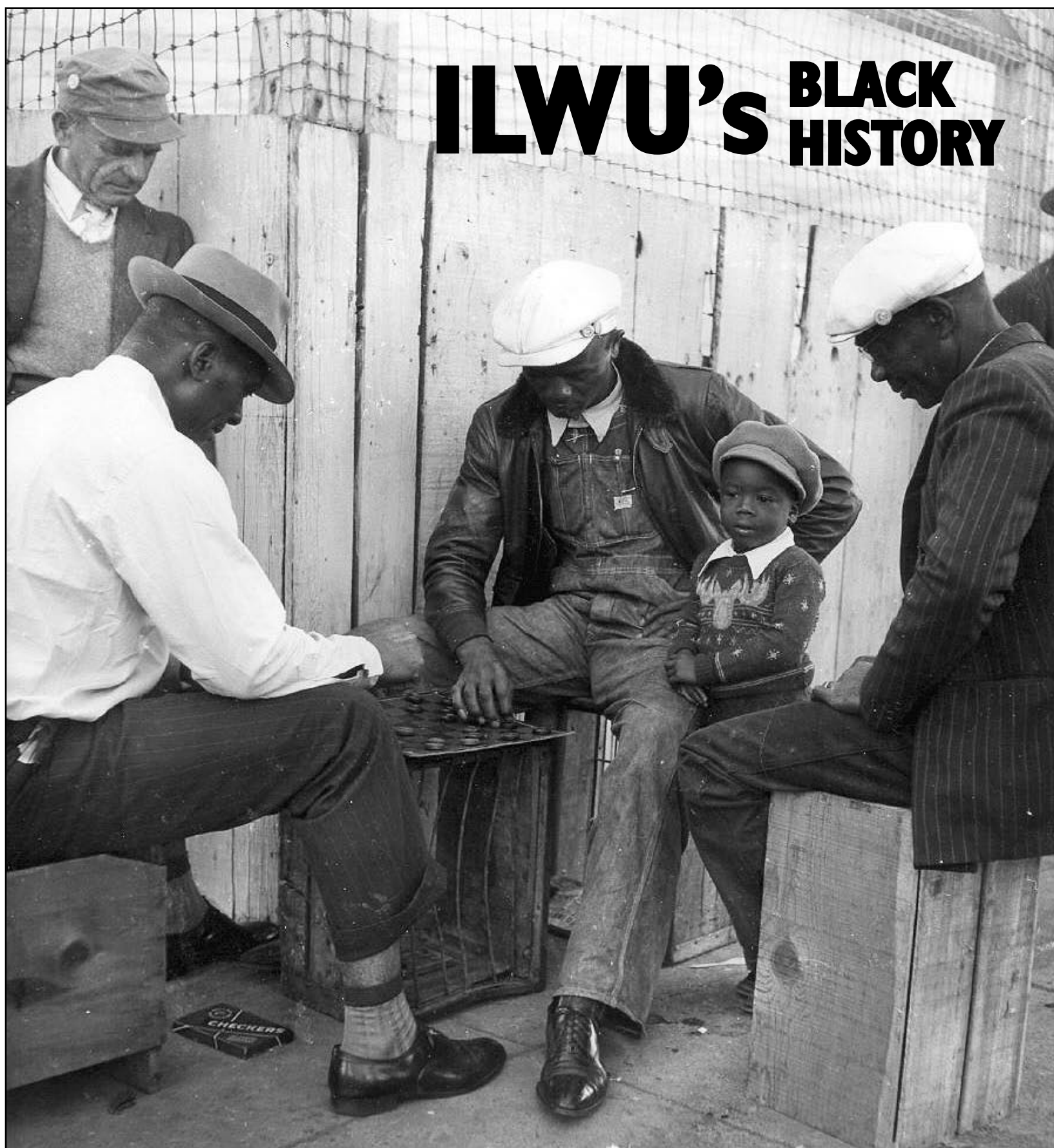


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—Tom Price

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Moving our traditions into the 21st Century

By Robert McEllrath
ILWU International President

Today we are preparing to fight old battles in a new way. We are going to be more aggressive about moving the Union forward in a progressive direction. To do this takes all of the local officers, the International, and the support of the rank and file.

This means that putting out our message about the programs and principles of the ILWU is of the utmost importance. This requires public relations and education, and has to be done in a positive manner. What we need now is productive, proactive, constructive output, such as radio and television ads showing the positive side of the ILWU. For example, International Vice President Wesley Furtado and Local 142 collaborated to make television spots on the local station to profile the ILWU, showing its contributions to the community; Longshore Local 10 put together spot ads on radio during broadcasts of Raiders and 49'ers football games that describe exactly what longshore workers do for their local economy. Good job!

The time to undertake these kinds of outreach campaigns is now. At the upcoming Longshore Caucus in April, I will propose that we budget \$1,000,000 for a public relations campaign to get out our message through 2008. We cannot wait until 2008 to do this. This campaign will not just benefit Longshore for next year's negotiations, it will build awareness and understanding of all sectors of our Union and the thousands of our members who will be under the gun in bargaining.

