said.

“I think the street pressure put people in mind that this was something urgent and there were a lot of different kinds of actions going on,” Pecker said.

The ILWU will work to find ways to raise more money. “But money is always minimal when compared to human beings,” Pecker said.

The two measures for the ILWU ports up and down the Coast were most personally invested in were Proposition 75, which would have directly funded the Washington State Labor Council and labor councils in phone banking and canvassing. The governor’s personal backing of his favorite propositions meant opportunities to confront him the streets. No other governor in Washington has Thom Thompson in his ear.

With much bravado Schwarzenegger challenged the state’s unions with a series of ballot measures. His meanest one, an attempt to eliminate defined benefit pensions, the retirement security of public employees, was most closely identified with the Governor election next year, is that the tax funds were absolutely necessary to make it easier to develop, and can become an economic engine for the areas we live in.”

One of these, on Hegenberger Ave. in Oakland, just down the street from the warehouse Local 26 hall, brought out ILWU members and more than 200 people.

Not everyone was comfortable knocking on doors or calling on the phone, so this way they could still participate in the demonstration, and this affected the outcome of the election.” Local 6 and NCDC Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker said. “We got good media coverage and it set a positive tone for us.”

But the ILWU needs to improve on getting its rank and file out to participate. Pecker said.

“I think the street pressure put people in mind that this was something urgent and there were a lot of different kinds of actions going on,” Pecker said.

The ILWU will work to find ways to raise more money. “But money is always minimal when compared to human beings,” Pecker said.
Introduction by Harvey Schwartz

This is the third in a series of oral history archives on San Francisco history. Sam Kagel retold his story of his career from World War II through his work with the War Manpower Commission (WMC), a federal agency established in 1942. The WMC sought to strengthen American wartime production through the recruitment of workers into war plants, shipyards and other enterprises important to the military effort. It used labor-management committees, coordination with a vast array of related war agencies, staged public events and various other devices to achieve its goal.

After the war ended in 1945, Kagel worked as an impartial arbitrator and attended law school. His wide experience in labor relations led to his 1948 appointment as the first Coast Arbitrator under the ILWU-PMA longshore contract. When he retired after 54 years on the job, Kagel was a legend on the waterfront and the nation’s leading figure in the field of labor arbitration. This month’s story focuses on his career from World War II through his Coast Arbitrator years.

In 1969 I was commissioned by the ILWU Coast Labor Relations Committee to interview Kagel. Tracing his history of Sam Kagel’s life at the top of Coast arbitrator. Special thanks to the staffs of the Labor Archives, San Francisco State University and the San Francisco Public Library, for their help.

SAM KAGEL
Edited by Harvey Schwartz, Curator, ILWU Oral History Collection

In December 1941, when the United States got into World War II, collective bargaining as I had experienced it disappeared. The ILWU stated publicly that there would be no strikes within its jurisdiction. Throughout the whole country there were few strikes or lockouts while the war was on. That did not leave a very exciting role to the Pacific Coast Labor Bureau that I had worked for representing unions in negotiations and arbitrations since 1932. Instead, government boards were set up with union and employer representatives and arbitrators in the middle or chairmen who became arbitrators.

Joining the new War Labor Board (WLB), which functioned that way, didn’t appeal to me. I had just come off the battlefield as an union advocate and I wasn’t prepared to go into a convent. Under the WLB, regulations came down covering various issues, but the WLB was mainly active trying to get at employers who were violating its guidelines. That’s when the lawyers came into collective bargaining in large measure because now you had government regulations. The lawyers, for god’s sake, were happy as larks. They were back in business on both sides. It was not my cup of tea.

Fortunately, the War Manpower Commission (WMC) was set up in 1942 by an order from President Franklin Roosevelt. There was a local labor-management committee of big wheels that asked me to work there, and I accepted. The mission of the WMC, as the military called it in those years, was to recruit and prioritize labor for the war effort.

Our WMC office staff worked closely with a labor-management committee that met weekly. We also coordinated with all the other war agencies to figure out the best way to recruit and retain workers for war industries. To me, that was a much more direct deal than I would have had going into a board to decide a penalty whenever an employer violated a regulation by offering somebody another ten dollars to leave a war job and come over to his place.

Jim Blaisdell from the employer side went into the WMC before I did. He became the Northern California director and I was made the assistant. Then Jim was asked to go to Hawaii to organize the Hawaiian Employers’ Council. I moved into his position as director, but I didn’t get paid as director because they had made accusing me of being a Communist. There were people who objected because I had represented Harry Bridges. It took a couple of years before I got cleared by the Civil Service people. So I worked on the WMC for two years and got assistant director’s pay while doing the director’s job.

