Special 33rd International Convention

and International Election Issue

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Brothers and Sisters:

When we last gathered for our International Convention in San Francisco three years ago, it emerged from the biggest attack the employers had made on the ILWU in more than 50 years. We were challenged.

We came out stronger, having exercised our power and learned what we could do. And we were wiser, knowing where our weaknesses were and moving to shore them up. And we applied what we learned.

In the ILWU’s Longshore Division and beyond, but across the board, in all divisions and groupings in our union.

We need to review those actions this week and figure out what we need to do to further strengthen and build this union so that we and other ILWU members can continue to enjoy the benefits ILWU’s right to strike and collectively bargain, the American economy and the international maritime trade and the most anti-labor administration the U.S. has ever seen.

I understand this power is temporary. Right now I would like to stop and acknowledge our hosts, our brothers and sisters of ILWU and our potential to mobilize the power of the American economy and the international maritime trade industry and the most anti-labor administration the U.S. has ever seen.

In 2002 we faced an all-out war, declared by our employers in alliance with George Bush and the Republican Party. The employers, led by the ILWU’s right to strike and collectively bargain, and ultimately, the imposition of the Taft-Hartley injunctions in 2002 as a progressive force for working people around the world. The employers have continued to do so. They are pounding us but temporary. We now face a different type of challenge and endurance. They are pounding us but temporary. We now face a different type of challenge and endurance.

We have been using our educated and motivated members to fight back on the political and legislative front. Following the mandate of our last Convention, we have held two Legislative Conferences in Washington, D.C., one in 2004 and another just last March. We sent about 60 rank and file members in leadership skills and providing opportunities to them for further education and development, seminars, our own unique blend of skills building and grounding in the history and traditions of the ILWU.

We and the rest of the ILWU’s credit unions along the Coast are working with us to put aside a certain amount each week out of ILWU members’ paychecks. In your report back to your locals, please urge your members to sign up with their credit unions and have a small donation made weekly to our political action fund. We have done a series of public and media speaking trainings along the Coast for local officials. Last January we held a week-long seminar to train rank and filers in speaking, writing and video skills. As usual, our members learned these things quickly.

We have to do even better this time.

Many of the ILWU’s credit unions along the Coast are working with us to put aside a certain amount each week out of ILWU members’ paychecks. In your report back to your locals, please urge your members to sign up with their credit unions and have a small donation made weekly to our political action fund. We have done a series of public and media speaking trainings along the Coast for local officials. Last January we held a week-long seminar to train rank and filers in speaking, writing and video skills. As usual, our members learned these things quickly.

And many of them are ready for the advanced challenges and trainings we have planned.

Once again our trained members have gone back to their locals and put their schooling to practice. Besides making sure their regular community work is top-notch, our trained members understand that the union’s political concerns are duly and accurately portrayed, they are also making sure the media and the public know that the ILWU’s issues are in sync with those of our communities.

It’s what the ILWU has always done, the not-so-secret formula of our union’s success through the decades—and that is to mobilize the power of the rank and file.
James Spinosa's Keynote Address
National Convention

International President James Spinosa.

The best example of this is the anti-air pollution campaign we call "Saving Lives," started by Local 815 member Joe Radisich. Up and down the Coast the ILWU is backing this campaign and putting the union in front. We are facing an environmental problem facing all West Coast port communities. We are equipping worker safety with public health. And in the process we are getting not only widespread publicity and sympathy, we have embarassed the employers into doing far more to cut air pollution than we demanded in our 2002 longshore negotiations and couldn't get from them. Also, we designed and had built an ILWU exhibit booth we have used to raise our profile and spread our word at numerous events, including the booth at all these events, giving the ILWU voice.

Jim Sinclair, who works closely with our Canadian brothers and sisters. We will be hearing from both Richard and Jim during this week. But let me say right now that we are grateful for their dependable support all longshore negotiations and couldn't get from them.

Also, we have gone through our education programs staffed with the best and most active members. Second, we are part of a larger national and international labor movement with many friends, some of whom are with us this week.

First, of course, is the AFL-CIO, whose Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka is with us again. Richard was at the table during our drawn out longshore negotiations in 2002, especially during the crucial time we were under the Taft-Hartley injunction. But let's be clear here—the Republicans and our employers have been just as much less effective in providing real security, but are much easier to implement.

So now we are facing Terrorist Watch list name matching and Transportation Worker Identification Cards, TWIC cards, required to work on the docks, that include criminal background checks.

But the employers and the Republicans have been focusing on longshore workers as the security risk and pushing for background checks and restricted access. This is much less effective in providing real security, but are much easier to implement.

We are also fortunate to have many strong and strategically located international friends. The ITF, the International Transport Workers Federation, is one of the oldest global labor federations. The ITF's Secretary General, David Cockroft will be with us this week and will address the Convention. The ITF represents all kinds of transport workers—dockers, sailors, truckers and railroad and airline workers. As many of you know, the ILWU supplies the inspectors along the North American West Coast to check on the conditions of the seafarers aboard the ships we work. I'm sure Brother Cockroft will tell you more about that. You will also hear more this week about how the ITF is assisting our warehouse Local 17 in Sacramento organize the Blue Diamond almond workers.

Another one of our great friends with us this week is Paddy Crumlin, the National Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia. The ties between the ILWU and Australia only started with the fact that our founder and first International President Harry Bridges was an Australian immigrant. Three decades of struggle and solidarity, particularly recently, we have forged close bonds.

Another one of our great friends with us this week is Paddy Crumlin, the National Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia. The ties between the ILWU and Australia only started with the fact that our founder and first International President Harry Bridges was an Australian immigrant. Three decades of struggle and solidarity, particularly recently, we have forged close bonds. We visit each other regularly to keep them tight. Paddy and the Australian miners union were instrumental in helping us put on the Mining and Maritime conference in Long Beach last year that brought together unions in those industries from around the Pacific Rim to find ways to help each other with our mutual international employers. Our pensioners have even formed an alliance with the retired MUA members.

Unfortunately, our friends from the International Dockworkers Council could not join us this week, but they are with us. We sent delegations twice recently to Europe to demonstrate they and the ITF organized against government and employer attempts to de-unionize their ports. We know that if it happens here, it will be a long time before we can recoup the gains of our fight is our fight. Our actions stopped those plans. The European dockers know they can count on us and want— and the employers know—they can count on us and will be there for us if we need them in 2008.

Before we recess today we will also be renewing our agreement with the Japanese dockworkers of Zenkowan. For decades we have had strong worker-to-worker ties with our Japanese longshore brethren that transcend our language and cultural differences. We will once again honor these bonds and formally renew our friendship and solidarity.

But the ILWU also has internal difficulties we need to deal with this week, problems within. As we all know, 9-11 changed our world. The very real threat of terrorism has made us as dockworkers have to face up to the vulnerability of our ports and the need for real security. Since Sept. 12, 2001 the ILWU has been engaged in shaping port security policy.

We have been lobbying politicians, testifying before Congress, intervening in legislation and joining every committee and board on the issue we could and making sure our concerns and point of view are included. But let's be clear here—the Republicans and our employers have been just as less effective in providing real security, but are much easier to implement.

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If the government uses the Terrorist Watch list and the TWIC back-ground checks to come after our union, if they dare to turn this into a McCarthyite witch hunt, let me assure you, the ILWU will respond with our full fury and force and that of our many friends. We will not provoke this fight, but we will not back down.

In an effort to cooperate with the government, the International Officers and I are in agreement to move the union in a positive direction and seek endorsement of our locals to meet and coordinate with local Coast Guard and TSA officials in making available a list of members and dates of birth as required by federal regulations. I know this is a controversial position with some of our members, but let me explain why I think we should do this.

First, the government will get the list anyway from our employers. At least if we know it will be complete and accurate, and if they come up with any false matches, we will be able to go out and fight them. We can't trust our employers not to try to cherry pick out some of our members, and probably some of our best and most active members. Second, we are certain there are no terrorists in our union and we want to prove that once and for all. That will continue on next page.
Keynote Address continued

The Dispatcher

June 2006

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give us solid ground to argue against members being offered non-union related crimes when the TWIC background checks are done. We need to pick our battles carefully and take on those who are threatening our members and their families. And let me be absolutely clear here—if any false matches come up in the terrorist name match ing, we will fight them. We will demand an inde pendent and transparent appeals process to chal lenge any charges. Don’t let anyone, anywhere, any time question the ILWU’s resolve to protect every member. An injury to one is an injury to all.

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Here in the port security situation is even worse. The background checks being proposed are more and more an invasion of privacy and personal information not just about the longshore workers, but also about their spouses and their families. The gov ernment wants to know their credit history, their ethnic origin and even their sexual preferences. Workers could be disqualified and never learn why so they could try to defend themselves. To their credit, ILWU Canada has organized the other long shore workers in the country to fight to the limit.

The Longshore Division has other difficulties as well, especially how new technology is being intro duced to work the docks, runaway shops and outsourcing, and the remaining ones. The plan is to follow the massive amounts of containers from the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to the warehouse and distribution centers in inland Southern California and use our port power to help those workers organize into the ILWU.

Every time we strap on our hard hats, slip into our neon vests and lace up our safety boots, we should think about those we are going back home to when the shift is over. Be safe for them, yourselves and all your brothers and sisters around you. Industry turnover all make it difficult to hang on to union houses and to bargain good contracts for remaining ones.

The only answer, of course, is organizing. But under those conditions that’s a tough task, one that will require the strategic use of the ILWU’s unique power by the ranks to organize and threaten workers in every way they can to use technology to outsource our jobs. It will require us to work hand in hand with paper work and deadlines. But our Technology Committees are up to the challenge and the Division has the money and the will to continue to fight for our jurisdiction.

It’s no secret that our Warehouse Division is hurting. Most locals in the Division are near their lowest membership numbers in years. Just-in-time delivery and warehousing on the docks, runaway shops and outsourcing, and industry turnover all make it difficult to hang on to union houses and to bargain good contracts for remaining ones.

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The Convention stops for a moment of silence in honor of ILWU members killed on the job.

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The plan is to follow the massive amounts of containers from the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to the warehouse and distribution centers in inland Southern California and use our port power to help those workers organize into the ILWU.

But Local 142 has followed the economy's transition from plantations to tourist destination. They've done it with good, old-fashioned organiz ing, working hard and working smart. And now tourism is the biggest sector of the local.

Our new Columbia River warehouse local, Local 5, built on Powell's Books, is going through the growing pains of any new local, rank and file learning how to run their own local and deal with financial difficulties. But they are not long from their own organizing drive and their leadership understands the need to organize and the benefits of it. They have plans to grow and the International Organizing Dept. will be there to help.

Seattle Local 9 is in serious trouble. This is the second Convention in a row they have been financially unable to send a delegation. Since their largest house, the Hasbro Toy warehouse at the Port of Seattle, closed a few years ago, the already marginal local was cut in half and is down to only a couple of hundred members.

Our Marine Division, the Inlandboatmen's Union, is facing similar problems in their crucial tow boat sector. Non-union com-

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Hawaiian Local 142 was originally built on the sugar and pineapple plantations, but most of that work has been outsourced to places where labor is non-union and cheap. Right now Del Monte is phas ing out many of their operations on the Islands over the next couple of years. Hundreds of jobs are gone for good.

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Our people in Alaska, especially in longshore, are having a hard time hanging onto their work because of the lack of union density Employers are going unchallenged as they set up new, non-union operations, often right next to our union ones. Alaska longshore workers won a good contract last year after some very difficult bargaining. But in the new facility and their workers are not brought into the ILWU and share in our bounty, all the work will flow there and the good contract will be meaningless. A resolution to support a new organizing drive in Alaska will be coming before you this week and we need your vote and your active support.

There’s one last thing we must do before I fin ish. We must pay our respects to those in our ranks who have lost their lives in accidents on the job in the last three years. We all know the worse may happen every day we turn to, but it’s hard to think about it and still get through the day. But every time we strap on our hard hats, slip into our neon vests and lace up our safety boots, we should think about those we are going back home to when the shift is over. Be safe for them, yourselves and all your brothers and sisters around you.