Next, we will help train local officers in a series of educational programs. As of this writing, local secretary-treasurers and trustees are being trained in union administration in San Francisco.

Next up will be the Longshore Division's Contract Administration Workshop. These workshops will train our local officers in grievance handling and arbitration procedures. Our Longshore ranks are growing rapidly and we need to be aggressive in teaching and supporting upcoming local leaders and new members.

Next, in September, we will hold another of our highly successful Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) programs, focusing on "What it will take in 2008." This means learning the nuts and bolts of internal preparation and member participation in support of the union's positions at both the bargaining table and in the political arena in this next critical chapter in the life of the ILWU.

In the Longshore Division, again on the idea of strength through unity, we will bring together the Clerks' Technology and the Longshore Technology committees for a roundtable discussion about the implementation of new technology in our industry. We will also be visiting the new Maersk facility in Virginia to observe the automated container handling equipment.

As we get closer to Longshore bargaining we will also conduct media training for local officers, so that those who have the authority to speak for the ILWU at the local level will have the necessary communications tools and will know how to use them.



We may be talking about a New Direction, but what we are really talking about is going in the same proud and progressive direction taken by the ILWU for over 70 years—but going about it a new way, with some new tools.

We will also set our sights on raising a million dollars for our Political Action Fund to increase our successes in 2008 beyond the extraordinary outcomes we helped achieve last fall.

The global economic pressures we are facing, that have been putting pressure on our workers in Hawaii and warehouse workers everywhere, also requires us to take our historic principle of international solidarity to new heights. We will not only be talking the talk of mutual aid and support, and walking the walk when called upon, but we will be taking new steps and exploring new directions as necessary. We have stepped up our participation in the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), and we have been meeting and communicating with longshore workers in Mexico to discuss issues of mutual concern—including more formal ties between our organizations.

Anyone who reads the maritime industry press or business pages of the newspaper knows of the potential development of the Pacific ports in Mexico as an alternative to Los Angeles and Long Beach for inbound goods from Asia.

I decided it was time to go down to Mexico and meet with our counterparts in the Mexican dockworkers' union. On Dec. 4, 2006 I led a delegation to the largest Mexican container port, Manzanillo, in the State of Colima. I was joined by Leal Sundet from the Coast Committee, Ray Familathe, Director of International Affairs, and Peter Olney, Director of Organizing. Ben Davis from the AFL-CIO Solidarity Center joined our delegation in Manzanillo. We held a daylong meeting with Cecilio "Lepe" Bautista, General Secretary of the Union de Estibadores Del Mar Pacifico (Pacific Ocean Dockworkers Union).

We discovered that we have strong mutual interests and share similar problems with common employers. SSA has a major presence in Manzanillo and we

visited their terminal operations. We pledged to invite a delegation from the Mexican dockworkers to visit our ports and our members in the near future. Ties with Mexican dockworkers needs to be deepened and developed.

We will continue to work with the International Dockworkers Council and take concrete measures as needed, such as our recent decision to fund the new IDC office in Brazil. We will do what it takes to follow up on our commitments. We will be an active partner in each and every organization and coalition in which we have a seat at the table. We will, in other words, walk the walk.

My focus with this new administration is quickly and effectively implementing the programs and policies established by the 2006 ILWU Convention and Longshore Caucus, and as decided by the rank and file delegates to those meetings—and by the thousands of rank and filers who cast their ballots in our election over the summer.

We may be talking about a New Direction, but what we are really talking about is going in the same proud and progressive direction taken by the ILWU for over 70 years—but going about it a new way, with some new tools. We, the Titled Officers at the International and the Coast Committee, know what we have to do—but we won't get very far without your support and participation.

An Injury to One is an Injury to All!

The DISPATCHER

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Tom Price
Interim Editor

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Huge peace march protests war at home and abroad

by Tom Price

At least 10,000 people marched down Market St. in San Francisco Jan. 27, protesting the war in Iraq and the war at home against workers.

The huge crowd turned from Market St. to the Embarcadero, then marched north to Pier 31-33 where thousands joined members of the Masters, Mates, Pilots Union and the Inlandboatmen's Union, who have been conducting a boycott of Hornblower Yachts since that company took over the Alcatraz Ferry run last September.

A large majority of the marchers made the entire trip. They took up picket signs and stood in front of Hornblower's Alcatraz Ferry pier as the scabs hid behind a San Francisco police officer who was obviously disdainful of his role as a herder. A tiny number of passengers crossed the line, perhaps intimidated by the thousands of picketers, who went out of their way not to interfere with their departure. Robert Estrada, a 21-year, second-generation veteran of the Alcatraz Ferry run, spoke to the crowd:

"In many ways, this Hornblower operation represents the war at home," Estrada says. "When I look

out across our nation and see what has been done in the name of America I feel shame, I feel sadness. I look out at what's been done in the name of democracy and freedom, and what I see is warfare, impoverishment, oppression, greed and favoritism to rich connected people like Terry MacCrea here."