After the war I thought about going to law school. I wanted to stay with arbitration. That’s when I decided to take a chance on law school. At 11, 12, one o’clock in the morning I had gotten the union-controlled hiring hall the hard way in 1934. The employers tried to get rid of it in ’48. It took a strike to say, “You can’t do that.” When the strike was settled, the employers installed a new bargaining agency. That was worked out. We talked money and decided to make a chance on law school. I got a job in a law firm and started studying. I would hear arbitration cases and then start studying. About the time I finished law school the 1948 longshore strike was ending. The longshoremen had gotten the union-controlled hiring hall the hard way in 1934. The employers tried to get rid of it in ’48. It took a strike to say, “You can’t do that.”

When the war ended in 1945 I had to make a choice. I had thought I would be a labor arbitrator or a part-time arbitrator. The job at the WMC was at the table. I was sitting over here by myself.

We started negotiating and I had to try to get along with the employers. I found that it would be agreeable that I could continue to arbitrate other than just longshore cases. That was worked out. We talked money and agreed on a retainer, which I needed since I had just gotten out of law school.

Announcement of the tentative settlement of the 1971 longshore strike. Feb. 8, 1972. Front row, left to right: UWU International President Harry Bridges, strike mediator Sam Kagel and PMA President Ed Flynn. Identifiable in the second row are third from left in dark glasses, clerks Local 34 President James Herman and fourth from left, longshore Local 10 President Cleophas Williams.
"instant arbitration" with Area Arbitrators available 24 hours, seven days a week. Later we got a system set up way the West Coast Arbitrators. I can't say that somebody sat down and came up with the idea of instant arbitration. It occurred to Harry and me more or less spontaneously, but I'll be glad to tell you how it occurred to everybody else because it was so obvious. As soon as we had Area Arbitrators in place it became plain sensible.

When I met with the ILWU guys and the employers in '48 and they told me they were going to set up a grievance procedure, I said, "With my own. I got to make up my mind whether or not a particular issue was a grievance."

This then I went out in the hall just like you would when you have a caucus. I took about ten minutes going over everything in my mind, went back in, and said, "We got a deal."

Under the new ILWU-PM setup we established a process called "Area Arbitrators" available 24 hours, seven days a week. Later we got a system set up so that the West Coast Arbitrators. I can't say that somebody sat down and came up with the idea of instant arbitration. It occurred to Harry and me more or less spontaneously, but I'll be glad to tell you how it occurred to everybody else because it was so obvious. As soon as we had Area Arbitrators in place it became plain sensible.

When I met with the ILWU guys and the employers in '48 and they told me they were going to set up a grievance procedure, I said, "With my own. I got to make up my mind whether or not a particular issue was a grievance."

This then I went out in the hall just like you would when you have a caucus. I took about ten minutes going over everything in my mind, went back in, and said, "We got a deal."

Under the new ILWU-PM setup we established a process called "Area Arbitrators" available 24 hours, seven days a week. Later we got a system set up so that the West Coast Arbitrators. I can't say that somebody sat down and came up with the idea of instant arbitration. It occurred to Harry and me more or less spontaneously, but I'll be glad to tell you how it occurred to everybody else because it was so obvious. As soon as we had Area Arbitrators in place it became plain sensible.

When I met with the ILWU guys and the employers in '48 and they told me they were going to set up a grievance procedure, I said, "With my own. I got to make up my mind whether or not a particular issue was a grievance."

This then I went out in the hall just like you would when you have a caucus. I took about ten minutes going over everything in my mind, went back in, and said, "We got a deal."

Under the new ILWU-PM setup we established a process called "Area Arbitrators" available 24 hours, seven days a week. Later we got a system set up so that the West Coast Arbitrators. I can't say that somebody sat down and came up with the idea of instant arbitration. It occurred to Harry and me more or less spontaneously, but I'll be glad to tell you how it occurred to everybody else because it was so obvious. As soon as we had Area Arbitrators in place it became plain sensible.

When I met with the ILWU guys and the employers in '48 and they told me they were going to set up a grievance procedure, I said, "With my own. I got to make up my mind whether or not a particular issue was a grievance."

This then I went out in the hall just like you would when you have a caucus. I took about ten minutes going over everything in my mind, went back in, and said, "We got a deal."

Under the new ILWU-PM setup we established a process called "Area Arbitrators" available 24 hours, seven days a week. Later we got a system set up so that the West Coast Arbitrators. I can't say that somebody sat down and came up with the idea of instant arbitration. It occurred to Harry and me more or less spontaneously, but I'll be glad to tell you how it occurred to everybody else because it was so obvious. As soon as we had Area Arbitrators in place it became plain sensible.