I am now going to read the names and locals of those we have lost and then I ask you for a moment of silence in their memory.

Richie Mraz—Local 13
Douglas Espinoza—Local 6
Mat Petrasich—Local 94
Robert Saddlet—Local 10
Robert Smolinsky—Local 22
Kimberly Kuchman-Miles—Local 23
Epifanio (Epi) Hernandez—Local 500
Valeria Mirza—Local 142

Thank you. Now in remembrance of all those who came before us and made so many sacrifices to get us here, and in dedication to those who will follow us, let’s make this Convention a great success.
Spinosa awarded Emeritus status

MANDATORY age limits enshrined in the ILWU Constitution back in the 1970s meant International President James Spinosa could not run for re-election to a third term. Known affectionately to his union brothers and sisters as “Spinner,” he has served as clerks’ Local 63 President, Coast Committeeman, International Vice-President, Mainland and, finally, as International President for the last six years culminating his career by piloting the Longshore Division through the dangerous 2002 negotiations.

Spinosa long held a reputation as a tough and strategic negotiator and trended up and out through his 1991-1994 service as a Local President, Local Vice President, Vice President of the Longshore Division as a Local President, Local Vice President, and active participation at the International level and wish him gratitude and appreciation to Jim. The ILWU is a better Union because of Jim’s tireless efforts. We will miss his leadership and don’t hold true to it, we will have the power to rescind our affiliation with them the next time around.

IN RECOGNITION OF BROTHER JAMES SPINOSA
AND BESTOWING EMERITUS STATUS ON
PRESIDENT SPINOSA

WHEREAS: Brother Jim Spinosa has been a member and also has served this great ILWU for 38 years; and
WHEREAS: In 1984 Jim was selected by the Coast and served as a Coast Committeeman until 1987; and
WHEREAS: Since 1987, Jim has been elected as Caucus and Convention Delegate in the Longshore Division; and
WHEREAS: In 1988, 1991, 1996, 1997, Jim served as President of ILWU Local 63 Marine Clerks, Southern California; and
WHEREAS: In 1991-94, Jim served the Longshore Division as a Coast Committeeman; and
WHEREAS: In 1993, as Coast Committeeman, Jim served as Co-Chairman of the Longshore Division Contract Negotiating Committee; and
WHEREAS: In 1997, Jim was elected as Vice President of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union; and
WHEREAS: In 1999, as Vice President of the International, Jim was selected by the Longshore Division to be the Chairman of the Longshore Negotiating Committee; and
WHEREAS: In 2000 and 2003, Jim was elected President of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union; and
WHEREAS: In 2002, Jim, as Chairman of the Longshore Division Contract Negotiations, and under his leadership, the Negotiating Committee successfully negotiated a six-year contract, preserving Pension and Welfare benefits for the Longshore Division; and
WHEREAS: Under Brother Spinosa’s leadership, whether as serving as a Local President, Local Vice President, Vice President of the National, or President of the ILWU, the ILWU has made tremendous gains and has prospered; and
WHEREAS: Since Brother Spinosa cannot seek re-election as President of the ILWU, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: In recognition of his service to the ILWU, this Thirty-Third International Convention of the ILWU expresses its most sincere gratitude and appreciation to Jim. The ILWU is a better Union because of Jim’s tireless efforts. We will miss his leadership and active participation at the International level and wish him success and should he decide to continue to participate at the Local level; and BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: That this Thirty-Third International Convention of the ILWU bestow on Jim Spinosa the honor and title of President Emeritus of this great union for which he has served.

Fusion Voting and the Working Families Party

By Terri Mast
IBU National Secretary-Treasurer

The Convention passed a resolution supporting the Working Families Party and the concept of fusion voting. However, many delegates had misunderstandings about what those terms meant.

The Working Families Party was founded in 1998 in New York by a coalition of labor and community-based organizations including the Northeast regions of the United Auto Workers (UAW) and the Communications Workers of America (CWA), locals of the garment and hotels workers’ union (UNITE HERE), the Service Employees Employees’ International Union (SEIU), the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), and Citizen Action. The Working Families Party is also endorsed by the AFL-CIO. Its legislative agenda includes universal healthcare, rent regulation, a living wage and closing the income gap through progressive legislation. Its overall goal is to build a party that will attract blue-collar Republicans and liberal Democrats as well as the growing numbers of independent voters.

Fusion voting is a strategy used by the Working Families Party. It allows candidates to run as the nominee of more than one political party for any public office. The votes that each candidate receives are tallied by party and then combined. The combined vote has been effective in the states where it has been used by pushing the margin of victory over what it would have been if the candidate had run only as a Democrat or Republican.

This is an incentive for politicians to be Working Families Party candidates because they can see where the winning votes came from. The Working Families Party and fusion voting will give labor an opportunity to gain votes from the places we have been losing them, such as the Republican Party and Independent candidates. It will also give us an opportunity to hold political candidates accountable to our issues. To be a Working Families Party candidate a politician will have to sign onto our agenda, and when they are in office and don’t hold true to it, we will have the power to rescind our affiliation with them the next time around.

The Working Families Party has expanded to Connecticut and Oregon. They are now gathering signatures to place an initiative to legalize fusion voting in Oregon and there are plans for the Working Families Party to do the same in Washington in 2007.
ILWU workers seek help

Del Monte outsources its Hawaii pineapple operations

By Steve Stallone

Globalization hit the shores of Hawaii again last February when Del Monte announced it was closing its pineapple operations, its jobs and its specially developed fruit to Costa Rica, Brazil and Kyoto. At the Vancouver Convention representatives of the 700 workers who grew, pick and pack pineapple and run a juice plant, and who are now being tossed aside, turned to their ILWU brothers and sisters.

"Del Monte says they don't need Kunia Plantation anymore," Darlene Palmerton, a soon-to-be-unemployed pineapple worker told the delegates. "The managers met with the workers and announced the closure. They thanked the workers for many years of service and then told them to find another job."

Del Monte planted its last pineapple seeds in February and plans its last harvest in 2008. After that, the pineapple workers who have toiled for Del Monte in the Oahu fields will be cut loose and the plantation community abandoned.

"Kunia Camp at one time was a place where neighbors grew old together, watched each other's children and you could keep your doors unlocked because everyone knew each other," Palmerton said. "Growing up as a child in Kunia Camp was a safe haven. Kunia Elementary School was up the road from our home. The church was located across the street and next to that was Huna Gym where we could play basketball. As I got older I couldn't wait to start work and pick pineapple over the summer to make some money of my own. Thirty-four years later I'm still working for Del Monte and have raised my own children in the same environment."

In 1954 the United Farm Workers, the new gold- en sweet variety of pineapple was developed that is now being grown elsewhere by cheaper, non-union labor, leaving the ILWU workers jobless.

"Del Monte managers from Costa Rica wanted to learn how to grow pineapples, they asked the old timers to show them how," Palmerton said.

"With pride, the old timers showed them how to prep the land, plant the seed and pick the fruit. Those managers thanked the old timers with a pat on the back and went back to Costa Rica to start their own pineapple plantation. The old timers were so happy to help, thinking they helped create another pineapple plantation like Kunia Camp in a different country."

But instead their conscientiousness was used against them. The workers feel particularly offended since they built the industry and made the company profitable.

"I myself and my co-workers have been very hard with our blood, sweat and tears to keep Del Monte going and become successful," Boyd Iene, the chair of the plantation unit there, said when he addressed the convention. "Now we know what kind of people we are working for. But we are not giving up. We have a petition we would like everyone here to sign. It asks Del Monte to be fair to us, to help us with our money and benefits so we can make the transition to new jobs. They owe us this much."

Masters are seeking enhanced severance pay and an extension of medical benefits six months beyond their date of final employment. Through Sen. Dan Inouye (D-HI) and Sen. Daniel Akaka's (D-HI) offices, the union has asked Del Monte to fund the residents' association so they have a chance to keep the housing, but so far the company has refused.

Del Monte is not shutting down its Hawaii operations because it is losing money—the company's gross profits have averaged more than $300 million a year for the last five years. It can just make even more money growing pineapple elsewhere.

"We have gone through plantation closures before," International Representative Tracy Takano said.

But even sugar plantations that were going bankrupt were more willing to help than Del Monte.

To get a copy of the petition to sign and get others to sign, down- load it at www.ilwu.org/about/Convention2006/index.cfm.

Send financial support for the Del Monte workers to: ILWU Local 142 / 451 Atkinson Drive / Honolulu, HI 96814. Earmark checks for "Del Monte workers."

Flag of Convenience campaign

ITF holds docker/seafarer solidarity workshop

About 50 Convention delegates took their lunch break one day to learn more about the mutual solidarity campaign of dockers and seafarers.

For more than 50 years the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), a global organization of dockers, sailors, truckers and rail and aviation unions, has run what it calls the Flag of Convenience (FoC) campaign. The term refers to the practice by shippers to have their ships fly the national flag of some country other than their own country that—conveniently and for a small fee—exempts them from taxes and labor and environmental laws. Shippers conveniently avoid national labor unions and operate their vessels nearly like 17th century slave galleys, paying their seafarers very little and often subjecting them to starvation conditions.

ITF U.S. West Coast Coordinator and former ILWU seafarer Regional Director Jeff Engels, an able bodied seaman by profession, explained the assembly that this system has almost devastated American and Canadian union sailors.

"In the early 1960s coming out of WWII, the U.S. had over 2,000 deep sea vessels flying under the American flag," Engels said. "Today there are less than 200."

With a PowerPoint presentation Engels explained that the ITF's goal is to set up a global regulatory system for the shipping industry with minimum standards of pay and conditions. The concept is simple, but getting tramp ships scurrying over the oceans signed onto enforceable contracts isn't. That's where longshore unions like the ILWU come in.

Dockers have a stake in making sure sailors are treated well and aren't required to do cargo-handling work. The FoC campaign relies on mutual aid, the practice of solidarity as a two-way street.

While a ship is in port, longshore workers can help seafarers convince their owners to sign ITF agreements. The contracts not only set the minimum standards, but include a clause prohibiting the seafarers from doing any cargo-handling work, requiring the union dockworkers to do it. By doing all the cargo work themselves, including and particularly the loading and unloading, the longshore workers guarantee their work is safe, while the seafarers are guaranteed decent wages and conditions. Both benefit from the arrangement.

Peter Lahay, the Canada ITF coordinator who makes sure ships that call there are covered by ITF contracts, told stories of how ILWU Canada longshore workers had worked with him to enforce those agreements. It's a constant struggle with unscrupulous maritime employers in today's free trade system, he said.

"Transport unions are the impediment to making trade cheaper," Lahay said.
In the streets and on the floor, Convention pushes organizing

by Marcy Rein

VANCOUVER, BC—The clerk at the Robson Street Safeway seemed quite flustered. At just about 1 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16 a crowd of people burst into song, danced down the aisles holding sun-yellow balloons and shouting, "ILWU!" He moved to bar the door, but there seemed to be 300 of them at least and many were heaped upon him. Another couple hundred people gathered in the parking lot. What was going on?

The ILWU's 39th International Convention had recessed to take action in support of a key organizing drive, marching on the Safeway store to enlist that supermarket chain's support for the workers at the Blue Diamond processing plant in Sacramento.

The British Columbia Federation of Labour and ILWU Canada laid the groundwork for the march and parking lot rally, which anchored the second International Day of Action in support of the Blue Diamond workers.

Affiliates of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) fired up other solidarity actions around the world, giving the delegates a glimpse of what global cooperation could produce.

As unions try to shape their strategies to today's realities, the need to "organize along the global supply chain" has come to the fore. The ILWU is looking at organizing where the goods are stored and sorted for distribution. The logistics and transportation concerns are more important than ever in globalization, Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) National Secretary Paul Crumlin told the Convention.

We have to identify those that are identifying us, the retail giants in cooperation with the manufacturing plants, the logistics and transportation concerns, between their businesses, the mining and maritime services they require. We have to organize everywhere we can.