Terry MacCrae is CEO of Hornblower and has close connections with the Bush administration and with Gov. Schwarzenegger. Estrada's dad Richard was IBU Regional Director during big the 1987 strike. Hornblower won the National Park Service's Alcatraz contract last year, replacing the union workers of the Blue and Gold Fleet. Hornblower immediately asked for a fare increase. Since then, there have been reports of bad service, sewage spills and stranded passengers. The workers demand the company:

(1) Agree to hire all predecessor (Blue & Gold Fleet) employees; (2) Recognize the unions under the successorship doctrine; (3) Restore the status quo terms and conditions of employment under the expired Collective Bargaining Agreement's; (4) Provide make-whole remedies of back pay, lost benefits and contribu-



Robert Estrada, 21-year IBU veteran, addresses rally.

tions to the union funds; (5) Agree to a bargaining order under which the expired contracts may be renegotiated or modified.

Bush plan fails to address health care crisis

By Kyle Weimann

America's health care system is in the Intensive Care Unit. We spend more per person than any other advanced industrialized country—yet we are sicker, die younger, and have a lower chance of receiving the recommended care when we do receive treatment. Forty-seven million Americans live without health insurance, in fear of falling ill.

For the second time in as many years, President Bush used the State of the Union address to trot out another health care policy. Last year he proposed a massive expansion of health savings accounts—tax-free bank accounts to pay for medical expenses—used in conjunction with high deductible health plans. These plans require thousands of dollars of out-of-pocket expenses before any

(limited) coverage kicks in.

This is a far cry from what the ILWU 33rd International Convention called for last year. Convention Resolution 25 asked Congress to thoroughly review the health care crisis and consider solutions—including a single payer plan. The Convention also supported Congressman Conyers' (D-MI) bill, H.R. 676, that called for a national insurance plan.

This year, however, Bush has found a new pony to show off—unfortunately, this pony still can't dance. The President has turned to the only public policy he knows—tax deductions.

Under the current tax code, an employer's contributions to employees' health insurance are exempt from taxation. This encourages employers to provide a comprehensive ben-

efits package rather than paying the amount as additional wages. By keeping people in large employer-sponsored health plans, risk is spread among more people and premiums can be kept (comparatively) lower. The overhead costs associated with the individual insurance market are significantly higher (30% of every premium dollar versus approximately 10% in the group market).

This year, Bush proposed capping the amount of health benefits that are tax exempt at \$7,500 for an individual and \$15,000 for a family. His plan would tax any costs above that level would be taxed at the marginal income tax rate for the individual, and businesses would have to pay payroll taxes on that amount. It would then provide a standard tax deduction of equal amounts for people who purchase health insurance in the individual market, regardless of the cost of the coverage. His theory is that by getting the tax deduction, those without insurance will be able to rush out and buy health insurance of their own.

Unfortunately for Mr. Bush, his plan is almost entirely nonsensical. Starting with the obvious, a tax deduction is only useful for people who pay taxes. A full 55% of the uninsured do not pay any federal income tax, due to their low incomes. In fact, many of these people already *receive* money from the government every year in the form of the Earned Income Tax Credit. A tax deduction will not provide any benefit to this group.

Second, there is no coverage requirement. A person with chronic illness and very high ongoing health expenses simply cannot buy worthwhile coverage. A corollary of this problem is that there are no requirements for the insurance itself. Corraling people into high deductible plans paired with health savings accounts with no comprehensive coverage and enormous out of pocket expenses will do little to help the average family.

Perhaps most importantly, this proposal would punish employers who have done the right thing by providing comprehensive plans for their employees and retirees. Many of these employees are union members who have spent decades negotiating these packages. The cost per person will be significantly higher for compa-

nies with older, long-term employees who have spent their entire working life in harsh conditions in the warehouse, on the factory floor, or on the waterfront.

This is not the direction we ought to be heading.

UNIVERSAL COVERAGE

As the ILWU has repeatedly advocated, the only fair and cost-effective approach to health care is comprehensive, universal, single-payer coverage. By forcing people to fend for themselves in acquiring and financing their health care, everyone must bear the risk of catastrophic disease or disability alone. Administrative and advertising expenses suck billions of dollars out of the health care system, raising premiums and reducing coverage.

Many Democratic lawmakers are also openly advocating for universal coverage as the only fair and economical way out of the health care morass we find ourselves in now. Representative John Conyers (D-MI) is once again introducing HR 646, his plan for universal, single-payer coverage that would essentially nationalize for-profit insurance companies and hospitals. There are also several other, less dramatic plans that propose to create universal access within the existing health system's framework. These include proposals from Senators Kennedy (D-MA) and Wyden (D-OR) as well as from Representative Stark (D-CA). The general idea behind each is to expand the widely successful and popular Medicare program to the entire population. Those with low incomes would receive a heavily subsidized buy-in to Medicare.