When I met with the ILWU guys and the employers in '48 and they told me they were going to set up a grievance procedure, I said, "With my own. I got to make up my mind whether or not a particular issue was a grievance."

This then I went out in the hall just like you would when you have a caucus. I took about ten minutes going over everything in my mind, went back in, and said, "We got a deal."

Under the new ILWU-PM setup we established a process called "Area Arbitrators" available 24 hours, seven days a week. Later we got a system set up so that the West Coast Arbitrators. I can't say that somebody sat down and came up with the idea of instant arbitration. It occurred to Harry and me more or less spontaneously, but I'll be glad to tell you how it occurred to everybody else because it was so obvious. As soon as we had Area Arbitrators in place it became plain sensible.

When I met with the ILWU guys and the employers in '48 and they told me they were going to set up a grievance procedure, I said, "With my own. I got to make up my mind whether or not a particular issue was a grievance."

This then I went out in the hall just like you would when you have a caucus. I took about ten minutes going over everything in my mind, went back in, and said, "We got a deal."

Under the new ILWU-PM setup we established a process called "Area Arbitrators" available 24 hours, seven days a week. Later we got a system set up so that the West Coast Arbitrators. I can't say that somebody sat down and came up with the idea of instant arbitration. It occurred to Harry and me more or less spontaneously, but I'll be glad to tell you how it occurred to everybody else because it was so obvious. As soon as we had Area Arbitrators in place it became plain sensible.
O ne time word got around that they needed people at the Local 6 hall. Curtis McClain, who was president of Local 6 in the 1970s asked us to picket this place at Eighth and Mission in San Francisco. Pretty soon here comes a crowd of at least 20 scabs. Leading 'em was this big bastard. I went up to him and said, "That's for enough, scab!"

Next thing I know I'm being restrained by a couple of cops. I'm struggling to get free and this cop raises his club. He was gonna bust my head open.

Well, Curtis grabbed that club with both hands. The cop said, "Are you going to hit him with that club?" "No, you are not going to hit him with that club!" Ray King was up in that cop's face too.

I'll never forget that. There's a labor leader for you!

[Oral History of Ted "Whitey" Kelm, ILWU Local 10]

C urtis McClain, ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus, died Nov. 17. He was 80 years old. He was part of the first generation of African-American leaders to break the color line in the West Coast labor movement.

McClain's service as an ILWU official spanned a 33-year period. He was elected Local 6 Business Agent. For at least 15 years before that he had been an activist and steward at Schmidt Lithography, a large Local 6 house in San Francisco. He was elected Local 6 President in 1969 and International Secretary-Treasurer on 1977. He was re-elected to that position five times, retiring in 1991.

"Curtis was a class act," said Keith Eickman, ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Local 6 during many of the years McClain was president. "He was really passionate about the union and all the things it stood for. But he was strategic, he was careful and he cared. He was a good man."

"He was a natural leader," remembered longtime Local 6 leader Leroy King, who, with McClain was one of the first generation of post-war African-American ILWU leaders. "He helped lead the efforts to break the color line, not only in the ILWU, but in other unions and in the community. He was an outstanding negotiator and an outstanding officer. And he took care of business for the members."

Over nearly 20 years as a leader in the ILWU, McClain helped form the labor-church partnership under which McClain compiled an eminently clear record of achievement on behalf of the members of Local 6. At that time, had as many as 9,500 members with offices in San Francisco, Oakland, Crockett, San Mateo, San Jose and Stockton.

With Lou Goldblatt, he helped form and then cement the alliance between the Teamsters and the ILWU which created the Northern California Warehouse Council.

He led the negotions for the Northern Califorina Warehouse Council, which set standards for thousands of women throughout Central California to the Oregon border. He led negotiations of major importance with such companies as Consolidated Laboratories, Labco, K & H, Sugar, Bio-Rad and others.

He rejected Local 6 into community politics, playing a major role in the civil rights movement, leading the successful efforts to create job opportunities for people of color in the warehouse of the dominant Central San Francisco's "Auto Row," its hotels and other industries. He helped form the labor-church political "activists" that was that powerful force in San Francisco politics today. He worked with distinction on the San Francisco Human Rights Commission and as the first African-American member of the San Francisco Fire Commission, to which he was appointed by the late Mayor George Moscone. He opposed McCarthyism and the Cold War, was an early part of labor's opposition to the Vietnam War and supported other efforts for world peace.

"He built a close relationship between Local 6 and Local 142, and between Local 6 and the Longshore Division.