That puts a new twist to the ILWU's history of international work.

“We've always been connected internationally,” ILWU Vice President Bob McEllrath said. “Because the world has shrunk and the economy is so much more connected, the connections we have internationally are now helping us organize locally.”

Crumlin opened the organizing section of the Convention agenda May 16, then turned the program over to Organizing Director Peter Olney. After the briefest of introductions, Olney asked the Oxbow Carbon and Mineral workers to take a bow. The workers at Oxbow, a Nikiski petroleum coke shipper in the Port of Long Beach, had just ratified their first contract as members of ILWU Local 15-A. They surprised Olney and the officers by presenting plaques to theConvention.

“Tired of being taken advantage of,” Olney told the Convention, “they put up a picket sign a la Norma Rae. It read, ‘Respect for hard work we’re treated like crap,’ she said, holding up a puck sign she saw in a movie. ‘We want a fair day at work, a fair day at the end of the week, a fair day at the end of the week. “People all over the international community have been involved with us along the global supply chain,” Reyes said as he introduced the ITF's Ports of Convenience conference in Manzanillo, Mexico the week before the Convention. “On behalf of the ILWU, we support,” Reyes said. “When they kick us, we come together and become more like super-glue. The more they strike us, the stronger we grow. We know if we walk in our own destiny we can make Blue Diamond raise wages and lowered the number of hours people need to work to get paid off.”

“We know those things can all be taken away unless we get their contract,” Reyes said. “What can’t be taken away is the learning and organizing we’ve done so far. We’re gaining in maturity as a community of workers standing up for what is right.”

Over the last year and a half, organizing Director Peter Olney talked to co-workers, community members and political leaders, identified for special attention because of the industrial leverage we have identified, and said that on record in support of a New Southern California locals are to create and fund a regional organizing committee that can work with the International and ITF General Secretary David Cockcroft, ITF General Secretary David Cockcroft, BC Federation of Labour President Jim Sinclair, Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union Secretary-Treasurer Chris Banting, and COPE representative Andy Ross. Sinclair declared that the BC Fed would follow up the day’s action by directing all its affiliates in the food industry to contact Safeway on behalf of the Blue Diamond workers.

Fired up by this foray into the streets, the Convention delegates passed six organizing resolutions. The locals of these and the potable table-student stage-ent by Teamsters’ Local 31. Speakers included ILWU International President James Spinosa and Vice President McEllrath, ITF General Secretary David Cockcroft, BC Federation of Labour President Jim Sinclair, Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union Secretary-Treasurer Chris Banting, and COPE representative Andy Ross. Sinclair declared that the BC Fed would follow up the day’s action by directing all its affiliates in the food industry to contact Safeway on behalf of the Blue Diamond workers.

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Working with the Rail, Tram and Bus Union, the Transport Workers’ Union and the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union, the MUA held rallies in Sydney and Melbourne in front of Scalzo Foods, a Blue Diamond customer. Twenty minutes into the action in Sydney, Scalzo managers agreed to send a strong letter to Blue Diamond.

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“They’ve taken away our right to strike and even our right to organize in Australia,” Crumlin said. “That’s not going to stop us from supporting the Blue Diamond workers with every fiber, with every capacity within our

hearts, our minds and our souls. This is not a dispute about Sacramento so much as it is about every worker,” he said.

With that, the Convention recessed to lunch.

In the streets and on the floor, the Convention delegates and guests in marching on a local Safeway. While some people kicked off a rally in the parking lot, others took the action right into the store. Safeway sells Blue Diamond products, so the workers asked the supermarket chain to urge the almond processor to change its anti-union ways.

The others yelled and cheered as unions from Canada, the U.S. and Australia and the world rallied to their cause. Some 500 delegates and guests, along with members of the BC Fed, took over Robson Street, one of Vancouver’s main shopping drags. Pedestrians gave thumbs-up and passing trucks clanged horns in solidarity. When the marches reached the store, about half the crowd pushed inside.

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Tom Dufresne has been president of ILWU Canada for the last ten years. He comes from mostly longshore locals in British Columbia, the West Coast of Canada, from the port of Vancouver to the outer Banks north of the U.S. border to Prince Rupert and Stewart in the far north of B.C. It has other locals that are part of the ILWU International, but have voice but no vote within ILWU Canada.

Local dispatch is a very low threshold, which is a very low threshold. You have to have a suspicion,” which is a very low threshold. Then they’d have to justify it otherwise.

They are interfering, or you might interfere with the transportation system. And, you know, it’s just a totally unacceptable situation.

ILWU Canada has been lobbying heavily to try to deal with this, working with other longshore unions.

The ILA on the East Coast and CUFES in Montreal. We formed a coalition called the Canadian Maritime Workers Council to deal with this issue and labor code issues or any issues where there’s a common problem: this may be arising. We have resolutions of support from municipalities and from the local shipping community and a lot of big businesses that see this as an unwarranted intrusion into people’s personal lives. And, when you can get people in business turning around and joining the union, you’ve got to figure why, there’s something wrong here.

You hold a seat on the British Columbia Federation of Labor?

Yeah. Also I’m a vice president of the Canadian Labor Congress (CLC) through a small union caucus. There are four seats reserved for small unions and the ILWU was elected to one of those positions in the last two conventions, so I’m in my fourth year there now representing the small unions in Canada. I’m also on the executive council of the New Democratic Party of Canada (NDP).

How does working with other unions affect and support ILWU Canada?

Well, it helps keep us in contact with other unions in the country and the province that may have problems with their employer, but also, it gives us some clout whenever a problem might come up on the docks the ILWU needs to address. We can have the support of other unions, we can explain our position to them and have them join us in making presentations to the government.

For instance, a lot of people are opposed to port development and the number of trucks crossing the city streets. So we’ve got a chance to get together with them and explain the benefits that are going to come out of the port expansion, you know, more jobs for us, but also more jobs for them, and that is good for the economy. So it helps us in getting our case out there.

You mentioned you were on the Executive Council of the NDP, a decidely pro-labor party. What advantage does that bring the labor movement?

Well, the advantage is in the situation like we’re currently in with a minority parliament. [No party in Parliament won a majority in the last election.] The NDP could hold the balance of power. So we have a right-wing government in office right now with a minority government in power.

The NDP can hold their support for the party and actually cause the Parliament to collapse. And a lot them also introduce bills, which would help us to deal with this, work through the opposition and actually get to vote on it. It hasn’t been used, but it was put in place. They also proposed a law protecting workers’ pensions in the event of bankruptcy. We’ve seen the same thing in Canada as in the U.S. with Chapter 11 bankruptcies and courts coming in and slicing up pension plans. So the NDP managed to sponsor a bill that would protect workers’ pensions.

What other things have you accomplished because of the NDP?

Right now we’re fighting for anti-scab legislation to be introduced in Parliament. It was introduced in the NDP in three provinces currently, Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia. It has been found that having anti-scab legislation lowers the number of days lost due to strikes in all sectors because employers have a tendency to focus their attention on the bargaining disputes instead of trying to operate and keep the union outside.

Also you have card-check recognition which makes organizing a little easier.

What do you see in the future for ILWU Canada?

Well, we see working to get certifications at the container freight stations inland. The land around the waterfront is very, very expensive no matter where you are in North America or in the world. And so the tendency of big corporations like Wal-Mart and Canadian Tire is to want to move their storage facilities inland where they’ll load their containers on trains or trucks in the yards and then ship them through the prairies, and discharge them and take them to big distribution warehouse and load them on big trucks rather than going all the way back east to Toronto or Chicago, what have you. We believe that the NDP, if it wins the majority again, will have the same thing in Canada as the U.S. with Chapter 11 bankruptcies and courts coming in and slicing up collective agreements and slashing pension plans. So the NDP managed to sponsor a bill that would protect workers’ pensions.

Is there anything else that you’d like to mention to the members?

Just the fact that we enjoyed having the International Convention in Vancouver, Canada once again, and we look forward to it being here again in 18 years. It’s good because our members, many of whom may not get to travel to the distant places that the convention is held, it gives them an ability to come downtown here and sit in for a couple hours or come to the social in the evening and then meet their brothers and sisters from the International, from different locals up and down the Coast. And it gives people a chance to realize that we are one big family and that people, whether it be in Seattle or San Pedro, have many of the same problems that we have, and that we have a common enemy and that’s the bss, and we have a common fraternity and that’s the ILWU.

For full interview with Dufresne, see www.ilwu.org/about/ Convention/2006/index.cfm

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Danny Glover

"It doesn’t take a rocket scientist—it really doesn’t—to figure this out. We can talk about all kinds of statistics and strategies around profit, about all the theories around markets. But there is something in that discussion that cannot be reduced, that cannot be ignored. What cannot be reduced is those who don’t care about what happens to human beings, what happens to children, what happens to those who work all their lives and who then retire. We cannot be reduced to forgetting about that. No matter what the market strategies, whatever the market theories, whatever the current economic theories are, we cannot be reduced to believing that all of this is natural science. This is not natural science. This is about what human beings do and economic theories are, we cannot be reduced to believing that all of this is natural science. This is about what human beings transform themselves or not transform themselves, how human beings themselves act and decide what is important. If life and the preservation of life is important, then that is what we have to elevate. Not the preservation of inhumanity. We have to hold on to the preservation of people. And unions do that. Unions talk about the people and they do that."

Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer

"I want you to think about a convention hall like this that goes back a hundred years when our forefathers sat in a place like this fighting, struggling, bleeding and some-times dying so that we try. Now they are trying to tear it all down. You see, the contradictions are stark and the damage to working families is deep. Quite frankly, when I look at it, I am ashamed of our country, what it’s doing to workers. "Brothers and sisters, these atrocities didn’t just happen accidently. Neither God nor the mysterious hand of the marketplace is responsible. They are the result of a corporate war on working families, and it’s been going on for 25 years now. The wounds are raw and the wounds are visible and the effect that it is having on our country is more pronounced than it has ever been."

David Cockroft, ITF General Secretary

"I arrived yesterday from Washington where I was briefing many on our action program, the ILWU is a fighting union of people who were demonstration all of the sugar workers, all of the Masters and Servants Act which was enacted in 1850. We organized the American, the Japanese, the Chinese, the Koreans, the Hawaiians, the Portuguese, the Spaniards, the Filipinos. Talk about immigrants. You did it!"

Ah Quon McElrath

"Someone said, it’s impossible to organize among immigrants. Well, you know, the ILWU did it in Hawaii. Do you realize that in 1944 we organized all of the sugar workers, all of the progeny of people who were brought to Hawaii under the Masters and Servants Act which was enacted in 1850. We organized the Japanese, the Chinese, the Koreans, the Hawaiians, the Portuguese, the Spaniards, the Filipinos. Talk about immigrants. You did it!"

Paddy Crumlin, Maritime Union of Australia, National Secretary

"As Einstein said, there are only two things in the world that are infinite—the universe and humanity’s capacity for stupidity. And he wasn’t too sure about the first one. The length of the stupidity of these people, ironically elected to represent our interests, the interests of the public—that is the irony of it in countries like the U.S. and Australia and our wonderful constitution and the way our nations were born. These people were put in place to represent our interests. And the lengths of their stupidity are as dangerous as they are breathtaking.

How do they achieve such high status? How do these people achieve such high status in such little decency and moral intelligence? They are bankrupt.

Take for example our mate, Miniace. What a genius. Locked you out, nearly destroyed the economy, prompted and promoted the strength of the labor movement through your wonderful struggle here on the docks, signed the contract, then got the sack. What a genius. You wouldn’t employ him to take the garbage out and have any hope it was going to get to the curb, much less let him run a dock on the West Coast of America.

"Or Bush and Howard and the ‘coalition of the willing.’ The willing what?

The only thing they were willing to do was preserve the institutionalized greed and corruption of the global world incorporated, who paid for their neon-lit, sugar-coated, multi-colored lies and distortions of their election campaign—and also, no doubt, paid for some of those hanging chads on the voting cards in Jeb Bush’s state of Florida.

