



# The DISPATCHER

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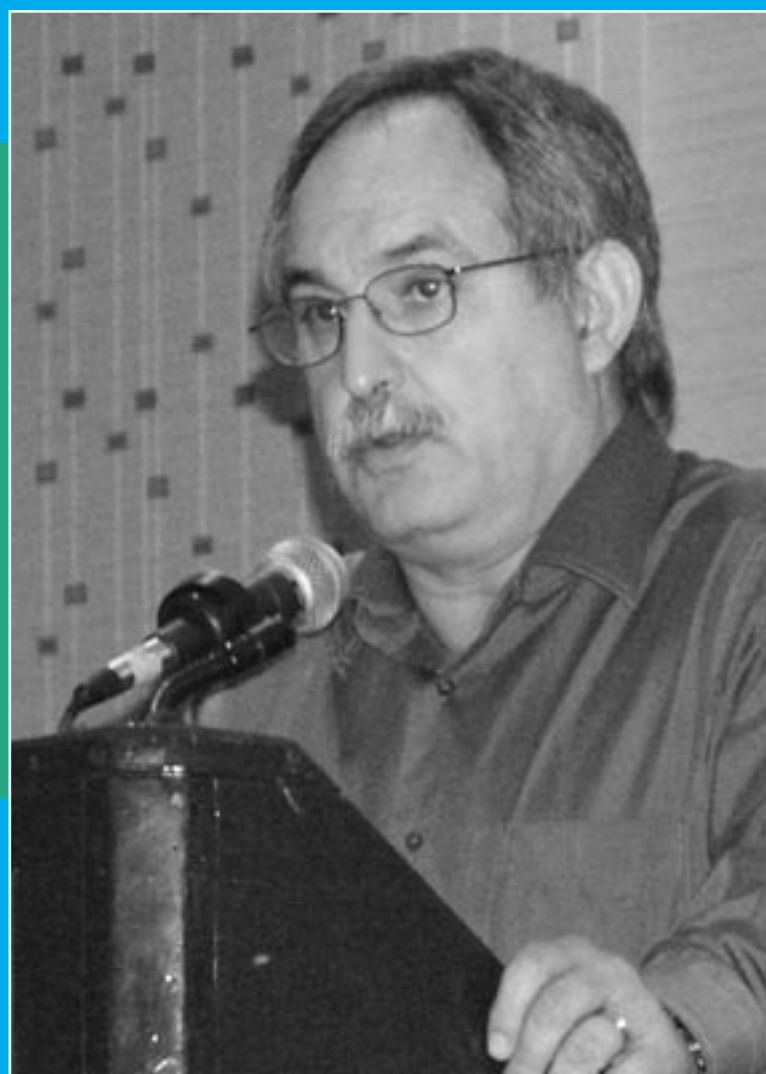
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## Inside Line

### THE BEST DEFENSE IS A GOOD OFFENSE

It's not what I was taught on the basketball court. There my school team's full court press netted more points than our set plays and got us into the city finals. But sometimes you have to take it to them and knock them back on their heels.

Ever since the 2002 longshore contract was ratified in January 2003 this union has been gearing up for the 2008 negotiations. Vulnerabilities have been identified and programs dispatched to shore up weaknesses. The ILWU will not be caught unprepared again.

Now the union is going on the offensive, at the direction of the 2006 International Convention. That assembly of elected delegates held in Vancouver, B.C. May 15-19 mandated an all-out effort to end the Republican majority in Congress this November.

As ILWU Legislative Director Lindsay McLaughlin points out in his Washington Report this issue (see page 4), the union's electoral goals and strategy are clearly defined. The plan is to mobilize the rank and file to overthrow the Republicans in both the House and Senate so that Bush and company are kept in check and out of the 2008 contract negotiations.

Of course, such campaigns cost money and the Republicans, knowing very well who they are attacking—working people—and where their strongest opposition to doing so is—organized labor—have used their majority to pass legislation restricting how unions raise political action funds. Such monies can now legally only come from independent voluntary contributions. So the International Convention's delegates voted to ask all members to give as much as they can.

But even more important than giving money is giving time and effort. If you would like to join the ILWU election campaign, either working locally or shipping out to some battleground state elsewhere, contact your local officers to get involved.

On another front where the ILWU has been under attack, the union has organized and moved offensively. Ever since 9-11 the government has focused its port security efforts on port workers, as if they were the terrorist threat. The union has lobbied and testified on the lack of effectiveness of the government's plans and on what can work instead.

At a June 7 public hearing the ILWU was joined by other unions, terminal operators and other port businesses in criticizing the government's current port security plan (see page 3). All agreed it would provide little security while disrupting operations. We'll see how the bureaucrats respond to the comments by those who work the ports every day.

—Steve Stallone, editor

### CORRECTIONS

In the June 2006 Convention/Election issue *The Dispatcher* incorrectly stated that Columbia River International Executive Board candidate Jerry Ylonen had not submitted an election statement. In fact, Ylonen did submit his statement on time and a corrected version of his statement was sent out first class to all Columbia River members. Also Columbia River International Executive Board candidate George O'Neil was incorrectly identified as a member of Local 8 when he is a member of Local 40. And *The Dispatcher* incorrectly stated that Southern California Executive Board candidate Warren Shelton became a registered B longshore worker in 1998 when in fact that happened in 1986.

### HIRING HALL SHARES THE WORK

Excellent article, and to the point, was President Spinosa's report in the April 2006 *Dispatcher*.

I well remember when I started as a longshoreman back in 1940. There was little if any work for permit men and while waiting for a job to come up, I went to a little nearby beanery to get a bowl of soup. I sat down next to a long-time longshoreman who was eating a much better lunch than I. He asked me if I had a job, and when I said no, and that I didn't think I could get enough work to hang on, he said: "Hang on, kid, you stay with it until you become a regular and you will always have a job."

When I questioned why would I, he replied: "Because the guy that got the first job would not get his second until you got your first."

He was right and we all got work, sometimes frugal and sometimes good, but we all worked and that of course was the principle of the hiring hall.

But now I wonder, the discrepancy of pay, the forming of the elite's feeling of supremacy when their very existence was made possible by the dispatch hall. I wonder about this division of our troops with our 2008 face-off with the employers, which could dwarf all that came before. Yes, I do wonder.

Walter Williamson,  
Local 23, retired

### A SALUTE TO THE ILWU

To the members of the ILWU, elected officials and especially the rank and filers.

My father, Arthur Pepper, was associated with the longshoreman's labor movement in the 1930s before, during and after Bloody Thursday. He was referred to then as a soap box orator. He and hundreds of others fought and persevered for the rights of the working man. As a very young child, I marched along side of my father in the parades held in San Pedro, Calif.

He worked out of both the San Francisco and Los Angeles harbors. All my growing up years I would listen at the kitchen table as he related the stories, the truths of the struggles, the good times and the bad times, that occurred during the ongoing battle for the benefits enjoyed for all of us who followed.

As a daughter, sister and wife of longshoremen I have benefited greatly due to the hard working men and women of the ILWU. Now once again I am being cared for as a widow. I can live in dignity in my senior years thanks to you and I do thank you—A salute to you all!

Mrs. G. R. Scott,  
Survivor

### SEND THEM BACK

I am upset about the articles that you are writing in *The Dispatcher* concerning illegal immigrants. The articles that you write in OUR newsletter reflect on all of us. You make it sound like we are backing the illegal immigrants. Nothing could be further from the truth. Every member that I

# LETTERS

have talked to in Locals 13, 63 and 94 have stated that they feel that every illegal immigrant that has entered this country since President Reagan gave amnesty to five million immigrants should be rounded up and returned to their home country. I'm not talking about 50 percent or 75 percent. 100 percent of the members that I have talked to feel that these illegals should be returned to their country.

I have been a member of Local 13 for 47 years. I look forward to receiving my monthly *Dispatcher* and I read it from front to back. A lot of the members that I asked about these articles about illegals that you are writing in OUR newsletter told me that they no longer read the communist rag. This is wrong and I hope that you will do something about it.

Richard Mondor  
Local 13  
#32312

[Editor's note: *The Dispatcher* reflects the official position of the ILWU at all times. The union's official policy on immigration and on immigrant workers' rights can be found in International President James Spinosa's letter to the U.S. Senate (visit: <http://www.ilwu.org/political/upload/immigration%20letter.pdf>) and two resolutions (R-35 and R-52) passed by the ILWU 33rd International Convention (visit: <http://www.ilwu.org/about/convention/2006/index.cfm>.)

### FOOD FOR RETIREMENT THOUGHT

My name is Ron Schmidt—they used to call me "Dirt Box Baby"—starting at 19 years of age. I've been a clerk then super cargo in marine clerks' Local 40 for 41 years.

Brothers and sisters, we are approximately two years away from our next contract. It's now time to really start thinking of all the issues and what it is we want and need to keep us a strong and viable union.

I've never regretted doing this great thing we call "meeting the hook"—it has provided my family a great livable wage and the security of a health plan bar none. Of the 50 members I was registered "B" with, there are but three left in my local. The rest are retired or have passed.

The PMA has provided a "window" where a member who is 59 may retire "early." What I would like to address are the members like myself who are there or very close but have served more than 35 years. PMA pays for 35 years of retirement, but if you work longer, they continue to take out money from your wage. These extra years are lost—this is blatant age discrimination. While more and more members are brought into this great union, they are usually older when they start. The 35 years is going to be very difficult to get. Many will not live long enough to get these years. I would like to suggest two things for consideration;

- 1) Pay members every year that they earn up to 45 years, maximum age 65 years.
- 2) If we can't get compensated

then I would like to be able to throw these extra years that I've earned and the PMA has taken monies out for and put them into a pool of "earned years." This pool then could be used for injured brothers or sisters who would like to retire but don't have the available years.

Just a thought. "It's not about me, it's about we."

Ron Schmidt,  
Local 40

### DIG DEEP

My wife and I, along with several other retired ILWU members and spouses, attended two great events here in Southern California this past week. The first was the July 5 Bloody Thursday picnic at Point Fermin Park in San Pedro. It was well attended by ILWU families from Locals 13, 63 and 94. It was really family oriented and everyone enjoyed the day. Local 13 Security Volunteer staff did a bang-up job. They even set aside a great shady area with picnic tables for our pension club and Women's Auxiliary 8. We heard great speakers commemorating the 1934 struggle, plus great food and music.