McClain was overwhelmingly elected International Secretary-Treasurer in 1977. Working closely with President Jim Herman and Vice-Presidents Rudy Rubio, Randy Veck and George Martin, McClain helped pilot the union back into the AFL-CIO and carefully managed the union's financial resources. He continued to speak for the ILWU on major political and social issues. Upon his retirement, he was named Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus.

Curtis McClain was born in Akron, Ohio, July 1, 1925, one of 17 children of Judge and Otealea McClain. McClain's father was a rubber worker who, although he worked for several large rubber companies as a skilled moldman, could never make it into membership in the craft union in that trade. Still Curtis remembered, "I often used to hear him talk about the good of a union, even though he didn't belong to one."

"Finishing high school early in World War II, McClain was drafted into the Navy as a Cook's Helper. By the time he was discharged in San Francisco at the end of the war, he had risen to the rank of First Gunner. The war changed the course of McClain's life, as it did for many African-Americans of that generation. As he would often say, "It was about how come I can fight against racism all over the world, but be subject to it when I come home."

Settling in San Francisco after his discharge, he married the late Oscar Avery McClain. They had two sons, Rene and Charles. With a young family to support, he was interested in learning a skilled trade. But these jobs remained closed to African-Americans. So he did the next best thing. He went down to the Local 6 hall in San Francisco where, as he remembered, "color was no barrier" and landed a vacation relief job in the warehouse at Schmidt Lithography, a 750-man, multi-union print shop.

"I went into the paper seasoning department where work was sweaty, hot and dusty. Although it was the last place I wanted to work, I needed the job, so I stayed for 14 years," he said.

Doors kept closing. "I wanted to work in the bull gang," he said. "The job paid more money on a straight time basis and you had the opportunity to work overtime and you could operate a lift or a jetty. But when I asked to be sent to the bull gang, I'd be told I was too important to be moved... Someone else would then come from the hall, would just happen to be white and would work the bull gang and get the overtime pay."

McClain continued to search for a means of advancement, and after five years he was made foreman. But he was still there.

"I had hopes of being admitted to an apprenticeship program in the printing or the electrical trades since they got to know me and saw that I was really interested," he said. "But that's where you really encountered the old runaround. You didn't get into the apprenticeship or the printers union, you didn't get into the electrical department. I saw many people come in, begin an apprenticeship and become journeymen. I had electrical training, but I was never allowed into the trades."

It was not alone in his frustration. Many of the early black members of Local 6—Dick Moore, Leon Cocora, Roland Corley and Alley King—shared the same experiences. Local 6's racial politics were better to promote unions. But it was painful to be passed over time and time again.

Calling themselves The Frontiersmen, a group of African-American members began meeting to talk about their common problems.

"We discussed grievances we thought were not being handled properly," McClain said. "We often heard of people being bypassed for jobs and at the same time you didn't have jobs in the vast majority of the good classified categories.

"There was a feeling that African-Americans with grievances or other problems were not always represented by the union. And an increasing number of African-American members were interested in assuming leadership roles in the union."

"We did a great deal of work not only for the black union members, but for the union as a whole. Things worked out as they should have, in a more democratic fashion," he recalled in the letters of 1960s. "We were together on the job, forming good house committees and a strong steward system and electing good people who were going to work for the whole union."

These years, the late 1940s and early 1950s, were hard years for Local 6. There were short strikes in 1947 and 1949 and then a 111-day strike in 1949. There were attacks by the federal government, and raids by the communist Party. Articulate, informed and conscientious, McClain was drawn more often into the leadership of Local 6. He became a steward and a member of the Schmidt warehouse negotiating committee.

With the support of the Frontiersmen and urged by friends and supporters, McClain ran against the incumbent International Secretary-Treasurer Louis Goldblatt, then the ILWU president, against incumbent Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer George Valter, and other friends like Billy Lufrauco and President Charlie Eickman, he ran as a business agent. Three times he lost, but finally, in 1960, he was elected as the first African-American president of the ILWU in the history of Local 6. He was re-elected through the 1960s, with the highest vote of any candidate. He was elected Local 6 president in December 1969.

"For many of us in the next generation, Curt McClain was a mentor and a friend," said International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams. "He supported young leaders. He wanted the union to grow. He had endless patience. We are going to miss him."

"Curtis is survived by his son Rene McClain and daughter Dar, Charles McClain and Eric McClain; his dear friends Mary Alice Beveridge, her son Joe Benjamin; three grandchildren, Shaun, Curtis and Sylvia; one great grandson, Donovan; two brothers, George and Henry McClain, and two sisters, Lucille Jingles and Kate McClain. There are innumerable nieces, nephews and a host of friends throughout the ILWU."