Budgetary and political realities, however, make it extremely unlikely that these proposals will become law. The price tag will undoubtedly be very large for each, potentially in the trillions for a plan such as the one proposed by Representative Conyers. With record deficits, \$8.7 trillion in outstanding public debt, and the huge expense associated with the occupation of Iraq, the federal treasury will need to be stabilized before such an endeavor is feasible.

MOMENTUM HEADING INTO 2008

Despite having little immediate chance of passage, these plans will all

continued on page 6

Fresh Del Monte Produce boycott continues

Hawaiian workers had grown pineapple for Fresh Del Monte Produce and its predecessors for more than 100 years, half of that time under a contract with their union, ILWU Local 142. Then in Feb. 2006 the company announced it would close operations in 2008 and outsource pine production out of the U.S.

Now the company has changed the deal—it announced last November that it would close production as of Jan. 2007, throwing 550 ILWU members off the job a year early.

Under federal law Del Monte had to provide 60 days work or pay since it hadn't given 60 days notice.

"The extra two months of compensation offered little consolation to the workers, most of whom expected another two years to prepare for the shutdown," Local 142 President Fred Galdones said.

So Local 142 filed an Unfair Labor Practice charge against the company charging it had failed to bargain the effects of closure in good faith.

After that, the company sat down and agreed to provide two months of additional medicals for covered seasonal and non-regular workers, who otherwise would have had no severance benefits.

The company wouldn't budge on the issue of financial help for 120 workers' families living at Kunia Camp after Dec. 2008. However, it agreed to allow employees and retirees to continue living at the site.

The ILWU International Executive Board issued a Statement of Policy at its December, 2006 meeting requesting everyone in the ILWU family to boycott all Fresh Del Monte Produce over the company's failure to bargain a fair closure settlement with the workers.

"We thank you for your continuing support of the ILWU members from Del Monte and trust that you will support the boycott," Galdones said in a letter to the union.

—Tom Price

Canadian longshore negotiations begin

ILWU Canada and the British Columbia Maritime Employers Assn. opened contract talks Jan. 8. ILWU Canada reports the negotiators have formed committees to bargain on line handling, contracting-out and safety. The contract expires March 31 and bargaining continues as we go to press.



The ILWU celebrates



William "Bill" Chester was the first African American elected to ILWU International Office. Prior to that election as Vice President in 1969, he served for over a decade as ILWU Northern California Regional Director and, previously, as an officer of Local 10. Chester brought the ILWU's tradition of anti-discrimination center stage as a member of many civil rights organizations and coalitions, including the National Negro Labor Council in the 1950s.



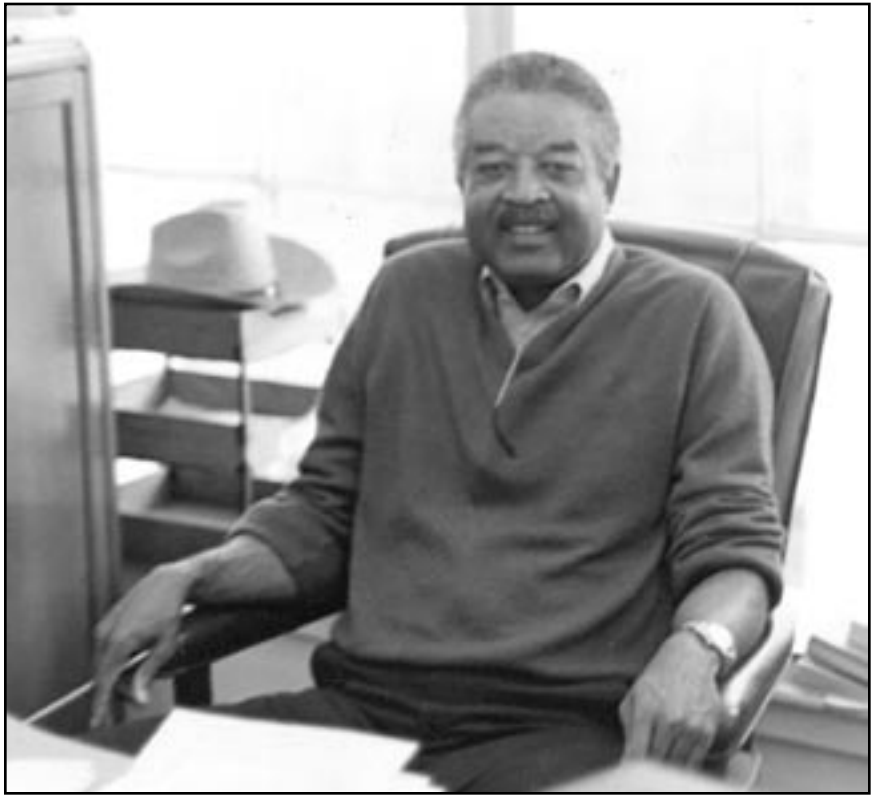
Cleophas Williams, Local 10 leader and Oakland community activist since WWII, served several terms as president.