The second event, also hosted by Locals 13, 63 and 94, was the kickoff political action rally on July 10 in the Long Beach Sports Arena with upwards of 5,000 ILWU members, active and retired, attending.

The ILWU officer candidates spoke, along with the Coast Committee candidates. The newly-elected Mayor of Long Beach thanked the ILWU locals for our support. California Democratic candidate for Governor Phil Angelides also pledged his commitment to the ILWU political agenda, and we have endorsed him in his bid against Schwarzenegger. The highlight of the evening was three outstanding keynote speakers, ILWU Local 142's own Ah Quon McElrath, Hawaii Congressman Neil Abercrombie and AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka. All three inspired the members to join in the fight to advance our political action funding program for the November elections.

Great tributes by the speakers were given to International President Jim Spinosa and they are well deserved. Each member must realize what is at stake. We must contribute even more than what is asked of us to make the ILWU Political Action Fund successful! We must get rid of the anti-social, anti-union Bush politicians in November and in 2008!

This is our challenge, ILWU members, are we up to it? You bet! We must take back our Congress and our country. Dig DEEP, brothers and sisters!

Al Perisho, President  
Southern California Pensioners Group,  
ILWU

Editor's note: Voluntary Political Action contributions can be sent to: ILWU Political Action Fund 1188 Franklin Street 4th Floor San Francisco, CA 94109 Make checks payable to: ILWU Political Action Fund.

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Steve Stallone

Editor

Tom Price

Assistant Editor

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# TWIC savaged at public hearing

Story and photos by Bill Orton

LONG BEACH, CA.—An unusually unanimous choir of waterfront workers, businesses and government officials aired doubts over Bush administration rules to require that every port worker in America carry a sophisticated identity card that few seem to think will work as planned.

"I have yet to see one issue that has so united and often conflicted" the workforce and businesses on the waterfront, said Kathleen Hollingsworth, an aide to Congressional Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Huntington Beach), whose district covers the two busiest ports in the nation.

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and Transportation Safety Agency (TSA) officials sat for hours June 7 during the sole West Coast public hearing on the so-called Transportation Workers Identification Credential (TWIC) as speakers savaged the proposed regulations on issues of who could be disqualified from working on the waterfront, the program costs, possible delays in the movement of cargo and the security of personal data given by each worker who enrolls for a card.

"No one wants to secure our ports more than the ILWU," longshore Local 13 member and Director of Port Security Mike Mitre said. "We're the front line workforce. Most ILWU families live within five miles of the port. If something happens, we're the ones who are going to get hammered first."

Mitre and others argued that some workers will be kicked off the waterfront for an old mistake or denied a TWIC card due to inaccurate recordkeeping.

"Disqualifiers in the proposed rule are too broad," Mitre said "TWIC cannot be allowed to unjustly punish employees for bad decisions made years ago."

"Because the Coast Guard definition of conviction is much broader than the criminal courts, many people have an arrest still on their record for which they were never convicted," said Sailors Union of the Pacific spokesman David Connolly.

"Only those crimes that might make someone a terrorism security risk should be included," said Local 13 President Mark Mendoza, who asked regulators give special respect to military veterans returning to jobs on the docks.

"Some of my members are overseas right now serving in the war," said Mendoza, who comes from a military family. "They're going to come back here and now be told they pose a threat to the United States of America? I've got a problem with that."

Union leaders also criticized proposed waiver rules, how privacy is handled and the need to incorporate protections and limits set forth in the original Maritime Transportation Security Act.

"Privacy rights for information collected and generated by the TWIC process is critical," said ILWU Local 10 and Port Security Committee member Lawrence Thibeaux, who posed a series of questions to regulators. "Are the contractors who collect the information required to go through a criminal background check? What happens to the data? What are the penalties for misuse of our data? Is data stored with the contractor or the government?"

While regulators offered opinions, little is written into the codes to answer the concerns. Nowhere, either, does Maritime Transportation Security Act say that costs should be born by the workers themselves, who will collectively shell out more than \$100 million in fees—at \$139 per card by 750,000 workers.

Others objected that the proposed appeal system for those denied a

TWIC card is more onerous than any previous screening process.

"Background checks run on dock workers during the Korean War included an appeals system with a local board, people familiar with the industry, the operations in the area, including labor representatives," Local 13's Richard "Ole" Olson pointed out to the USCG and TSA officials. "What on earth has changed to make you offer us something far worse than we got out of Joe McCarthy?"

Some questioned whether the timeline for the roll-out of a TWIC card can be believed, considering the track record of federal implementation of earlier rules to secure ports.

"How realistic is the schedule of a year-and-a-half projected for the TWIC to impact our work force?" asked ILWU Local 13's secretary-treasurer Frank Ponce de Leon, who cited rules from 2002 that still have yet to be implemented. "If it is not TSA and the Coast Guard, then who is going to be looking at employers who don't implement rules that have been passed down years ago?"

Requiring a new identification procedure for 750,000 workers is bound to have serious costs in dollars and delays, industry speakers told federal officials.

"The proposed procedures and technology for access control are alarming in their complexity and detachment from reality," said Kenneth Keane, Director of Safety and Security for Pasha Stevedoring & Terminals. "Longshoremen would have to swipe a TWIC through a card reader with biometrics and possibly an eight-digit PIN before work starts, then swipe out at lunch, swipe in again after lunch and swipe out at the end of the day."

"If it takes more than a second or two per person to do this, it will have very adverse intermodal operational and economic consequences," said William Walker, General Manager of Safety and Health for Marine Terminals Corporation.

"These proposed access control systems will very well impede the flow of commerce," said Port Facilities Security Officer Michael Brien, from the Port of Oakland.

"Any system and readers that add time to our current access control will delay our entire terminal operations and impede the movement of containers," said LBTC's Safety and Security Officer Steve Nott, who estimated daily TWIC traffic through LBTC of 350 to 450 workers, office staff and mechanics and 1,500 trucks.

"Delays impact all modes of transportation. The consequences are rapid, significant and reach far beyond this port," Keane said. "Any component of this precision choreographed system that stalls, delays or fails, impacts the entire supply chain."

The prospect of delay in products entering the national economy due



ILWU Security Liaison Gary Brown complained about TWIC's costs to workers.

to lost TWIC cards or readers failing seems certain, speakers said.

"We believe the system will not work, particularly in the marine environment with heat and dirt and those types of things," said SSA's Director of Corporate Security Bill DeWitt, who testified as Chair of the Security Committee of the National Association of Waterfront Employers.

"What we have produced is not at all user friendly," said U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher's aide Hollingsworth. "It appears that what we've come up with now is something that is system driven rather than people driven."

"Cards are going to be lost," said ILWU Local 8's Leal Sundet. "They are going to be destroyed. Machines aren't going to work. You know what the contingency plans are going to be when things don't work? Open the gates and let them in. That's reality. That's what is going to happen."

In addition to potential delays in delivery schedules, industry leaders pleaded with federal regulators to consider the dollar costs of testing a system that most argue is not ready.

Three years ago the Port of Oakland installed readers to test a limited TWIC-like prototype involving only pedestrians. Costs ran \$430,000 per terminal, far higher than the official federal estimate of \$100,000.

"With gate readers required at all the pedestrian and truck access control pedestals and all our gates, I think the cost will be much higher," Oakland's Brien said. "Complete testing of a prototype system should be a quick phase of the implementation. Otherwise, millions of dollars may be wasted by port authorities and facility owner/operators as they rush to install card and biometric readers."

Left out from consideration when regulators drew up the TWIC rules

were many waterfront businesses that turned out at the Long Beach hearing to introduce themselves to federal officials and say that the proposed rules could drive them out of business.

"We understand the enormous political pressure your departments are experiencing to make the ports secure and safe," said Ray Lyman, of Catalina Express, that runs a public ferry to the island 26 miles off the coast from Los Angeles. "But it should be even more important to do it right, not to put industries out of business and bring the U.S. economy to its knees."

According to Lyman, the public nature of Catalina Express—and other small vessel cruise operators—makes it impossible for federal rules to restrict access. He showed slides depicting parking lots, a bike path and buildings that cannot be sealed from the public.

"We can't even lock the door at night because of the public use for the rest rooms," he said.

"We have had customers choose other venues because they don't choose to have their wedding or bar mitzvah on a vessel where there are security measures," said cruise operator Elizabeth Gedney, Director of Safety, Security and Risk Management for the Passenger Vehicle Association. Losing a single major one-day event could cost one of her members as much as \$25,000.

"A one-size-fits-all approach to employee identification and access within vessel operations in the United States will not be practicable," Lyman advised.

Also left out when regulations were drafted were tug-tow-and-barge operators. Rules requiring verification of each crew member with a card reader simply defies the close-knit nature of crews serving on the 4,000 tug and tow boats and over 27,000 barges of all types.

"For an unknown person to go unnoticed on board a towing vessel is just not possible," said Rich Smith, who testified as Pacific Region Chairman for the American Waterways Operators, an industry trade group.

It was an ILWU voice that summed up the day of savage criticism on TWIC.

"Terminal operators, the Pacific Maritime Association itself, tug boats operators, whatever, are saying this isn't going to work the way you guys have it written up," Local 8's Sundet said. "I think you ought to step back and take a look at that, because it's coming from people who are out there every single day working in the trenches."



Local 13's Ole Olson questioned the fairness of the TWIC background checks.

# WASHINGTON REPORT

## Election 2006: High stakes and huge opportunities

By Lindsay McLaughlin  
ILWU Legislative Director

The ILWU Legislative Action Committee met in Washington, D.C. June 12, 2006 and made a list of recommended priorities for the union in the upcoming mid-term elections this November.

The committee is recommending that the union exercises all the power at its command to change the direction of the nation, raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for Congressional and Senatorial elections throughout the country and send rank-and-file workers out to participate in the AFL-CIO's Labor 2006 program in Ohio and Pennsylvania where both Senate seats and Congressional seats are in play.

The Legislative Action Committee lived through the 2002 longshore negotiations when the whole weight of the federal government—President Bush and the Republican-controlled Congress—was bearing down on the union. The Republicans threatened to introduce legislation to break the Longshore Division into separate units and threatened to use the issue of security as an excuse to obliterate the union. The ILWU survived the lockout of 2002, but we came very close to losing everything.

