



The DISPATCHER

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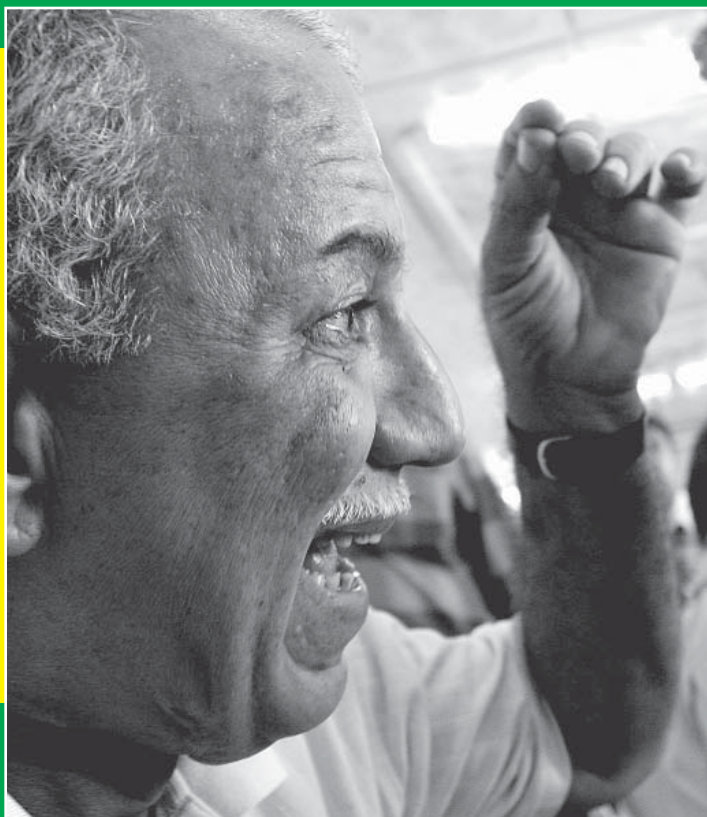


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AFL-CIO convention plans future amid divisions pages 4-5



Iraqi longshore workers defeat privatization pages 6-7



Mechanics strike Northwest Airlines page 3

INSIDE

President's Report: Safety is Job #1	page 2
Local 9 warehouse workers lose health care in court	page 3
Canadian Labor Congress convention pledges solidarity and a good fight	page 9
Bloody Thursday commemorations along the Coast.	page 10
Accident claims life of a Tacoma casual	page 11

Inside Line

DEAR GOVERNOR

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Just wanted to drop you a quick note to say how impressed I am with your November special election idea. I'm sure no one will really care about the extra \$80 million it will cost, even in a time of budget deficits. If you pass your initiatives, you can just slash that out of all the other entitlement programs for the poor. And those people never turn out for special off-year elections anyway, so you got it made. And then you pile on all those other nasty initiatives—boy, you're good.

Don't let the fact that you're behind in the polls on nearly every one of them. You're ahead on your most important one, Prop 75—taking public employee unions out of the state's political process. Hasta la vista, baby.

And who cares about those whiny teachers? What do they contribute to erasing our trade deficits? What makes them so special that they should be the ones with job security? It's time for them to toughen up and compete in the 21st century globalized economy. Go ahead and give those girlie special interests a good spanking.

So far you've been able to coast on the dueling prescription drug initiatives. The pharmaceutical companies can carry it on their own. It's not like either the drug companies plan, Prop 79, or the labor-consumer initiative, Prop 80, will give your gym rats pals more affordable access to steroids.

You can turn those poor poll numbers around with a few slick television ads paid for by the millions of dollars you're raising. That idea of selling tickets in your luxury box for the Rolling Stones concert for \$100,000 a pop was brilliant. So what if Mick Jagger makes cracks about you during the show.

Some people may try to make hay out of the fact that you didn't spend much time in California to work out a compromise with the legislature so the special election wouldn't be necessary or that you are going to miss the opening of the first new University of California campus in 40 years, but that's just another make-work program for teachers. Besides, you had important fundraisers to attend.

Don't pay any heed to those who say you're reality challenged or that the only way you'll ever win an Oscar for your performance as governor is if they create a new category for most pathetic impersonation. Those people are just obsessive fact-checking conspiracy theorists. It's not like they have any credibility.

Yours truly,
Steve Stallone
Editor

CORRECTION

In the June 2005 issue the president of foremen's Local 94 was mistakenly listed as Stuart Anderson. The actual president of Local 94 is Danny Miranda. The Dispatcher regrets the error.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Safety is job number one

By James Spinosa
ILWU International President

Tragedy struck the ILWU family again Aug. 19. That day, at the Port of Tacoma's Evergreen terminal, Local 23 casual Kim Miles lost her life in a horrible accident. The cause of the incident is still under investigation and it will be a while before we know exactly what went wrong. But its meaning for the future of safety on West Coast docks is undeniable.

This is the fourth ILWU longshore worker to be killed on the job in the last nine months. In an 18-month time span during 2001-2002 we lost six of our brothers to fatal industrial accidents, by far the worse period in West Coast safety in recent history. On top of this, there are the hundreds of disabling injuries that occur each year on our docks.

Almost everyone working on the docks any length of time has a story of an accident or close call or of seeing one happen. Every day we strap on our work boots and hard hats we should pause and think about the ones who are no longer with us and the ones waiting at home for us to return.

We should also stop and think about why these accidents are happening so frequently and what we can do about it. There are a few factors working against us, and we need to recognize them and work to minimize their effects.

The first and most obvious one is the working environment on today's modern docks. Take a look around you and what you see is an impressive collection of giant, fast-moving machinery—cranes, straddle carriers, top handlers, side handlers and yard hustlers, each weighing many tons and all racing to get the job done. With those massive objects running at that speed, a simple slip of sequence can be catastrophic. It's like trying to work on a freeway. Add to that the outside truck traffic congesting the area, restricted spaces to work in and the employer's constant pressure for productivity, and you have a disaster waiting to happen.

The only way to really learn your role in this complex process is through experience and training. One of the challenges we are facing these days is the influx of new people in the workforce. With the early retirement incentives built into our last longshore contract, many experienced longshore workers have left us. The huge increase in international seaborne trade coming to U.S. West Coast ports has made it necessary to hire more workers. Our longshore workforce has increased by 3,000 in the last two years—up from 10,500 to 13,500. This has opened the door for a new generation to share in the opportunity and prosperity of the longshore life. At the same time, they need to learn not just

the proper way to operate their equipment, but how to do it to save life and limb—not only their own, but that of their brothers and sisters on the docks.

Let us be clear here: the problem is not with our new members. Our history has shown that with the proper training, ILWU longshore workers are as efficient and productive as any in the world. Much of the problem lies with our employer's approach to training and safety.

General Safety Training is offered to all ILWU workers, but only once every three years. And that is only a one eight-hour session taught in a classroom by an employer instructor who has no practical longshore experience. In other industries workers undergo safety training annually, and in some cases, even monthly. Our work is just as dangerous and hazardous as any, and we need and deserve more frequent safety training that is more detailed and focused on the different job classifications we work.

One thing we have learned over the years is that we cannot depend on state or federal Occupational Safety and Health Agencies (OSHA) to monitor and enforce

safety. This is especially true under the Bush administration, which has loosened standards and cut back on inspection and enforcement.

The employer's lack of concern for our safety was never more obvious than in the 2002 negotiations. Our practice for decades has been to negotiate our longshore safety code separately but side-by-side with the rest of our longshore contract.

In the 2002 bargaining, the employ-

ers' representatives on their safety negotiating committee just said "No" to almost every proposal we put on the table. They refused our proposal to install speedometers on yard equipment so operators would know when they were exceeding safe speed limits. The employers were clear—your safety is not worth their investment, especially when it may affect productivity.

We negotiate our longshore safety regulations as fiercely as we negotiate the rest of our contract. That's because the wages, benefits and pensions we win don't mean a thing if you aren't around to enjoy them. So guard your safety code as much as you would your health care and, hopefully, you won't have to use your health care as much.

Read your safety code booklet and know your best practices and your rights. Follow the guidelines and protect yourself and the worker next to you. Always do a good job, but don't buy into the employer's speedup and quotas if that means violating our safety standards.

The employer always pushes for more production at our expense—but it's up to us to curtail that.



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Northwest Airlines strike—Corporate America’s wave of the future?

by Tom Price

Aircraft mechanics at Northwest Airlines spent eight months bargaining with their employer and offered huge concessions to save the airline. In the end, the company would have none of it and provoked a strike.

NWA put a \$176 million price tag on a union-busting scheme—the amount they hope to save by flying with a bare bones maintenance crew. To get there NWA demanded 25 percent pay cuts from 4,427 aircraft mechanics, custodians and cleaners represented by the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA). NWA also demanded pension freezes, 20 percent medical co-pays, and reduced holiday and sick days. Even worse, the company demanded the right to contract-out maintenance to foreign countries and the elimination of 53 percent of the union’s jobs.

AMFA continued to bargain to the end. They asked the federal mediators Aug. 19 to see if the company would listen to a proposal that would have saved NWA \$143.6 million. They would have presented a contract to their membership calling for a 20 percent cut in wages, 20 percent medical co-pays and 20 percent cuts in benefit premiums. AMFA also proposed as many as 1,300 job cuts, but wanted them spread out with a decent severance pay. But, according to Neil Hesselgrave, NWA Representative for AMFA Minnesota Local 5, the NWA came to the table with an ultimatum.

“The company gave us notice Thursday [Aug. 18] of the contract terms they would invoke at 12:01 a.m. Aug. 20,” Hesselgrave told his members in an Aug. 26 letter. “We did not call a strike until 12:01 a.m. The company invoked—then we went on strike.”

AMFA has already lost more than half its NWA members since 2001. Those remaining voted overwhelmingly in July to authorize a strike.

At ILWU longshore Local 10 membership meeting Aug. 18 President Trent Willis call on “all labor unions, labor councils and workers’ organizations, here and internationally, to honor the aircraft mechanics’ strike.”

AMFA San Francisco Local 9 President Joe Prisco expressed his members’ thanks.

“ILWU members have been coming out and supporting the picket line, which is excellent. It’s more than a paper endorsement,” Prisco told *The Dispatcher*.

ILWU International President Jim Spinosa sent a letter Aug. 22 to



AMFA mechanics walk the picket line at Detroit Metro Airport.

AMFA National Director O.V. Delle-Femine pledging the full solidarity of the ILWU.

“That the ILWU International President wrote a lengthy letter detailing his concerns and his directions to the membership was outstanding,” Prisco told *The Dispatcher*. “The fact that he’s calling on the rest of the labor movement to get behind this is a big plus.”

The International Association of Machinists has not supported AMFA, and there’s bad blood over the loss of IAM machinist jobs to AMFA. AMFA is not affiliated with the AFL-CIO, but AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, while distancing himself from AMFA, pledged full support to the striking workers. Not many AFL-CIO unions have officially announced support of the AMFA strike, by many rank and filers have shown solidarity and walked the picket lines.

The Professional Airways Systems Specialists, the union representing FAA aircraft inspectors, sent a support letter Aug. 20 to AMFA expressing serious doubts that its depleted numbers of Airworthiness Inspectors would be able to sufficiently oversee the work of the scabs. NWA has the oldest fleet of the major airlines.

“Northwest Airlines is attempting to outsource AMFA jobs to other countries on a massive scale,” PASS National Union Representative Jim Pratt wrote. “PASS believes that this is dangerous.”

NWA spent 18 months and more than \$100 million preparing a herd of 1,400 scabs to take union jobs the minute the strike began. The union

believes NWA never intended to negotiate.

“The eight-month negotiating period has been an arrogant farce with a pre-determined ending,” Delle-Femine said.

In all NWA hopes to take \$1.1 billion out of the hides of its workers. It already got a 15 percent slice out of its 5,200 pilots’ wages last December, a savings of \$250 million. Pilots say NWA will propose another 22.3 percent wage cut, to save another \$300 million, and it also wants to eliminate 1,181 pilot jobs.

