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**Inside Line**

**HARD LUCK**

There’s really no such thing as luck. There’s chance and opportunity and being prepared to pounce on it and turn it into success. You have to make your own luck—the hard way.

This is one of those times of opportunity, an opening in history where we can intervene and assert itself to make a difference. Past experiences and the insights gained from them determine if and how well people do intervene and change things.

The Republicans have put the hurt on themselves with a dizzying array of blunders. The Iraq War is dragging on into its fourth year with no end in sight, with some 2400 American soldiers killed, thousands more wounded and maimed, tens of thousands of Iraqis killed and wounded as the country spirals into civil war, terrorism is growing and the conflict is seemingly spreading in Iran.

The Jack Abramoff affair is the most widespread influence-peddling case of the last Congress. Republican House Speaker Tom DeLay departs in disgrace. Hurricane Katrina exacerbated not only the perception of Bush incompetence and racism, but the decline of his poll numbers. Vulnerability abounds.

From March 13-17 into this chasm of blunders a troop of more than 50 ILWU local officers and rank-and-file activists took to Capitol Hill intent on pushing the ILWU pro-worker agenda. As ILWU Legislative Director Lindsay McLaughlin relates in his Washington Report (see page 4), they had some preparation, some veteran leaders and a lot of focus and determination.

The groundwork had been in process for a while. This was the third such orchestrated Congressional blitz in the last five years, the union’s regional District Councils have been more active recently and the union’s education program has provided expanded rank-and-file training and opportunities to participate. And, of course, McLaughlin’s lobbying work on the Hill for 16 years helped open doors.

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They came in pounding their points on port security, port pollution, health and safety, workers’ health care for all and union rights. The new lobbyists took their assignment seriously, veteran Northern California District Council Legislative Representative Lawrence Thibeaux told me they were well-prepared. They were well-prepared.

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The new people were a bit intimidated at first, but each was given an assignment of a certain subject and by the end of the week presented it to the legislative Thibeaux said. “They all pulled it off great. It was good to see the young people involved in the legislative process. It gives us hope the District Councils will continue as they have in the past.”

A simple case of preparedness seizing opportunity. How lucky was that?” Hardy.

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**ILWU rank and filers have an obligation to steer clear of enticements and gratuities the employers offer them.**

Harry Bridges, our great founder, always said we must never find ourselves in a position where special interests groups are favored over our union and are recognized by the employers. Our rank and file has an obligation to steer clear of enticements and gratuities offered them. We must continue to abdicate by the contract and union by-laws that have preserved the dispatch system we live by.

We have the greatest work force in the world. Whether we are workers out of the hall, steady or preferred, the obligation is to move cargo and meet the needs of our industry. In doing this we must recognize that every job plays an important role and requires skills to accommodate the industry’s needs. The hall worker must never be considered second-class.

The success of past and future contract negotiations relies on the strength of our hiring system. Skill work must be available to ensure hall men and women that work in our industry and equal earning capacity.

The 2008 negotiations are only two years away from starting. Focusing on problems that weaken our dispatch system must be recognized as one of our top priorities.

It is time, in my opinion, that a work guarantee equal to those who work under a steady guarantee be made available to hall workers. Rank and filers must come together in solidarity and remember our slogan: “An injury to one is an injury to all.”

—JAMES SPINOSA

ILWU International President

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**The Dispatch**

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By Marcie Rein

SACRAMENTO—With their yellow balloons bobbing in the wind, workers from the ILWU watched as a parade passed by. The pickets were standing against anti-immigrant bills in Congress. Sacramento’s 5,000-strong parade far outstripped last year’s event. A million marched in Los Angeles, a half-million in Chicago, and tens of thousands of others in cities from Charlotte, North Carolina to Denver to Phoenix. Workers stayed home in Atlanta. Students walked out of schools all over.

“One look at the crowd at the rally after the march is over, and you realize just how many people there were,” said Mike Flores, one of the workers the packing company that brought farm workers north from California to work in the fields, the plant a couple weeks later with the teachers,” he said in Spanish. “This is a day for the rights of workers.”

“We’re here and we’re not going away,” Mr. Chávez said.

“Aproda approached the suspects identified and divided the workers in the plant,” he said.

“People just had enough of flat wages,” Everett Burdan said. “If I sent some of my workers from Charlotte, North Carolina to Denver to Phoenix. Workers stayed home in Atlanta. Students walked out of schools all over.”

“They’re just hardworking people, and not made up of any one race, creed or color; and it is also a well-known fact that under the United States Constitution all people are created equal and every citizen and non-citizen living in the U.S. has the right to be protected....”