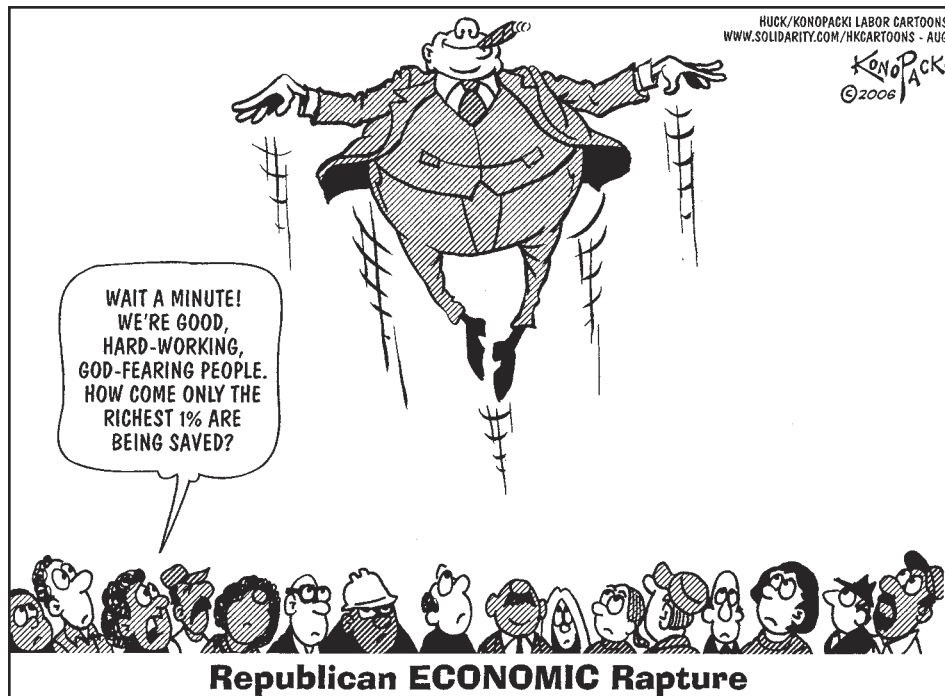
The only way to avoid a repeat of 2002 during what may shape up to be difficult bargaining in 2008 is to change the political dynamics of the country. Democrats are six seats short of a majority in the Senate and 15 seats short of a majority in the House of Representatives. We need at least one or both of those chambers to switch from Republican to Democrat control.

The Democratic Party is far from perfect, but the ILWU has excellent relations with its leaders and individual Democratic Senators and Representatives. If the Democrats take over control of the House, Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-SF) will become Speaker and be able to determine what bills are scheduled for the Floor. Given her unwavering support for working people and ILWU members in particular, this provides an incredible political support for fair longshore negotiations in 2008.

Most political prognosticators estimate the Democrats chances of taking over the House in 2006 at no more than 50-50. But if working people are fully engaged in this election, we can win.

Evidence is mounting that working people have had enough of the Bush administration and the corrupt, corporate-owned Republican Congress. Bush's approval ratings hover around 40 percent and the Republican Congress' are around 30 percent. We have not seen such dismal approval records for Congress since 1994 when, for the first time in 60 years, the Congressional control changed parties.

Stagnant wages, job insecurity and the loss of pension protections for workers is the legacy of the Bush administration and the Republican Congress. They have been bought out by the pharmaceutical companies, keeping prescription drug prices high by forbidding the federal government from negotiating cheaper prices for seniors. The open-ended occupation in Iraq, sold on the false pretense that Iraq posed a threat to the U.S., has taken more than 2,500 American lives and cost billions of dollars. The Bush administration left the victims of Hurricane Katrina to fend for themselves. The Bush administration and Congress refuse to do anything about the high cost of energy because they are in the pocket of big oil companies. The Bush administration was



caught collecting information on the phone calls innocent American citizens make. Incompetence, corruption, cronyism. Have you had enough?

The Democratic leadership has made a number of commitments to working people of this country. First, the Democrats will place the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) on the Floor to be debated and passed. This legislation changes labor law to allow workers to organize into a union without the constant threats, intimidations and firings so prevalent in union organizing drives. A Democratic-controlled Congress will repeal the Republican/pharmaceutical company-prescription drug legislation. A Democratic Congress will implement the real, effective homeland security measures recommended by the 9/11 Commission. Most importantly, a Democratic Congress will hold real oversight hearings to determine just how corrupt and inept the Bush administration has been.

While some ILWU members will be sent to states such as Pennsylvania and Ohio, others will have their hands full in a number of key high-profile races at home.

First, we must re-elect Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI). Last year, Akaka had a 100 percent voting record with organized labor, according to the list compiled by the AFL-CIO. Akaka is being challenged by a sitting member of Congress, Rep. Ed Case (D-HI). Case had a 67 percent voting record in 2005. Despite protests from the ILWU and other unions, Case is intent on repealing the Jones Act and has already introduced legislation that will effectively do that. The Jones Act ensures that domestic vessels are built by and crewed by American workers. Case wants to eliminate hundreds of thousands of maritime jobs in the U.S. Akaka is a steadfast supporter of maritime jobs.

Last week, Akaka supported the ILWU's position on the Iraq occupation, voting to begin a phased withdrawal of U.S. combat troops, while Case supported Bush's status quo—no plan for ending the occupation.

Second, the ILWU is supporting Jerry McNerney for the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional seat in California. This Congressional district encompasses some East Bay suburbs of San Francisco and extends to Stockton. The seat is currently held by Rep. Richard Pombo (R-CA), who has managed a sorry 12 percent AFL-CIO voting record.

McNerney is a strong supporter of labor unions, which he credits with establishing a floor for wages and benefits that support a decent standard of living for all working

Americans. He believes the Bush and Republican series of tax cuts have benefited the wealthiest one percent at the expense of workers. He wants to re-establish a fair, progressive system of taxation and begin investing in education, infrastructure and jobs.

Third, we must elect Darcy Burner to the House Representatives from Washington's 8th Congressional District. The incumbent, Rep. Dave Reichart, worked with the ILWU in passing seaport security training for longshore workers, but unfortunately, on many other issues affecting working people, he has voted right only 20 percent of the time.

In contrast, Burner is running for Congress to change the direction of the country. She is concerned about stagnant wages, escalating health care costs, loss of pension benefits and tuition increases.

Fourth, we must reelect Maria Cantwell to the U.S. Senate from Washington State. Cantwell was the first Senator to sign an ILWU letter

demanding that the Bush administration stop using political tools to help the Pacific Maritime Association, the longshore employer group, in its contract negotiations with the ILWU. Cantwell is a strong supporter of privacy rights and civil liberties, and we need her leadership as the administration implements its policy to intrude on the privacy rights of American longshore workers in implementing the Transportation Worker Identity Credential (TWIC) card.

Fifth, we must defeat Arnold Schwarzenegger and elect Phil Angeledes as the next governor of California. Even though this race is not federal, the outcome has national implications. Angeledes is strongly supported by the ILWU and all of labor. He advocates taxing the wealthiest one percent of Californians to fund health care and education for all. Schwarzenegger has spent the last couple of years attacking unions and working people.

This election will be decisive for the course of the country and the fate of working people. We are asking that you contribute to the ILWU Political Action Fund so we can invest in Congressional races throughout the country. Without resources to counter conservative smear tactics and misleading advertising, pro-labor challengers across the country will be seriously disadvantaged. By giving to the Political Action Fund today, you will help get money to deserving candidates early for television, mail and other major expenses of a campaign. *If you donate \$500 or more, you will be included in the 2006 President's Club and receive an exclusive ILWU work vest.*

Voluntary contributions can be mailed to:

ILWU Political Action Fund  
1188 Franklin Street, 4th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94109

Make checks payable to:  
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## ILWU wins on TWIC appeal

By Kyle Weimann  
ILWU Legislative Assistant

After months of negotiations, the Senate and House finally agreed on a version of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act. It has now passed both houses and has gone to the President to await his expected signature.

Part of this Act has language the ILWU has been lobbying hard for laying out an appeals process for the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC). It codifies in statute the right to an independent appeal including a full review of all evidence. If longshore workers, or any other workers needing unescorted access to secure areas of the port, are denied a TWIC card, they will have the right to request a waiver from the Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS). If the waiver is denied, they can then appeal that decision to an independent Administrative Law Judge (ALJ).

The ALJ will hear all evidence and have access to the entire record of the case. If the denial was based on classified information, the ALJ will have access to the classified information and the declassified version will be given to the individual.

The amendment language also includes the ability to present new evidence requesting a waiver even after the initial request was denied and subsequently confirmed by the ALJ. The DHS will have to review any substantial new evidence that is submitted and

reconsider the waiver request.

The results of the TSA/Coast Guard rulemaking laying out the final list of exclusionary criminal offenses are still being awaited. The ILWU has lobbied on all fronts—during public hearings, meetings with TSA, encouraging Congressional statements, and in formal comments—to keep the list focused on terrorism-related crimes.

The appeals process has been a top priority for the ILWU since the TWIC card was announced—the initial authorizing legislation did not include any form of appeal. This victory was the result of the hard work of ILWU Legislative Director Lindsay McLaughlin, the International and Coast Officers and Legislative and Port Security Committee members who met with the TSA and Coast Guard, direct lobbying from union members during the Legislative Conference, testimony provided by ILWU Port Security Director Mike Mitre and ILWU Security Liaison Gary Brown, and expert legal opinions written by ILWU attorneys Rob Remar and Eleanor Morton.

To get the final language included in the conference report, the ILWU worked closely with several important members of Congress and their staff, including Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI) and Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS) and Rep. Peter King (R-NY), the ranking member and chair respectively of the House Homeland Security Committee.

# Non-longshore ILWU workers also subject to screening

by Tom Price

More than four and a half years after the attacks of 9-11, the Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) announced April 25 that port workers' names will be vetted against secret lists held by the DHS Terrorist Screening Center and their immigration status will be checked by the DHS' Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Called the Transportation Port Worker Interim Screening Program, this measure is a prelude to the more exhaustive Transport Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) that DHS says it plans to introduce sometime in the future.

Of the 400,000 people subjected to interim screening, the majority will not be traditional longshore workers and marine clerks. They will be the guards and watchmen, ferry and tug boat crew, portside warehouse people and others who have long-term access to the port. The law doesn't require the submission of the information, but only those who apply and pass screening will be allowed onto the docks to work.