Professional Flight Attendants Assn. leaders had encouraged their NWA members to vote for a strike in sympathy with the AMFA workers, but the vote fell short. Since then, the PFAA says the company filed a frivolous lawsuit and sent harassing messages during the vote, all to encourage a “no” vote. The attendants may get another chance for a strike vote after their negotiations begin Aug. 30. NWA wants to carve \$143 million out of its 10,000 attendants with a 20 percent pay cut and huge job losses.

“If NWA would get their way, more than 50 percent of our flying would be outsourced, resulting in the loss of thousands of U.S.-based flight attendant jobs,” the PFAA website said Aug 26.

Northwest set itself up for what might be simultaneous strikes from mechanics, flight attendants and pilots.

“It certainly is a possibility that we might all be on the lines at once,” MacFarlane said. “We would like to think that now that the pilots and

attendant’s ox has been gored like ours’ has, maybe they’ll understand that this truly is a battle that all of us need to join against Northwest.”

New bankruptcy laws will make it harder for companies to pay huge bonuses to executives and require restructuring plans in place sooner, with more input from creditors. Northwest might file before this takes effect Oct. 17. Bankruptcy could allow a judge to rewrite union contracts, abolish health care for active and retired members and slash pensions. Some industry analysts have suggested bankruptcy might be the corporate strategy of the future, a way to get federal judges to bust unions and turn the industry into a flying Wal-Mart. Long term solutions might be a way off.

“I think there’s an argument to be made for re-regulating the industry,” MacFarlane said. “But that horse may have been out of the barn for so long there’s probably no going back. But clearly, airlines have become almost as important to our economy as utilities, and to allow the ‘free market’ to just run its full range, you certainly see what’s happening and it’s very disruptive.”

As *The Dispatcher* goes to press more unions are offering support to AMFA’s workers, who believe they are at the beginning of industry-wide union busting schemes.

“On Wall Street they’re just sitting in their boardrooms smoking their cigars saying, ‘This is great. We don’t have to do anything. The unions are fighting among themselves. We don’t have to do anything except hire replacements,’” Prisco said.

Warehouse workers lose health care in court

by Tom Price

Warehouse Local 9 members suffered a setback in their efforts to secure health care benefits for laid off and retired workers at the Port of Seattle when Superior Court Judge Mary Roberts dismissed their lawsuit Aug. 8.

The suit, filed two years earlier and heard 10 months ago as a class action suit by former workers and retirees at the port’s Hasbro Toy warehouse, claimed the Port still owed the 150 workers health care benefits after Hasbro moved. The port was a participant in the medical plan covering Local 9 members and retirees as their employer. The plan said the port would cover retired workers health care benefits. But when the port ceased to participate and no more money was paid into the benefits fund, the obligation to pay retirees evaporated, the port claimed, and the judge apparently agreed.

“It’s as if the judge expects the members to appeal to a higher court, and that’s just what we will do,”

Local 9 Secretary-Treasurer Tony Hutter said.

The workers’ position is that those who retired or were eligible for retirement were owed the benefits if they vested before the warehouse was closed. They filed as individuals in a class action, not as Local 9 members.

The trouble began May 20, 2002 when Hasbro abruptly announced it would move to Ontario, Calif. to consolidate its operations. Layoffs at the 400,000 square foot facility for Local 9 began 11 days later. Local 9 lost 77 jobs immediately. Eventually, Local 9 would lose 150 jobs, nearly half its membership, and a contract that stretched back more than 33 years. Southern California is a huge market for toys, and trucks leaving the facility for other parts of the country will be able to return full of other products for that market. That provides a competitive incentive for moving there, industry analysts said.

Local 9 workers unstuffed seaborne containers and packed trucks with pallets arranged for the stores.

They worked directly off the dockside and were a day closer to the Asian producers than Southern California, a competitive advantage in its own right. One advantage they could not overcome, however, was the non-union labor available to Hasbro in the south, where warehouse workers often make less than \$8.00 an hour.

Even though the port knew Hasbro was gone for good, it issued temporary layoffs to most of the workers. That meant they were not eligible for severance pay, extended health care, career counseling and the opportunity to bid for other port jobs. In the fall of 2002 the port offered the workers another contract that slashed wages from \$19.27 to \$8.62 an hour. It was turned down by a 74 to 4 vote.

Then Local 9 entered into effects bargaining with the port. The port agreed to keep funding the pension plan for retirees and allow them to join the port’s health care plan for non-represented employees at the pensioners’ expense. Recently the

port added \$2 million to the pension trust and agreed to add \$1 million a year in the future.

“The port was never seriously looked for new tenants after Hasbro left,” Hutter charged. Despite its recent \$4.2 million investment in computerizing the facility, at Hasbro’s request, the port started looking for a buyer. It sold the property last year to Charlie’s Produce, which sold it within a year at a 73 percent profit. Charlie’s never occupied the property. The new owners did a major clean up, but at this time the building sits empty.

“The judge’s one-paragraph decision is a bad decision, and we’re very disappointed in it,” Hutter said. “She gave no analysis of the workers’ case and gave no explanation for denying the suit.”

Reluctant to give up the fight for health care benefits, the workers appealed the decision to the Wash. State Court of Appeals Aug. 25.

“It’s not that the port couldn’t pay for these benefits, they just decided they wouldn’t,” Hutter said.

AFL-CIO Convention

Amid divisions, unions plot future fights

By Steve Stallone

While the departure of a couple of major unions and the boycott of the AFL-CIO's 50th anniversary convention by them and several others dominated the news coverage of the event, a number of other significant and far-reaching actions by the remaining delegates eluded the national media's reporting.

Putting rumors of labor's demise aside, the delegates remaining at the July 25-28 meeting in Chicago got busy. They passed a strongly worded anti-war resolution that puts the American labor movement on record as demanding the immediate end of the war and occupation in Iraq (see story page 5); launched a multi-million dollar national campaign against Wal-Mart, the poster boy of bad corporate behavior; resolved to focus resources and energy on building organizing, year-round political and legislative mobilizations and global worker organizing; and mandated diversity in labor's national leadership.

Still, the disaffiliation of the SEIU and the Teamsters, and a week later the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), and the boycott by UFCW, UNITE-HERE and the United Farm Workers (UFW), hung like dense fog over the convention hall, dampening the celebration of the AFL-CIO's 50th anniversary and obscuring the road ahead.

THE AFL-CIO PROGRAM

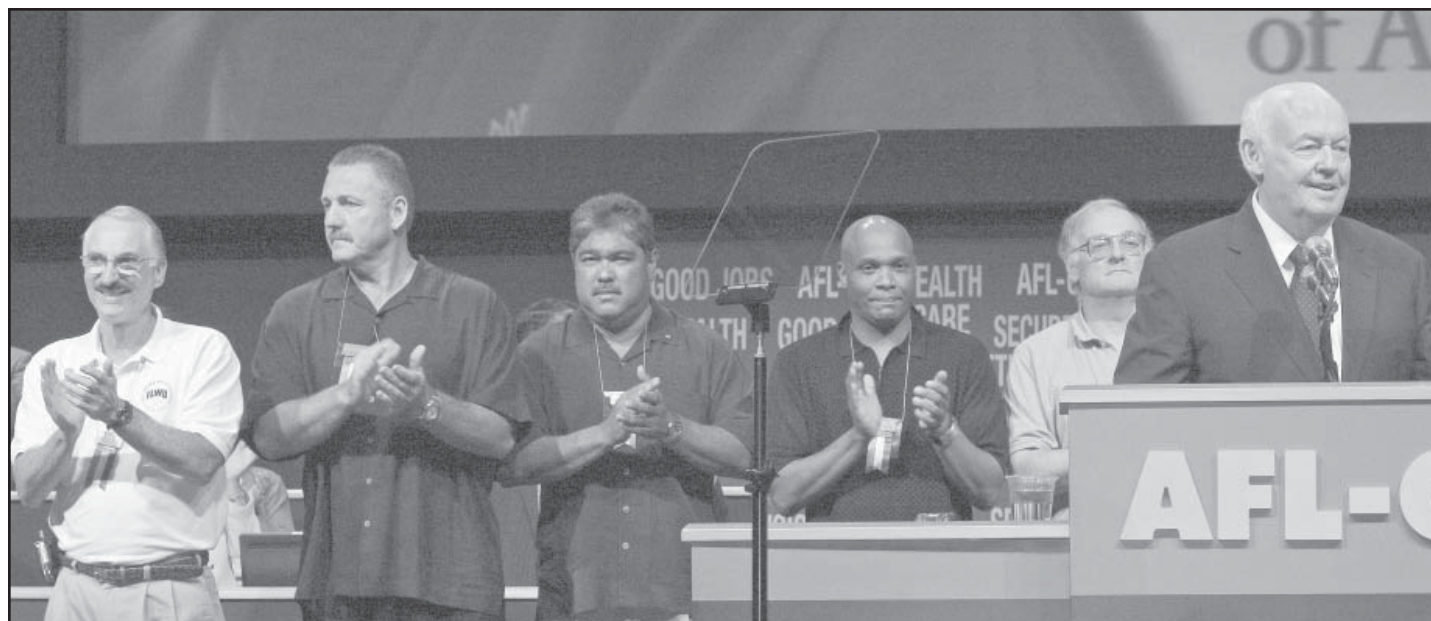
The AFL-CIO leadership presented the convention with an extensive and ambitious program to expand organizing and political action, seeing both as interdependent activities for building the labor movement. For the last five years the federation has been goading its member unions to devote 30 percent of their resources to organizing. (The ILWU made that its policy at its 2000 Convention.) And while several million workers have been organized over the years, the loss of union jobs due to downsizing, outsourcing and bankruptcies has resulted in fewer union members overall.

So the AFL-CIO Executive Committee proposed, and the convention delegates adopted, a two-pronged strategy. The federation will help its member unions increase their capacity to organize, especially outside the National Labor Relations Board process that is stacked against workers. And it will ramp up efforts to change public policy to restore the right to organize and bargain collectively that has been whittled down ever since the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act in 1947 and accelerated under George W. Bush.

The federation will create a \$22.5 million Strategic Organizing Fund. Two-thirds, or \$15 million, will be returned as rebates to unions that meet organizing standards. The other \$7.5 million will go to assisting strategic organizing campaigns important to the entire labor movement, providing expert technical support, campaign research and organizer training.

On the political front, the federation plans to move from focusing on biannual get-out-the-vote efforts to building year-round capacity for informing and mobilizing members on legislative and public policy issues. The program will focus on uprooting anti-worker politicians at all levels, turning back right-to-work-for-less and paycheck deception laws, and fighting attempts to destroy defined-benefit pensions and health care programs. New efforts will be made to recruit, train and elect union members to public office.

The federation will also step up its efforts to bring more diversity to union leadership at all levels. To



AFL-CIO President John Sweeney (right) called the ILWU delegation up on stage during a recognition of unions that mobilized for the November 2004 election. (Left to right) International President Jim Spinosa, International Vice-President, Mainland Bob McEllrath, International Vice-President, Hawaii Wesley Furtado, International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams and Coast Committeeman Joe Wenzl.

accomplish this it will increase training and leadership development at the local levels, do more to recruit a diverse pool of young people into the Union Summer and other programs, and establish as policy that each union's delegation to the AFL-CIO generally reflect the racial and gender makeup of its membership. The AFL-CIO also will work to include more racial and gender diversity on its Executive Council.

WATCH OUT, WAL-MART

No single corporation is doing more to destroy good jobs, drive down wages and living standards and generally exploit workers than Wal-Mart. Its poisonous tentacles reach throughout the global economy, forcibly imposing its "business model" like a rapidly multiplying cancer.

As the biggest employer in the U.S., Wal-Mart's poverty wages and poor benefits force many of its 600,000 workers into public assistance and health care programs, costing U.S. taxpayers \$2.5 billion a year. The company has been found guilty of child labor violations and exploiting immigrant labor, and is currently the defendant in a gender discrimination lawsuit affecting two million current and former female employees. Wal-Mart consistently fights unionization and has even closed a store after workers there voted to unionize.

Many unions have been impacted by Wal-Mart, but none as much as the UFCW, whose members in grocery and retail stores have long enjoyed decent wages and good benefits. Those are eroding quickly and will disappear soon if Wal-Mart isn't stopped. Understanding this, the UFCW launched its "Wake up Wal-Mart" campaign to change the monster retailer by moving to build local community coalitions at every Wal-Mart location in the U.S. in concert with other unions and global union federations.