ILWU watchmen nab port intruders

A nearly 4 a.m. the shuttle bus crunched through the Port of Los Angeles, and they were trudging through the gate to start their day. The ILWU Local 26 watchman called the Long Beach Police Dept., and quickly called the Harbor Patrol, a division of the Long Beach Police Dept., and called the sergeant in charge, Sgt. Britt, told the rally. “The company has threatened us with closing the plant, and told us that they were going to close the plant...”


“I was kind of bluffing them a little. I think they thought I was being serious.”

“Things are looking up,” Eugene Spinosa wrote.

“Guest worker programs create special visas for workers in certain occupations. The workers have to pay high fees for their documents and can only stay in the U.S. for a short time if they lose their jobs. The “bracero” program that brought farm workers to the U.S. in the 1950s set up a type of guest worker arrangement. Just as that program created obstacles to organizing farm workers in Chavez’s day, guest worker programs would hurt workers today, the AFL-CIO Executive Council noted in a March statement.

“Guest worker programs lower labor standards and working conditions for all workers within our border...”

“Aproda approached the suspects identified and divided the workers in the plant,” he said.

“Aproda smiled and took the information more quickly,...”

“He spotted a third man about 25 feet from where they got in who was hiding out like he was a lookout. The Coast Guard and the Navy were showing up a couple of minutes later. Officer Clarence Britt, responded to the call for backup. They asked to see the suspects’ IDs.”

“The other two kinds of liked that idea and told the third guy, ‘Just give him the ID. We’re not here to cause problems,” Britt said. “But once we had it, they couldn’t leave. We told them to take a seat.”

“Two of them had California driver’s licenses with Long Beach addresses. The third had a Portuguese passport.
ILWU takes Capitol Hill

By Lindsay McLaughlin

I

could not have occurred at a more opportune time. More than 150 members of the ILWU took to the halls of Congress in Washington, D.C. from March 15-17 to lobby members of Congress on issues that are critical to the longshore trade.

Following on the heels of the Dubai Port World controversy, political leaders and the ILWU were eager to hear the agenda of the ILWU. Led by Legislative Action Committee member Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), the California region, "Democrats and Republicans were eager to hear what ILWU had to say and, even though we have been talking about the inspection of empty containers and inspecting seals for several years, it seems everyone agreed with us on this trip."

The Conference was centered around a number of core ILWU issues:

• Port security
• Green port/Saving lives campaign
• Pension protection
• Health Care
• Employee Free Choice Act
• Service Contract Act/Alcatraz ferry boat contract.

DeFazio invited an impressive list of policy makers to address the union about port security. Dabney Holmes, General Counsel and Director of the Senate Commerce and House of Representatives, addressed the Conference its first day on two bills they helped draft, S. 1052, the Transportation Security Act of 2006, the Green Lane Cargo Maritime Security Act. The two senior staffers outlined the need to put in place a program to evaluate the empty container issue to address the threat of empty containers as a transportation security incident. Current law includes a felony conviction on a "transportation security incident" to be a reason to exclude an individual from working in the ports. This change in the law is the highest priority for the ILWU.

The ILWU warehouse Local 13 Secretary-Treasurer David Fuster, (D-CA) joined the Conference and spoke about the need for ILWU political action. I want to recognize a union after a major dispute from being adversely affected by legislation currently being considered by Congress, an ILWU-supported amendment to the Pension Protection Act would protect the ILWU/PMA Act would protect the ILWU/PMA-

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March 21-24 gathering at its Maritime course for the new century.

Dufresne reported.

and establish a real appeals process.

lead to dismissal without appeal.

When we leave here we will do some
and NDP leader Jack Layton.

Wesley Furtado; International Vice President Bob McEllrath; Hawaii Vice President Ordano, President, Federated Aux-

LeMonnier reported on an answer from the Justice Dept.

“Whom did we feel we got through that by ourselves? McEllrath said. “Do we really believe

We established education pro-
grams because we used to be able to

The convention congratulated the crew of the ferry Queen of the North for their heroic efforts in rescuing 99
out of 101 persons on board after the 8,806-ton ferry sank 70 miles south of Prince Rupert March 24. The resolu-
tion also called for an independent investigation into the cause of the accident, and a safety review of other ferry operators.

ILWU Canada continues to demand

We also adopted a public relations stra-
tet for the new convention resolutions

and Coast Committeeman Joe Wenzl;

Secretary-Treasurer William Adams

Tobacco, and General Division

President Michael Raine expressed his pride to the community. It’s wonderful to be able to talk to the media and to our com-
munities about the value the union

The union wants to raise the

national industries, progressive tax laws, pay equity, schools, jobs, univer-
sal health care, poverty, water free of toxins, justice

The NDP’s Jack Layton praised

DECEMBER 22, 2004

The ILWU Canada Convention has ratified resolutions, including ones for Local 517 with Nanaimo Port Authority and 
19th century. He reported to the ILWU on the B.C. Federation of Labour’ committees on organizing and strike coordination.