The ILWU Longshore Division has decided to provide the DHS with names and dates of birth of its members, but the Division doesn't have the Social Security numbers and the alien registry numbers the DHS also requested. A waiver process for those who don't pass the pre-screening will soon be in place for those who challenge the DHS findings, but DHS has so far released few details. What is known is that workers who fail the interim screening can ask for a review, but that will be given by the same agencies that turned them down in the first place.

When TWIC, the next phase of security screening is imposed sometime in the future, workers will be required to pass a rigorous security background check to work at the port. ILWU Legislative Director Lindsay McLaughlin has lobbied Congress to clarify the law and provide a more neutral appeals process.

"Criminal background checks will look seven years into the past for serious crimes," McLaughlin said. "But some crimes have no permanent limit, such as murder, espionage, treason, sedition or a felony involving transportation security incident.

The TWIC card will contain biometric data, such as fingerprints, and cost each worker about \$139. The government projects that eventually as many as 850,000 transportation workers will come under the rule. Under TWIC, workers will be able to appeal a denial of a security clearance to an administrative law judge (see story page 4).

Interim screening will exempt port truckers and those working less than 90 days at the port, Mc Laughlin said. They will most likely be included when TWIC is passed. Many experts consider that exemption a serious flaw. Regular port workers whose families and careers are at or near the port have the most to lose from terrorism, and the temporary workers are often here today and gone tomorrow.

Warehouse Local 26 represents warehouse workers on the docks whose jobs include bunkering ships and processing scrap metal and other cargo prior to it being loaded. The local also represents about 420 guards at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. They are already required to clear a background check by the State of California.

"When it comes to real port security, the bottom line is the collective awareness of the people who work there," said Luisa Gratz, president of Local 26. "You can have all the technology, but humans must operate that technology. They recognize data as flawed, or maybe incomplete or suspicious. ILWU members know the dock like the back of their hands. And humans should inspect containers. Politicians should ask our members about port security, not some think tank."

Members of the Inlandboatmen's Union, the Marine Division of the ILWU, are usually required to have Merchant Mariner Documents (MMDs), according to IBU Puget Sound BA Stuart Downer. They will probably need a TWIC card in the future.

"We started living the post-9-11 regulations before 9-11," Downer said. "When you apply for a MMD you have to give your Social Security number and answer all the questions about any criminal activities. They run a full FBI background check."

Workers on the water side of the docks have experienced the down side of the document process, according to IBU President Alan Cote'.

"We have already lived the life of being vetted, probed and tested," Cote' said. "Unlike 30 years ago, a sailor today would lose his document if he got a second DUI and not be able to work."

Non-union companies are speaking up loudly against this system, Cote' said. "They rely more on undocumented, casual labor, generally under paid, who work long hours and don't have the advantage of a union contract," Cote' said. "They have a lot of turnover. They don't know how they're going to staff certain non-union ferries."

Gary Harvey, president of chemical processing packaging Local 20, works on the docks in Wilmington, right next to aviation fuel tanker loading facilities. His members submitted their names to DHS.

"As long as they're using it for what they're using it for, I don't really see it affecting anyone down here," Harvey said. Harvey and others have complained to the Coast Guard and the port about the lax security on the fuel-loading docks. So far nothing has been done.

Security officers' Local 28, whose members cover security at the Ports of Portland and Tacoma, has not yet been informed of the screening by DHS, according to Secretary-Treasurer Dan Hardisty.

"We have already gone through background checks by the state government, so this is not yet an issue for the members," he said. "But we probably will have to go through the TWIC process."

Many warehouse Local 6 workers are employed in waterfront facilities at the various ports around the San Francisco Bay and may be affected by the screening too, according to its Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker. But the Coast Guard has yet to say which ones.

"We don't really know how it's going to affect our members, but some of our members could lose their jobs because of immigration status or prior activities that they've already paid their debts to society for," Pecker said. "I think they're scapegoating the workforce. In particular, they're scapegoating the highly organized sector of the workforce."

Local 6 members who may be affected work a liquid bulk termi-

nal and a general warehouse in San Francisco, a cotton warehouse in Oakland, a Con-Agra flour factory on the Alameda Estuary and a sugar factory in Crockett. In Richmond they handle liquid bulk, cement, and bulk oils. In Antioch they handle gypsum wallboard. In Stockton they handle scrap metal, ammonia and liquid sugar, and they work at a general warehouse and perform maintenance work on the port.

Screened workers with IDs will have an advantage in getting jobs on the docks, Sacramento warehouse Local 17 Dispatcher/BA Everett Burdan said.

"In a way, it's an opportunity for some of our members because [longshore] Local 18 has a lottery system where people can come in off the street," Burdan said. "As long as they have a drivers' license and a Social Security card, they can work for the day."

But those "off the street" workers would not be able to work unless they had been screened. That gives union workers an advantage.

"If I have a readily available list, then a lot of members who aren't working on the warehouse side might be able to go to the longshore side," Burdan said.

Local 17 workers handle rice, fertilizer, bulk commodities, fly ash and do other work at the port such as unloading railcars.

But while there are advantages to having ID cards, the down side is a massive loss of privacy and due process, and a presumption of guilt if a person is denied a card.

"The whole concept of port security, in the way they're implementing it, is such a façade," Gratz said. "It has nothing to do with port security, it has to do with tracking longshore workers. Port security should include the health and safety of the workers, not just property."

Long before the government came up with the idea of screening people, Local 26 came up with the idea of training workers to deal with known port hazards.

"We have specialized training in crowd control, terrorist awareness, CPR first aid, how to put fires out, we just finished a hazardous materials and explosive devices training," Gratz said. "Local 26 negotiated all of that through the collective bargaining process."

## Local 63 hosts Iraqi worker photo exhibit

By Lewis Wright

"You know longies here in L.A. or over there in Iraq are just working stiffs trying to do right by their families. You can see it here in these pictures. They remind me of some of the guys I worked with,"

said Joe Kordich, retired ILWU Local 13 longshore worker.

Joe was visiting a photo exhibit this past march entitled Iraqi Worker Organize (Iraq's Oil and Port Workers and Their Union) displayed at the ILWU clerks' Local 63 hiring hall in

San Pedro, Calif. The photos, some of which appeared previously in *The Dispatcher*, were taken during visits to Iraq by David Bacon, labor writer-photographer and depict Iraqis working on the docks and in the oil fields of Basra Iraq. The photos show work-

ers unloading ships, rigging oil wells, attending union meetings as well as showing their regular family lives.

One photo shows working families living next to a military dump containing radiation-contaminated scrap metal.

"These are hard living conditions, but these workers look tough, and that woman," Kordich said, pointing to a photo of an Iraqi union leader, "looks like she could hold her own at any longshore meeting."

Joe smiled as he left the exhibit, pointing his thumb back over his shoulder at the photos saying, "You know, with their strength combined with ours, we could kick ass."

Local 63 held its opening after its membership meeting March 1 and kept it up for a month. People from all over the area came to see it.

Since the exhibit included images of oil workers as well as longshore workers, it was shown at the Steelworkers PACE Local 8-675 in Los Angeles in February. There the hat was passed and money s The exhibit is now at the L.A. Labor Center.

The photo exhibit funded by the Diane Middleton Foundation of San Pedro and is co-sponsored by the Steelworkers PACE Local 8-675, the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, ILWU Local 63 and the United Teachers of Los Angeles.



Joe Kordich checks out photos of Iraqi longshore and oil workers by labor journalist David Bacon at an exhibit at ILWU clerks' Local 63 hall.

## ‘Dockworkers have realized again that we can do it’

# Interview with IDC leader Julian Garcia

**T**he ILWU belongs to two international dockworker union federations—the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF), a more than 100-year old group that includes other transportation workers like sailors, truckers and rail and airline workers, and the newly formed International Dockworkers Council (IDC), which is just dockworkers.

The IDC held its founding First Assembly in Charleston, South Carolina in March 2001 during the celebration of the Charleston 5 victory. Julian Garcia, the leader of the Spanish dockers’ union Coordinadora, was elected leader or General Coordinator of the IDC. Garcia has since retired as leader of the Spanish union, but has continued on as leader of the IDC.

The IDC backed the ILWU during its 2002 contract fight and was instrumental in stopping the European Union’s attempt to privatize and casualize European ports. It has been growing and gaining strength over the last few years. Garcia came to the Longshore Caucus in Vancouver, B.C. last May to report on the organization’s activities. While there *Dispatcher* editor Steve Stallone had a chance to sit down with him and ask him a few questions.

**Q:** It’s been four years since the founding First Assembly of the International Dockworkers Council in Charleston. What changes have happened in the organization since then?

**A:** There have been positive changes and new additions. Some of them are important, especially from strategic sites in the world. We’ve also noticed during this period that unions don’t need large structures to be effective, that it’s quite possible, as some have said, that large structures slow the organization down too much. We need, admittedly, a qualitative leap in affiliations. We’ve reached a membership of 50,000 dockworkers, starting from an initial membership of 12,000, but we need to have contingents in Asia, and if possible in Australia.

The fact that there have been affiliations is important, but more so is the important work that’s been done in areas that are strategic, close to the Indian Ocean, in southern Africa: Réunion Island, Mauritius, Madagascar, South Africa. That whole area has become a vital zone for the transfer of goods. We’ve had a very interesting meeting there and I’m convinced it will bear fruit.

We also have a close relationship with our fellow dockworkers in Uruguay, from Montevideo, who have made a comeback from a brutal dictatorship, especially where trade unions are concerned. I think we will soon have members in Montevideo. We are also very close in Malta. Malta is an important island in the middle of the Mediterranean, a huge container terminal, and in a way we would almost close the Mediterranean circle. We have members throughout the south, in the Magreb and Cypress.

We are also working with the ex-Soviet republics because they are slated to play an important role in the Black Sea and northern Europe. And a very important event was a meeting held three weeks ago in Brazil, attended by more than 220 delegates from all over the country. We’ve been notified that seven or eight unions will be affiliating with IDC because we understood the need to open a permanent office in Brazil, given that country’s enormous size; more than a country, it’s a continent in itself. This means our growth is significant, but more importantly, I think that we can really say that IDC has solidified as an organization.

**Q:** One of the most important things that’s happened in recent years is the European ports package, the two attempts by the European Union to pass legislation to privatize and deunionize the ports there. Obviously people felt like everything was on the line there. How big a victory was that for European dockworkers as a whole, but also, how important was the organizing and the victory to the IDC getting stronger?