Curtis McClain's statements are excerpted from oral history interviews conducted by Harvey Schwartz, Curator of the ILWU Oral History Collection and by the Center for African- Spingarn Research Center at Howard University.

---Danny Beagle

ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer

November 2005
Emeritus Curtis McClain 1925-2005

(left) McClain the young rank-and-file; (center) McClain with ILWU International President Jimmy Herman, 1969; (right) McClain with President Herman and International Vice-President Rudy Rubio (center behind) at the 1984 anti-apartheid demonstration at UC Berkeley’s Sproul Plaza.

McClain with his predecessor International Secretary-Treasurer Lou Goldblatt during master warehouse negotiations.

Local 6 President McClain at a 1974 Sears strike picket line.

(left) McClain with Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, 1992; (center) McClain, right, with Congressman John Burton, center, and longshore Local 10’s Carl Smith, 1977.

McClain, right, with Local 10 President Cleophas Williams and Eleanor McGovern at a George McGovern for President fundraiser in 1972.
Wally Mart in trouble

Just before release of a devastating film about its treatment of its workers and their health care costs, Wal-Mart, the biggest US employer—and one that is virulently anti-union and anti-worker—finds itself facing a new threat: A new, free association founded for its present and former workers.

The Wal-Mart Workers of America (WWOA) is not the union the retailer feared. And it’s not only highlights Wal-Mart’s abuse of its workers, but its harm to communities through its “big box” stores, which drive local retailers out of business and destroy three better-paying jobs for every two low-paying positions that Wal-Mart creates.

“This will provide a forum for the many people across the country and the world concerned about the policies of Wal-Mart and other big chains,” said Ronnie Cummins of the Organic Consumers Association, one of the groups helping organize the week of protests. The demonstrations “will call attention to these policies in a very public way. We are encouraging consumers to buy responsibly,” he added.

Meanwhile, UFCW is continuing its holiday campaign against Wal-Mart by urging shoppers to patronize unionized competitors or mom-and-pop stores starting on the biggest shopping day of the year, the day after Thanksgiving.

The seminar brought together transport and mining workers from 10 countries and the International Transport Workers’ Federation and enabled them to get to know each other and build solidarity.

President Andrew Stern, after the gathering, said, “In a nutshell, we’re realizing that our slogan ‘an injury to one is an injury to all’ applies world-wide.”

The Wad-Mart Workers of America’s (WWOA) is not the union the retailer feared, but it has union backing, and it’s meant as an outlet for workers to band together, give them information about their rights as workers and provide a toll-free number for complaints, criticism and information-sharing.

The new group’s website, www.WoWWorkersOfAmerica.com, will offer a national clearing house of information and services for former and current Wad-Mart workers, said Paul Blank, Wal-Mart campaign director for the United Food and Commercial Workers.

To publicize its services to Wal-Mart workers, WWOA will distribute $200 each in health care aid to 50 uninsured Wal-Mart employees. That’s more than UFCW members raised in “Halloween candy” sales the last weekend of October outside of 84 Wal-Mart stores nationwide, with the candy money earmarked for Wal-Mart workers now forced to turn to taxpayer-funded clinics or Medicaid for health care.

Every day 1.3 million workers help make Wal-Mart one of America’s most profitable companies, and yet, every day it seems Wal-Mart finds new ways to exploit them. WWOA will be a powerful tool to help Wal-Mart’s workers join together to improve their lives and make Wal-Mart change for the better,” Blank said.

WWOA isn’t the only wide-ranging blow that hit Wal-Mart. Robert Greenwald’s film, “Wad-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price,” was aired in New York Nov. 2. It was booked in 7,000-plus screenings nationwide during “A National Week of Protests Against Wal-Mart,” Nov. 13-19. SEIU President Andrew Stern, after the first airing, called the film “not just the premiere of a movie but the premiere of a movement.”

That international week of protests saw UFCW members and other unionists joined by community groups and their allies nationwide. The film not only highlights Wal-Mart’s abuse of its workers, but its harm to communities through its “big box” stores, which drive local retailers out of business and destroy three better-paying jobs for every two low-paying positions that Wal-Mart creates.

“Every day 1.3 million workers help make Wal-Mart one of America’s most profitable companies, and yet, every day it seems Wal-Mart finds new ways to exploit them. WWOA will be a powerful tool to help Wal-Mart’s workers join together to improve their lives and make Wal-Mart change for the better.” —Paul Blank

Beyond my donation I would be interested in the following:

• Contributions from outside the ILWU’s solicitable class will be screened and returned.