Second Vice President Jim Footman reported on his meetings with Immigration Canada over the issue of foreign-born dockers’

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The new convention will focus on these points.

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• ILWU Canada will continue to

fighting for improved Marine Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, and will continue to oppose the employ-

these days are going to have as rights, we have to struggle to keep,” Georgetti said.

The government’s strategy was
to wipe out the two strongest unions in

The law allows employers with 100 or fewer workers to fire them for no reason at all. Larger companies can fire anyone for vague “operation-
al reasons.” Employers will be able to force individual contracts on workers and fire them if they refuse. The new law undermines union agreements and allows employers to set new deals on overtime pay and shift premiums.

The NDP’s Jack Layton praised the support the ILWU gave in recent elections.

Everything we have to get, we

have to struggle for. Everything we

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The MUA’s Jim Tannock gave a detailed report on harsh new labor laws being imposed Australian work-

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POLITICAL UNION WORKER SAFETY ISSUE

Thank you for your September 2005 story regarding occupational and environmental health hazards reported at the Port of Los Angeles and the Ports of Trade Department. Your editorial and the Dirty Diesel coalition stories in the same edition were cut from the same cloth.

Many of these kinds of issues arose during my time as a San Francisco Longshoremen’s Union strike of 1987, where we resolved to mourn our dead and fight for liv- ing who were being exposed to terri- fying amounts of hydrocarbon vapors during oil cargo handling. The act of see- king the policy that I am trying to bring about was 34 years ago. We are dealing with office signs to doorbelling.

They all stepped up to the plate and helped everyone through it. I was run- ning in a race that did not affect a lot. Electing members from the International Longshore Workers Union leadership is an option that can make the whole ILWU stronger. My election has proved that the voices of all ILWU members who strive to make the ILWU work.” I stand together as we did during my campaign.

I would like to thank you for your support and help.

George Schoenfeldt, Local 27
Commissioner Elect, Port of Port Angeles

SOLIDARITY AND INVOLVEMENT WORK

The Joint Statement of The Dispatcher provided excellent cover- age of the triumphs that can be achieved when 12, 47, and 52 are united. I read it cover to cover—twice.

Victories by warehouse Local 6, the ILWU-Sound District Council, and the 23, 51 and 52, and the many individual ILWU members for their gen- erosity and help during my campaign for Port Commissioner. It could not have happened without the support and help.

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I would like to give special thanks to the ILWU International, Puget Sound News, Local 26, Locals 23, 31, and 32, and the many indi-

vidual ILWU members for their gen- erosity and help during my cam- paign and present Port Commissioners Dick Marzano of Tacoma, Jack Block of Seattle, George Raine of Vancouver, Larry Larson of Longview and Jess Herrera of Port Huemul for their help, and the Local 27 members who did everything from putting up office signs to doorbelling.
T he ILWU lost a great friend and champion when former ILWU attorney and ILWU legal counselor Norman Leonard died recently. Leonard, who twice represented the ILWU before the U.S. Supreme Court, practiced law in San Francisco from 1934 until he retired in 1986, except for four years in the Navy during World War II. Throughout his long and distinguished career, Leonard represented the ILWU tirelessly and with consummate skill. He was 92 when he passed away in March.

In 1986 ILWU International President Jimmy Herman authored an introduction to a rich oral history collection by the Bancroft Library of the University of California, Berkeley. Herman noted that he thought he’d become a federal judge if he hadn’t fought for progressive causes and defended Harry Bridges and the ILWU all those years, Rubio reflected.

For all his prodigious legal talent Leonard was “a plain, down-to-earth guy who got along well with union officers and rank-and-file members alike,” Williams said. “He communicated in every-day language and never played the intimidating lawyer. Norman made you feel comfortable whether you were out for a relaxed dinner or in his office discussing complex legal issues.”

Rubio commented glowingly about Leonard’s “international acumen.” “Norman would sit in with the International officers and rank-and-file members,” Rubio explained. “He would be there to give legal advice and to keep us out of trouble. Norman always found a way to cover what we wanted that was actually within the law. He had a great capacity for this.”

Cléophas Williams, a four-term Local 10 president between 1967 and 1983, said the first African American elected to that post, recalled Leonard best as Local 10’s attorney. “We faced through all our legal problems with us,” Williams said. “When we were forced to make certain sacrifices to the good of the union that could be challenged under the law, Norman always carried the ball back to us.”