Even though the UFCW boycotted the convention as part of the Change to Win (CtW) coalition, the convention took up its resolution to have the AFL-CIO put its resources behind the action.

"Wal-Mart will see a campaign like never before," AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka said introducing the resolution.

The delegates voted unanimously for the resolution to join the campaign.

CAFTA LOSS

During the convention the U.S. House of Representatives took up the issue of the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), which

would cover all Central American and Caribbean countries except Cuba. Like NAFTA and other free trade agreements, CAFTA will send good American jobs overseas, worsen the exploitation of Central American workers and increase the U.S. trade deficit. It will also be used as a threat to crush union organizing drives and to squeeze out union concessions in collectively bargained agreements. The Senate had already passed CAFTA June 30, so this was the last stand for one of labor's top priorities.

The resolution on CAFTA prepared for the delegates' consideration, besides listing its sins and pledging the labor movement's energies to fight it on all fronts, also committed the AFL-CIO to "hold elected officials and candidates from both parties accountable for their position on flawed trade deals such as CAFTA."

In his keynote address AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, when speaking of political officials, declared, "The ones who betray us will no longer be with us, regardless of party."

So when two days later the House voted 217-215 to pass CAFTA, the outrage and anger in the convention hall was palpable, particularly towards the 15 Democrats who voted for it (10 Democratic Senators had voted for it previously), and at the House Democratic leadership that failed to deliver the crucial votes.

A list of the 15 House Democrats was quickly assembled, copied and distributed throughout the hall. The only one from ILWU jurisdiction was Rep. Norm Dicks of Washington state.

DISAFFILIATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The unions disaffiliating from the AFL-CIO—the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the International Brotherhood of the Teamsters (IBT), and a week later the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW)—and the unions that sided with them, boycotting the convention but not disaffiliating—UNITE-HERE, the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA), and the United Farm Workers (UFW)—joined under the moniker the "Change to Win" coalition (CtW). At a press conference the day before the convention was to begin they announced they were all boycotting it. (LIUNA President Terry O'Sullivan said his delegation was going to attend since he hadn't had time to talk with his members and change course, but that he supported the CtW program.) Because current AFL-CIO President John Sweeney had the votes for his program and reelection, they said, they didn't see the point of attending

and debating. They also proclaimed that none of them would serve in an elected capacity in the AFL-CIO.

SEIU President and CtW leader Andy Stern called their differences with the AFL-CIO "so fundamental" they could not change course.

"The AFL-CIO has adopted the language of reform, but not the substance," Anna Burger, the CtW chair and Secretary-Treasurer of the SEIU, said of the federation's program. "The CtW has a bold plan for change."

All the leaders of the CtW unions restated their contention that the fundamental principle behind their actions was that they wanted to put more money and resources into organizing. The AFL-CIO was putting too much into political campaigns, like John Kerry's run for president, and reaped no results, they said. The next day CtW held another press conference to formally announce that the SEIU and the Teamsters were disaffiliating from the AFL-CIO. The other unions stayed in (with the UFCW disaffiliating the following week), but proclaimed their allegiance to the CtW program.

The AFL-CIO countered saying they had in fact made many compromises and adopted much of the CtW program, including putting more money and resources into organizing and giving rebates to unions that did more, and cutting back on the federation's staff and programs. They argued against pitting organizing work against political activity, contending that changes in labor laws and policies were needed to make organizing less cumbersome and that organizing was needed to have enough strength to win electoral victories and legislative victories. The two are interdependent and interactive, they said. Emphasizing one over the other was a chicken and egg problem.

But the CtW's bottom line in negotiations seemed to be the ouster of incumbent president Sweeney. They didn't have the votes to win and Sweeney wouldn't agree to stepping down at the insistence of a minority of the delegates.

Reporters at the press conferences had trouble nailing the differences between the CtW and the AFL-CIO in ways their editors could understand and that added drama to the big national news story they were sent to Chicago to cover. They kept asking CtW to explain it again. Percentages of funds put into organizing versus political action seemed more like splitting hairs than positions to split the labor movement over. The scene at the CtW press conference announcing the disaffiliation at the SEIU's

continued on page 5

Jim West

AFL-CIO joins ILWU in opposing Iraq war and occupation

The AFL-CIO made American labor history when it passed a strong-ly worded resolution against the Iraq war and occupation, the first time in its 50 years the federation has formally opposed an American military action. The ILWU was the first union in the country to take that position at its International Convention in May 2003, less than two months after the start of the war.

The AFL-CIO resolution calls on “our country’s leaders to bring them [the U.S. troops] home rapidly.” It also states that the “American people were misinformed before the war began,” and calls “for the Bush administration to level with the American people.” It supports expanded benefits for U.S. veterans and demands Iraqi workers be granted internationally recognized labor rights to organize free of interference from government and employers, and to bargain collectively.

AFL-CIO leaders studiously avoided taking a position on the war since before it began. The push for the resolution came from below. Countless union locals, central labor councils, state federations, as well as at least eight national unions had taken that position before the convention. U.S. Labor Against the War (USLAW), an

ad hoc organization of union activists, had sponsored a nation-wide tour of Iraqi unionists who made clear at every union hall they visited that the end of the occupation was *the* prerequisite for peace and prosperity in Iraq. Two Iraqis—a unionist and a women’s rights activist—were honored guests at the convention and they continued to push for their position throughout the week.

The anti-war sentiment was so strong that 18 resolutions on it were submitted to the convention’s Resolution Committee, which consolidated them into one. But the wording was too wishy-washy for most supporters who continued to press for stronger language.

The tide seemed to turn their way the morning before the vote on it when Jesse Jackson received an extended ovation for his anti-war statement during his speech.

“Honor our soldiers,” Jackson thundered to rising applause. “Bring them home. Bring them home.”

When the matter hit the floor later that day, the Resolution Committee presented the stronger wording as a friendly amendment. Every speaker supported it and it passed by a voice vote unquestionably.

—SS

The organizing must go on

In the thick of the swirling rumors and buzzing tensions that filled the days before its convention opened, the AFL-CIO pulled out all the stops to mount a day-long organizing conference July 24. “Changing to Organize, Organizing for Power” featured PowerPoints on a giant screen and more than three dozen speakers, some from as far away as Taiwan, Cambodia, Chile and Brazil. The panels ran back-to-back from 8a.m. to 5:30p.m., with a break for the “United to Win” pep rally at noon.

“For this or any other labor movement the fundamental source of power is workers united and in motion,” AFL-CIO Organizing Director Stewart Acuff told the conference’s opening session.

The conference painted a picture of the many-sided effort needed to channel this power into change.

The morning sessions unrolled the steps unions need to take to build their ability to organize and carry on strategic campaigns. They also emphasized the need to change and fortify labor law.

Strategic campaigns, like the ILWU’s drive at Blue Diamond Growers, apply many kinds of outside pressure to back up the workers’ in-plant organizing. The ILWU is using community, labor and political support, media outreach and legal tools to help the Blue Diamond workers.

Strategic organizing also means using the power unions have through

existing contracts and their industry positions. This approach helped the United Auto Workers win contracts for thousands of workers at auto parts factories in the South, said UAW Vice President Bob King.

“You have to have a vision and never give up,” he said.

The afternoon panels explored the role of labor councils and state labor federations, and the potential power of local and global alliances.

“It takes a well-resourced, fully staffed central labor council with strong support from its state federation to build a movement,” said King County [Seattle] Central Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer Steve Williamson.

The central bodies can focus solidarity for union battles and knit labor and community allies together for political campaigns, he said.

The community work helps strengthen unions internally as well, Denver Area Labor Federation President Leslie Moody pointed out.

“We are thinking about how to mobilize our members,” Moody said. “Our members don’t just work.”

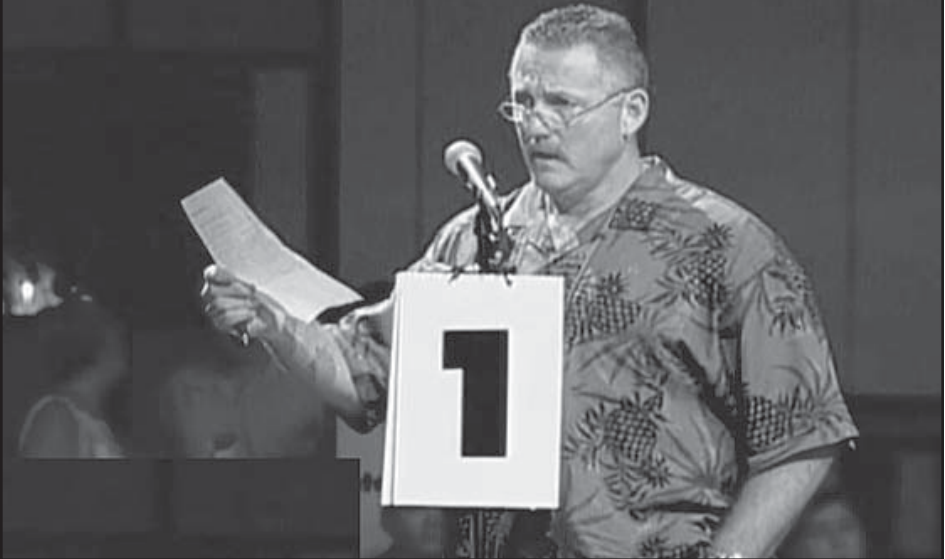
The Denver Federation has worked closely with other groups to get “community benefit agreements” from development projects that use public money. These agreements include provisions for local hiring, decent wages and environmental protection.

The conference’s last segment, “Bringing Justice to the Global

discontent show.

The disaffiliated unions make up 40, 50 or 60 percent of the membership of many of these central bodies that coordinate local union political activity on the ground. The dues loss alone from kicking them out would kill these organizations. But more than that—the members of the CtW unions were often the officers and activists of the central bodies, not to mention long-time brothers and sisters bound by years of solidarity actions. State and local activists could not accept that the decisions of a few uncompromising national leaders could wipe out what they had built over decades.

ILWU PUSHES FOR A SEAT AT BIG TABLE



In ILWU tradition, the union’s delegation to the AFL-CIO convention shook up the leadership’s plans when International Vice President Bob McEllrath made a pitch for the ILWU—and other smaller unions—to have a voice on the federation’s Executive Council.

The delegates were considering an amendment to the AFL-CIO Constitution reconfiguring the Executive Council. Drafted after the Change to Win (CtW) unions announced their boycott of the convention, their disaffiliations and their refusal to serve in AFL-CIO elected positions, it reduced the number of seats on the council from 51 to 43. The proposal held the other eight seats open for the council to fill in case the CtW unions returned or “for reasons that promote solidarity.”

The ILWU delegation—long wanting a voice at the big table—had a different idea.

McEllrath hit the mic first. He offered an amendment to the amendment that would turn it upside down. McEllrath proposed that rather than reduce the council from 51 to 43, the council should be expanded to 55, giving each union remaining in the federation a seat on it.

“This amendment hurts no one,” McEllrath said. “This is the House of Labor of the AFL-CIO and everybody on this floor has a right to get up and speak and I say every union in this hall has a right to have their president sit on that council. I’ve heard statements that said, ‘Well you’re small.’ I know my union doesn’t have a million, but I will tell you this: you gotta start with one to get to a million, and an injury to one is an injury to all.”

Coast Committeeman Joe Wenzl immediately backed up McEllrath.

“In these hard times and these crises that face the AFL-CIO, the one thing we have done all week, the one thing we do is inclusion,” Wenzl said. “We all need to be represented on the Executive Council. It’s right, it’s fair, it’s democratic and it’s just. We have been told that we are small, but, brothers and sisters, it’s not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog.”

Two speakers from small unions (the National Air Traffic Controllers Association and the Boilermakers) spoke in favor of the ILWU amendment, and two speakers from big unions (International Association of Machinists and the American Federation of Teachers) spoke against it before the question was called. The amendment was defeated on a voice vote, but not before the ILWU had put the issue of representation for all unions on the table for now and the future.