**A:** Well, I think it’s been decisive. The dockworkers have realized again that we can do it, that we may currently be one of the few collective organizations in the world that can stand up to governments and powerful captains of industry if we really get organized. In one day we mobilized 45,000 dockworkers and over 10,000 demonstrated on one day’s notice.



Julian Garcia addresses the Longshore Caucus.

The result was convincing. We came from almost 20 different countries, 17 European ones I think with help from Australia, the United States, from Poland. And of course the IDC is recognized all over the world as an organization that can hold its own at the table, knows how to take action and is therefore a well-established organization.

**Q:** Let’s talk about the Mexico situation. What is happening now is that a lot of the shipping companies are building capacity there to try to bypass the ILWU, a big concern for us. Having the Mexican dock workers reorganize is very important. How do you see that happening? Where is it going? Do you see a role for the ILWU in there?

**A:** I don’t think it’s a matter of what role the ILWU can play, but rather the role it should play. The verb tense is very important. The ILWU should play a fundamental role in the reorganization in Mexico.

Mexico is the premier laboratory where large corporations are trying out what they want to accomplish elsewhere in the world. There are company unions, where employees work long hours, for poor wages and no social security after their workday is over, if it’s ever over. It’s a situation that’s being exploited by the companies. It’s gone from a situation in which the unions were exploiting the workers to one in which there is a shameful exploitation by the companies. I think we have to invest a lot of money and effort into revitalizing that whole situation. There is no doubt they are going to work very hard to take a lot of traffic away from the U.S. West Coast.

I was in Manzanillo in January, in Tampico and Vera Cruz. I didn’t get to Lázaro Cárdenas. I think I saw enough. I was there long enough to take the pulse of the situation and see the reality and the great disgust the dockworkers feel towards the previous union situation, and also the great hopes they have of not continuing in the current situation, but rather making some great improvements.

**Q:** I’m wondering what kind of help they need to make that happen?

**A:** I think they need real support to face the multinationals we have in the U.S. and the shipping companies we deal with in Europe. They are the ones that have caused this whole situation. The workers are afraid the companies will get rid of them. We should guarantee that union reorganization won’t lead to their termination. Right now that guarantee is a condition which must be met, or else there will

not be a movement in Mexico.

**Q:** What do you see that the ILWU could do to help them?

**A:** It’s not how the ILWU can help them, but rather how it can help itself. That’s very important, because if you have that mentality I’m talking about, you’ll make different decisions. It’s not the same to save someone as it is to save yourself.

**Q:** And I think people realize that, understand and look at it that way. But still there’s the issue of practicality. What are the steps? I’ve heard different people talking of sending ILWU organizers down who speak Spanish, or does it make more sense to find Mexican organizers that we help fund to help them do it. What other ways might we actually make it happen. I think people understand it has to be done to save ourselves.

**A:** I think the first thing to find out is whether people in Mexico want a change. Then, if there are people who can make the change happen. And if there are people who want to face that new situation, who want to assume the risks, I think the Central and Latin American region needs to be strengthened.

On that basis, I think the most viable instrument that I can see, more so than the ILWU, is the IDC, which can play an essential role, if the ILWU really wants to help. I think if all those steps are followed and then a meeting is held, if we do our homework with the ship owners and operators, well then I think the situation in Mexico can be regenerated. I think we can play a very important role, far greater than we think.

**Q:** Let’s talk about the second IDC Assembly in Barcelona in March 2005. What was accomplished there?

**A:** A substantial part of the objectives are being accomplished: as far as growth, as far as the work around safety. The next conference is still over a year away. But I’m very confident in this new phase because the change I’ve seen in the direction the ILWU has taken, much has been clarified. I hope those changes will also be reflected in the ILWU’s internationalist attitude, in both senses, out of necessity and conviction. I think that’s important. And if that happens, I hope when we get to the next conference, it will be held not very far from where we are now in Vancouver, and that the ILWU will assume its duties within the IDC by then, which in my opinion, includes the leadership.

**Q:** Do you think you’ll be stepping down as IDC General Coordinator?

**A:** Yes. I think there’s enough work for everyone in the IDC. I don’t need to be the general coordinator to keep on working. My objective is not to be general coordinator for the IDC, but rather to make sure the IDC is big and strong and has responsibilities within the dockworkers’ movement.

**Q:** If you don’t continue as general coordinator, where do you see yourself going from there?

**A:** If there is no change, I’ll keep working. But if a change takes place, I’ll keep working, if they’ll let me. I’m retired, but I’ll never stop being a dockworker. That is something they can’t take from me. If they want a committed person, who is experienced, who has been in the trade for a long time, then I think I’ll keep working there. And it doesn’t matter to me if I’m the general coordinator or if I clean bathrooms. It’s all the same to me. I want to say that I’ll continue to work for this job that I love, and that’s all.

**Q:** Is there something you would like to say to ILWU members.

**A:** Well, first of all, I want to thank them for inviting me to the ILWU’s Longshore Caucus. And I wanted to say to them that all ILWU members hold a very important place in the longshore movement. That they will be a deciding factor in many of the things that will happen in the future and that I hope they make good decisions, because their decisions will affect the whole world. So I hope they will rise to the occasion and fulfill their responsibilities.

# Local 20 bows to health care cuts

By Bill Orton and Steve Stallone

Health care cuts and creeping co-pays hit an ILWU contract in the L.A. Harbor last month as the workers at the Borax processing plant there were accepted concessions in their coverage to retain their jobs.

ILWU Local 20 covers just 83 workers who toil at the Borax plant in Wilmington, turning raw borates into products and preparing bulk shipments out of one of the last privately-owned berths at the Port of Los Angeles. As their June 17 contract expiration date approached, Local 20 members knew they were going to be in for some tough bargaining. Their employer also owns and operates the borax mine in the Southern California desert and had pushed for and won similar concessions in 2004 from the ILWU Local 30 miners working there.

"This was the toughest negotiation I've seen in 30 years of bargaining," Local 20 President Gary Harvey said. "The company never budged on their health care concession demand."

In 1967 the Borax company was sold to Rio Tinto, one of the biggest mining companies in the world, with operations on every continent except Antarctica and a reputation as aggressively anti-union. With that purchase, Rio Tinto became not only the employer of both locals, but also the supplier of nearly half the global demand for refined borates, key ingredients in fiberglass, glass, ceramics, detergents, fertilizers, wood preservatives, flame retardants and other products.

The corporate representatives came to the table asking for more than just health care cuts—they wanted cuts in long-term disability and sick leave provisions too.

Local 20 mobilized and held demonstrations at the harbor with the support of other ILWU locals—longshore Local 13, clerks' Local 63, foremen's Local 94, port pilots Local 68 and warehouse Local 26. But just before the contract expired the company placed a last, best and final offer on the table. The negotiating committee recommended against it and on June 17 the rank and file rejected it by a 58-17 vote, effectively giving the negotiators strike authorization in hope of putting pressure on the employer. It helped a little in the long run.

The local's negotiators got an extension on the contract for a week while they continued talking.



ILWU Southern California members rallied outside the Borax plant in support of Local 20.

Then International President Jim Spinosa, International Vice President Bob McEllrath and International Secretary Treasurer Willie Adams came to the table to help them close the deal. They were able to achieve a lump sum signing bonus of \$700 per member, a small reduction in the insurance co-pay in the fourth year of the five-year contract and some minor changes in the long-term disability and sick leave concessions.

They also got a small increase in wages totaling \$5 per hour over the life of the contract and another \$11 per month per year of service in pensions. Altogether, even with the new co-pays, the workers came out ahead, so the negotiating committee couldn't recommend striking, especially knowing the company's warehouses were stocked in anticipation. The members voted June 26 to accept the deal by a vote of 58 to 17. But the outcome could have gone either way, Harvey and others said.

"The company bought this deal with the wages," said Harvey. "We got every nickel we could. We were ready to strike over the health care demand if this new money had not materialized."

Through three months of talks,

the company stuck to its demand that workers pay 20 percent of health care costs, although the co-pays will be phased in over the life of the contract. Now members who had never paid premiums or co-pays before will pay each time they visit a doctor or buy medicines, and a new deduction will appear on their pay stub.

"The real injury is year six until infinity," said Harvey, who points to language in the contract that gives the local president annual review power over the company's health care numbers. Harvey plans to demand paybacks to workers if health care cost savings come about, as the company argued, if members reduce their benefit usage due to co-pays.

"We stayed in there and got the best wage offer we could," Harvey said. "Every member stays in the black through the life of the agreement. We had the authority to go out, but it would have been hard to suggest a strike in light of the wages."

Dollars may have smoothed over the bottom line, but side-by-side comparisons of the two deals shows that Rio Tinto succeeded by setting an aggressive tone out of the gate, never wavering in its demand that ILWU members accept health care co-pays.

Local 20 hits the 20 percent contribution level in the fifth year of its contract. Miners in the desert hit that level in the third year of their five-year contract. They also conceded changes in long-term disability and sick leave.

Each worker in Wilmington will see a wage hike of between 54-to-62 cents each year, after costing out health care against the five-dollars-across-five-years wage increase. Some miners actually will see a decrease in pay due to last year's deal.

"Will we feel these injuries? We're going to feel this every day for years," said Spinosa, who led longshore negotiators in the 2002 fight for the longshore contract. That contract, like earlier pacts with Borax, saw workers pay zero for health care. "Health care is on the front burner in all collective bargaining and these contracts just turned up the heat."

As he prepared to leave office later this year, Spinosa said the new crop of leaders understand that health care is ground zero in bargaining.

"It's the rank-and-file I worry about," the outgoing president said. "These contracts show how tough things are going to be in the coming years."

## Waste Management clericals sign third contract

by Tom Price

After more than a year of hard bargaining, warehouse Local 6 office workers nailed down a contract that raises wages and maintains benefits with Waste Management Inc.

The contract secured five years of 100 percent employer-paid healthcare, maintained a company-paid, union-sponsored pension, and brought \$3.20 an hour more into the pockets of the 88 workers at six Waste Management facilities in Alameda Co., Calif. They also got an additional holiday and better contract language. Labor and management signed the pact in April, retroactive to Nov. 1, 2004.

But it started out pretty rough, Chief Shop Steward and bargaining team member AnJanette Levingston said.