ILWU FEDERAL POLITICAL ACTION FUND

The Officers of ILWU request that you make a voluntary contribution of at least $50 or more to the ILWU International Political Action Fund (PAF). The purpose of this fund is to make expenditures in federal and/or local elections to protect and advance the interests of ILWU members and the entire ILWU community.

The contribution requested is voluntary and is separate from your union dues. You may give more or less than the amount requested and there will be no reprisals if you give less than the requested amount. Your contribution is not tax deductible.

Any donation $500 and over makes you a President’s Club Member and entitles you to receive a PAF jacket. Please circle your size S - M - L - XL - 2XL - 3XL - 4XL.

E x p e r t s  a n d  M e m b e r s  w h o  d o n a t e e v e r y t h i n g  t h a t  w e  d i d  i n  2 0 0 4  w i l l  r e c e i v e  a  P A F  c o m m e m o r a t i v e  p i n  r a n k e d  o n  t h e  j a c k e t .

Name to be embroidered on jacket

ILWU Political Action Fund

1188 Franklin Street 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94109

All contributors will receive the new 2006 Political Action Fund commemorative pin. Contributions from outside the ILWU’s solicitable class will be screened and returned.

The ILWU International officers would like to thank all the members who donated their time, energy and money to our 2004 political campaign. We are proud of the stand the ILWU made in opposition to the Bush administration. Although we did not prevail then, events of the last year have proven us right and polls show that the majority of Americans now agree with our position. All those who contributed to our Political Action Fund in 2004 will be receiving a commemorative pin and window decal (pictured above) acknowledging their participation.

Now we are gearing up for the 2006 election cycle. The Republicans are vulnerable as the Iraq War drags on with continuing carnage and costs and no end in sight, as Bush strategist Karl Rove appears to be facing indictments, and as Republican Senate leader Bill Frist and Republican House Majority Leader Rep. Tom Delay are facing criminal charges. We stand a chance next year of stripping them of their hold on the Senate or House or both and block Bush’s continuing anti-workers agenda.

But to do that will require another all-out effort, even more than we did in 2004. We will need all our members to contribute financially as well as be ready to volunteer in our campaign efforts as the election approaches. Please fill out the attached form and send it with a check to:

ILWU Political Action Fund

1188 Franklin Street 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94109

All contributors will receive the new 2006 Political Action Fund commemorative pin. Contributions from outside the ILWU’s solicitable class will be screened and returned.

The ILWU International officers would like to thank all the members who donated their time, energy and money to our 2004 political campaign. We are proud of the stand the ILWU made in opposition to the Bush administration. Although we did not prevail then, events of the last year have proven us right and polls show that the majority of Americans now agree with our position. All those who contributed to our Political Action Fund in 2004 will be receiving a commemorative pin and window decal (pictured above) acknowledging their participation.

Now we are gearing up for the 2006 election cycle. The Republicans are vulnerable as the Iraq War drags on with continuing carnage and costs and no end in sight, as Bush strategist Karl Rove appears to be facing indictments, and as Republican Senate leader Bill Frist and Republican House Majority Leader Rep. Tom Delay are facing criminal charges. We stand a chance next year of stripping them of their hold on the Senate or House or both and block Bush’s continuing anti-workers agenda.

But to do that will require another all-out effort, even more than we did in 2004. We will need all our members to contribute financially as well as be ready to volunteer in our campaign efforts as the election approaches. Please fill out the attached form and send it with a check to:

ILWU Political Action Fund

1188 Franklin Street 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94109

All contributors will receive the new 2006 Political Action Fund commemorative pin. Contributions from outside the ILWU’s solicitable class will be screened and returned.

The ILWU International officers would like to thank all the members who donated their time, energy and money to our 2004 political campaign. We are proud of the stand the ILWU made in opposition to the Bush administration. Although we did not prevail then, events of the last year have proven us right and polls show that the majority of Americans now agree with our position. All those who contributed to our Political Action Fund in 2004 will be receiving a commemorative pin and window decal (pictured above) acknowledging their participation.
November 2005

Longshore honors Rosa Parks, with help from Local 23

by Tom Price

Longshore Local 23 members wanted to do something to remember civil rights activist Rosa Parks on the occasion of her death Oct. 24. Member Scott Mason, who sits on the Tacoma Human Rights Commission, asked the Commission to dedicate its Oct. 29 meeting to Rosa Parks. At the meeting Mason read a resolution calling on the NAACP to recognize Rosa Parks' contributions, and then introduced Adam Smith (D-WA) who earlier entered into the Congressional record in Parks' honor.