—SS

Economy,” drew out several examples of global union campaigns against multinational employers. One was Quebecor World, the world’s largest commercial printer.

Quebecor operates in 17 countries on four continents. In 2000 the AFL-CIO, the Graphic Communications International Union (now the Graphic Communications Conference/IBT) and Union Network International, a federation of communications and service unions, convened a Quebecor Working Group. They held an international conference in Memphis, Tenn. in late 2003 that launched a campaign to organize six Quebecor plants in the U.S.

“We saw the abuses facing U.S.

workers and thought we could be next,” said Juan Palma Lora, who works at a Quebecor plant in Santiago, Chile. He also heads the Quebecor workers’ union in his country. Under pressure from workers, shareholders, clients and public officials all over the world, Quebecor agreed in May 2005 to remain neutral during organizing campaigns at its U.S. plants. It is due to sign a global neutrality agreement in August, Lora said.

“Trade union internationalism cannot be an extra,” said International Confederation of Free Trade Unions General Secretary Guy Ryder in closing. “It must be integral to our organizing.”

—Marcy Rein

AFL-CIO CONVENTION

continued from page 4

Chicago local’s office seemed all the more surreal with a poster hanging on the wall behind Stern’s podium reading: “Unite to Win.”

LEADERSHIP RESPONDS TO DISCONTENT

Many of the unions remaining in the AFL-CIO responded to the disaffiliations by demanding strict enforcement of the federation’s Constitution: non-members are not allowed participation in AFL-CIO state federations, central labor councils (CLCs), trade departments and other affiliated groups. The hundreds of state federation and CLC delegates let their

The AFL-CIO Executive Council responded with a dues increase to help alleviate the central bodies’ financial loss. But that did not satisfy the central bodies’ money needs or ease their other concerns. The Executive Council then proposed that all central bodies submit reports to the council on the impacts of the disaffiliations by September and the council would then propose new ways to deal with that.

But by August the pressure from below had the AFL-CIO proposing an inventive way to get around its own Constitution and allow the CtW local unions to participate in central bodies. The AFL-CIO would grant

“Solidarity Charters” to the locals, giving them special membership. But the proposal was drafted in a way that the CtW leadership was able to find things in the fine print to object to. They demanded the locals continue to participate in the CLCs and state federations on the same terms they had in the past.

Both sides are finding some resistance from their local officers and rank and filers to the splits and acrimony at the top levels of the movement, and the dust has yet to settle. Much will depend on what happens at the Change to Win coalition’s founding convention scheduled for late September in St. Louis.

Iraq's Longshore workers

Story and photos by David Bacon

UM QASR AND ZUBAIR, IRAQ, (6/29/05)—Early in the morning of March 2, 2005, 600 longshoremen, oil workers and other labor activists took the long road through the desert to Zubair, one of Iraq's two deepwater ports on the Shatt al Arab. Some came south from Basra, the cosmopolitan capital of southern Iraq. Others came north from the country's other deepwater port, Um Qasr.

At the gate into Zubair port they set up their line. Trucks began arriving, bringing cargo to the ships at the dock. Workers stopped them. Meanwhile, inside the port, longshore union leader Fadr Khalil Abood had a message for the Maersk Shipping Company. Maersk had been operating the terminals since the beginning of the occupation in April 2003.

"We told them they had to leave, and that we wouldn't allow any traffic into or out of the port until they agreed," Khalil said.

It took three days for the company to get the point. In the end, however, the Iraqi Port Authority was reinstated as the public agency operating one of the government's most important public assets. The port's historic longshore workforce, most excluded from their jobs since Maersk took over, went back to work.

In the dockside control room, engineers Yusef Abdul Samat, Murat Nasser and Luay Abdul Hussein looked over the electrical panels which monitor and control port operations. Gaping holes had been left when Maersk personnel pried switches loose and took them away.

"This is a serious problem for us since we have no money to buy replacements," explained Murat. "Still, we'll figure something out. The main thing is we got control of the port back."

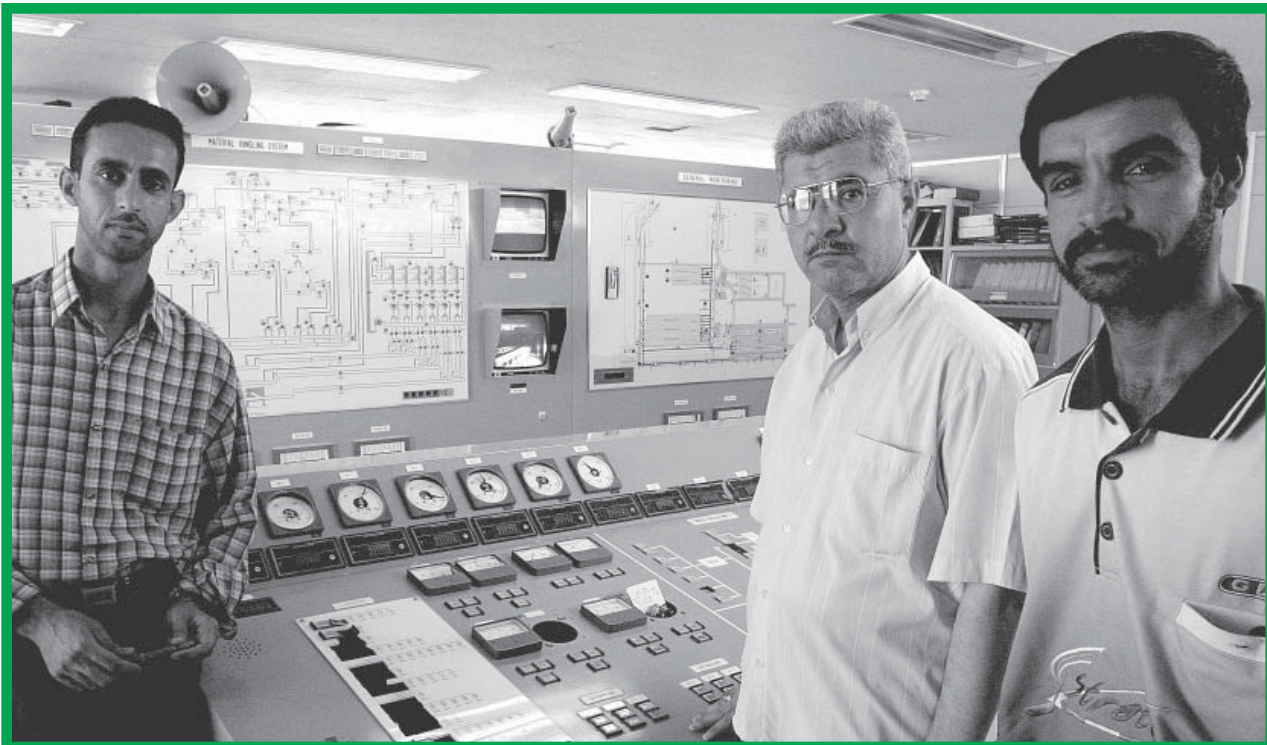
When Maersk, a Danish company, came in to operate the Zubair docks, the three engineers had been told to leave the property. They were only able to return to their jobs once the company was gone.

The invading American troops gave Maersk control of Zubair, a political plum to reward Denmark for participating in the invading coalition forces. The company, however, was never able to produce a contract with the Iraqi government allowing it to run the terminals. That enabled the port workers union to unite even officials of Iraq's transport ministry with the workers' movement to regain control of their jobs. As the workers blocked the gates for three days, no armed forces were dispatched to dislodge them.

Further south in Um Qasr, Stevedoring Services of America (SSA) was given a no-bid contract by the U.S. military, even before the invasion began, to operate half the terminals. After more than a year of bitter labor disputes in the port, SSA too withdrew, in July 2004.

"We are very proud that we have been able to regain our ports for the Iraqi people," said Natham Radi, head of the Um Qasr branch of the union.

Southern Iraq has been the scene of intense labor activity since the beginning of the occupation,



Yusef Abdul Samat, Murat Nasser and Luay Abdul Hussein, engineers in the control room of the Zubair port, were thrown out of their jobs by the Maersk shipping company when it took over the port at the beginning of the occupation. Once Maersk was expelled, the men got their jobs back.

driven in large part by low wages. Following the arrival of U.S. troops, Iraqi public sector workers began receiving emergency salaries dictated by the U.S. through its Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA)—roughly from \$60 to \$120 monthly.

Like other workers, Iraqi longshoremen in Um Qasr began organizing a union to respond. Within a few months, they were ready to elect officers and establish their structure. On the day they were set to vote, however, Port Director Abdel Razzaq told them the election was cancelled because Law 150, a 1987 Saddam Hussein-era decree prohibiting unions in the public sector, was still being enforced. In November 2003 he fired three port workers for trying to organize.

Meanwhile, the CPA's Order 30 on Reform of Salaries and Employment Conditions of State Employees in September 2003 lowered the base wage to \$40 per month and eliminated housing and food subsidies. The following January dockers struck briefly over the wage scale, blocking anyone from entering the main gate. Razzaq's office was occupied, and the demonstration only ended when he was rescued by British occupation troops. When the occupation started, Razzaq was installed by SSA, which made most of the important decisions regarding the port. Razzaq was finally fired as a result of the protests.

In February 2004, the new Port Authority Director, Mahmood Saleh, met with a delegation of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and representatives of the Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions (IFTU) in the Basra

to organize in the docks, but the union was still not given recognition. Nevertheless, six workers' committees began to operate openly in Um Qasr and Zubair in defiance of Saddam's 1987 law. Under their pressure, the base wages for dockers was raised to 75,000 ID per month (\$50), rising to 100,000 (\$66) after a year.

FROM NATIONALIZATION TO PRIVATIZATION

Privatizing Um Qasr began an effort to transform Iraq's economy—from one based on nationalization and production for domestic welfare, to one based on ownership by transnational corporations, sending their profits out of the country. The port was built following the revolution of 1958, when nationalist governments spent Iraq's oil income on a big program of industrialization. Eventually, a thousand longshore workers labored on Um Qasr's docks.

Even in the years when Iraq had a progressive government, however, they still had no guarantees for their rights and jobs. At first, subcontracting companies were allowed to hire dockers in a daily shapeup. Finally, workers rebelled. After winning recognition for their union, they demanded and won a hiring system under their control, and a daily guaranteed wage whether or not there was a ship at dock to work.

Those achievements were reversed under Saddam Hussein's dictatorship. Law 150 banned unions in the public sector for workers like longshoremen. At the same time, a decade-long war with Iran, then the first Gulf War, followed by 12 years of sanctions and, finally, a new invasion and occupation, all took their toll. Um Qasr and Zubair lay in a shambles, although the basic infrastructure was still in place.