African American leaders of the ILWU in the San Francisco Bay Area meet with Dr. Martin Luther King and Dr. Ralph Abernathy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. A few leaders, just months before his 1968 assassination in Memphis, Dr. King was made an honorary member of Local 10. From left to right:



George Cobb, lifelong Local 10 member, emerged from the ranks and—drawing from his own life experience—helped galvanize union and employer support for the longshore industry's pioneering ILWU-PMA Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Program. He served as program director until his recent retirement and helped establish a large network of local union volunteers to support the program and assist those in need of its services.



Leon Harris, shown here in his Local 6 office during his tenure as secretary-treasurer, was later elected ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer 1991-1994.



Andrew Nelson, far left, President of ILWU Local 207 in New Orleans, leads a march for recognition in 1947. Nelson was part of a generation of African American ILWU who challenged racism and police violence in the Gulf states and the Midwest during the union's historic organizing drives there—and who paid a heavy price for it. Nelson was indicted and convicted of allegedly falsifying information on his affidavit under the Taft-Hartley Act, and died while his case was on appeal in 1951. "I died for the most oppressed people, more than any other people in the world," he said to friends. "I died for the death," not because of any sin we have committed, but because of monopoly capitalism.

Black History Month



Legendary performer and human rights activist Paul Robeson (center), made an honorary member of the ILWU in 1943, shown here in 1946 being welcomed by Joe Johnson (at the time a member of the Marine Cooks and Stewards —later to become a member of Local 10 and a profound and passionate voice for social justice) on the right, and Revels Cayton, a 1934 strike veteran from the MCS who joined the ILWU in the late 1930s and was long active in San Francisco politics and progressive causes. Robeson was arriving in San Francisco to speak and perform in support of the 1946 joint maritime strike.



Curtis McClain, left, and Leroy King, right (shown here flanking Local 6 President Keith Eickman) of Bay Area warehouse emerged from rank and file leadership in Local 6 to serve as officers of Local 6 and then at the International: McClain as International Secretary-Treasurer 1977-1991, and King as Northern California Regional Director. Both men became key players in San Francisco and East Bay electoral and legislative politics for decades.

Alpha Lee Hunter, Local 6 stalwart, steward, executive board member and life-long activist for social justice in the San Francisco Bay Area shown here addressing a San Francisco rally in 1980s.



Ernest Clark, (above), standing in white shirt, helped organize and lead the cotton compress workers (below) in Fresno and Bakersfield—one of several industries organized by the ILWU in which the workforce was predominantly African American. “He gave his whole life,” said Leroy King, who worked with Clark in the valley for many years,” to make sure that this group of workers, who were subject to the worst kind of exploitation and racism, got a better deal by getting organized.”



American Minorities and the Case of Harry Bridges

“Therefore, we, who have the common objectives to advance the living standards of ourselves and our fellow workers everywhere in the world, to promote the general welfare . . . to banish racial and religious prejudice and discrimination, to strengthen democracy everywhere and achieve permanent peace . . . do form ourselves into one, indivisible union . . .” — Constitution of the International Longshoremen’s & Warehousemen’s Union.



HARRY BRIDGES, president of ILWU and one of the union’s full-time leaders led from left to right: Albert James, Vice President for San Francisco Longshore Local 10, Howard Brown, Coast Labor Education Commissioner, 3530m. Chaudhry, ILWU Northern California Regional Director, and Louis Goldblatt, International Secretary-Treasurer; bottom row: John Walker, director for Local 59 and member of Northern California District Council; Harry Bridges, and Claude Saunders, Local 10 executive board member.



march of work- activists in the west 1940-1956 for their dedica- non-Communist 56. “We are the ends before his pitalism.”

ITF upholds human rights for ship’s crew in Vancouver

By John Showalter

Sailors from international human rights pariah Myanmar (formerly known as Burma) no longer work in fear aboard the *Oriente Challenger* due to the efforts of ILWU Canada workers and the Vancouver office of the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF).

Canadian longshore workers noticed the four Burmese sailors among the 19 crewmembers when the NYK-owned vessel sailed into Vancouver, B.C. January 11 under a Panamanian flag. They immediately notified the ITF’s local office. As a result of negotiations between ITF and NYK Global Bulk, four sailors from the Amalgamated Marine Officers Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP) will replace the four Burmese nationals aboard the vessel.

According to Peter Lahay, the Canadian ILWU-ITF Coordinator, there is a longstanding concern among trade unions and international bodies like the United Nations when foreign labor is sourced from countries that do not afford democratic rights to either their citizens or their workers. The ITF has been fighting the Burmese regime for many years for the rights of seafarers and for the imposition of sanctions on the repressive, military regime in Myanmar. ITF was instrumental in helping Burmese sailors-in-exile establish the Seafarers Union of Burma in Thailand several years ago.

BUSH PLAN *continued from page 3*

get public hearings in Congress. This will be an opportunity for advocates of universal health care, including the labor movement, to highlight the enormous problems and challenges facing our system and the terrible strains placed upon millions of uninsured Americans. With increasing public awareness of the situation, Presidential and Congressional candidates in 2008 will have to run their campaigns with a focus on health care. It is a debate that the US desperately needs to have.