"Nearly half a century ago, she refused to comply with a racist law and she lit the spark of the civil rights battle," Mason read. "She was a woman of quiet dignity and a long fighter for equal rights for all Americans.

The Commission then asked Mason to bring that proclamation to the Tacoma city council. When Tacoma Mayor Bill Baarsma heard of Mason's action, he moved quickly.

"I was pleased to speak before the City Council," Baarsma said, "After he spoke I made a motion to dedicate the meeting to Rosa Parks' memory.

Local 23 member Dick Marzano, a former Port Commission member, asked the Port Commission to take a moment of silence for Parks' honor before its Nov. 3 meeting.

"For most people of my age her actions are common knowledge, but to the coming generation everyone remembers about the civil rights movement," Mason said.

Zeek Green, a Local 23 member and spoken word artist, was also along with other local African Americans, to tell the Tacoma News Tribune about Rosa Parks' contributions.

"Although this country is not perfect, we have come light years from the days of Jim Crow," Green said. "So much that we will never again see a mass movement based on race or gender inequality. No single category of American people is so widely mistrusted that they would ever be able to gather enough dedicated bodi- ries willing to wage a campaign major enough to move the entire nation, except one category of people—the American working class.

"Rosa Parks was honored on Nov. 23 honored was born Rosa Louise McCloud in Tuscaloosa, Ala., Feb. 4, 1913. At about age 14, she moved in the fifth grade, she transferred to a school run by a program designed for the poor. The school was torched several times, and she was transferred from one white community Parks remembered having to walk to school while the white kids rode on a school bus.

"I'd see the bus pass everyday.

Longshore retired, deceased and survivors

DECEASED RETIREES:

Local 10—Joseph D. Marino, Local 10—Pilar R. Ortega Jr., Charles Cline, Berto Gutiérrez, James Torn Price, Local 21—Stella Johnson, Local 21—James Bryson (Gail); Local 29—Audrey Anderson; Local 34—Eliot Andora, Local 54—Margaret Smith, Local 63—Joseph Young; Local 75—Idell Raybon; Local 92—James Kemper, Buelah Benham; Local 21—Billings (Jeannette), James Bryson (Gail);

DECEASED:

Local 4—Richard Prewitt (Bobby), Bob Keesler (Jerry), Local 8—Marc Board (Gina), Lawrence Deleo (Ruben), Local 10—Eugene McBurnis, Amalia Cobarrubias; Local 12—Ruth Rhodes, Helen Simmons, Jose6Johnson; Local 13—Ethel Cherry, Elmo Phillips, Local 19—Judy Nettles, Local 29—James Young; Local 19—Judy Nettles, Local 29—James Young; Local 19—Lavonne Johnson; Local 23—Martha Lang; Local 29—Beverly; Local 29—James Young;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 4—Doris Andrew; Local 6—Helen Simmons, Jesse Matthews; Local 10—Claire Christensen, N. F. McCormick, Muriel Marie; Local 23—Marcie Board, Amalia Cobarrubias; Local 23—Katherine Gill, Kathleen Thomas; Local 29—Joyce Kircher, Brenda Benham; Local 31—Mildred Quidbach, Barbara Cameron; Local 24—Joyce Kircher; Local 39—James Young; Local 54—Margaret Smith.

Parks said in "My Story," her auto- biography. "The bus was among the 14 people who filled out the city's school application. She asked the Port Commission to take a moment of silence for Parks' honor before its Nov. 3 meeting.

"For most people of my age her actions are common knowledge, but to the coming generation everyone remembers about the civil rights movement," Mason said.

Zeek Green, a Local 23 member and spoken word artist, was also along with other local African Americans, to tell the Tacoma News Tribune about Rosa Parks' contributions.

"Although this country is not perfect, we have come light years from the days of Jim Crow," Green said. "So much that we will never again see a mass movement based on race or gender inequality. No single category of American people is so widely mistrusted that they would ever be able to gather enough dedicated bodi- ries willing to wage a campaign major enough to move the entire nation, except one category of people—the American working class.

"Rosa Parks was honored on Nov. 23 honored was born Rosa Louise McCloud in Tuscaloosa, Ala., Feb. 4, 1913. At about age 14, she moved in the fifth grade, she transferred to a school run by a program designed for the poor. The school was torched several times, and she was transferred from one white community Parks remembered having to walk to school while the white kids rode on a school bus.

"I'd see the bus pass everyday.