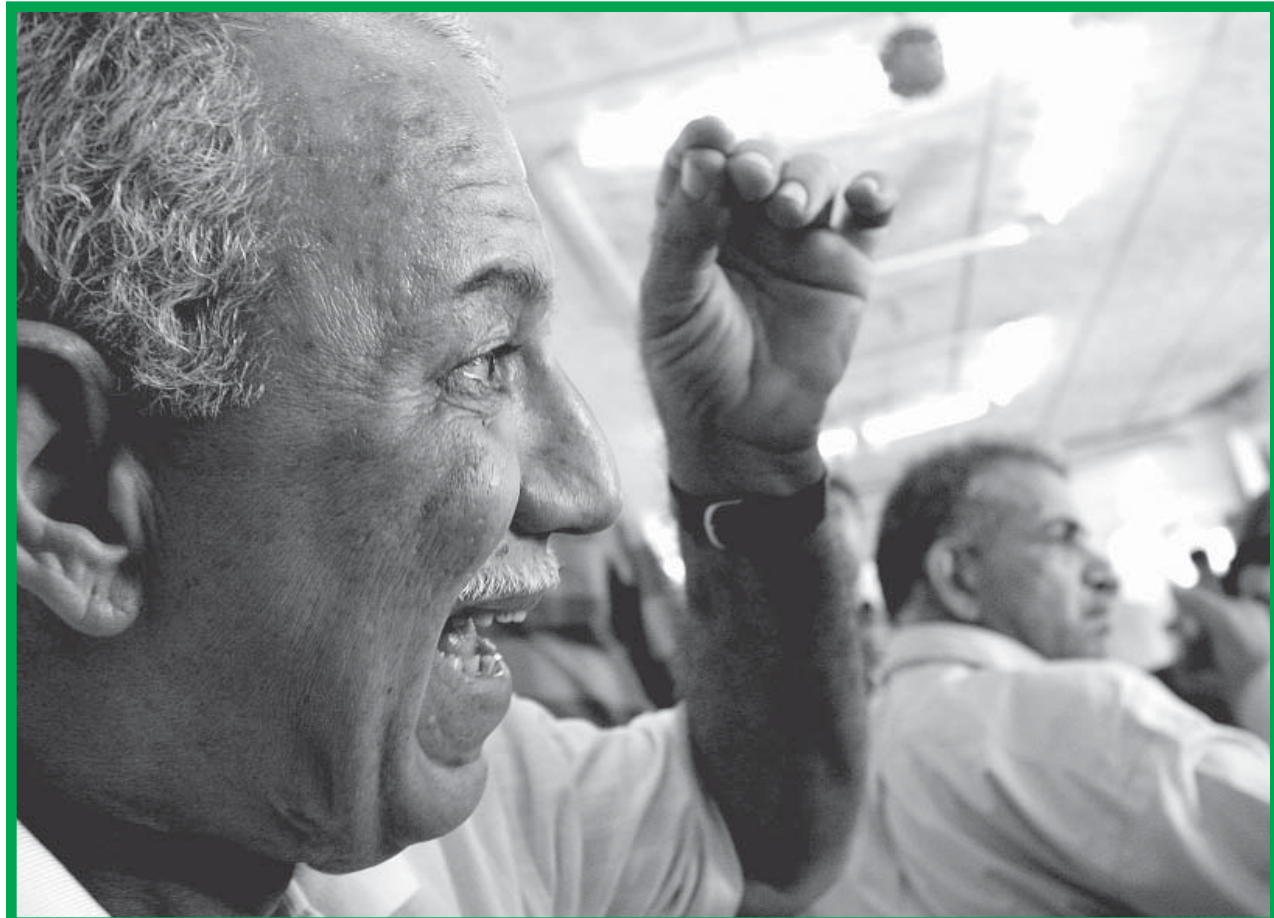
ENTER SSA

That's when private companies entered the picture, starting with SSA. The company, which has a history of tight political connections with the Bush administration, received a \$4.8 million, no-bid contract to operate the port of Um Qasr on March 24, 2003. According to the USAID website, the contract reached as high as \$14.3 million by its completion. It covered the assessment of the port's needs, assistance in making it operational, but then also the ongoing management of dockside operations.

The process by which SSA became an Iraqi port operator says a lot about the company's relationship with the Bush administration. SSA Marine is a \$1 billion-a-year, family-owned business with more than 10,000 employees worldwide. Between 1990 and 2002, its government contracts were worth \$86,117,000.

The shipping industry as a whole has been a heavy political contributor, giving 68 percent of its \$4.3 million in campaign contributions to Republicans in the 2000 election cycle alone (according to the Center for the Study of Responsive Politics.) SSA, however, only contributed \$24,825 (77 percent to Republicans) between 1999 and 2002, and Bush received a mere \$1,000.

But these relatively small expenditures don't give an accurate picture of the real relations between SSA and the White House. Those were revealed in 2002, during the negotiations between



Natham Radi, head of the union for longshoremen in the port of Um Qasr, recounts the many battles they had with the U.S. corporation Stevedoring Services of America before it was finally forced out of the port.

region. He agreed that trade unions should be free

ers defeat privatization

the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) and the ILWU Longshore Division. SSA was widely viewed as the most confrontational employer in the PMA. The Bush administration intervened directly on the side of SSA and the PMA, issuing a Taft-Hartley injunction against the union and threatening reprisals against the ILWU if the union exercised its labor rights.

SSA started rubbing shoulders with the Bush national security apparatus in other areas as well. In May 2003 the company was a founding member of the Marine Terminal Operators Discussion Agreement, a forum in which shippers talk with U.S. government authorities about security issues. The group was ostensibly created to make shipping containers more secure from tampering by terrorists or narcotics smugglers, but the initiative gave SSA an even closer relationship with the government in an area with a great impact on the jobs of longshore workers.

The battles over the ILWU longshore contract finally ended with a new agreement in November 2002. By then the administration was already ramping up its preparations for the invasion of Iraq, as the Downing Street memos now clearly show. The relationship established between SSA and the administration during the longshore labor war made SSA the logical choice to win the contract to reopen the port of Um Qasr once troops seized it just a few months later.

Once the invasion was underway, San Francisco's Bechtel Corp. began dredging the Um Qasr harbor in May 2003 under another no-bid contract. The decision to grant that contract basically excluded the Iraqis who historically did this work. Then, on July 16, 2003, SSA began accepting commercial cargo, including container, break-bulk and rollon-rolloff shipments. Despite its dilapidated state, Um Qasr is still a highly developed facility, with 23 berths for ships, four modern container cranes and a grain and cement dock. (Oil exports are handled through another, unrelated facility.)

The possibilities for the profitable employment of these facilities weren't lost on other port operators who would have liked the plum themselves. The British shipping giant, Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation (P&O), thought it was entitled to run Um Qasr, inasmuch as the British were given responsibility for occupying and administering the south of Iraq. The firm complained bitterly that only U.S. companies were getting the profitable concessions created by the occupation. Alan Larson, U.S. undersecretary of State, responded that giving SSA the port was "the responsible thing to do." Even other U.S. firms complained that the company seemed to have the inside track, since it didn't have the normally required security clearance. Instead of rejecting SSA, however, USAID dropped the security requirement. It was under the pressure of favoritism accusations that Maersk was awarded Zubair.

U.S. shippers complained of "gross profiteering" at the high tariffs charged for handling cargo Um Qasr. SSA denied that it profited from the tariffs themselves, and said they were set by USAID during the period when Iraq was ruled directly by the U.S. occupation overseer Paul Bremer and the CPA. SSA, however, advised USAID on the rates required to make the port "self-sustaining."

When USAID was slow in taking SSA's "advice" in July 2003, the agency got a call from Congressman Norm Dicks (D-WA) telling them to pay more attention to the company's recommendations.

PRIVATIZATION EXPANDS

Bringing SSA into Um Qasr was part of a much bigger economic program. The free trade ideologues of the Bush administration see the occupation of Iraq as a beachhead into the Middle East and south Asia. A free-market Iraq, they hope, will set new ground rules for the rest of the area, much as the North American Free Trade Agreement first helped to transform Mexico's economy, and then became a prototype for the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

This massive introduction of free enterprise began even before the invasion, with the granting of the first contracts for servicing the military and building its bases, again, only to non-Iraqi firms like KBR, a division of the oil service giant Halliburton that Vice President Dick Cheney was CEO of before running on the Bush ticket in 2000. Those were followed by others for rebuilding the infrastructure of the country itself, destroyed by war and sanctions. But this transformation is not limited simply to reconstruction contracts. The pre-existing economy of Iraq is set to be transformed as well, as the state-run enterprises at its heart are to be sold off to private, foreign investors.



Ship tied up at the Um Qasr dock.

On Sept. 19, 2003 the CPA published Order No. 39, which permits 100 percent foreign ownership of businesses, except for the oil industry, and allows profits to be sent out of Iraq to the foreign company's home country. Tom Foley, a Bush fundraiser who then directed private sector development for the CPA, announced a list of state enterprises to be sold off, including cement and fertilizer plants, phosphate and sulfur mines, pharmaceutical factories and the country's airline.

Order No. 37, also issued Sept. 19, suspended income and property taxes for the year, and imposed a flat tax on individuals and corporations in the future of 15 percent. Right-wing ideologues haven't been able to get the U.S. Congress to pass a flat tax proposal despite years of advocacy, but Iraq became the free marketeers' playground.

Meanwhile, conferences began to take place once or twice a week in Washington, D.C. and London, in which Iraqi enterprises and contracts were put on display, and transnational corporations came to examine profit-making opportunities. Just one conference held Dec. 10, 2003 at Washington's National Press Club by Equity International, a business consulting service, featured the attendance of executives from Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Rockwell Automation, Foster Wheeler, The Livingston Group, Nissan Motor Co, M/A-COM, Federal Security Systems, Danimex Communications, Global Transportation Systems, Applied Industrial Technologies, Comprehensive Health Services, Washington Group International, and International Truck and Engine Corporation, along diplomats from countries participating in the occupation coalition.

Equity International meetings to showcase Iraqi concessions began as early as May 5, 2003. Featured speakers included U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Lincoln Bloomfield; U.S. Treasury Under Secretary John Taylor; Congressman Curt Weldon (R-PA), Vice Chairman, House Armed Services Committee; Congressman Christopher Shays (R-CT), Chairman, House Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations; as well as executives from Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR), BearingPoint, Creative Associates and USProtect; and top officials from the Coalition Provisional Authority, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. State Department, U.S. Treasury Department, U.S. Export-Import Bank, U.S. Commerce Department, U.S. Small Business Administration and the United Nations.

MEET THE NEW BOSS

When power was handed over to a supposedly independent government in June 2004, the transitional law enacted at the time froze the Bremer orders into place until a new constitution could be written and a new government elected. That has yet to happen. Meanwhile, the deteriorating security situation and the dubious legality of sales by an occupation government discouraged would-be corporate buyers, and the plans for a fire sale of Iraq's national assets were temporarily shelved. But Iraq's Industry Minister revived them in the spring of 2005, listing again a number of enterprises the government intends to sell off.

Privatization is not popular in Iraq. Nationalist sentiment views the public sector, especially oil, as a guarantee of sovereignty and a key to future economic development. Iraq's new unions are privati-

zation's most vocal critics. To keep their critique from gaining a political base, Bremer kept in force Saddam Hussein's decree outlawing Iraqi workers' right to organize unions in the state-owned sector. That ban affects workers employed in the enterprises set to be privatized, and that is why it hasn't been repealed as hundreds of other Saddam-era laws have been. If those workers have no legal union, no right to bargain and no contracts, then privatization and the huge job losses that will come with it will face much less organized resistance.

On June 5, 2003 CPA head Paul Bremer put another weapon into the anti-union arsenal. He issued a decree called Public Notice Number One, prohibiting "pronouncements and material that incite civil disorder, rioting or damage to property." The phrase can easily be interpreted to mean strikes or other organized labor protest. Those who violate the decree "will be subject to immediate detention by Coalition security forces and held as a security internee under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949," in other words, as a prisoner of war. That order also was frozen in place by the transitional law under which Iraq functions today.

Unions therefore occupy a critical, but perilous, position. They confront the occupation's economic plan directly, and are its most vocal opponents.

It was therefore an important achievement for Iraq's port workers' union when, in mid-2004, SSA agreed to leave its concession in Um Qasr.

"We're very opposed to privatization," Radi said. "And we don't want any private operators in the ports, which belong to the Iraqi people."



Um Qasr, and its sister port Zubair, were taken over by foreign corporations at the beginning of the occupation. Stevedoring Services of America operated the Um Qasr cranes, and the Maersk Shipping Co. ran Zubair. The union for port workers, supported by other unions in Basra, blockaded the road into Zubair, and forced Maersk to leave. SSA left Um Qasr in mid-2004.

IEB plans for now and future

The ILWU International Executive Board met at the union's headquarters in San Francisco Aug. 18-19 and to review finances and set policy.

The board's trustees, Dave Freiboth of the IBU, Southern California representative Larry Carlton of Local 46 and Arthur Reeves of Local 142, reported that the union's finances were in good shape. The International spent \$134,000 less than it took in during the second quarter of 2005. The trustees also reviewed a draft status quo budget for 2006-2009 to be used as a starting point for a budget proposal to bring to the International Convention in May 2006. The trustees will meet again in October to prepare a revised draft for the board to consider at its December meeting so that a budget will be ready for the Convention to review and decide upon.

The board also reviewed the union's financial report for the first half of 2005, making sure everything is in order.