"They began by offering us 10 cents for the first year," Levingston said. "They really low-balled us, it was insulting. They would give us 10 cents and wanted us to pay into the pension."

The clerical workers joined Local 6 in January 1998. At the time, their

issues were company abuse and disparate treatment. Currently they make between \$16.50 and \$23 an hour. They do the work as customer service representatives, support representatives, receptionists and cash processors. They also work as service machine clerks, data entry clerks, mail room clerks, operations clerks, multilingual and dispatch clerks. Waste Management is one of the largest refuse companies in the world, with North America's largest number of landfills and recycling centers. Local 6 has union contracts for landfill and recycling workers in California and both of those contracts were up for negotiation during 2005.

The bargaining began in October 2004. The company brought in an attorney from the anti-union law firm Littler Mendelson, and the bargaining schedule had to match their availability, as well as the employer's and union's schedules. The contract expired Oct. 31, 2004 and talks continued, with very little movement, into the winter and spring.

"After many sessions, they upped

their offer a nickel," Levingston said.

So bargaining team members Levingston, asst. steward Amy Gallow and Vicki Crenshaw hunkered down for a long fight. They worked late researching their company and others in the waste disposal businesses. They took apart the contract and re-wrote parts of it to make it less one-sided and pro-management. This drew praise from their local President, Efren Alarcon.

"This committee was very dedicated and very knowledgeable," Alarcon said. "They worked on their own time for many, many days."

Alarcon, BA Victor Pamiroyan and Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker joined the team early on and provided guidance. The team used their time to really go into the contract language.

"We had a lot of bad language, mostly on seniority and job bidding," Levingston said. "We had many examples of why the language should be changed. Sometimes they'd put up qualifications for the job and tailor the job to someone they wanted to

hire. Or they would award someone a job and not tell anyone."

Workers also complained that union transfer applicants with any discipline on their records couldn't get the job. The team got that loosened up so only someone who had serious discipline within the last nine months couldn't bid.

"People change, they may have done something at one time, but later on they get it together," Levingston said.

"The seniority rules also needed a little fine tuning," Levingston said. "The old contract allowed a temporary employee who had qualifications we didn't have to stay and we could go."

The new contract recognizes union security and seniority. Bargaining continued into 2005 with give and take on both sides. Gradually, undramatically and with great patience, the union got most of what it wanted.

"I take my hat off to the committee," Alarcon said. "They were some tough cookies, they know their operation well and they have many years of seniority, so the company couldn't lie to us."

# Coastwise remembrance of Bloody Thursday

by Tom Price

Every July 5 ILWU members honor their fallen brothers and remember that day in 1934 when two of them fell to police bullets in San Francisco. That spring and summer, cops and scabs killed six workers and injured hundreds more during what would be known as the Big Strike.

Longshore and other maritime workers struck along the West Coast May 9, 1934. The longshore workers main goals were the recognition of the union, a coastwise contract and a union-run hiring hall to replace the hated "shape-up" system, a hiring process in which the boss would pick men from a crowd, often shaking them down for a bribe for a day's work.

In San Pedro workers marched May 14 on a scab encampment and were fired upon. Dickie Parker died in the arms of his brothers while John Knudsen died later from his wounds.

In Seattle workers fought with scabs almost daily for more than a month. Late in the night of June 30 strike delegate Shelvy Daffron was gunned down, and 19 days later striking sailor Olaf Helland was hit in the head by a gas grenade and killed.

In Portland police fired into the picket lines, but workers stood firm. The cops were so out of control they fired on Senator Wagner's (D-NY) car, the same senator who would push the Wagner Act (National Labor Relations Act) through Congress a year later. President Roosevelt signed the bill July 5, 1935. That "Bill of Rights for labor" set up a federal board to hear labor law issues, and it recognized workers' rights to organize and strike.

In San Francisco some 800 cops, with National Guard backup, attacked 2,000 strikers Thursday, July 5 in an attempt to reopen the port. The battle raged on for most of the morning, though nearly everyone stopped for lunch. Workers gathered quietly in front of the union hall on Steuart Street. Then cops pulled up and started firing into the crowd. Longshoreman Howard Sperry was hit in the back. Nick Bordoise from the Marine Cooks and Stewards Union went down. Both men died. At least 32 others were wounded by gunfire—none of them cops—and hundreds more injured.

But the ports stayed closed. Workers paid their last respects to Sperry and Bordoise July 9 when 40,000 marched silently in a funeral procession on San Francisco's streets. The rest of the city shut down July 16 in a general strike. By the end of the month the strike was over. Longshore workers had the hiring hall under union control. A Coastwise agreement would be hammered out covering most of the ports, with one employer bargaining agent.

**San Francisco**—The fog had lifted onto a sunny day July 5 as Indian Joe Morris blew "Taps" and segued into "Amazing Grace" to begin



ILWU-endorsed Congressional candidate Jerry McNerney throws out the ceremonial first pitch at the baseball game where Stockton Local 52 commemorated Bloody Thursday.



The ILWU 10 Drill Team presents the colors in front of the flower-strewn outlines of the two San Francisco Bloody Thursday martyrs outside of the Local 10 hall.

longshore Local 10's remembrance of Bloody Thursday.

The ILWU Drill Team marched in front of the stage and stood at crisp attention, facing silhouettes of the fallen men, Speery and Bordoise, painted in the pavement below them. Behind them Frances Worsham-Lige, Local 10 Dispatcher, sang a spirited "Star Spangled Banner" to start Local 10's memorial to the fallen.

Pensioner Cleophas Williams spoke of the need to educate the younger members and the children in the ways of the union.

"It's a joy to see all of you here this morning. It's especially a joy to see the children, because before you know it they'll be just as bald as I am, and regrettably, just as crippled," Williams said. "We haven't taught our children enough about the union. In many cases they know nothing. We bring the check home and they get on the computer and play games. What do they know about us?"

Local 10 President David Gonzales continued the themes of learning and remembering.

"It's time to remember the ultimate sacrifice made by six men up and down the Coast," Gonzalez said. "Without them and the thousands of others, we would not have decent wages, conditions and benefits, we might still be stuck in the shape-up, not the hiring hall. We all know, if we forget the past, we are condemned to repeat it."

Inside the hall Bay Area Longshoremen's Memorial Assn. Treasurer Mike Villeggiante showed a DVD he helped produce of the history of the ILWU with additional footage showing the attack on pensions and retiree healthcare many workers endure. He had discussed the idea with the Coast Education Committee and went to a labor-friendly video producer to put it together.

"It's so quick to update it, it would also be a good tool for organizing," Villeggiante said. "Sometimes it's difficult to get into somebody's home, but that DVD can play real easily with their families."

**Stockton**—When the Stockton Ports of baseball's California league took the field July 5, Congressional candidate Jerry McNerney was on the mound. The Democratic candidate delivered the ceremonial first pitch right over the plate, and was promptly relieved by ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer William Adams, who whipped the next pitch over as well. That began the remembrance of Bloody Thursday by longshore Local 54.

The Ports played the Modesto Nuts while the ILWU family and friends held a barbeque. The occasion was both solemn and joyous as the gathering remembered the past and prepared for the future.

"The Public address announcer reads from our history between innings, how the ILWU was founded and how we came together," Local 54 Secretary-Treasurer Gene Davenport said.

McNerney carries labor's hopes in unseating right-wing Republican Richard Pombo in the 11th Congressional District that includes Stockton. Pombo has advocated privatization of public lands and taken money from convicted sleaze peddlers like Jack Abramoff. In fact, Pombo received the most money in California from Abramoff. Pombo also used his influence to block labor reforms in the U.S. colony of the Northern Mariana Islands

"McNerney came to support the ILWU and the community," Adams said. "Jerry McNerney shares our dreams, our aspirations and the values of the ILWU. He believes in healthcare, he believes that people should have pensions and benefits. He's also very strong on the environment. He wants to go to Washington and make some changes."

**Portland**—ILWU longshore Local 8 members rowed a boat into the middle of the Willamette River and laid a wreath in remembrance of those who fought for and died for the union, as 16-year old Aaron O'Neil, nephew of clerks' Local 40's George O'Neil, blew taps.

As many as 1,000 people gathered in Oaks Park, outside of Portland, to remember Bloody Thursday together. Marvin Ricks, a veteran of the 1934 strike, spoke to the crowd.

"Ricks talked about solidarity, how we need to educate our young people on what the old timers went through, why we have our health insurance and benefits, how we have to stand up for ourselves, how we have to treat each other with respect," Local 8 Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Holte said. "He told a few stories about the 1934 strike."

After the speeches, the old timers were fed first at a major barbeque. The kids played games, the adults talked in the shade while the old timers spread the wealth of their years of experience to the younger members.

**Seattle**—As many as 1,500 members of the extended ILWU family attended the Bloody Thursday picnic at Vasa Park, on the shores of Lake Sammamish. The event remembered the battles of 1934 and builds for the future by having the oldest and

youngest mingle and tell stories of the union's past and present.

The events began with a blessing led by Charlie Hubbard, Executive Director of the Mission to Seafarers, and Reverend Pat Taylor, according to event chair Scott Martinez. Ron Magden, retired University of Washington historian, spoke on the importance Seattle's role in the 1934 strike. Local 19 member Leith Kahl sang labor songs and presented an ILWU history quiz prepared by the education committee.

"He made it really entertaining and people had a lot of fun," Martinez said.

The band Retrofit played for a couple hours while children played games, swam and rode the merry-go-rounds or maneuvered through a blow-up obstacle course.

"It was all about getting together in solidarity and seeing new people and people you haven't seen in a long time," longshore Local 19 member Curt Cunningham said. "Dutch Schultz was there. He's 98 years old, and he was there during the battle. He's an amazing guy to talk to."

Curt's wife Leona, President of Federated Auxiliary 3 out of Seattle, auctioned off a quilt she had made and donated the proceeds to children's charities.

Even though it was mainly social event, education was not far from the minds of ILWU veterans.

"We need to educate the younger numbers," Curt said. "We have an influx of people who have no ties to the industry and need to be educated to our culture."

**Southern California:** ILWU families in the Los Angeles Harbor Area enjoyed an ocean breeze, food and fun at San Pedro's Point Fermin Park, as workers celebrated the 72nd anniversary of Bloody Thursday on July 5. Point Fermin is the western tip of the Palos Verdes Peninsula and home to one of the oldest lighthouses—built in 1874—on the West Coast. As younger workers and the influx of casuals change the face of the waterfront, Bloody Thursday becomes even more critical to connect dockworkers to the struggle of forming the union.