"Iraq is now a replay of Palestine or Northern Ireland, Serbia or Croatia, slaughter on slaughter in a wicked downward spiral of public corruption, insensate, and ruthless and unremitting murder and mayhem that will feed on itself and draw more and more innocents into the corruption and distortion of life there for generations.

"The final stupidity that is visited upon us in that war is that they have ensured that oil prices have soared. And, of course, who is going to pay the price?

The savage injustices and gross stupidities have been visited upon upon Iraq in the name of global economic expansion by political policy—neoliberalism now, they will call them—political policymakers whose cunning matches their stupidity. We know the war was really about carving up the second largest oil producer in the world. Cheney and Bush’s campaign supporters were in there like rats up a drainpipe. Halliburton, Stevedoring Services of America, all in there for the cut-up, all in there for the gourmet meal. But the gourmet meal has become sour and fetid in their hungry mouths and guts and slowly poisoning the world for all of us.

These policymakers do not reflect on provisions and qualities of democracy, freedom, justice or equality. They do not aspire to promote, admire, or reward honest work, honest labor, but seek to exploit and control. So their pronouncements in invocations of good versus evil, as if they actually do have a sense of morality, distortions built on falsehoods, built on lies into a citadel, a Mt. Everest of political bullshit."
Longshore Caucus prepares for 2008 negotiations

Story by Steve Stallone
Photos by Lewis Wright

Continuing preparations for what promises to be another contentious round of negotiations in 2008, the Longshore Division Caucus reviewed and updated its plans to be in a position of strength.

They grappled with new government regulations that could screen members off the waterfront, plotted legislative and electoral strategies the continuing conflict with the employers over jurisdiction and technology, took the next steps to win the new Coast public relations program, authorized the development of new member education materials, solidified its alliance with a growing international dockers organization and approved a budget for the next year to carry it all out.

PORT SECURITY

In a belated attempt to appear pro-active on port security, the Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) has mandated that all longshore workers must be checked against the FBI’s terrorist watch list. To do so the government has required employers and unions to provide it with the names, dates of birth (DOB) and Social Security numbers of all workers having unescorted access to U.S. ports.

To prove there are no terrorists in the ILWU, the Caucus agreed to give out members’ Social Security numbers, especially since recently the personal information of 26 million workers was stolen from govern- ment data bases. The Social Security numbers are not required, and since they show up in government data bases along with name and DOB, the government will likely only need them if there is more than one person with the same name and DOB.

If there is a match with the terrorist watch list, the government will notify the individual and the union and/or employer. The individual can file for an appeal within 30 days of notification, although DHS has not set a standard of review. The individual is responsible for filing the appeal, but the ILWU will assist any member or casual falsely snagged in the process.

PENSION AND WELFARE

The Pension and Welfare Benefits Committee reported that health care costs continue to rise substantially, driven by administrative costs and the profits required by the American private health insurance system. Still, the maritime trade industry is booming and the Coast employers can afford the Longshore Division’s demand of Maintenance of Benefits (MOB).

The committee recommended that in the 2008 negotiations the union “remains committed not to accept any increases in co-pays of any type.” Once the union opens the door to co-pays, the committee contended, there’s no telling where it will stop or how high it might go. To keep the ranks solid in that position the committee also recommended preparing a member education program about health care and the need for MOB and that Area Benefits Directors, Locals and Pensioner Clubs continue to remind MediCare eligible actives, pensioners and surviving spouses that they receive their prescription drug coverage through the ILWU Welfare Plan and that Medicare eligible actives, pensioners and surviving spouses are not to sign up for the Medi-Care Part D Prescription Drug Benefit. The committee also stressed the importance of checking the Explanation of Benefits (EOB) that comes in the mail to verify all the services billed were actually provided.

While keeping its maintenance of benefits the fundamental requirement, the union continues to pursue alternative approaches to quality health care and to work to pass universal single-payer legislation as the only real solution to the national health care crisis. The union will request the employers to join in this effort as agreed to in the 2002 contract.

The report also stressed the importance of the longshore Defined Benefit Pension. And the committee proposed discussing a study of the environmental health affects of the longshore work on members and port communities. The Caucus accepted all the committee’s recommendations.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The PR Committee reviewed its work of the last year to improve the Caucus’s image and its rank and file to do the on-the-ground work to make it happen. This included the Coastwide media trainings for local officers, its week-long communications seminar for 61 rank and file last January and the recent projects where the skills learned were put to use—unveiling the ILWU’s anti-air pollution “Savings Lives” campaign and staffing the ILWU exhibition booth at high profile events.

The committee recommended and the Caucus agreed, to continue its local officer and rank-and-file training program, build the union’s website and its e-activism capacity, support the Taco- ma-based “Black History and labor” celebrations produced by the International Labor Tribune/Preservation Society’s Willie Adams, sponsor the Local 10 Drill Team to travel to three port cities to perform at public events and begin interviewing national and local PR firms in preparation for 2008 and building more internal PR capacity.

The Caucus-funded documentary film on the 2002 contract struggle—“The Eye of the Storm”—was shown to delegates. They decided to send it to the Negotiating Committee to critique and send suggestions to the Coast Committee that will make final decisions on it.

SAFETY NOW

Safety Committee chair John Castanho introduced his group’s report and the importance of its work by reading the names and local number of the three ILWU longshore workers killed on the job over the last Longshore Caucus year and asking for a moment of silence in their memory.

The issue of Vertical Tandem Lifts (VTLs), the dangerous practice of lifting more than one container at a time, took an odd twist as the U.S. military proposed a Horizontal Tandem Lift (HTL) for packing them up side-by-side instead of on top of each other. The Safety Committee contends there are no safe connectors for containers no matter the configuration. Similarly, the Safety Committee remains steadfastly against driving through the gamma ray-emitting Vehicle and Cargo Inspection System (VACIS), especially since at a recent Congressional hearing employers argued against the new machines because of future lawsuits by longshore workers over diseases caused by exposure from VACIS machines.

The committee’s continuing work on worker exposures from leaking hide loads finally got the U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association to institute new attempts to improve hide loads. Currently the largest hide-handling company, Cargill, has started using 20 mm sleeve liners to limit exposure to the most virulent E-Coli virus strains. The committee will continue to pursue other safety technologies.

The committee reported that as a result of its pro-active work on fed- eral occupational health regulations, one of its members, Safety Committee Chair Joe Cortez, will have a seat on the Marine Advisory Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (MACOSH) once the Dept. of Labor re-charters the committee.

MEMBER EDUCATION

The Education Committee sponsored four area workshops this Longshore Health and Welfare Benefits program last fall, explaining to active members and pensioners what they have, how to access it and the importance of demanding MOB in the 2008 negotiations. The committee is also working on a Longshore Education Class to be used as a template for local membership education programs and is reviewing and cataloging education materials for local use.

The committee is currently planning a series of workshops on International Relations and Solidarity focusing on how employers are trying to restrict or eliminate union dockers’ rights and jurisdiction worldwide, and how dockers unions are organizing and working on the Pacific Coast Marine Safety Code and how it has developed as part of the Longshore contract over the decades, the legal, administrative, arbitration and griev- ance procedures; and on preparing for the 2009 contract negotiations.

THE POLITICAL ARENA

The Legislative Committee reiterated its recommendations from last meeting to support both national and local Political Action Funds and educate members about its importance; build the area District Delegates line up for their turn to speak at the mic.
Hawaii and Alaska met to discuss the health and safety of all longshore workers. Numerous safety-related issues were discussed, including diesel and ship's emissions, Automatic External Defibrillators, Vertical Tandem Lifts, Horizontal Tandem Lifts, Multiple Flatrack Lifts, safe methods of steel discharge and discussions regarding the recent accidents and fatalities that have occurred in different ports around the world.

The meeting turned out to be an excellent opportunity for committee members to exchange ideas promoting safer longshore work practices. Discussions included the importance of defending the One-Three-Five System, the need for better training of workers, and the need for better communication between unions and employers. The committee also discussed the importance of international solidarity and the need for unions to work together to address these issues.

COUNCILS AND COORDINATE STRATEGIES

Councils and coordinate strategies with all divisions of the ILWU, coordinating political action, legislation and public relations strategy, and build coalitions with other progressive groups.

The committee further recommended designing a contract legislator strategy in preparation for 2006 and that funds be used to send members to key states in an attempt to take back the House of Representatives from the Republicans in the November 2006 midterm elections.

Legislative Director Lindsay McLaughlin reported on his work in Washington, D.C., particularly on issues of port security. He stressed the importance of electing a Democratic majority in the House because then Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) would be Speaker of the House and in a position to block any anti-ILWU legislation from being passed.

The committee also discussed the importance of defending the ILWU's One-Three-Five System, the need for better training of workers, and the need for better communication between unions and employers. The committee also discussed the importance of international solidarity and the need for unions to work together to address these issues.

TECHNOLOGY AND JURISDICTION

The Clerks' Technology Committee reported that the employers are using their new technologies differently than initially presented. For example, the PierPass program was supposed to be a mandatory system for delivering and picking up containers. But now the employers are using the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags on containers to track and control throughout the terminal. In numerous other ways they are using new technologies, not just to do clerks' work, but also to outsource as much of the documentation and coordination of cargo as they can. Their ultimate goal is to remove clerks from the docks and completely automate terminals, including longshore equipment.

But the Technology Committee is using the framework for new technology implementation in the 2002 contract to keep the jobs. The committee looks first at what new technology modifies jobs—rather than replaces them—and sees what jobs remain and work to hold on to those.

The employers' tactic is to try to use procedural reasons to deny the union an opportunity to argue for jobs. They purposefully try to confuse the issues and hide information about the new technology that is contractually mandated to give the union. They have hired additional personnel dedicated to fighting the union over technology issues.

But the union's Technology Committee has fought back and won about 75 percent of its arbitration and procedural challenges. It has won additional personnel categories and paid trainings for new positions. But a lot of the new jobs are higher skilled, and the union needs to make sure its members are able to handle them or management will step into their jobs and do them without paying.

FINANCES

The Budget reported that the Longshore Division's finances have dramatically improved since the last year even while funding its ambitious programs. This was accomplished in part by increasing its benefits on the dues of 11,000 members when new registration has increased the Division's income from $2.2 million to $14.0 million.

The committee projects that even with the expanded programs the Caucus approved, it will still remain within budget without increasing the members' pro-rata payments.

CRUISE SHIP JURISDICTION

Cruise ship work has been expanding dramatically all along the Coast, but with that growth comes some problems with jurisdiction and manning. This June 2005 Committee met with the Port of Portland to discuss ways to help each other with the Port's short-term visitors and those that are staying longer than initially presented. For example, the PierPass program was supposed to be an appointment system for delivering and picking up containers. But now the employers are using the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags on containers to track and control throughout the terminal. In numerous other ways they are using new technologies, not just to do clerks' work, but also to outsource as much of the documentation and coordination of cargo as they can. Their ultimate goal is to remove clerks from the docks and completely automate terminals, including longshore equipment.

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International Convention emphasizes organizing

The delegates to the 33rd Convention placed the ILWU firmly in the environmental movement, rejecting the false choices between good jobs and healthy work places and communities, and demanding both. The cornerstone of that policy is the "Saving Lives" campaign, the press conference for cleaner, greener ports and workplaces run by the longshore division.

The budget proposal brought to the Convention delegates was worked out by International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams and the other Titled Officers, along with the input of Hawaii Local 142 Secretary-Treasurer Guy Fujimura and IBU National Secretary-Treasurer Terri Mast. Already a consensus document, the assembly passed it without opposition and without amendments.

The budget adheres to the mandate of the 33rd International Convention to dedicate 30 percent of the union's revenues to organizing. The Organizing Dept. has been focusing on strategic drives, moving into ports in that state has been eroded by the continuing emergence of non-union shipping and stevedoring companies, especially in Dutch Harbor, the largest fishing port in the world. Many of these non-union companies are also moving into warehouses, ports in the state of Washington. So the delegates passed a resolution (P-7) committing the union to provide resources to organize in Dutch Harbor and throughout the Alaska maritime trade industry.