International Vice President, Mainland Bob McEllrath reported to the board on the officers' attendance at the AFL-CIO Convention in Chicago the month before. McEllrath, International President Jim Spinosa, International Vice President Wesley Furtado, International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams and Coast Committeeman Joe Wenzl were the ILWU's delegates to the convention. Alternate delegates Local 142 President Fred Galdones, warehouse Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker and IBU Region 37 Director Richard Gurtiza also attended. The officers' tried to pass a motion that would have given the ILWU a seat on the AFL-CIO's Executive Council, but it failed to pass (see story page 5).

The board then discussed what the ILWU gets out of its membership in the AFL-CIO and whether it should remain in the federation. No decision was made, and the issue will be further discussed at the IEB's next meeting in December.

Organizing Director Peter Olney reported to the board on the ongoing campaign to organize the 650 workers at the Blue Diamond Growers' processing plant in Sacramento, the biggest almond plant in the world. The company is waging a nasty anti-union campaign, but the organizers and warehouse Local 17 officers and local organizing committee have built a solid committee in the plant of 55 workers and are moving to use various angles to gain support and pressure the company for recognition.

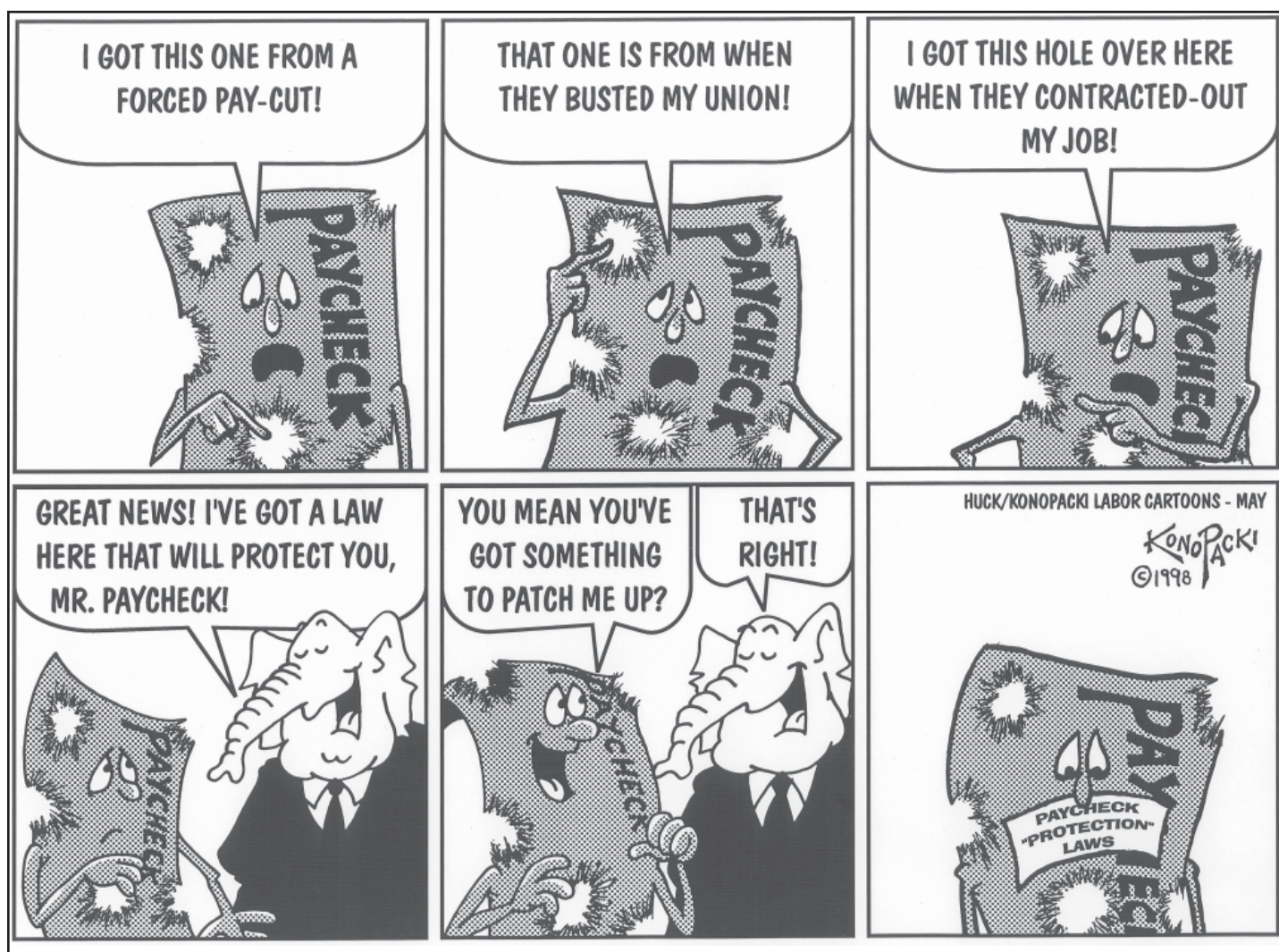
The board also dealt with issues brought by members of mining and mineral processing Local 30 in the Southern California desert. The board reviewed an Article VIII complaint and decided that the International will oversee a rerun of the local's recall election Oct. 5.

The board also passed three Statements of Policy (see below), one on the California special election and the anti-worker ballot initiatives Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is backing, another in support of the United Farm Workers' boycott of Gallo wines, and another in support of the AFL-CIO's campaign against Wal-Mart.

The board dedicated its meeting to the memory of Kim Miles, the first ILWU woman longshore worker killed on the job (see story page 11).

STATEMENT OF POLICY OPPOSING CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER'S SPECIAL ELECTION AND ANTI-WORKER INITIATIVES

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has called a special off-year election for Nov. 8, 2005 so



he can put before the voters a batch of initiatives that slam workers now and give him more power to bash them in the future. This stunt will cost the financially strapped state an estimated \$80 million.

"Get it straight," Schwarzenegger told MSNBC TV March 14. "It's the unions that I am against." The donor lists for the governor's political action committees—Citizens to Save California, the California Recovery Team and Californians for Schwarzenegger 2006—underline that point. Schwarzenegger raked in \$23 million in the first six months of 2005 and plans to raise much more in the four months before the election. The vast bulk comes from big corporate interests. Schwarzenegger has been traveling the country raising money from out of state Republicans for these measures because common wisdom is that as California goes, so goes the nation.

That money paid to get his measures on the ballot, including Proposition 75, a rehash of the defeated 1998 paycheck deception Prop 226, which would have required unions to get annual, written permission from each individual member before using any dues money for political purposes.

The group sponsoring Prop 75, "The Coalition for Employee Rights," is a coalition of businesses and right-wing activists. These false friends of working people call the measure a "Paycheck Protection Act." It would require public sector unions—those representing teachers, nurses, police, firefighters and government and social service workers—to get annual permission from individual members before spending dues money on political campaigns. Doing that would cost so much it would effectively exclude public sector labor from the political process.

This initiative has "payback" written all over it because these unions have been the governor's most vocal critics—but no one doubts that other California unions will be next in the line of fire. Though the governor targets "special interests" when he pitches Prop 75, the measure includes no limits on corporate contributions. His \$200,000 gift from PG&E came without any permission slips from ratepayers, the \$150,000

from Kaiser Foundation Health Plan came without the okay of members and shareholders were not polled about the \$102,000 from AT&T and the \$225,000 from Yahoo! Business already outspends labor by more than 10 to one. Prop 75 would further muffle workers' voices in public debate.

Proposition 74, which its backers call the "Put the Kids First" initiative, does nothing to improve public education or deal with underfunded schools, classroom overcrowding or the lack of books and resources. Instead it blames teachers and extends their probationary period—during which they can be fired without a hearing—from two years to five years. Current law already allows for firing teachers who are not performing in the classroom, no matter how long they've been on the job.

Proposition 76, a pure and simple power grab, would give Schwarzenegger authority to overturn budget provisions approved by the legislature or by the voters. It would allow the governor to cut budgeted items between legislative sessions and would overturn Prop 98, passed by the voters to guarantee that a certain portion of state funds go to education. It could make permanent the governor's confiscation of \$2 billion of school funds last year.

Current law already gives the governor the "line-item veto" to use on legislature-approved spending items. He chopped two labor study centers from the University of California budget this year in his only U.C. budget vetoes. Prop 76 would allow him to make further cuts at any time. This gives too much power to a man well-known for hostility to working people, and practically eliminates the legislature as a partner in the state budget process.

Big drug companies contributed heavily to get Proposition 78 on the ballot as a decoy to confuse voters and keep them from passing Proposition 79, a real prescription drug cost relief measure.

Proposition 78 says drug companies can "voluntarily" enter into a program to reduce costs to low-income people, but provides no requirements or incentives for them to do so. It's unlikely corporate executives will have a conscience attack after the election. What terrifies them is a pub-

lic fed up with double-digit medical inflation and ready to do something about it.

Prop 78's main sponsor, Californians for for Affordable Prescriptions, is a mere front for the pharmaceutical industry. It includes the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, Merck, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer and GlaxoSmithKline. None of these are from California. Drug companies donated \$43 million to Prop 78 in one month, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle* (July 13). A "No" vote on Prop 78 is necessary because if both Prop 78 and the union-backed Prop 79 pass, the one that gets the most votes will become law.

Proposition 79, sponsored by unions and consumer groups in a coalition called "Alliance for a Better California," would provide real discounts for low-income people without insurance. It would do so by using the buying power of the state Medicaid plan to leverage discounts from drug companies. It would allow the state to negotiate with drug companies and buy at bulk rates. It would punish drug companies that don't cooperate by discouraging purchases from them.

Proposition 80—like Prop 79—has provoked panic attacks in the corporate board rooms. It would roll back some of the more disastrous effects of energy deregulation, requiring all energy producers be regulated by the Public Utilities Commission and cutting their power to manipulate the state's energy market like Enron and others did in 2001. Prop 80 will require utility companies to do long-term planning to assure an adequate supply of energy at reasonable rates. It will also help clean the air by requiring 20 percent of the power come from renewable sources by 2010 instead of 2017, the goal at present.

Schwarzenegger has already seen two of his proposed initiatives go down. He withdrew his attempt to privatize public employees' pensions under fierce fire from police officers and firefighters, whose death benefits would have been privatized. The courts threw out his effort to change the way legislative districts in the state get drawn. But the governor is still pushing forward with his remain-

Canadian Labor Congress convention

Canadian unions pledge unity, solidarity and a good fight

by Tom Price

The Canadian Labour Congress, Canada's union federation, met in Montreal, Quebec June 13-17 and reaffirmed the solidarity of Canada's many unions and three million union workers. At the gathering the CLC celebrated its nearly 50 years of history and made plans for the future.

The CLC retained Ken Georgetti as its President and upheld its commitment to its smaller unions by electing ILWU Canada President Tom Dufresne as one of its vice presidents. A caucus of 28 smaller unions chose him along with three other VPs to represent their interests on the CLC Executive Council. Dufresne was accompanied at the meeting by ILWU Canada Third Vice President Al Le Monnier.

"ILWU Canada will continue to play an activist role within the CLC," Dufresne said.

The CLC represents unions, provincial labor federations and 137 district labor councils. It ensures that Canada's workers have the support of the entire labor movement as they confront employers or governments increasingly hostile to their interests.

This year's triennial convention pledged commitments to political action, coalition building, media campaigns and international solidarity. The CLC will support its members by conducting training for campaign coordinators and union organizers. Members will be trained in communications and preparation of briefs for public hearings and governmental bodies.

The CLC will fight for Canada's highly regarded public health care. Medicare, funded by federal and provincial revenue, is under attack from corporate forces and right-wing politicians who want to under-fund it and turn it over to private corporations.

Canadians fought long and hard for national health care and the labor movement was in the thick of it. The

convention pledged to fight against increasingly right-wing provincial governments and a national government that's leaning toward American-style private health care.

The convention committed the CLC to fight for labor rights, child care, occupational safety, quality jobs, environmental protection, disability rights, public education, pay equity, pension protection, aboriginal rights and for adequate funding for cities and public control of utilities. It also pledged to work against a neo-liberal, corporate view of North American integration where transnational corporations would have more rights than people.

The CLC has the advantage of its unity to keep the labor movement strong. Canada, thanks to labor's vigilant organizing, has one of the highest union densities in the world, with 31 percent of its workers belonging to unions.