The ILWU will discuss political proposals and solutions with our partners in the labor movement, and when considering candidates’ proposals, the ILWU will focus on several priorities, including:

- Providing comprehensive coverage, including preventive medicine, hospitalization, acute care, and mental health parity;
- Coverage for all Americans regardless of employment status or income;
- A focus on improving the quality of care, outcomes, and patient safety instead of focusing on the cost of the care;
- Maintaining the integrity of risk pools across a broad spectrum of ages and health levels;
- Reducing administrative costs by focusing on providing care and simplifying payment systems rather than extensive bureaucracies designed to restrict access;
- Continuation of a system to allow union negotiation for enhanced benefits, such as covering any co-pays or deductibles.

INCREMENTAL IMPROVEMENT

Despite the likely wait for bold action on the federal level to improve health care access, there are some important incremental steps that can be taken in the short term. In his presidential campaign in 2004, Senator Kerry (D-MA) proposed a system of reinsurance where the federal government would reimburse health plans for very high catastrophic costs. Unfortunately, with President Bush’s re-election, Senator Kerry did not pursue the idea. Senator Stabenow (D-MI) did, however. In 2005 she introduced legislation to refund plans

“This company [NYK] has a history of using outsourced labor from nations with un-democratic regimes,” Lahay said, noting that the ITF had previously contacted NYK when three Japanese vessels employed Vietnamese seafarers instead of Filipinos. “When workers like these Burmese are employed they sail without the protection of democratic law and their pay may be diverted to so-called manning agencies back in their home country and distributed amongst corrupt government officials.”

The company also agreed to repatriate the Burmese seafarers and make sure they got their pay.

Aside from the human rights and democratic issues raised by the *Oriente Challenger* incident, there are broader concerns for Canada. The vessel in question was carrying wheat, and in Canada, grain is a highly politicized commodity. Sold by the Canadian Wheat Board, it is essentially a nationalized commodity, so the practices surrounding its distribution are of prime concern to the Canadian government. So Canadian farmers and the government want good ships and have an interest in the conditions aboard them.

The United Nations Security Council is currently considering Article 33 (Burmese Sanctions) and recommending that member states find means for implementing sanctions. The Canadian Parliament is also debating how to strengthen sanc-

50% of the costs associated with an individual with more than \$50,000 in annual expenses.

Senator Kerry has recently expressed interest in introducing his own version of the reinsurance plan. He has reached out to the ILWU along with other labor unions to ensure that our concerns are addressed, including equitable treatment of Taft-Hartley plans.

These reinsurance proposals have the potential of bringing employees and employers together by reducing costs. Studies have repeatedly shown that 80% of health care costs are caused by just 20% of patients with the most chronic and catastrophic health issues. Reducing their cost will drive down premiums for everyone else. The ILWU has pledged to work alongside our partners in the AFL-CIO and with both Senators to make these plans a reality.

On another front, various groups are joining together to address the quality shortcomings in our system. These coalitions are pressuring health care providers to report standard processing and outcome measures so that patients can be steered toward those facilities that offer the best care with the highest chance of success. These measures will help set best practice standards of care for various procedures, raising the level of quality for all providers.

Additionally, doctors and hospitals need incentives to focus on preventive and primary care, rather than emergency services later on. Doctors currently earn more money by ordering duplicative test after test than in a half hour face-to-face consult. The system encourages doctors to treat patients with high cost surgeries instead of teaching wellness and healthy living and focusing on early detection.

The challenges facing our health care system are enormous. We must keep our eye toward the ultimate goal of providing high quality, equitable, and comprehensive coverage while recognizing the need for incremental improvements along the way. Only by working together with all parties can a long-term, workable solution be found.

tions against the military junta in Burma, and the Canadian Labour Congress is leading nationwide union efforts to impose sanctions.

President Bush mentioned the Burmese situation in his State of the Union address, giving hope to human rights activists that the U.S. would continue to pressure the junta to recognize a democratic government. The current junta lost an election 1990 to Nobel Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, but they put her under arrest and have kept her under house arrest ever since.



Two ILWU pickets take a break during the 1948 longshore strike along the embarcadero in San Francisco, calling to mind the famous pledge to racial justice made by Harry Bridges after the 1934 strike—“If there were only two longshoremen left on the waterfront, one would be black and the other white.”

Book Review: Nearly forgotten labor and civil rights legal cases remembered in new booklet

Labor unions usually find their way into court when the government or the employers drag them there. For centuries, the courts have enforced the rights of those with power and property against those without—but in a few remarkable cases the underdogs have won.

This small book, “Landmark Cases Left Out of Your Textbooks” by Ann Fagan Ginger documents some of those cases. For anyone interested in labor history and the history of human rights, Ginger has provided a brief description of the cases with ample documentation.

Ginger describes Harry Bridges’ four cases with photos of Bridges as a young man playing a banjo and a section of the Rincon Annex mural on the 1934 general strike. Longshore Local 10’s Archie Brown’s 1934 murder trial is on p. 33, and ILWU lawyer Harriet Bouslog Sawyer’s case in Hawaii is on pp. 40-41.

