

INTERNATIONAL
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AFL-CIO



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MEDIA ALERT: Immediate release for event, Oct. 20, 2004
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**PORT INFRASTRUCTURE CRISIS:
SOLUTIONS TO WEST COAST CONGESTION AUDIO NEWS BRIEFING**

WHAT: An **audio news briefing** with ILWU International President James Spinosa, union officers from Los Angeles and San Francisco, trucking industry representatives, and experts on intermodal freight transportation infrastructure. The panel will discuss solutions to ongoing infrastructure congestion, a cumulative crisis which poses potential harm to the national economy and to national security.

WHEN: **Wednesday, October 20, 2004**
10:00 am to 11:15 am, Pacific Daylight Time

WHO: **James Spinosa**, ILWU International President

David Arian, President, ILWU-Longshore Local 13, Los Angeles-Long Beach
www.ilwu.org

Stephanie Williams, Vice President, California Trucking Association. www.caltrux.org

John Castanho, Secretary-Treasurer, ILWU-Local 10, San Francisco.

Peter Hall, Assistant Director, Geography Department, University of Waterloo.
<http://www.fes.uwaterloo.ca/geography/Faculty/phall.html>

WHY: Port, highway and rail infrastructure investment has not kept pace with double-digit import growth over the past 15 years and growing consumer appetites for cheaper Asian goods. The inability to handle this surge is endangering workers and port communities, increasing air pollution and creating other harmful conditions. Since Governor Schwarzenegger recently vetoed legislation that might have given port workers and residents some relief, it's up to labor, industry and community leaders to engage in a cooperative effort to ensure safer communities and a healthier economy.

The ILWU has already brought aboard more than 3,000 workers in L.A.-Long Beach to help handle the cargo. With further training, these workers can handle the flow of goods even more efficiently. Another proposed solution is the opening of terminal gates to truckers on a 24-hour basis, a move that terminal operators have delayed. Retailers will need to open their warehouses for these off-hour deliveries if this strategy is to succeed. With these proposals and others, the union is calling for an end to the finger-pointing over cargo congestion and for immediate cooperation to reach some workable solutions.