But political troubles persist. British Columbia's premier, Gordon Campbell, has attacked public worker wages, working conditions and pensions. He doesn't believe they have the right to organize at all, and his actions have won the condemnation of the International Labor Organization. Canada's Prime Minister, Paul Martin, comes from a family that owns a steamship line that has run afoul of labor in the past. The CLC will take on the task of uniting workers in all areas, ethnicities and languages under one organization and turn that into political and economic power.

The CLC's Executive Council issued a statement against corporate integration with the U.S. It condemned the loss of civil liberties under a national security state and Canada's integration into the U.S. Defense Dept.'s "Star Wars" plan. Trade deals like NAFTA and the WTO are not benefiting workers and the CLC wants to see them canceled. New agreements must support work-



Tom Dufresne addresses the Canadian Labor Congress convention.

er rights and fair trade. The CLC also wants the elimination of neo-liberal policies that diminish national sovereignty and open the country for corporate control.

The convention passed policy papers against privatization. In the face of trade agreements sanctifying the "investor rights" of foreign companies, the CLC warns that Canada's vast resources could be up for grabs by multi-national corporations. Canada's health care system, social security and pensions could also present a gold mine for private corporations. NAFTA and WTO rules could allow them to be privatized.

As part of its inclusionary policies, the CLC allows individual locals to make proposals to the body. ILWU Canada's longshore Local 500 proposed a resolution to set up a committee to

recommend how to finally implement a resolution passed at its founding convention in 1956 that called for the establishment of "an alternate political force based on the needs of workers, farmers and similar groups...interested in basic social reforms and reconstruction through our parliamentary system of governments."

In another resolution, Local 500 proposed that all candidates supported by labor should also support the CLC's legislative program.

CLC members, including ILWU Canada, can rely on the CLC for support from the worksite to the halls of Parliament whenever their issues are on the line.

"The CLC continues to support the ILWU in opposing unfair background checks and screening of dockers," Dufresne said.

IEB STATEMENTS OF POLICY

continued from page 8

ing attacks on working people. He is counting on a low voter turnout helping his initiatives, making it all the more important for working families and their unions to mobilize for Nov. 8 and join the ILWU in voting "No" on Props 74, 75, 76 and 78 voting "Yes" on Props 79 and 80.

STATEMENT OF POLICY JOINING THE UFW BOYCOTT OF GALLO WINES

Wine-grape workers at Gallo of Sonoma, the largest wine-making family in America, voted overwhelmingly in 1994 to join the United Farm Workers. For five years the union tried to get Gallo to sign a contract, but the company refused the workers' key demand—extending benefits such as health coverage and paid vacations to employees of farm labor contractors who toiled in its fields.

In 2000 the workers finally agreed to a first contract offering some protections, such as a seniority system and grievance and arbitration procedures, hoping to win benefits in the next negotiations. By 2003 Gallo increased the farm labor contractor employees to about 75 percent of its workforce.

Gallo then began an illegal company-orchestrated bid to decertify the union, with company foremen and supervisors directing workers to sign decertification petitions and promising better pay and benefits in exchange for ousting the UFW. The union protested the company actions and the Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB) impounded the ballots

because of "the seriousness of the allegations."

The ALRB found merit in the allegations and issued a formal complaint against Gallo in April 2003 and in the following December a state judge ruled the company had in fact violated state labor law. Since then Gallo has failed to bargain in good faith or agree to the extension of benefits to workers hired through farm labor contractors. In response the UFW has called for a boycott of all Gallo-owned brands of wines.

The ILWU supports the Gallo boycott and calls on all its members, their families and ILWU friends to join in the boycott until a fair and just union contract is negotiated. The ILWU Titled Officers will also send a letter to Matt Gallo, the head of the company, calling on him to do the right thing and extend benefits to all his workers.

STATEMENT OF POLICY IN SUPPORT OF THE WAKE-UP WAL-MART CAMPAIGN

Wal-Mart is the largest private employer in the world with over \$10 billion in annual profits and 1.6 million employees. Its business model is driving a race to the bottom by lowering wages, shipping good-paying jobs overseas and adding to the health care crisis in America. This model is increasing downward pressure on wages and benefits for retail and production workers globally.

Wal-Mart fails to provide company-paid health care coverage to more than 600,000 of its employees in the U.S. It's poor health care cover-

age, with high deductibles and costly premiums, combined with poverty-level wages, forces tens of thousands of its employees onto taxpayer-funded public health care, resulting in costs of \$2.5 billion per year in public assistance programs.

Wal-Mart has been found guilty of child labor violations, exploiting immigrant labor and is the defendant in a gender discrimination suit affecting 2 million current and former female employees. Wal-Mart has also consistently denied workers their democratic right to organize and has even gone so far as to shut down a store to prevent a union.

The United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) has launched the Wake-Up Wal-Mart campaign with the goal of changing Wal-Mart by building local community coalitions at every Wal-Mart location in the

U.S. The UFCW, in conjunction with the AFL-CIO, is building a global coalition among unions, global union federations and other groups that speak for the workers who are affected by Wal-Mart's business practices. The Wake-Up Wal-Mart campaign is bringing together grassroots community leaders, citizens, workers and union members who have awakened to the high costs of Wal-Mart and recognize Wal-Mart's negative impact on our jobs, our wages, our health care and our communities.

The ILWU commits to supporting the national Wake-Up Wal-Mart campaign to build a nation-wide grassroots movement by joining local labor and community coalitions and to supporting efforts to build a global coalition to ensure that Wal-Mart's anti-union business model does not become established internationally.

BOYCOTT GALLO WINE LABELS		
Anapamu	E&J VS Brandy	Indigo Hills Blanc de Blancs
Andre	E&J VSOP Brandy	Liberty Creek
Ballatore Spumante	Ecco Domani	Livingston Cellars
Bartles & Jaymes Coolers	Ernest & Julio Gallo Twin	Louis M. Martini
Bella Sera	Valley Vineyards	MacMurray Ranch
Black Swan	Frei Brothers	Marcelina
Boone's Farm	Frei Brothers Reserve	McWilliams Hanwood Estate
Bridlewood Winery	Gallo Estate	Mirassou
Burlwood	Gallo Fairbanks	Napa Valley Vineyards
Carlo Rossi	Gallo Livingston Cellars	Peter Vella
Cask & Cream Caramel	Gallo of Sonoma	Rancho Zabaco
Temptation	Gallo of Sonoma County	Rancho Zabaco Winery:
Cask & Cream Chocolate	Series	Red Bicyclelette
Temptation	Gallo of Sonoma Estate Series	Redwood Creek
Copperidge	Gallo of Sonoma Single	Tott's
Da VINCI	Vineyard	Turning Leaf
E & J Gallo Twin Valley	Gallo Sheffield Cellars	Turning Leaf Coastal Reserve
E&J Cognac	Gallo Vermouth	Whitehaven
E&J Gallo Vineyards	Gossamer Bay	Wild Vines
	Indigo Hills	William Wycliff

Bloody Thursday—solemn and joyous

by Tom Price

Longshore workers took July 5 off to remember the tragic incidents up and down the Coast that led to the founding of the ILWU.

On that day 71 years ago Marine Cooks and Steward's member Nick Bordoise and longshoreman Howard Sperry were gunned down by police in San Francisco. Dozens were wounded by gunfire. Workers were so furious they turned a coastwise maritime strike into a general strike in San Francisco that closed the city down.

Dickie Parker and John Knudson had been mortally wounded in Los Angeles May 14, 1934 and Shelvy Daffron had been killed June 30 in Seattle. Olaf Helland, a striking sailor, was mortally wounded in Seattle July 19. Bloody Thursday honors their memory and hundreds of others who were injured.

In **San Pedro**, more than 4,000 ILWU members, retirees, friends and families remembered Bloody Thursday at Peck Park. Newly elected Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa spent two hours shaking hands with his many supporters, and the kids had waterslides, face painting and plenty of hot dogs.

"Art Almeida was our historian for the day," said David Ross Sr., one of the event organizers. "He explained what the guys in 1934 did for us. If they could only see what we have now."

The remembrance finished with dancing to several bands, including SIFA, a band featuring members' kids, and Sal Rodriguez and the All Star Band, with musicians from Ray Charles' band and other famous bands.

In **San Francisco**, retirees, friends and families joined with longshore Local 10 members at the big hall on North Point St. to remember the two strikers gunned down a few blocks away. As the ILWU Drill Team stood at attention, everyone bowed their heads and looked at the silhouettes of the two brothers painted on the sidewalk.

"We're also here to celebrate the fact that we have something to remember," longshore Local 10 President Trent Willis said. "The only time a person, a dream, or a union ever dies is when you forget about it, when you forget what it took to obtain what we have today."

Longshoreman Ben Johnson read



Anna Hasselbach

Seattle retirees laying a wreath at Shelvy Daffron's grave. Left to right: Bob Swanson, Pete Kollen, Rudy Martinez and Bob Rogers.

a passage from South African feminist Olive Schreiner's "Story of an African Farm."

"Where I lie down worn out, other men will stand, young and fresh," he read. "By the steps that I have cut they will climb; by the stairs that I have built they will mount. They will never know the name of the man who made them."

Ben is the son of Local 10's Joe Johnson, a former secretary-treasurer of the Marine Cooks and Stewards union and a longtime speaker at Bloody Thursday rallies before his death in 2000.

Portland area locals remembered Bloody Thursday at Oaks Park. Members and retirees laid a wreath on the river in honor of those who died or were wounded 71 years ago.

Local 5 President Kristi Lovato recalled the significance the remembrance has for Local 5 people.

"We got our charter five years

ago and it's good to be around folks who have been in the ILWU for a long time," Lovato said.

"It gives us a sense of the larger community of the ILWU, to celebrate who we are with the larger community."

Local 8 President Leal Sundet brought the past into the present and future.

"It was in times of uncertainty and hope that our modern union was formed," Sundet said. "It was formed from the blood of July 5th and struggle of that generation. It was that generation and generations to follow that made us what we are today—a proud, powerful and well-respected defender of not just longshoremen, but also the working class."

Sundet finished with:

"Today, we honor the dead on this holy memorial day we call 'Bloody Thursday.' Tomorrow we reenter the never-ending struggle to survive."

for selection.

At Whittier, with limited accommodation, everyone shared beds or slept on the floor before venturing out onto the dock at 1 a.m. in torrential rain and gusting freezing winds.

While the actions on the dock at Whittier were solid and ongoing, many others were also active for the cause.

After the first brother was arrested, ILWU Canada President Tom Dufresne and Local 500, Vancouver, President Bob Ashton were immediately contacted.

With the *Carnival Spirit* homeporting in Vancouver, Canada, they went straight into action, advising the port and stevedoring companies of Local 500 workers' potential reaction to the injustice taking place in Alaska. Arresting longshoremen for freedom of speech was definitely not on.

A call was then made to the ITF's West Coast Coordinator Jeff Engels in Seattle to inform him of what had transpired. Within half an hour (midnight, European time) I received a call from ITF's Dockers' Secretary Frank Leys in Belgium informing us that the ITF was ready to support world-wide action against the Carnival Corporation if needed.

On returning to Vancouver, I went to the dispatch hall and was

Seattle area retirees began the day by laying a wreath on Shelvy Daffron's grave. Later longshore Local 19 retiree Art Mink spoke from the stage at the union's Vasa Park picnic. He told the story of the 1934 strike and how that victory led to the end of the humiliating "shape up" system of hiring and the beginning of a real union hiring hall.

Nearly 1,300 members, friends and family turned out. Members of the Federated Auxiliaries, retirees, clerks' Local 52 and bosses' Local 98 helped. The band "Hot Cargo," composed of ILWU casuals, sang labor songs. The kids had plenty of games, washable tattoos, arts and crafts and swimming.

"We wanted the casuals to know they were welcome," Scott Martinez, one of the event organizers said. "That way, when contract time comes around, they'll know what family they belong to."

surrounded by rank and filers wanting to take immediate action against Carnival's subsidiary companies, Holland America and Princess Cruises, who had ships in port over that weekend.

ILWU Canada Local 514 President Frank Scigliano and his foremen also pledged their support.