This is a short, sharp book for activists, students, teachers, and anyone concerned about human rights and peace law.

“It is exciting to hear students start asking their grandparents what they did during the McCarthy period when singer/guitarist Pete Seeger ‘took the First Amendment,’” Ginger says.

Ginger claims this is the first book with citations to web pages and to fine old books found in libraries, and to briefs in the famous archival collection of Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute.

An early case raising issues hot in 2006 but “not in your textbooks” is ‘Justice for Black Family in White Neighborhood in Michigan v. Sweet (1925).’ Later, ‘Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Wins by Losing’ describes Fannie Lou Hamer’s “unseating” at the 1964 Democratic Party Convention.

Cases from the 1970s describe how White Panthers defeated warrant-less wiretaps in 1972. Recent case describe how Inspector General Reports led to 9/11 victims suing for bad information from the EPA on the “safety” of working at Ground Zero.

“This book is an inspiring journey through the leading civil rights and civil liberties cases of our age,” according to Prof. Marjorie Cohn, President of the National Lawyers Guild.

Landmark Cases Left Out of Your Textbooks by Ann Fagan Ginger. 84 pages with 43 cases histories. ISBN: 0-913876-21-6 Published by the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute, P.O. Box 673 Berkeley, 94701-0673, (510) 848-0599 or fax: (510) 848-6008. website: www.mcli.org. \$14.00

Bob Williams passes, he played a leading role in 1987 Crowley strike

by Tom Price

When Crowley Maritime opened negotiations with the Inlandboatmen's Union in Feb. 1987, the union found the employer had one thing in mind—total victory. Crowley had proposed concessions that would have reduced wages and benefits by as much as 60 percent for the 800 IBU members in Seattle, Portland, Alaska, Hawaii and San Francisco.

Of course, the IBU went on strike. Bob Williams was the IBU's San Francisco Regional Chair and he would be in the thick of the fight. The IBU is the marine division of the ILWU.

"He was a principled leader of the strike," longshore Local 10 member Jack Heyman said. "If it weren't for him, we would not have been able to organize militant actions like we did in Redwood City."

Williams led the picketing of the scab barges that drove the scabs off the docks. The company had also brought in non-ILWU crane operators to unload the barges and workers

shut the port down for five and a half hours March 20, 1987.

The strike dragged on for nine months and ended with the IBU retaining jurisdiction and beating back many of the concessions.

Williams was born March 9, 1927 and grew up in New Britain, Conn. He left home early, and after high school and the navy, he ended up in California, where he worked many kinds of jobs.

"One of his favorite jobs was working for PG&E, putting in the original wiring in mountain passes in the Sierra Nevada," his ex wife Capt. Enid Marcus said. "He went to work on horseback and camped out, he was 19 at the time. He said that was the best job he ever had, so he was pretty much ruined for anything else after that."

Marcus skips ferry boats in San Francisco Bay under the Marine Engineers Beneficial Assn. contract.

"He was very concerned with fairness in dispatching and he helped rewrite the shipping rules to what they are today," Marcus said. "The



Bob Williams

shipping rules determine how people get dispatched to jobs, how they rotate so everybody has a chance to get a job. It was one of the things he was most proud of."

Williams served as chairman from 1985 until 1989. At home he was an avid reader and outdoors he enjoyed target shooting with antique muskets and guns. He died of emphysema Nov. 28.



Left to right: Lou Loveridge, current Southern California Pensioners Group President Al Perisho, George Kuvakas and current Southern California Pensioners 1st Vice President Ray Patricio.

SoCal pensioners honor their own

By Al Perisho
Southern California Pensioners President

The Southern California Pensioners held their annual holiday banquet Oct. 29 to honor two living past club presidents, George Kuvakas and Lou Loveridge, for their decades of loyal service to the ILWU Longshore Division. Both men have been involved in many ILWU Conventions, Caucuses and contract negotiations and are among the reasons that pensioners today enjoy so many benefits.

Kuvakas became a registered member of the union in 1944. He served as longshore Local 13 President, Business Agent and Dispatcher. He chaired the Longshore Caucus held in Hawaii in 1961. Harry Bridges sent him to chair Canadian negotiations in 1963 and he was elected to all committees and executive boards of Local 13. He transferred to walking bosses' Local 94 in 1963. There he was

elected to the Executive board, Labor Relations Committee and served as Vice President. He retired in 1980 and became active in the Southern California Pensioners group. He was elected President in 2001 and held that post until 2006. He was honored as Man of the Year by the Harry Bridges Institute in 2002.

Lou Loveridge received his union book in 1948. He and his brothers Joe, Chick and Fuzzy were all strong, active union men. He served as Local 13 President several times, and was elected many times to all committees, including Conventions and Caucuses and Executive Boards. He retired in 1988 and now enjoys time with his family and gardening. He is involved with the Southern California Pensioners group, has been President and is currently on the Executive Board. Loveridge was honored by the Harry Bridges Institute as Man of the Year in 1999.