The delegates heard from three workers from the newly organized Oxbow petroleum coke facility in the Port of Long Beach. Three workers from the organizing committee at the Blue Diamond Growers almond processing facility in Sacramento told the Convention their conflicts with their employer. Taking a break from their proceedings, the delegates marched 500 strong to a local Safeway supermarket where they convinced management to send a letter to Blue Diamond asking the employers to recognize the union.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

The delegates took several practical steps towards the ILWU's long-standing policy goal of universal health care. The most important of these was having the ILWU join many other organizations, and progressive health care organizations in the growing movement to endorse HR 676, a bill currently before Congress that phases in universal, single-payer health care for every American.

The U.S. spends more than $2 trillion per year on health care, 97 percent more of its Gross National Product than nations with universal single-payer systems. And yet 46 million Americans lack coverage and 18,000 people die each year because they cannot afford the care they need. Over $400 billion alone is spent on paper work and administrative costs, much of it duplicative and unnecessary. HR 676 would provide equal access to comprehensive medical care regardless of income level, without deductibles or co-pays. It would cover hospitalization and office visits, prescription drugs, dental and vision care, home health care, nursing home, long-term and mental health care, rehabilitation, and would remain in place even if someone becomes unemployed or retires.

The delegates also passed a resolution on the prescription drug problem. It notes that the Republican-passed plan does not "make prescription drugs available and affordable for every senior who needs them," as Bush promised. Costs remain high because the law prohibits Medicare from bargaining for cheaper prices and the program is administered by private insurance companies with a multitude of confusing plans. The resolution commits the ILWU to support legislation that would restore coverage in Medicare (for lower income people, seniors and disabled), eliminate privatization in administering the prescription drug plan and revert that back to Medicare and authorize Medicare to negotiate cheaper drug prices in the U.S. and Canada.

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to press industry into cleaning up ship smokestack emissions, the single largest cause of air pollution at ports, not just at ILWU ports, but on a global, industry-wide basis. These efforts to regulate industrial pollution always run up against objections that there is no scientific proof that these emissions cause cancer and disease. Although IBU workers on tugs and oil barges in the San Francisco Bay Area have been found to have the highest mortality rate in California, statistical evidence of the causes has been lacking. The delegates passed a resolution to have the ILWU support and organize life-long port worker and resident health studies of illness and death, and to organize health and safety campaigns for port workers regularly exposed to maritime toxic hazards.

The delegates passed another resolution (R-5) brought by members of ILWU Canada demanding the Canadian government require manufacturers to disclose what carcinogens they may be exposed to in their products, and that employers must inform their employees of any carcinogens they may be exposed to at work.

**POLITICAL ACTION**

The need to take action to change the world order, military and economic and the social policies unions operate under in the U.S. and Canada was on the minds of every delegate and echoed in most of the guest speakers' presentations. The Convention's delegates took several steps toward that end. They passed a symbolic "Vote of No Confidence" in George W. Bush (R-15). Then in a resolution going on for two pages listing Bush's crimes against democracy and unions, they enumerated a basic five-point program to "Take Our Government Back" in the 2006 and 2008 elections. It calls on the ILWU to mobilize its members to elect pro-labor candidates in 2006 and 2008, call on locals to urge their members to contribute to the union's Political Action Fund, calls on every local and District Councils, the regional political scene and its mass demonstrations happening on May Day, the ILWU's long-standing political action program, register members and their families to vote and get out the vote.

Another resolution (P-19) requires more communications among the District Councils, the regional political arms of the ILWU. It directs the District Councils to expand their capacity to contact and educate members about the union's political action program, register members and their families to vote and get out the vote.

Yet another resolution (P-11) urges members to make regular payroll deduction contributions to the ILWU Political Action Fund through their local credit unions and that payroll deduction authorization cards be available through local halls and at local meetings. Many delegates expressed frustration with the Democratic Party's seemingly spineless loyal opposition to Republican policies. The need for new political formations that could stand firmly for labor principles and allow the free exercise of labor orientation.

The delegates passed another resolution (R-23) calling for the immediate end to military actions in Iraq and withdrawal of U.S. troops, for ILWU regions to introduce Iraq war resolutions in local and state government, for the Bush administration to fully fund veteran health care, education and housing assistance and for the Bush administration to seek diplomatic solutions to its differences with Iran.

A fourth resolution calls on the Iraqi government to cease its repression of the Iraqi port workers' union and allow the free exercise of labor rights throughout the country. It also calls on the U.S. and Iraqi governments to abandon plans to privatize that country's ports, factories and national resources, for the ILWU to promote and fund efforts to legalize fusion voting.

The delegates passed another resolution (R-36) supporting ILA Charlotte Local 1422 (home of the Charleston 5 and Ken Riley) and the South Carolina labor movement's pioneering efforts to run independent Labor Party candidates for state office in November, 2006.

**NO WAR**

Three years of death and destruction in Iraq with no end or resolution in sight have turned most Americans against the war. It has affected the ILWU too. At the last International Convention three years ago, less than two months after the "shock and awe" invasion, resolutions against the war engendered rancorous debate even if they passed by large margins. This time four resolutions dealing with Iraq all passed without opposition. One from ILWU Canada demanded the immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from Iraq (R-4). Another (R-31) called for Congress to pass House Joint Resolution 55, called "Homeward Bound," a plan for withdrawing American troops.

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The system is in place and working in New York State and many unions in Oregon and Washington state are supporting initiatives on the November 2006 ballot in their states to legalize fusion voting. Some delegates hesitated to vote for a system they were unfamiliar with, but the majority passed it and its position for the ILWU to promote and fund efforts to legalize fusion voting.

**IMMIGRATION**

With the immigrant rights movement front and center on the current political scene and its mass demonstrations happening on May Day, International Workers Day, the delegates took the opportunity to reaffirm the ILWU's long-standing policy in support of immigrant rights. They passed two resolutions (R-55 and R-52) blaming the dislocation of millions of people and the recent unprecedented levels of global immigration on multi-national corporative's economic policies, and calling for a "sane" immigration policy: no criminalization of workers crossing borders; no guest worker programs designed to strip workers of human rights and the right to organize; and a clear and reasonable path to permanent resident status and citizenship.

**EDUCATION FIRST**

The budget approved created the needed funds for the union's growing member education programs. It funds another Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) Institute in early 2007 and another Secretary-Treasurer training seminar for local financial officers later that year.

The delegates also passed a resolution (R-37) approving an improved edition of "The ILWU Story" booklet that is used widely for new member orientation.

**INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY**

The ILWU's internationalism continued on next page

Pensioners' delegation.

Longshore Local 10 delegation.

McElrath and McElrath: International Vice President Bob McElrath listens as ILWU legend An Quan McElrath gives the delegates a history lesson.
The delegates were regaled by several star-quality speakers, including movie actor and activist Danny Glover. He spoke of the importance of unions in the past and in today's world. He noted that both his parents were union workers and union organizers, and that he learned his sense of justice from them. "We need unions more than ever now," Glover said. "People need jobs into defeating the Republicans in the November Congressional mid-term elections. He offered an optimistic assessment of the labor movement's chances. "There is some good news, if you want to call it that. President Bush's approval rating is now under 29 percent," Trumka said to the delegates' applause. "But here is the question I have for you. What is the hell is that 29 percent thinking? What would the hell do you have to do to lose favor with them?"

The delegates were treated to another history lesson from one of the ILWU's living legends, Ah Quon Zenkowan. Now 90 years old and still full of verve and insight, McElrath narrated between rare archival film clips from the 1940s and 1950s of his father, Paul Robeson, a black actor, singer and activist whom Harry Bridges made an honorary member of the ILWU. Lake Braddock Robinson was harassed and accused of being a Communist and his brilliance was stunted. But he never stopped using his art and his activism in support of worker and civil rights.

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SECTION 1. A Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union shall be held... (details cut off)

SECTION 2. The revised Convention location and starting date, which shall be no earlier than March 1st nor later than June 30th of the year in which the Convention is to be held.

Conventions will be held on the following rotational basis in a host city of each area union and shall be granted an exception by the International Executive Board.

1. Washington/Puget Sound Alaska 2009
2. Northern California Area 2011
3. Hawaii Area 2012
4. Oregon/Columbia River Area 2015
5. ILWU Canada 2016
6. Southern California Area 2017

STATEMENT OF POLICY ON PER CAPITA (C-2)

The Titled Officers and the Trustees recommend an increase in the per capita, per capita Assessments, of the International Convention... (details cut off)

The recommended per capita structure below will fully fund the programs of the ILWU and to maintain a modest surplus, (details cut off)

Attached is a table showing the projected rates, per capita increase in the... (details cut off)

The ILWU has been a growing concern... (details cut off)

We believe that such concerns are justified, (details cut off)

The ILWU Executive Board (and board members) would be entitled to one ex-officio member of the... (details cut off)

The Titled Officers and International Election Procedures Committee... (details cut off)

RESOLVED: That the ILWU International Convention declare its support for the important work of growing the ILWU in Alaska by extending the... (details cut off)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (P4)

RESOLVED: That this Convention support the Wing Luke Asian Museum Alaskero... (details cut off)

HAZARDS (P-10)

RESOLVED: That the ILWU International Convention declare its support for the important work of growing the ILWU in Alaska by extending the... (details cut off)

RECOMMENDATION RESOLUTION (C-6)

RESOLVED: That this Convention support the Wing Luke Asian Museum Alaskero... (details cut off)

A form of the... (details cut off)

DEFEND PORT WORKERS AND COMMUNITIES FROM MARITIME TOXIC HAZARDS (P-10)

RESOLVED: That the ILWU International Convention declare its support for the important work of growing the ILWU in Alaska by extending the... (details cut off)

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RESOLVED: That this Convention support the Wing Luke Asian Museum Alaskero... (details cut off)

A form of the... (details cut off)

DEFEND PORT WORKERS AND COMMUNITIES FROM MARITIME TOXIC HAZARDS (P-10)

RESOLVED: That the ILWU International Convention declare its support for the important work of growing the ILWU in Alaska by extending the... (details cut off)
force of women and men.

POLITICAL ACTION FUND PAYROLL DEDUCTION (P-14)

RESOLVED: That the delegates of the ILWU approve the International Convention of the ILWU to take whatever means necessary to secure a new contract and to begin the process of organizing the bio-

PORT SECURITY TRAINING (R-2)

RESOLVED: The ILWU seek an independent audit of the community about the shameful of the Community, to bring U.S. law in line with these initiatives with local governments by working with our allies to elect pro-labor candidates in the 2006 and 2008 elections.

RELATIONS WITH RUSSIAN DOCK AND FISH WORKERS (P-15)

RESOLVED: That the delegates of the ILWU support the community demand that our government enact proposals to implement international labor standards.

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL 20 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS (R-6)

RESOLVED: That the delegates of the ILWU support the community demand that our government currently faces a crisis in rollbacks of emissions and other pollutants on a global, industry-wide basis.

RAISE THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN THE RECYCLING INDUSTRY (P-16)

RESOLVED: That the International Longshore Caucus of the ILWU convene the ILWU Convention Officers and support the International Longshore Caucus of the ILWU to take whatever means necessary to secure a new contract and to begin the process of organizing the bio-

ORGANIZE THE BIO-TECH INDUSTRY (P-17)

RESOLVED: That the delegates of the ILWU support the community demand that our government enact proposals to implement international labor standards.

SUPPORT OF THE ILWU MEMBERS WHO ARE OUT OF WORK (P-18)

RESOLVED: That the delegates of the ILWU support the community demand that our government enact proposals to implement international labor standards.

DISTRICT COUNCILS (P-19)

RESOLVED: That the ILWU facilitate a progressive labor agenda forward.

ALCATRAZ FERRY WORKERS (P-20)

RESOLVED: That the delegates of the ILWU support the community demand that our government enact proposals to implement international labor standards.

PATRONIZING UNION ESTABLISHMENTS (R-3)

RESOLVED: The ILWU supports unionized workers and businesses, and that the ILWU patrons: Union hotels, airlines and restaurants whenever possible.