"July 5 was a time to remember our fallen workers and we shall never forget them," foreman's Local 94 President Danny Miranda said. Locals 13, 63 and 94 provided burgers, hot dogs, chips and sodas and bounce houses and a play area for kids while politicians filed up to the stage to swear solidarity to the union in between sets from three local bands.



# Container work returns to Portland

by Tom Price

The ZIM USA, a 3,800 TEU containership, tied up at Portland's Terminal 6 May 14 and marked the successful end of a two-year struggle to get a new container line and third container crane at the port.

The port invested \$7.5 million in a new, 16-story tall super crane, the third such crane to grace the port's industrial skyline. Workers installed it May 3, with Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski in attendance. The port may buy a fourth crane soon.

"We worked with the port and lobbied very heavily to get this crane," longshore Local 8 Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Holte said. "The port went out on a limb. They ordered this crane after we had lost a lot of our work in the hope we would attract more container work."

Since then, the Yang Ming Line opened its service to Terminal 6 with the arrival of the containership *Yang Ming Heights* June 15. The *Heights* discharged footwear and general merchandise and carried away paper, refrigerated food and wood products. Yang Ming is expected to move 23,000 containers a year through Portland.

The ILWU, including the Columbia River District Council and the union's Washington, D.C. office, had joined with the Port of Portland, other port authorities along the river and more than 200 union, city, port and business groups to lobby for channel dredging nearly a decade ago. Shipping companies "K" Line and Hyundai pulled out of Portland in 2004, leaving the port with only Hanjin container ships calling.

After many stops and starts, the

Army Corps of Engineers will complete the dredging this year. And thanks to the three feet of increased draft, to 43 feet, grain ships in ILWU jurisdictions along the Columbia River can now load thousands of tons more cargo. Dredging will also allow larger containerships to navigate 103.5 miles up the Columbia River to Portland.

"The port continued to invest in capital improvements, crane and rail expansions, in anticipation that, as they delved more into the import market, they would gain because of the congestion in other ports," Local 8 President Leal Sundet said. "All sides worked together to maintain Portland as an integral container port. Other locals and the International were supportive of that."

The port had positioned itself as an export port, and wasn't ready for the recent boom in imports.

"We lost business because of the sudden imbalance that took place in the demand for imports over exports," Sundet said. "We worked hard to reposition ourselves into the import market. With a relatively small local economy that only consumes approximately 10 percent of goods imported, that means marketing the port as a transshipment destination. We are seeing success in that strategy."

Columbia and Snake River shippers needed container service to get imports into and exports out of the region. Now they can ship directly from Portland, instead of clogging the already packed I-5 highway corridor to Tacoma and Seattle.

The region's highly developed rail service can efficiently move much of the port's annual \$3 billion cargo load on and off the docks, and with far less



Port of Portland

pollution than diesel trucks. The port is also eager to expand break bulk services.

"The port has one of the best break bulk docks on the West Coast, Terminal 2," Local 8 LRC Chair Karl Lunde said. "At this point it is underutilized. The port has actively shopped that property and Local 8 has always been willing to see to it that when the companies show up, the guys are there, ready to go to work."

In all, nearly 40,000 jobs depend

on Columbia River commerce, according to the Columbia River Channel Coalition, which supported the dredging. That commerce generates more than \$200 million in local taxes.

This means more work for Local 8 and others connected with the port. The local will expand as a result.

"We need the PMA to give us more B-men," Holte said. "We just brought in 15 B-men and about 60 new casuals. We're hoping to get another 50 B-men."

## 'Politics matter,' ILWU members told at Long Beach Rally

By Bill Orton

The ILWU's international officers—joined by heavyweights from politics and labor—told nearly 6,000 rank-and-filers gathered July 10 at the Long Beach Sports Arena that the union's influence in politics will help to win support for a good contract in 2008.

"Our voice has been loud, but not loud enough," said Local 13 President Mark Mendoza, who organized the rally with fellow presidents Joe Gasperov, of clerks' Local 63, and Danny Miranda, of foremen's Local 94.

"We need to get out, we need to raise money, and we're going to write the checks," International Vice President Bob McEllrath said. "But our candidates are going to stand up and vote for labor in the United States of America."

America is a very different place for workers than it was just a generation ago, as Republican leaders let corporations call the shots while

unions have been shut out.

"For the past ten years, we've been struggling to turn our labor movement around," AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka said. "We've been playing the game of catch up while our enemies have been playing a game of finish up."

Featured at the rally were three politicians who each thanked the ILWU for support in their own races.

Newly-elected Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster, in welcoming the crowd, told workers he is proud to have won labor's endorsement. He talked about his early years as a union tradesman.

Foster carried the COPE endorsement and was the ILWU's pick early on in his race to run California's fifth-largest city. Fully one job in eight in Long Beach is tied to trade crossing the docks at the Port of Long Beach.

International President James Spinosa, introducing state Treasurer Phil Angelides, reminded the audience that it was labor who helped Angelides

win a tough primary campaign.

"If Bill Clinton was the comeback kid," Spinosa said, "then you're looking at Knock Out Phil."

Angelides thanked the ILWU for its support and vowed victory. "We have to beat the Bush-Schwarzenegger team in November," said Angelides, attacking the current governor for protecting the wealthy while college tuition rises and millions go without basic health care in the state.

But it was probably a single member of Congress whose fiery speech gave rank-and-file members the message of why political action is important.

"Nobody thought I could get elected, not even the ILWU and they backed me up," said Rep. Neil Abercrombie (D-HI). "They were thinking, 'Here's another loser we're with.' And I fooled them all."

Abercrombie, first elected to the Honolulu City Council in 1974 and later to the Congress, is one of the

strongest voices for labor on Capitol Hill.

"I went to people, just like I'm going to you right now," Abercrombie told the audience. "and I said, 'Give me a chance.' And I won that election despite what anyone thought. And that's what I'm asking. Give the people who are for you a chance to BE for you. They can't be for you if they're not in office."

Giving money is important, Abercrombie said, but voting is just as critical.

"Don't let anybody tell you their vote doesn't count," he said. "After the way the presidential election was stolen the last two elections, how can anyone say that your vote doesn't count. I'm living, breathing proof that every vote counts."

The joint stop-work meeting also featured a prolonged standing ovation for outgoing International President James Spinosa, who is finishing his second term as head of the union.

## California nurses put public campaign financing on ballot

In a move that could shake up U.S. politics, the California Nurses Association (CNA) single handedly gathered enough signatures to put an initiative on California's November ballot to establish full public financing of election campaigns.

In an interview at the Take Back America conference in D.C., CNA activist Shawn Preston explained that the independent union's leaders decided to fight for the idea after California unionists—the nurses, AFSCME, teachers, fire fighters and others—fought off Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's anti-worker initiatives last year.

One of the referendum ideas, which Schwarzenegger later dropped,

would have rolled back mandatory nurse-patient ratios in the state's hospitals enacted under his predecessor, Democratic Gov. Gray Davis.

Schwarzenegger tried to delay the mandates by executive order, too, but was forced to back down under pressure from CNA demonstrations all over the state dogging him at fundraisers and appearances, and a mass protest and letter-writing campaign.

Another initiative on the 2005 special election ballot would have cut the cost of prescription drugs for California's seniors.

"The pharmaceutical industry spent \$83 million to stop that," Preston said. "As long as that kind of money comes flooding into the political sys-

tem, nurses and patients will suffer."

Schwarzenegger's moves against teacher tenure, worker pensions and for paycheck protection and the flow of big business campaign cash behind them were all defeated after the labor movement poured its resources and energies into the campaign. This led CNA to conclude that its cause and others could not be advanced without campaign finance reform first, Preston added.

The move is particularly important because California is the largest state in the U.S. and easily the most expensive to campaign in. Recent statewide election campaigns there cost \$30 million or more per candidate. Two smaller states, Arizona

and Maine, have public financing of elections.

And the money that businesses spent—and Schwarzenegger raised everywhere from San Francisco to Boston—for his ballot schemes also ran into millions of dollars. That fundraising left unions and their allies always outspent.

CNA was successful because its volunteers were accompanied by uniformed nurses as they took the petitions around, and the nurses had credibility with the voters.

"They (the nurses) are very much into this because they're committed to health care reform because of the depressing and awful system right now," Preston said.

—PAI

## Thousands rally nationwide vs. Bush NLRB's anti-worker rulings

By Mark Gruenberg  
PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (PAI)—Chanting, waving signs and vowing to defend their rights as workers against Republican President George W. Bush and his National Labor Relations Board, thousands of unionists marched nationwide against anti-worker NLRB rulings.

The protests, from July 10-13, culminated in a march of more than 1,000 people on the board's office building in downtown Washington, D.C. The crowd's chants included "No justice, no peace!" "What's disgusting? Union busting!" "Labor Board unfair, George Bush unfair!" and "We don't hire, we don't fire." Twenty other marches were in cities coast to coast, including Chicago, Buffalo, Oakland, Calif., and Portland, Ore.

In Chicago, protesters signed a mass letter to the NLRB, created by the Chicago Federation of Labor. In Oakland, more than 700 people, led by California Federation of Labor Secretary-Treasurer Art Pulaski and the California Nurses Association, marched.

Demonstrators protested the pending NLRB rulings on the three *Kentucky River* cases, one each involving the Steel Workers, the Boilermakers and the Auto Workers. The rulings will let the Bush-named board redefine who is a "supervisor," not covered by labor law, and especially which nurses—and other workers—are supervisors. Marchers also demanded public hearings on the cases, but the NLRB denied that July 13.

The AFL-CIO, which led the marches, and the new Change to Win federation, whose unions supported the D.C. march, contend the NLRB can use the *Kentucky River* cases to rule that nurses are supervisors and to broaden the definition of "supervisor" so much that 8 million workers would lose federal labor law

coverage. They would face management manipulation, intimidation and firings with no protection, either by unions or by law.

The Economic Policy Institute said that besides 843,000 registered nurses, other workers at risk include 400,000 computer systems analysts, 152,000 electricians, 124,000 LPNs, 99,000 machine operators, 92,000 assemblers, 77,000 mechanics, 70,000 pharmacists, 50,000 guards, 44,000 freight handlers, 43,000 college teachers and 24,000 editors and reporters. Not all are unionized, but all would lose labor rights.