By this time Local 10, San Francisco had already shown their support affecting the whole port and at Seattle, Herald Ugles, Local 19 President, had already advised cruise lines of possible job action.

It was not until the day before the *Carnival Spirit* arrived in Vancouver that correspondence satisfactory to ILWU Alaska was received and U.S. jobs were returned to U.S. citizens.

ILWU Alaska President Carl Norman has to be commended for his actions and leadership in an unpredictable and, at times, hostile atmosphere.

Brothers and sisters, solidarity such as this will be key to our future.

Long live the ILWU.

Tim Footman
Second Vice-President
ILWU Canada

LETTERS

DEADLY COURSE

"Stay on course," Mr. Bush has said so many times. His mantra has become a course of death for so many beautiful young men and women. Imagine that these young soldiers are on a ship and I am the captain. On the radar screen dead ahead is a major hurricane. I inform the president of the shipping company, who is safe on dry land, of the approaching "perfect storm."

"Follow my orders!" the president insists. "Stay on course."

How would you feel if your child was on that ship and I, afraid of losing my job, obey the president's orders to stay on course rather than go around and avert the storm, thus leading these young soldiers to a possible death? Staying on course has proven, with every soldier's death, that Bush's course of death is not the answer. Have we become like the captain of the ship, afraid of speaking out, mindlessly allowing our children to be on this course? Next time you

read the paper, Mr. Bush, and see the name of a young soldier who was killed in Iraq, replace that picture and that name with the name of one of your daughters. How's it feel?

Nathan Campobasso
retired ILWU Local 63,
Southern California

A TRIBUTE TO THE WHITTIER 5 AND THEIR SUPPORTERS

As I read the articles and reports of the protests which took place last June in Whittier, Alaska, the more proud and privileged I feel to have been asked and able to participate.

The majority of longshoremen who traveled to Alaska had never met before, but ILWU brotherhood soon took over and everyone there was eager to offer their thoughts, ideas and constructive criticism.

At the first meeting, when volunteers were asked to work the ship, after being advised of the likelihood of being arrested, such was the response, that a lottery was needed



Accident claims life of Tacoma casual



Kimberly Kuchman-Miles
by Tom Price

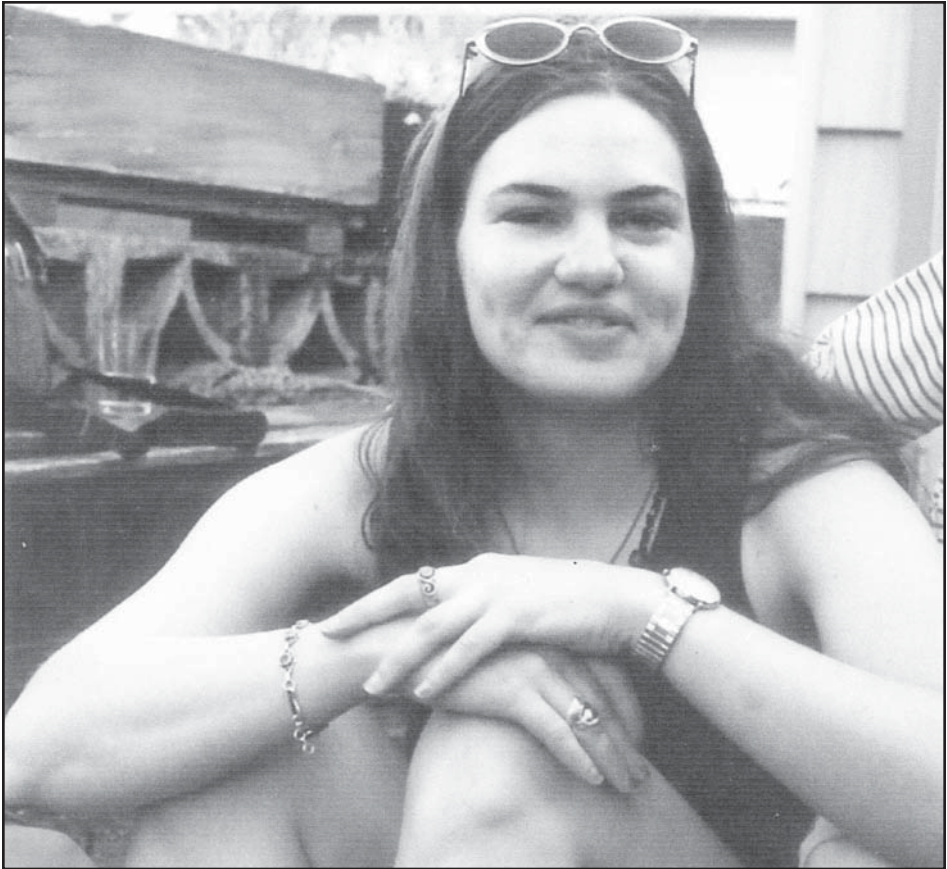
Longshore worker Kimberly Kuchman-Miles lost her life Aug. 13 when a container fell off an Evergreen ship and crushed her. She was part of the lashing crew that had just gone on break when the can fell, three other workers were able to make it to safety. She was a month past her 40th birthday and the

first longshore woman worker killed on West Coast docks. The accident is still under investigation, by the appropriate agencies.

Kimberly Kuchman-Miles was buried Aug. 20. She was born in Olympia and spent her early life in that area. She attended Timberline High School and her surviving parents, Tom and Ginni Kuchman still live in Olympia, where her family had been home-steaders. She is also survived by her two children, Joshua Miles, age 10 and Brittany Miles, age 14, and her partner of eight years, David Zahradnik. She is also survived by her brothers Kelly and Jeffrey and two sets of grandparents.

Local 23 held a memorial for Kuchman-Miles Aug. 25. It included a silent auction and an open mic so people could share their experiences. Area Longshore Locals and organized labor came out in force supporting the memorial and the trust fund. Her friends and family have established a trust fund for her children at Fife Commercial Bank, 5209 Pacific Highway East, Fife, WA 98424 - Phone # 253-922-5100.

Friends mourn Margaret Howell



Margaret Howell

By Marcy Rein

Friends and co-workers at Powell's Books in Portland, Ore. are grieving the loss of Margaret Howell, who died July 29 at age 32.

Howell had worked at Powell's for nine years, mostly as an e-mail runner, one of the people who collect books from the store shelves to fill Internet orders. She belonged to ILWU warehouse, retail and allied workers Local 5.

Local 5 President Kristi Lovato talked about a day when Howell was leaving the house to go to work and noticed a baby sparrow that had fallen out of its nest. Though she was already in trouble for tardiness, she took the bird to the Audubon Society. The people there sent her to another

vet. Despite that vet's best efforts, the bird died—and she was four hours late that day.

"Margaret was a very kind person," Zach Ellis said. It didn't show in heroic actions but in everyday ways. "If we were e-mail running in a room together she'd ask me, 'What sections do you hate?' and take those.

"She was very low-key but there was always something mischievous in her eyes," he said.

People felt drawn to Howell by her combination of vulnerability, intelligence and humor, Lori Blumenthal said. She was always there for people who needed someone to talk to.

"If you came to Margaret with something going on in your life, she always had ways of looking at things you wouldn't have thought of," Blumenthal said.

Longshore retired, deceased and survivors

RECENT RETIREES: **Local 8**—Jonathan Woodward; **Local 10**—Lee Lynch Jr., Charles Dunn, James Duvauchelle; **Local 13**—Edward A. Ponce, Russel A. Smith, Pedro A. Puig, James Woerner, Darinko Dragovich, Andrew S. Garcia, Joseph Pecotich; **Local 19**—Rodney Ulmer, Terry Conklin; **Local 21**—Keith Raappana; **Local 23**—Gary Heath; **Local 32**—Robert Burgess; **Local 40**—Jan Searing; **Local 52**—Michael Heron; **Local 63**—Ronald Sibley, Howard Hentila, Julio Saldana, Rudolph Azpeitia, Thomas Trani, Walter Woodworth; **Local 91**—Cleveland Givens, William V. Nelson.

DECEASED:

Local 8—Henning Hellervic (Phyllis); **Local 10**—Hurvie Ford (Bertha), William Cannady (Josie), Glenn Cotton (Janice), Charlie Jackson (Gloria); Danny Martin (Gayle), John Lawrence, Jesse Davis; **Local 13**—Lawrence Hansen (Clara), Raymond Amesqua (Seleste and Sye),

Roland Armenta; **Local 19**—Alfred Blevins Jr. (Shirley), Pete Starkovich (Betty), Steven Jacroux (Merridee), Jerry Tyler, Robert Pelland; **Local 21**—Lester Roberts (Leona), Wayne Erickson; **Local 23**—Morris Kimbrough (Barbara); **Local 24**—Ruben L. Smith; **Local 34**—Benjamin Mallia (Dorothy), Howard Hanson, Francisco Jovel; **Local 52**—Raymond Bjornson, Shirley Gardenhire; **Local 54**—Nolan Walker (Lois); **Local 63**—William Coleman (Patty); **Local 91**—James Green (Norma); **Local 94**—Robert Nelson (Jennie), Raymond R. Hernandez (Nellie).

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 10—Ozzie Breda, Ethel Pinion, Josephine Collins, May Huertas, Shirlee Murray; **Local 12**—Delores Decker; **Local 19**—Irene Nikula; **Local 21**—Ora Brown; **Local 23**—Christine Goretti, Olivia Gill; **Local 54**—Eva White, Roxe Matthews; **Local 63**—Dorothy McMaster; **Local 92**—Grace Biggs, Marie Smoole.

Coast Benefits Workshops

SAVE the DATE

PUGET SOUND & WASHINGTON AREA

Locals 7, 19, 23, 24, 25, 27, 32, 47, 51, 52, 98
Pensioners, Survivors and Auxiliaries

OCTOBER 11, 2005

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

COLUMBIA RIVER & OREGON COAST AREA

Locals 4, 8, 12, 21, 40, 50, 53, 92
Pensioners, Survivors and Auxiliaries

OCTOBER 13, 2005

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Locals 13, 26 Guards, 29, 63, 94
Pensioners, Survivors and Auxiliaries

OCTOBER 25, 2005

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Locals 10, 14, 18, 34, 54, 75, 91

OCTOBER 27, 2005

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Coast Education Committee Benefits Workshop

We all know we have good benefits. Learn how to use them wisely and protect them into the future. Each area will have an area benefits workshop on the dates above. Notice of the locations will be provided in your Local Bulletins and by mail to your home. **Spouses are invited** to share in information essential to you and your family's security and well being. Your Coast Committee, Education Committee, Area Directors and Coast Benefits Specialist urge everyone to plan on being there. Lunch will be provided.

Howell grew up in Marietta, Georgia and had lived in New York, Montana and Arizona before settling in Portland 10 years ago. She loved to travel. On one of her trips, she ventured into Area 51 of "X-Files" fame, the Air Force base also known as a landing pad for UFOs. She relished telling the story of being chased out of there by a black helicopter in the middle of the night.

Besides the "X-Files" and "The Sopranos," Howell loved all sorts of films and devoured books on a whole range of subjects. She was a supportive union member, said Lovato, who worked just a cubicle wall away from her.

"Margaret was on the picket lines in our last contract fight," Lovato said. "Like most people she didn't come to meetings, but she showed up in a pinch."

Howell was a very private person. People close to her knew she struggled with depression and did many things to fight it, from planting a garden to seeking professional help. But on Aug. 5, she ended her own life.

"We'll never know what happened on that Friday," said Ellis. "But who Margaret was as a person was much more than her depression, and we will miss her always."

Friends have donated to some of Howell's favorite charities in her name, including: Street Roots Homeless Organization, <http://www.streetroots.org/donate/money.html>; The Humane Society of the United States Kindred Program, <https://secure.hsus.org/01/kindredspirits>, and Ethos, a Portland based music program for underserved youth <http://www.ethos-inc.com/makea.htm>.

ILWU Book & Video Sale

Books and videos about the ILWU are available from the union’s library at discounted prices!

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- The March Inland: Origins of the ILWU Warehouse Division 1934-1938** By Harvey Schwartz: new edition of the only comprehensive account of the union’s organizing campaign in the northern California warehouse and distribution industry. **\$9.00**

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