WITHDRAWAL FROM IRAQ (R-4)

RESOLVED: That the ILWU Canada continue to demand an immediate withdrawal of all U.S. and British soldiers and other foreign troops from Iraq; and that the ILWU Canada work to increase participation in future demonstrations planned to protect the illegal occupation of Iraq; and that the ILWU Canada, with the ILWU USA, mobilize the maximum solidarity with the people of Iraq, and in particular with the Trade Union Movement wherever possible.

PROTECTION FROM CARCINOGENS IN CANADA (R-5)

RESOLVED: That the ILWU Canada bring forth a motion to the CLC and as a labor union, demand that our government protect its people from harmful carcinogens and require manufacturers that if their products contain a carcinogen, no matter how small, and that employers are also required to inform their employees of any carcinogens they may be exposed to.

That the resolution be forwarded to: The International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU)

RESOLVED: That the delegates of the ILWU facilitate a progressive labor agenda forward.

OPPOSE BUSHE TRADE AGREEMENTS (R-12)

RESOLVED: That this ILWU Convention CONVENTION: 1. Demands the U.S. Congress reject one-sided and unfair trade agreements such as those negotiated by the Bush Administration with Peru and Chile.

2. Demands that Congress require that all future trade agreements ensure labor and environmental protections that are effectively as property and intellectual rights.

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4. Demands that the U.S. adopt a trade policy more like ALBA that is based on mutual benefit, sustainable economic development, and seeks to raise the level of less developed countries.

UPHOLD INTERNATIONAL LABOR STANDARDS (R-3)

RESOLVED: That this ILWU Convention CONVENTION: Demands the U.S. make a real commitment to uphold the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and immediately ratifying all eight core labor standards and making the appropriate changes to bring U.S. law in line with these standards.

2. Demands that Congress require that all future trade agreements ensure labor and environmental protections that are effectively as property and intellectual rights.

3. Demands that Congress put the public welfare first and restrict investor ownership in trade agreements.

4. Demands that the U.S. adopt a trade policy more like ALBA that is based on mutual benefit, sustainable economic development, and seeks to raise the level of less developed countries.

RESOLVED: That the delegates of the ILWU support the community demand that our government enact proposals to implement international labor standards.

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original mission of protecting the safety and health of working people and making sure their voices are heard.

That the United States Congress conduct a thorough analysis of health care, its merits and costs, and implement the necessary changes.

That ILWU locals go back to their states to discuss with their legislators and unions the need to pass comprehensive health reform to ensure that everyone living in the U.S. has access to quality, affordable health care.

That Urban League support to the company demonstrating the benefits and financial assistance to Fresh Del Monte Produce (Hawaii).

That the ILWU will communicate and take effective action on behalf when necessary.

That the ILWU Trustees keep locals informed of the funding status of the pension plan; and

That the ILWU will communicate and take effective action on behalf when necessary.

That all ILWU members, Pensioners, Auxiliaries, and families be encouraged to support for working people, most specifically the ILWU workers on the Alcatraz Ferry and those that called on the Iraqi government, Transport Minister Mr. Salim Khour Al-Zubeir Port, to rescind Law 150 and all other laws which interfere in or with the U.S. shall be required to adhere to the International Labor Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, including, but not limited to, the right to organize into unions and work for the enactment of H.J. RES. 55.

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International Elections Mail-in Ballot Instructions

General Notice of ILWU Referendum Election

(For posting at all ILWU union halls and offices from June 30, 2006 through August 14, 2006)

An election by secret ballot is being conducted by mail to determine the selection of ILWU Titled Officers, International Executive Board members, and, for Longshore Division locals only, Coast Committee members. The mail ballot procedure is the only method being used for voting in this election. The election is being conducted pursuant to the ILWU Election Rules and Procedures adopted at the April 1996 Convention and as subsequently amended. No later than Friday, June 30, 2006, ballot packs will have been mailed out to all ILWU members listed on the Voter Eligibility List. If for any reason you do not receive

Please also note that all voters must mark ballots in their full time jurisdiction that their ballots arrive at the designated post office box in Oakland, California, no later than 9:00 AM PST, August 14, 2006. Late received ballots will not be counted under any circumstances.

To prevent ineligible persons from voting, please note that any individuals who receive a ballot pack and who is not on the Voter Eligibility List will be sent a challenged ballot for voting. All challenged ballots will be reviewed by the ILWU, the ILWU Election Procedures Committee, the ILWU locals and affiliates, or any of their officers and representatives.

For newly organized members and for locals and a lead organizer, shop steward, Business Agent, then appointed as

The International works with the

Leadership at the International level means vision, discipline, organization, and most of all, accountability. Leadership means knowing the goals of the rank and file, understanding the contract and employers. Leadership at the International level means protecting all divisions of the ILWU and enforcing all of our contractual rights and benefits. It means helping to clarify the direction of the Longshore industry. With an energized, focused and united workforce, our ILWU will continue strong into the future.

The International supports training programs to support strategic organizing, education and in the international sector. Our many challenges ahead. And yes, we work within our budget, we work for our members. We will give them our best and I promise you that our ILWU is working to meet the challenges of our future.

I repeat what I have said before: I believe we must face the future as united, with the ability to expend my daily energies on Longshore and the Local #5 Powell’s Bookstore contract.

The International works with the

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On behalf of the union, I have traveled to Australia, Brazil, France, Holland, Germany, Belgium, South Africa, Cuba and Vietnam, carrying the proud banner and reputation of the ILWU.

I have rolled up my sleeves, and have worked with all divisions of our union. I have built some immense relationships with Members of Congress in Washington, D.C. and the next three years I will work even harder to help our line members and access.

I am really looking forward to your education programs the next three years, to reach even more of our members and to strike a chord with our new members so that they feel the ILWU. I really feel in the next three years organizing is going to really kick into full gear with a lot of energy, and we have even more line members and access.

The International has been there backing up the needs of any local or division, whenever we have been called. And yes, we have stepped up our game in organizing, political action, public relations, education and in the international arena.

I know that the next three years are going to be exciting times. The new leadership is very poised and ready for the many challenges ahead. And yes, we work within our budget, we work for our members. We will give them our best and then some.

In 2005, we negotiated the first Health & Welfare Trust Fund agreement for our members in the Longshore industry. This Trust Fund will help control the rising cost of health care insurance premiums.

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JOSEPH R. RADISICH, LOCAL 13

Brothers and Sisters of the ILWU.

My name is Joe Radisich and I'm running for the position of International Vice President, Mainland of the ILWU. I am a 21-year member of the ILWU, having worked mostly out of Local 13 with two years as a foreman in Local 94. I have served Local 13 over the past 14 ears in various capacities including Executive Board, Caucus delegate, business agent and vice president.

Over the past eight years I have helped develop the Local 13 Political Action Committee and PAC fund. I have been involved in many political campaigns in Southern California and have tirelessly helped many that are part of the ILWU. I am the President of the Southern California District Council and have represented Local 13 at the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor for the past eight years.

In the 2002 longshore contract negotiations I served as the coordinator of Public Relations and helped formulate a game plan to fight PMA's attacks against the ILWU. In 2005 I was appointed by the mayor of Los Angeles to serve as one of five commissioners on the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners. I graduated from UCLA in 1991.

I am running for this position because I believe I have the experience and connections to help the ILWU move forward in the future. My overall vision for the union is to be proactive, to lay the foundation for our future, and to build the ILWU for the future. My experience in the organizing department needs more resources to become increasingly vital.

These proactive activities include increasing our public activities, organizing and running campaigns such as the CBA's "Saving Lives" environmental campaign. On the political action front, more needs to be done to raise money. I will make this a major priority as well as making sure our legislative necessities are met.

Organizing will also be a priority. Working with organizer Peter Ollivon, the organizing department has had unprecedented success in organizing a push inland to organize the warehouses that are part of the logistics chain. I believe I can be helpful calling on the strong labor and political support in Southern California. This will be a long and probably costly task because the organizing department needs more resources.

Finally, the union learned valuable lessons in the 2002 contract that PMA was only a small port, but has allowed me to travel to many ports. Working from Bellingham, WA to Coos Bay, OR has taught me a great deal about the needs of our local, our national and international unions. This has been a critical in my decision to be a Delegate. Through the years I have learned that the strength of the ILWU lies in the unity of all locals, both large and small. Being from a small local might be a concern to some. I see it as an advantage. It has given me not just an intimate knowledge of the trials and tribulations of our local, but has allowed me to travel to many ports. Working from Bellingham, WA to Coos Bay, OR has taught me a great deal about the needs of our local, our national and international unions. This has been a critical in my decision to be a Delegate. Through the years I have learned that the strength of the ILWU lies in the unity of all locals, both large and small. Being from a small local might be a concern to some. I see it as an advantage. It has given me not just an intimate knowledge of the trials and tribulations of our local, but has allowed me to travel to many ports. Working from Bellingham, WA to Coos Bay, OR has taught me a great deal about the needs of our local, our national and international unions. This has been a critical in my decision to be a Delegate. Through the years I have learned that the strength of the ILWU lies in the unity of all locals, both large and small.

Ray Ortiz Jr., Local 13

Joseph R. Radisich

Brothers and Sisters of the ILWU, a solidarity greeting!

As a proud second-generation longshoreman, I have seen the waterfront evolve from the days of break bulk to today's world of containerization. I have been a member of the ILWU since 1969 and proud to say I have been a member for nearly four decades. Serving the Union has always been my greatest passion. I served on the Southern California District Council and in the following Local 13 leadership positions: Executive Board, Trial Committee, Chairman of the Grievance Committee; Registration Committee; Labor Relations Committee; Night Business Agent; and Delegate to the Longshore Division Caucus.

With that solid foundation, I served as your California Coast Committeeman for four years: 1997-2000, 2000-2003, and 2003 to the present. In that position, I work to protect your interests through Coast Labor Relations Committee meetings and the processing of all grievances and appeals, including Americans with Disability Act (ADA), accommodation requests, Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Act (USERRA) military credit requests, registration, coast arbitrations, participation on the Coast Benefits Subcommittee, and as Trustee of the Pension and Welfare Plans. I now humbly seek your support to represent the Longshore Division as your California Coast Committeeman for a 4th term.

As the 2008 contract negotiations approach, my experience on the 1999 and 2002 contracts negotiating committees will prove invaluable. The employers will undoubtedly continue their efforts to reduce our Longshore Division jurisdiction, weaken our Dispatch Halls, and reduce our Personal Health and Welfare benefits in the name of corporate profits and savings. These proactive activities include increasing our public activities, organizing and running campaigns such as the CBA's "Saving Lives" environmental campaign. On the political action front, more needs to be done to raise money. I will make this a major priority as well as making sure our legislative necessities are met.

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LUISA GRATZ, LOCAL 26

I am seeking to fill one of these positions on the International Executive Board. I was first elected in 1983, and was re-elected many times by the ILWU membership for this position.

I also continue to serve our membership as Local 26 President and Business Agent, since 1980, where my duties include chief negotiator, handling and preparing arbitrations, contract negotiations, NLRB and EEOC cases, organizer, and other membership services.

If elected, I would be honored to again have the opportunity to serve our members in the ILWU on the International Executive Board. There are three (3) IEB seats available to longshore and warehouse members from Southern California. I am seeking to fill one of these positions.

Thank you for your support.

Hermanos y Hermanas,

John Tousseau

Tousseau, Local 63

I am John Tousseau, and I am seeking re-election to the position of International Executive Member. I have been an Executive Board Member from 1994—present. I feel that I have served the rank and file, to the best of my ability, for the past 12 years, and would like to continue to serve you and this great union of ours.

I have been a member of the Longshore Division for 38 years 20 years in ILWU Local 13 and 18 years in ILWU Local 63. Marine Clerks.

I have served as a negotiator for the Coast Safety Committee in 1987, by personal example, but as a negotiator for the Coast Longshore Master Contract in 1999 and 2002, negotiations.