Longshore Retired, Deceased and Survivors

RECENT RETIREES:

Local 4—Kelso Korte, Lance Lynch; **Local 7**—Howard Morgan, Fredrick L. Williams; **Local 8**—Joseph Raffaele, Robert Parsons, Jerome Polk; **Local 10**—Willie Greer, Tom A. Smith, Paul Anderson, Joseph M. Diaz Jr., Phillip Garcia, Keith Cleaver, William Dominge, Leslie Ong; **Local 12**—Larry J. Jackson, Faris Good; **Local 13**—Marijon Anchich, John L. Hunt, Raul Madrid, Willie Bluit, David Torrez, George Y. Torrez, Norman McSweeney, Martha D. Diaz; **Local 14**—Richard Cordero; **Local 19**—Leonard McDonald, William Arthur, Robert Van Curen, Tommie Morrison; **Local 23**—Rodger Skiffington, Beverly Berge; **Local 24**—Allen Lytle, John Flink, Dennis Ketola; **Local 26**—Mary J. Fox; **Local 27**—George Rampp; **Local 29**—Manuel J. Pacheco, Richard E. Cruz; **Local 32**—David Rogers; **Local 34**—

Frank J. Perez, Basil Parker, Frank J. Flores, John Carell, Robert Battle Jr., Gloria Carroscio; **Local 40**—William Gordon Jr., Donald Holtzman; **Local 52**—Henry Isaksen Jr.; **Local 53**—Maurice Strong; **Local 54**—Clifford Booth, Lester Ferreira Sr.; **Local 63**—Gregory P. Peralta, Simon Del Real, George Drudge, Carol Reed, Marijan Katnich Jr., Richard Brusick, Robert Powers, Patrick Stamper, Anthony Yanko, Michael Kovacevich, Mickey Del Real, Lewis Sher; **Local 91**—Frank M. Rios; **Local 92**—Jack Grohs Jr.; **Local 94**—Phillip Bergstrom; **Local 98**—David Woeck, Joe Ross Jr., Daniel Ekendal.

DECEASED:

Local 4—Darrell Morgan (Grace), Robert Kadow; **Local 8**—Ernest Gendron (June), Harry Hersey (Eileen), Thomas Mahoney, Richard Wiche; **Local 10**—Joe Souza (Mary), Rogers Wright (Johnnie), Henry Phillips

(Celestine), Robby Norwood (David and Angel) Richard Richardson (Angela), Robert Patricio, Thomas Green; **Local 12**—Pryne Fields, Phillip Armstrong; **Local 13**—Mike Mavar (Lorraine), Harold "Curly" Harris (Daphne), Edward Ruiz (Geraldine), Czarina Puchard (Anastasia), Hugo Rosas (Rina), Tommie Myers (Doris), Jose Gonzales (Karla), Oliver Laine, Robert Elliott; **Local 19**—James Allingham (William), Ted Glass (Catherine), Joseph Cardinale, James Rice, Eric Strand; **Local 21**—Henry Loran (Gloria); **Local 24**—John Schoening (Lillian); **Local 27**—Rolf Tharaldsen (Karen); **Local 29**—Carlos Fernandez; **Local 34**—Marshall Walker (Pauline), James Blue; **Local 40**—John Hope (Ann), Eugene Breitenbach (Irene); **Local 47**—Ronald Hinchcliffe (Dora); **Local 50**—Dale M. Johnson; **Local 92**—Michael St. Onge (Sally); **Local 94**—Bobby Ford (Mary); **Local 98**—

Lawrence Mostrom. (Survivors in parenthesis.)

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 8—Margaret Thomas; **Local 10**—Christine Mrla, Santa Ammatona, Versie Lee Diggs; **Local 12**—Vivian Krieschel, Juanita Pinkerman, Carmen Simpson; **Local 13**—Lyann Thayer, Lois Nunnelee, Clara Mathlin, Mable Pate, Louiza Matthews, Doris Blassingill, Carrie Maki-Smith, Naomi Nansel, Olga Mantlo, Mary L. Williamson, Helen Muldoon; **Local 19**—Esther Englund; **Local 23**—Viola Lund; **Local 29**—Lela Huff, Evangelina Jimenez; **Local 34**—Emma Sangenitto, Claribel Murphy, Marion Peters, Sophia Ralph; **Local 52**—Victoria Kelly; **Local 53**—Beatrice Ferris; **Local 75**—Jacqueline Fedyna, Loretta Erb; **Local 91**—Frankie Houston; **Local 92**—Gertrude Hangland; **Local 94**—Helen Rodin, Alma Sanderson.

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BOOKS:

Harry Bridges: The Rise and Fall of Radical Labor in the United States By Charles Larrowe: A limited number of copies of this out-of-print and useful biography are now available through the book sale by special arrangement with Bolerium Books in San Francisco, which specializes in rare publications and documents about radical and labor history. **\$10.00**

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