“In Local 10 we followed Harry’s philosophy, which was to do what you had to do,” Williams said. “He never let lawyers figure it out if there were legal repercussions,” Williams explained. “When you had a problem, Norman always did all he could to get us out of any jam we might be in. He also used to ask at our union meetings, listen patiently to our questions and then clarify things for us in straightforward language. Bottom line is, Norman was a good man who hung in there all the way. He never, ever turned his back on us.”

While Leonard argued several cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, he actually did not perform in the courtroom very often himself. During his lengthy career most people thought of him as a consummate legal strategist rather than a courtroom showman. Among his peers, who could seriously understand his work, was what was right for his clients.”

Carder recalled, “He didn’t care about grabbing the courtroom spotlight. All he wanted was what was right for his clients.”

When Carder joined Leonard’s law firm in 1980, he was already a seasoned attorney with much experience representing the United Farm Workers. Still, he characterized practicing law with Leonard as “a great opportunity to learn from a guy with such a long perspective.” Carder was especially impressed because “Leonard usually did not waste many words with judges and other lawyers. But when he did speak, those words were well directed.”

Norman Leonard was born in the Bronx, New York, on Feb. 27, 1914. His parents, Sam and Ana Leonard, were Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe. Norman’s father worked as a tailor in New York City’s garment industry, which was notorious for its sweatshop conditions in the years around World War I. A prolonged strike caused Sam to seek work in Los Angeles, and the family relocated there in 1929. The next year Norman finished high school and began classes at UCLA.

Leonard was interested in social issues from the start. Influenced by his family background and by the economic tragedy of the Great Depression, he majored in political science and joined one of UCLA’s most progressive student clubs. He graduated in 1934 and returned to New York to earn a master’s degree in international relations a year later at Columbia University. Leonard then attended Columbia’s law school.

There he met his future wife, Marjorie Friedman, who was one of only five women in his law school class.

In 1938 Leonard graduated from law school. That year he and Marjorie, now married, left for San Francisco, where Leonard joined the law firm of Gladstein, Grossman and Margolis. The firm had a high public profile by 1938 for its defense of Harry Bridges and the ILWU. Over the years the legal group has undergone several name changes. Today, two decades after Norman Leonard’s retirement, it is known as Leonard Carder.

The year Leonard started with Gladstein, Grossman and Margolis he was asked to defend Bridges in a free-speech case. Bridges had been found in contempt of court and fined for criticizing a Southern California judge. Leonard appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court during the ensuing legal appeal, which was decided in Bridges’ favor.

In the early 1940s, while World War II was on, Leonard served overseas as a Navy lawyer. He returned to San Francisco when the war ended in 1945 and resumed civilian legal practice. One of the many high points of his long career came in 1953 when he defended Bridges again before the nation’s highest court.

This time Leonard wrote the successful Supreme Court brief in a wide-ranging case that dominated news and newspaper page news for three years. In 1950, with the red scare of the McCarthy period, full swing, and a man with the red scare of the McCarthy period, full swing, and informing the public about what was going on in the ILWU, Leonard began to represent the ILWU many times, but he never expected that a legal group would become so controversial.

Throughout his career Leonard also accepted numerous civil rights cases and related cases. Often he did pro bono work. During the McCarthy period of the 1950s he defended many people besides Bridges who were accused of Communism. Some were subjected to trials, while others sought counsel when they were barred from waterfront jobs by the Coast Guard’s infamous anti-activist “screening” program or were forced to testify before the inquisitorial House Un-American Activities Committee.

In the 1960s Leonard helped conscientious objects to the Vietnam War who faced legal difficulties, and represented people arrested for picketing against whites-only hiring at San Francisco’s Sheraton Palace Hotel. When student protesters were arrested at the University of California, Berkeley, in the 1960s, Leonard was there for them too.

Norman sure was a class act as an attorney,” Ward said. “He always did the best he could for everyone, including our membership. He really deserves our respect.”

Leonard is survived by his wife Marjorie, his son Eric, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and his daughter, Stephen, an environmental lawyer in Boston, his brother, Dr. Alvin Leonard of Berkeley, four grandchildren and countless grateful ILWU members and their families.
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ADRP—Southern California
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870 West Ninth St. #201
San Pedro, CA 90731
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400 North Point
San Francisco, CA 94133
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DARE—Northern California
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(800) 772-8288

ADRP—Oregon
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Portland, OR 97232
(503) 231-4882

ADRP—Washington
Donnie Schwendeman
3680 Port of Tacoma Rd. #503
Tacoma, WA 98424
(253) 922-8913

ILWU CANADA

EAP—British Columbia
Ted Greateway
745 Clark Drive, Suite 205
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