God Bless you and thank you, John Tousseau

John Tousseau

WARREN SHELTON, LOCAL 46

I am Warren Shelton from Long Beach, running for International Executive Board, Southern California. I am honored to be nominated for this position to serve this rank and file. I started in this great union in 1981 as a casual. Registered in 1998 as a Class “B” Longshoremen and was elevated to Class “A” Longshoremen in 1991. Transferred as a Union choice Clerk in 2003. I have served on these committees:

- Vice President Local 46: 2005-present
- Secretary/Dispatcher Local 46: 2002-2004
- Trustee Local 46: 2001-2004 present
- Caucus Delegate Local 46: 2004-present
- Presidential Election Volunteer in Ohio: 2004

In order to protect the future of our Union I feel we need to mobilize and educate our members on the many issues. Political Action is a very important area that we need to give priority. We need to create a strong line, the Bush Administration has decreed to us and the other business is to work against Labor and Unions. We need to build our local district councils and raise money for our State and Federal Elections. We need to also educate our members on all levels of politics.

Organizing is another area, we need to follow the “New March Inland” and also organize in the areas we are already established in. We need to hold the line on Healthcare and get involved in greening our ports and our communities.

We also need to communicate between the divisions better so that everyone knows what is taking place throughout the whole union.

I am qualified and committed to serve the International Executive Board and would greatly appreciate your vote! Thank You!

John Tousseau

ALAN COTE, IBU

I am honored that the members of the Inland Boaters' Union of the Pacific—Marine Division of the ILWU nominated me for the International Executive Board. Keeping the ferries, tugs and waterfront workers union is my number one priority. As I write this, our division is organizing still response workers and environmental workers as well as defending our existing jurisdiction on San Francisco ferries.

However, at the 2006 convention I learned that our struggle in San Francisco is one of many battles waged every day by ILWU locals. The entire ILWU is under a concerted attack and the denigration and even worse, elimination of our contracts is the price sought by the very industries our labor created.

The guest speakers at the convention threw down the gauntlet; the other unions working class behind the great principles of the ILWU or slip into the darkness and despair of economic and political injustice.

We were not just challenged to protest, but to act, all of our membership labor from Australian dockers to Blue Diamond Almond workers.

Alan Cote

MIKE MITRE, LOCAL 13

My name is Mike Mitre and I am running for re-election to the ILWU International Executive Board (I.E.B.) When in session, the I.E.B. is the most powerful body of the union, and it is very important. Having served for the past several terms as one of the longshore representative’s from Southern California, I am grateful for the support that I’ve received. Having been a past President of Local 13, I am presently serving on the Longshore Legislative Committee and the Dubai Ports Security for the ILWU. I have testified before both the Senate and House Committees regarding the DPSC and most recently before the full Senate Committee investigating the Dubai Port “incident.” I have served various terms on Local 13’s Executive Board, and as a past and present Caucus and Convention delegate.

Brothers and sisters, we’re at a crossroads. This is perhaps the most important time in the history of our union. We are dealing with making illegal all employment and a Bush government so interconnected that it’s a lie to tell where one leaves off and the other begins. Solid, good-pay-

American jobs are disappearing at a rapid rate and the inherent lack of respect for workers worldwide is only getting worse. And in the middle of this are the forces for globalization, so many of whom aren’t just running this country, but the entire world. All workers deserve the same respect, representation, and basic rights as everyone else. But somehow, somewhere, this most basic of messages has gotten lost. Somewhere along the line, somewhere, our government has decided that workers and organized labor are a “bad” thing, and it’s their “duty” to destroy us.

It is wrong. It must be challenged, and it must be changed. Brothers and sisters, this is the battle we’re faced with. This is the battleground of the Intl. Executive Board.

This is the same administration whose foray into Iraq is costing us 6 billion a month, who has given nothing but money and tax-breaks to the corporate rich, and who is virtually destroying the middle class. And what has Bush given us? Nothing less than the worst health care crisis America has ever seen and a social security fiasco that, if not corrected, is going to bankrupt not only ourselves, but our children and our children’s children.

Brothers and sisters, these are but a few of the issues facing the ILWU today.

We need the Bush government to understand that we have a right to unionize in any workplace we choose, and if we do there is a demand for the ILWU.

That is why I am running for re-election to the ILWU International Executive Board (I.E.B.) — for the ILWU.
TIM PODUE, LOCAL 13

Brothers and sisters, my name is Tom Podue. I have just served as a Local 13 Delegate to the International Convention and Longshore Division Caucus, and I am honored and grateful to have been nominated by President Mark Mendonca as a candidate for the International Executive Board. I have come up through the ranks, serving my local in many capacities, and appreciate this opportunity to give you some background information about myself and what I have to offer on your behalf.

I served continuously on the Executive Board of Local 13 since 1996. I was elected Business Agent in 1997, and have been a rank and file since then. I have been a Caucus Delegate 5 times since 1998, participating at the 1999 Contract Caucus and representing Southern California on the Safety Committee for a period during the 1999-2002 Contract. I served two terms as the Vice-President of Local 13 from 2003-2005.

During my term as Vice-President, I represented (with the help of former Coast Committeeman Richard "Ole" Olson) the brothers of Local 13's Allied Division during contract bargaining with SSA-Crescent Warehouse in San Pedro, in which we attained a good contract, a strong commitment to grievance procedures and Maintenance of Benefits and a $3 per hour raise over 3 years. I was elected to the Registration Committee, registering 2,500 new members in 1999. I have attended Special Section 13.2 Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation, and was also in charge of organizing during the Special Section 13.2 Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation. I have participated in the SEUBRA policy (Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Administration) for the local, caring for Veterans returning from military service. As VP, I was over-seer of almost every Labor Relations Committee Meeting (Regular, Mechanic, Class "B," Casual and Special).

Finally, I have spent countless hours of personal time and energy working on the following Local 13 Committees: Labor Relations, Grievances, Political Action, Constitution, Dispatch Rules, Budget, Outreach and Trademark.

Throughout my years of service, I have been responsible for both Contract Administration and administration of Local 13. I have devoted my heart and energy to the rank-and-file file with these simple and consistent Union principles: respect our history, preserve our jurisdiction, protect our membership, and preserve for our future. All that I have ever asked for myself, the Employers and the Union membership is to "Do the right thing." As an Officer, Delegate, and Committeewoman in the last 10 years, I feel that I have grown to possess the strong, candid, responsible and accessible representation at the International level. Progressive and tenacious, I am prepared and eager to represent all the Southern California locals on the International Executive Board. I ask you to elect me to this new opportunity to serve the ILWU, and entrust me to "Do the right thing."

JOHN FAGEAUX, JR.
LOCAL 63 OCU

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

My name is John Fageaux and I am seeking a position on the Local 63 Executive Board representing the Southern California area. First I would like to thank you for taking the time to read my campaign statement and for allowing me to share with you the reasons you should vote for me in the upcoming election.

EXPERIENCE

I am a proud member of ILWU Local 63 OCU! I have negotiated dozens of contracts, all of which have resulted in substantial gains in wages, health & welfare benefits, pensions and most importantly JOB SECURITY!

Under my leadership we have increased our Membership base by 80% and have organized and brought under contract the following companies: Hanjin Shipping, Hapag Lloyd, China Shipping, COSCO Agencies/Los Angeles, Support Services International, COSCO/Lon Beach, Incheon and Consolidated Leasing & Terminals.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

I have been very fortunate in receiving a great deal of education and training related to labor and our unique industry following is a list of some of my education and training:

- Harvard University, Negotiating Labor Contracts 2002
- University of Michigan, Negotiating and Administering the Labor Contract 2000
- Labor Law and Arbitration Courses 2003 and 2004
- International Legislative Conference in Washington, DC 2004
- ILWU LEAD Program 1996

In conclusion, I believe that clear that my experience and education provide me with the tools necessary to perform the duties and responsibilities of International Executive Board and look to your support in the upcoming election.

Fraternally,
John Fageaux, Jr.

RAY E. PANTER, LOCAL 30

Dear brothers and sisters of the ILWU, my name is Ray Panter the current President of ILWU Local 30. I've held the President position for eleven years, Vice President for six years, Chief Steward, Steward, E-Board member and Convention Delegate at five conventions, elected by the rank and file.

I'm running for the position of the International Executive Board, Desert Region. This position was passed by the 32nd annual convention. I understand that only Local 30 ballots will be counted when their cast for this position, so when you receive your ballot in the mail please vote and return your ballot.

I have experience to serve on the IEB with being an ILWU member for 40 years. I will support in service, not only the Desert Region but the entire ILWU rank and file. Our first representative did not, if very little, give reports on the decisions made by the IEB but this go around, full reports will be made to the rank and file.

My opponent in this election is a very young man with limited experience and has little knowledge of how the union works, so "VOTE" for experience "VOTE" Ray E. Panter when you receive your ballot in the mail around June 30, 2006.

The next three years will be a global battle for all the ILWU including the Desert Regions, Battle with Rio Tinto.

I respectfully ask for your vote. Mail in your ballots.

MICHAEI AVENPORT, LOCAL 30

I am a candidate for the International Executive Board, Desert Region. I am currently the Recording Secretary for Local 30 and look forward to the challenges of serving not only my local, but the brothers and sisters of all our locals within the ILWU. In May of this year I had the opportunity to represent the ILWU in Washington D.C. and share in the process of legislative action that I feel is essential to continuing and improving the way of life that we as Union members and American workers deserve.

My promise to you is that I will never lose sight of what it means to represent the members of our Union, that each and every voice deserves to be heard and that together we can make this Union prosperous and the envy of every working man and woman. We have many challenges ahead as we try to stay relevant in an ever changing workforce. It is important that we improve our methods of organizing and commit ourselves to supporting the brave men and women that take the chances to welcome us into their workplace. We have to earn the trust of our membership and provide information to those who elect us to keep our Union strong.

My thanks to all members of the ILWU.

PETE HENDRICKSON,
ALASKA LONGSHORE LOCAL

No statement submitted.

DEBBIE (MOUSE) MANOWSKI, RN, LOCAL 200
No statement submitted.
STEPHEN HANSON, LOCAL 8
Brothers and Sisters:

I am running for the position of International Executive Board. I received my B book in 1968 and my A book in 1972. I stood picket duty in the strike of 1971, and it gave me an understanding of what a Union is about, first and how important it is to stand together.

I started as a shop steward in 1983, then ran for other offices in my local. I have been elected President, Labor Relations Committee (LR), Business Agent, Executive Board member, Caucus and Convention delegate for Local 8.

For the Oregon Area I have been the Area Chairman and Secretary of the Labor Relations Committee. I have passed the AFL-CIO Organizing school, the L.E.A.D. conference, and I have worked on several organizing campaigns and have also helped negotiate all of our local agreements. I have been a member on the Oregon Area Labor Committee and the Jurisdictional Committee for the Longshore Division.

One of the most important things in our life needs to be the Union. We have many issues facing us now—one is Technology and the other is Security. On the technology issue, we need to stick together and they are our jobs. Clerk jurisdiction concerns us all. The government is trying to pass legislation to affect all of our jobs, and we need to stick together for the benefit of all.

The International Executive Board guides the Union between conventions. This is going to be an important time for the next couple of elections because of the governmental intervention in the life of our employers.

I believe that the first guiding principle of the ILWU, "A union is built on its members", is under attack. Our brothers in California and Hawaii are being attacked by their employers. They are Blue Diamond in California and Del-Monte in Hawaii. We need to stand up and be counted.

The 4th guiding principle, "To help any worker in distress", must be a daily guide in the life of every trade union and its individual members. If we vacation in Hawaii, stay at one of our hotels. We have several on every island. You can find them at www.ilwu.org/hawaiilhawaii-iwtels.cfm. If you want a book, use our Brothers and Sisters at Local 5—Powell Books. We can help you out, but you must order from each other Local 5 web page is http://powell-hanson.com/mainpage.php.

I thank you very much for taking the time to read this. Please take a few minutes to read about all the candidates, think about your representation, and vote for whom you think will represent you the best. I would truly like your support, but if not, please be sure to vote. We are only as strong as our members.