Longshore retired, deceased and survivors

DECEASED RETIREES:

Local 10—Joseph D. Marino, Local 10—Pilar R. Ortega Jr., Charles Cline, Berto Gutiérrez, James Torn Price, Local 21—Stella Johnson, Local 21—James Bryson (Gail); Local 29—Audrey Anderson, Local 34—Eliot Andora, Local 54—Margaret Smith, Local 63—Joseph Young; Local 75—Idell Raybon; Local 92—James Kemper, Buelah Benham; Local 21—Billings (Jeannette), James Bryson (Gail);

DECEASED:

Local 4—Richard Prewitt (Bobby), Bob Keesler (Jerry), Local 8—Marc Board (Gina), Lawrence Deleo (Ruben), Local 10—Eugene McBurnis, Amalia Cobarrubias; Local 12—Ruth Rhodes, Helen Simmons, Jose6Johnson; Local 13—Ethel Cherry, Elmo Phillips, Local 19—Judy Nettles, Local 29—James Young; Local 19—Judy Nettles, Local 29—James Young;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 4—Doris Andrew; Local 6—Helen Simmons, Jesse Matthews; Local 10—Claire Christensen, N. F. McCormick, Muriel Marie; Local 23—Marcie Board, Amalia Cobarrubias; Local 23—Katherine Gill, Kathleen Thomas; Local 29—Joyce Kircher, Brenda Benham; Local 31—Mildred Quidbach, Barbara Cameron; Local 24—Joyce Kircher; Local 39—James Young; Local 54—Margaret Smith.
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. **$5.00**
- **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 Wellman: the important new study of longshoring in the ILWU. **$15.00** (paperback)
- **A Terrible Anger:** The 1934 Waterfront and General Strike in San Francisco by David Selvin: the newest and best single narrative history about the San Francisco events of 1934. **$16.50**
- **The March Inland:** Origins of the ILWU Warehouse Division 1934-1938 by Harvey Schwartz: new edition of the only comprehensive account of the union's organizing campaign in the northern California warehouse and distribution industry. **$9.00**

**VIDEOS:**
- **We Are the ILWU** A 30-minute color video introducing the principles and traditions of the ILWU. Features active and retired members talking about what the union meant in their lives and what it needs to survive and thrive, along with film clips, historical photos and an original musical score. DVD or VHS version **$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. **$5.28**

**ORDER BY MAIL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>copies of ILWU Story</td>
<td>$5 ea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>copies of The Big Strike</td>
<td>$6.50 ea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>copies of Workers on the Waterfront</td>
<td>$16.50 ea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>copies of The Union Makes Us Strong</td>
<td>$15.00 ea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>copies of A Terrible Anger</td>
<td>$16.50 ea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>copies of We Are the ILWU DVD</td>
<td>$15.00 ea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>copies of We Are the ILWU VHS</td>
<td>$15.00 ea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>copies of Life on the Beam</td>
<td>$5.28 ea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>copies of The March Inland</td>
<td>$9.00 ea.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Enclosed $**

Please allow at least four weeks for delivery. Shipment to U.S. addresses only.

---

**Bound Dispatchers for sale**

*2004 Edition Now Available!*

Beautiful, hardcover collections of *The Dispatcher* for 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 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:

**Bound Dispatchers**
c/o *The Dispatcher*
1188 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94109

Limited numbers from earlier decades also available, contact *The Dispatcher* for details.

---

**A Helping Hand...**

...when you need it most. That's what we're all about. We are the representatives of the ILWU-sponsored recovery programs. We provide professional and confidential assistance to you and your family for alcoholism, drug abuse and other problems— and we're just a phone call away.

**ILWU LONGSHORE DIVISION**

**ADRP—Southern California**
Jackie Cummings
870 West Ninth St., #201
San Pedro, CA 90731
(310) 547-9966

**ADRP—Northern California**
Norm McLeod
400 North Point
San Francisco, CA 94133
(415) 776-8363

**ADRP—Oregon**
Jim Copp
3054 M.E. Gilson, Ste. 2
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 231-4882

**ADRP—Washington**
Donnie Schwendeman
3600 Port of Tacoma Rd., #503
Tacoma, WA 98424
(253) 922-8913

**ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION**

**DARE—Northern California**
Gary Atkinson
22693 Hesperian Blvd., Ste. 277
Hayward, CA 94541
(800) 772-8288

**DARE—Southern California**
Jackie Cummings
870 West Ninth St., #201
San Pedro, CA 90731
(310) 547-9966

**DARE—Oregon**
Jim Copp
3054 M.E. Gilson, Ste. 2
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 231-4882

**DARE—Washington**
Donnie Schwendeman
3600 Port of Tacoma Rd., #503
Tacoma, WA 98424
(253) 922-8913

**ILWU CANADA**

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