In solidarity forever, Stephen Hanson

RYAN TAKAS, LOCAL 5
Pillow Workers of the ILWU:
I am Ryan Takas. I am running for International Executive Board as a representative for the Columbia River District Area. I am a proud rank and file Local 5 member of over 6 years and look forward to continuing this tradition. Since winning my rights as a union member, I have immersed myself first in the creation and now continuation and betterment of our union. I was there on May Day, 2000 when we fledging Local 5 members first saw what it was to have the backing of our brothers and sisters in our struggle. We saw the power of workers united in hardship and determination.

I have served in key positions on the bargaining team in both Powell's contract campaigns (2000 and 2004) as well as the Local 5 Olympia unit (2002 and 2005). I have served as a steward for my entire rank and file tenure. I have served on the Local 5 Executive Board for 6 years—as full time Business Agent (2003-2005, 2005-present) and as Vice President (2003- 2005). In 2003 and 2006, I attended the ILWU Convention as an elected delegate. I have participated in the ILWU Leadership, Education and Development (LEAD) program, taken dozens of classes at the Portland State University Labor Education Research Center (LERC). I am a member on the Oregon Area District Council (OADC) and serve on the jobs with Justice (JWJ) steering committee. I have worked tirelessly to further the principals of this union not only for Local 5 workers but many workers in the community. I have supported workers on behalf of the ILWU in countless picket lines. Of note, I joined JWJ in their efforts to pressure PMA companies' retail locations during the lockout. I am an unwavering ally to both Warehouse and Longshore. My loyalty to my class and my union is clear.

As member of the IEB, I am committed to being a voice on behalf of every Local in our area. After every IEB meeting, I will timely communicate with each local in the area about the state of our Union. It is my goal to meet with every local in the area on a quarterly basis. I am readily available to hear your concerns, support you in your struggles and strive to ensure you have the best possible representation on the IEB.

Finally, and most importantly, I am committed to democracy in the ILWU. This kind of rank and file democracy is one of the paramount reasons we workers at Powell's chose this great union. I believe an important component in ILWU democracy is having a variety of voices at the table. Warehouse, Longshore, young, old, multicultural and multiracial. In order for this democracy to function, we must VOTE. I would appreciate it, when you vote, vote for me. I will not disappoint you and I will always give you my best.

GEORGE D. O'NEIL, LOCAL 8
Brothers and sisters,

My name is George O'Neil and I am a candidate for the office of International Executive Board, Columbia River Area.

I started in Local 8 Portland on April 12, 1980. During my 20 years in Local 8 I held the offices of President, BA, LRC, Dispatcher, Caucus Delegate, and on the Executive Board.

I helped negotiate local agreements and co-chaired the in-house Grain Agreement.

In 2000, I transferred to Local 40, Portland clerks. I have held the office of President, and currently am a Dispatcher and Caucus Delegate.

I feel I have gained a wider perspective on issues by being both a longshoreman and clerk.

My main goal is for a unified ILWU, with foremen, clerks, and longshoremen working together during these times of change, especially with the new technologies coming.

I will also strive to learn more about the needs of the non-longshore locals and assist them in any way possible.

If elected, I will make sure every local in my area is up to speed on the happenings of the IEB, with reports either in person or written and sent to them in a timely manner. Thank you.

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD—HAWAII (VOTE FOR)

Nathan "Nate" Lum
Local 142, Longshore

Kenneth Ige
Local 142, General Trades

Joey Silva
Local 142, Tourism

JERRY P. YLONEN, LOCAL 8
No statement submitted.
Northern California International Executive Board

DENNIS BRUECKNER, LOCAL 54
No statement submitted.

FRED PECKER, LOCAL 6
FRED PECKER FOR INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD
Brothers & Sisters,
I ask for your support in my run for a seat for the Northern California Area on the ILWU International Executive Board.

As Union workers we have to make our voices heard on many issues. The ILWU is faced with a host of issues (e.g., dredging, air quality), Development and encroachment around maritime and industrial areas, Healthcare & Retirement, and Justice and Peace among them.

Over the years I have represented on behalf of all Divisions of the ILWU (Longshore, IBU, & Warehouse) in public hearings and other forums throughout the Bay Area (SF Oakland, Richmond, Fremont), Stockton, Sacramento and Washington D.C. I participate in solidarity actions with other Unions regularly.

With your support I will continue to be a strong voice for Northern California on the International Executive Board.

I am currently Secretary-Treasurer of Local 6, Secretary-Treasurer of the Northern CA District Council, and on the ILWU International Executive Board. I also serve on the Executive Board of the San Francisco Labor Council, and as a Director of the ILWU-FSC Credit Union.

In Solidarity,
Fred Pecker
Local 6
Black Book # 11731

RICHARD CAVALLI, LOCAL 34
My name is Richard Cavalli and I am running for reelection to the office of Northern California representative on the International Executive Board. I have been on the Board for the last three years and I am also currently the President of Local 34 which represents Marine Clerks and Office Clerical workers in the San Francisco Bay Area and the District of Columbia.

I will continue to represent the wishes of the rank and file while I serve on the Board as I have in the past.

This office is important within the structure of the Union as the International Executive Board is the Unions highest governing body between the Conventions, which are held every three years. The recently finished Convention showed us that the Union has a number of serious challenges to deal with, and this International Executive Board will have the task of deciding on the ILWU's course of action. The next three years will be crucial to our Union.

While the future is impossible to forecast with certainty it surely will bring forth challenges for us. The political activities of the Union that are crucial to its ability to continue effectively serve the membership must be carried out in an energetic fashion. Because the International Constitution provides that it is an objective of the ILWU to secure legislation favorable to labor and to oppose anti-labor legislation, our course is already set. Political action and how our Union will raise the funds necessary to support that political action will be a key issue. The need to successfully organize new workers is of paramount importance to the Union and the Board will have a role to play. We must fashion a response to the immigration question that does not make targets out of those workers that our Union organizes.

Furthermore, we must be ready to protect our members from attacks by those in government who claim in the name of national security the right to deny access of ILWU workers to their workplaces.

There are but some of the difficulties we will face in the next three years. I am sure there will be others, and this Board must be up to the task of finding solutions that carry the ILWU message. Thank you for taking the time to allow me to share my concerns with you.

Fraternally,
Richard Cavalli

LAWRENCE J. THIBEAUX, LOCAL 10
My name is Lawrence Thibeaux. I've spent my working life dedicated to the ILWU serving in nearly every capacity from the local and regional level.

With my long view of the ILWU history and my many years of varied experience, I bring a seasoned perspective and sound judgment to the International Executive Board. I have been a regular member of longshore Local 10 since 1967, and was an A-man during the 1972 strike and Taft-Hartley injunction. Since then I have served as Local 10's Business Agent, Secretary-Treasurer and President. I have been on the Local 10 Executive Board most of the time and have been a regular caucus and Convention delegate since 1982.

I spent 11 years as the Northern California District Council's Legislative Representative. In that capacity I have worked in the California Legislature in Sacramento, testifying before numerous Assembly and Senate hearings and reporting the results to the council members. I lobbyists for increases in the minimum wage, for higher unemployment and disability benefits. I know the system, the issues and the players and have used that for the good of the ILWU and all working people.

Furthermore, I have been the Northern California representative on the Legislative Action Committee, lobby for dredging of the Port of Oakland, Sacramento and Redwood City as well as Formulations and enforcement of the ILWU's national political work.

I ask for your continued support to serve the ILWU.

In the last two years served on the Coast Public Relations Committee, helping develop a new program to improve the ILWU image, to get out our story, and train our members to do it ourselves.

Finally, I have served in this capacity, as Northern California representative on the International Executive Board, since 1993.

I have witnessed the ILWU history for many years. No one can pull wool over my eyes—I was there when it happened!

I ask for your continued support to serve the ILWU.

Canada Int'l Executive Board (Vote for one)

Can't tell me who I should vote for one each industrial grouping)

Avelino Martin Local 142 Pineapple

TOM DUFRESNE, LOCAL 500

Robert Zahl (Bob) Local 142 Sugar

The Dispatcher • 23
MATT VENTOZA, LOCAL 19
My father worked on the waterfront for over 40 years and of those years he was a Seattle foreman for over 20. Traveling to get work many of those years. My father thought so highly of this industry that he suggested I follow with this great longshore tradition and make longshoreing my career. It has never been a job to me, it has been and will continue to be a life time work.

My name is Matt Ventoza. I started working on the Seattle waterfront (local 19) in 1978. I accumulated nearly 10,000 casual hours before being registered to "B" status in May of 1993. I became an A registered longshoreman in June of 1994. I started attending the local JPLRC meetings immediately to educate myself on how this aspect of our business operated from the inside. My services to my local include 2 years as a local 19 alternate Labor Relations Committee member (1998,2002), 2 years as Stevedore Safety representative (1999,2000), 2 years as Vice President (2004,2005), 3 years as Area Labor Relations Committee member (2003,2004,2005), 3 years as a Delegate to 2 Conventions and 3 Caucus' and 4 years as an executive boardmember (2000,2003,2004,2005). I am currently the Local 19 Port Security Representative.

I am running for the position of International Executive Board member because I care about this great Union we belong to. I want this Union to be here for your children, great children and great grand children. I run for this position as a servant to you, the members that make this Union what it is today. We as a union must be united and strong for the betterment of this union. The intelligence of YOU the collective body of members is what makes this possible. Each one of your opinions matters and without your participation and foresight this Union would not be what it is today.

We must look to the future and make the necessary adjustments needed to protect our jobs and lively hood as well as our retirement plan. I believe that our retirees are the most important asset we have and we MUST protect their well being from contract to contract. Not only do our retirees provide us with wisdom but they know the history of this union and that is something we must never lose or forget. We must THINK OUTSIDE OF THE BOX. We are at a crossroads, with the declining union memberships across the country and we must not quit participating the way we have been with our legislative body or we will become just another statistic. I will do my part on the I.E.B. to make sure we continue with our forward thinking and seek new ways to move forward to protect this industry as well aid others in their struggle for the right to belong to a Union.

RICH AUSTIN JR., LOCAL 19
ELECT RICH AUSTIN JR. TO THE INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD (I.E.B.)

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

As a third-generation longshore worker, I honor and appreciate the sacrifices made by the pioneers of our great union. When elected to the International Executive Board (I.E.B.) I vow to uphold our Union’s Constitution and the By-Laws of the Longshore Division. They have served us well.

Soon after becoming a member of the ILWU, I began participating in the affairs of our Union. I am currently on the Local 19 Labor Relations Committee and therefore a member of the local’s Executive Board. In addition, I am a Convention and Caucus Delegate, a member of the Coast Education Committee, and am the current Local 19 Shop Steward Chair.

I have attended Educational Programs sponsored both by the International and the Longshore Division. Each of us has something to give back to our Union and all of us should make every effort to volunteer some of our time and pitch-in when needed.

The ILWU Constitution is a noble document. Its Objectives are:

"First, to unite in one organization, regardless of religion, race, creed, color, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation or nationality, all workers within the jurisdiction of this International;"

"Second, to maintain and improve the wages, hours, and working conditions for all of its members without discrimination;"

"Third, to educate the membership of this organization in the history of the American labor movement and in present day labor problems and tactics;"

"Fourth, to secure legislation in the interests of labor and to oppose anti-labor legislation."

As a member of the I.E.B. I will do my best to preserve and uphold those four Objectives as well as our Ten Guiding Principles.

The membership wants the facts. Sometimes the news is good, but once it awhile it is not. In either event, you deserve the truth, not sugarcoated chatter. I will continue to tell it like it is.

At the recent International Convention and Longshore Caucus I cast votes that I believed were consistent with our International Constitution. I did not look around the room to see if I was taking the “popular” position. My votes were intended to uphold the working class heritage of our great Union. As your I.E.B. representative I will continue taking principled positions.

Be sure to vote. Vote for Rich Austin, Jr for I.E.B. Thanks!

"An Injury to One is an Injury to All"

MAX VEKICH, LOCAL 52
No statement submitted.

CONRAD SPELL, LOCAL 23
No statement submitted.