Unionists in the D.C. protest included members of the Laborers, the Teachers, IBEW, The Newspaper Guild/CWA's Washington-Baltimore local, AFSCME, the Bricklayers, the Office and Professional Employees, the AFL-CIO Department for Professional Employees, the Painters, the Seafarers and AFGE. Mine Workers, some dressed in Army fatigues, came from six locals in buses from the coal mines of Southwest Pennsylvania, led by UMW President Cecil Roberts.

"You deserve health care you can afford. You deserve a pension you can count on. And to win all these things, you deserve the freedom to join a union," stated AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson, who led the marchers with a giant banner to NLRB's headquarters.

"You know that, I know that, but George W. Bush, the Bush Dept. of Labor and the Bush NLRB have a different idea," she said on NLRB's front steps. "For five years, they've declared war on working families like us."

Bush's NLRB "is the most anti-worker, anti-collective bargaining, anti-union board in the 71-year history of the National Labor Relations Act, and it's time we stopped him," declared AFL-CIO Organizing Director



Marcy Rein

Around 700 members of the California Nurses Association and other health care workers rallied in downtown Oakland July 11, then marched to the Federal Building. Speaker after speaker underlined the point that nurses needed union rights to strengthen their ability to advocate for their patients.

Stewart Acuff.

"This Kentucky River decision is one more way of taking away our rights" as workers, Chavez-Thompson added. She promised unionists would not take the rulings lying down, but would keep marching and voting to overturn Bush and his allies.

Two nurses also talked about the practical impact of the board's pending rulings. California Nurses Association Secretary-Treasurer Martha Kuhl said unions protect nurses "against the power of big corporations...and make no mistake, health care is administered by big corporations."

Sandra Falwell of the D.C. Nurses Association said nurses know the difference between being a supervisor or not, as do hospitals and patients, but

not the NLRB.

"I don't have the right to hire and fire," Falwell commented. She added that for nurses, "The NLRB should be declared hazardous to your health."

After the D.C. marchers arrived at NLRB headquarters, 10 leaders, including Acuff, Roberts, AFSCME Secretary-Treasurer William Lucy and Falwell, blocked its front doors, planning to be arrested for peaceful civil disobedience. When police refused, the 10, with police cooperation, strode to the middle of the adjacent busy intersection, and linked arms, awaiting the paddy wagons. But police decided not to arrest them at all, one officer told PAI. The D.C. march ended peacefully.

## ILWU makes splash at AFL-CIO Trade Show

Nine ILWU members from throughout the Coast represented their union at the annual AFL-CIO Union Industries Show May 5-7 in Cleveland, Ohio.

This year's show was promoted under the name "America@Work: 100% Union-Made, American-Made Products, Services and Jobs." Exit surveys from last year's event revealed that more than half the attendees are not union members but do favor unions. They view the show as a chance to demonstrate their support for unions, to investigate job and training opportunities and to learn about union-made products and services.

This year's show emphasized educating the public about trade unionism and the role unions play in the economic and political life of the community. It also highlighted vital pro-worker organizations, such as the Alliance for Retired Americans and Working America, and encouraged attendees to join their campaigns.

Longshore Local 13's Melody Jeffries had the chance to sit down with a group of high school students and answer some of their questions. When the students found out about all the opportunities in the union ranks, they were surprised to see what a difference there was between minimum-wage, fast food work and a skilled, union job.

"Cleveland was a very good spot to have the show," Jeffries said. "This is a heavily unionized, densely populated area with people in dozens of towns and cities, like Columbus, Akron, Canton and Toledo who are very receptive to union messages about demanding affordable health-care and benefits."

The ILWU had an assortment

of giveaways, including macadamia nuts from Hawaii and seven luxury hotel packages donated by Hawaii Local 142 (with a special thanks to Hyatt Regency Maui, Four Seasons Lanai, Kaanapali Beach Resort Maui, & Westin Maui hotels). In addition to these goodies, the Coast Committee financed the printing of 12 dozen special ILWU t-shirts and 200 ILWU children's coloring books for attendees, and foremen's Local 94 provided embroidered hats and shirts.

One of the highlights of this year's

show was a reception at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, where the ILWU was in the spotlight. The AFL-CIO held a national songwriting contest for a new version of the "Look for the Union Label" song. The ILWU Coast Committee and Public Relations Committee sponsored the contest's first place prize: three nights at a luxury hotel in Maui, Hawaii as well as round trip airfare. The Union Label & Service Trades Dept. (ULSTD) declared Charlie King the winner. The prize was given onstage by ILWU

members to King, a songwriter from Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts.

Many of the best known pro-worker performers of our time have recorded Charlie King's music, including Pete Seeger, Holly Near, Ronnie Gilbert, John McCutcheon and Arlo Guthrie. Indeed, Pete Seeger nominated King for the Sacco-Vanzetti Social Justice Award, which he won in 1999.

King and his partner Karen Brandow sang the new lyrics. The original jingle formed the centerpiece of a massive TV and radio ad campaign in the 1970s and 1980s promoting clothes produced by members of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union. King's new lyrics broaden that message to urge consumers to buy goods and services of every description produced by union labor. It also promotes [www.shopunionmade.org](http://www.shopunionmade.org), the all-union internet shopping site created by the ULSTD.

With the Heartland so far from the West Coast, ILWU attendees appreciated the chance to bring a little bit of their work and life to Ohio. Everyone returned home pleased that they could spread the word about the ILWU's traditions across America.

"We are excited to be working closely with the Ohio AFL-CIO and the Cleveland Federation of Labor and all the individual unions across Ohio," Local 8's Jeff Smith said. "The Midwest is full of fine, unionized companies with great products and services, and the public is learning a great deal about them at this trade show. Given that this is an election year, the political organizing going on here is also a very encouraging development."

—Dispatcher staff reports



The ILWU contingent presented the winning prize—air fare and three nights at a luxury hotel in Maui—for the for the national songwriting contest for a new version of the "Look for the Union Label" song at the Cleveland Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. From left to right: Lanell Johnson (Local 8), Jeff Smith (Local 8), Jimmy Monti (Local 13), Patricia Aguirre (Local 63), Al Perisho (Southern California Pensioners), Melody Jeffries (Local 13) Karen Brandow and Charlie King (the songwriting winners), Fran Grove (Local 94), Sean O'Donnell (Local 52) and Lesley Clark (Local 13).

## Dorothy "Baba" Vekich

Dorothy Vekich passed over Dec. 30, 2005 at Mother Joseph's Care Center in Olympia, Wash. Dorothy was widow of Max Vekich Sr., long-time dispatcher at longshore Local 24, Aberdeen, Wash. He preceded her in death in 1984.

Dorothy was past president and a founding member of the ILWU Ladies Auxiliary No. 2, Aberdeen. While she was president, the Ladies Auxiliary did volunteer work with the U.S. Air Force and were all awarded Ground Observer Corps Wings. This same period she helped Max raise money for the Harry Bridges legal defense fund. Her husband worked with Harry Bridges as a CIO organizer. They were a "Bridges" family.

Dorothy and Max were also founding members of the ILWU Local 24 Federal Credit Union. Dorothy served as president for 13 years—this when a lot of longshore families couldn't get credit from a bank. The Credit Union just celebrated its 46<sup>th</sup> year. Dorothy had attended 45 of their annual meetings.

Being a dispatcher's wife, she was used to calls in the middle of the night and on numerous occasions ended up calling replacements herself!

Dorothy had done munitions work during World War II as a government inspector. Her plant, Lamb Grays Harbor, and its workers, were awarded an "E" for excellence for

their production of hand grenades and land mines.

Whereas Dorothy and Max, a U.S. Army veteran of the Pacific Theatre, contributed to the war against fascism and served their country proudly, they were not afraid to exercise their rights to protest a later, unjust war in Vietnam. Dorothy continued to oppose unjust wars to the end. With her auxiliary sister, Frances Schoening, also a Local 24 widow, Dorothy participated in numerous protests of the Iraq war by Ladies in Black.

Political action was recognized as good for the union and country from the start in the Vekich household. Dorothy and Max worked to elect many pro-union Democrats, including their son, Max Vekich, Jr. With their support, he was elected to the Washington State House of Representatives. He is now a member of ILWU Local 52, Seattle clerks.

Dorothy was also active with the Twin Harbor's ILWU Pensioners club, made up primarily of retirees and spouses from Local 24 and longshore Local 1 in Raymond, Wash.

Besides her son, Max, she is survived by four daughters. Linda Vincent, Berkeley, Calif.; Marcie Miller, San Diego; Andrea Vekich, Elma, Wash. and Coleen Vekich, Aberdeen, plus her four grandchildren who knew her as "Baba" (grandmother in Croatian).

## 28th Biennial NW Federated Auxiliaries Conference

The Northwest Auxiliaries of the ILWU Federated Auxiliaries were hosted by Auxiliary 38 of Olympia, Washington. Debbie McLain, President of Auxiliary 38 welcomed Sisters from auxiliaries in Chemainus, B.C., Everett, Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia and Longview, Wash., Portland and North Bend, Ore. to the 28th Biennial North West Conference. State Vice Presidents, Margo Erickson, Oregon, V.P. and Dawn Fowler, Washington, V.P. chaired the meeting. The theme of the Conference was "Sisters of Solidarity."

Guest speakers Sherman Will and Willie Adams attended on Saturday. They each reflected on what the Longshore Family has done for and meant to them. They informed us of the importance of buying, working and supporting union. They both pushed the importance of making a difference by working together. Brothers Will and Adams reminded us of the Auxiliaries' responsibility to work with the locals and communities

to bring everyone together for better working environments.

Jean Ordano, President, ILWU Federated Auxiliaries reported on her positive acceptance at the International Convention held in British Columbia just prior to the Conference. She encouraged all of us to attend the International Convention to be held in the Pacific Northwest in 2009, as a positive learning experience.

Each Auxiliary reported on their activities during the past year and what they have done to encourage membership. Olympia reported they recruited Donna Rumsey. Donna was one of the ladies to sign Olympia's original Charter. Some ladies attended for the first time and some were familiar to all of us.

Each auxiliary reported they were very happy to have the support of their local and the International.

The Federated Auxiliaries Executive Board meeting will be held in October 2006 in North Bend, Ore.

—Pat Marks

## Longshore retired, deceased and survivors

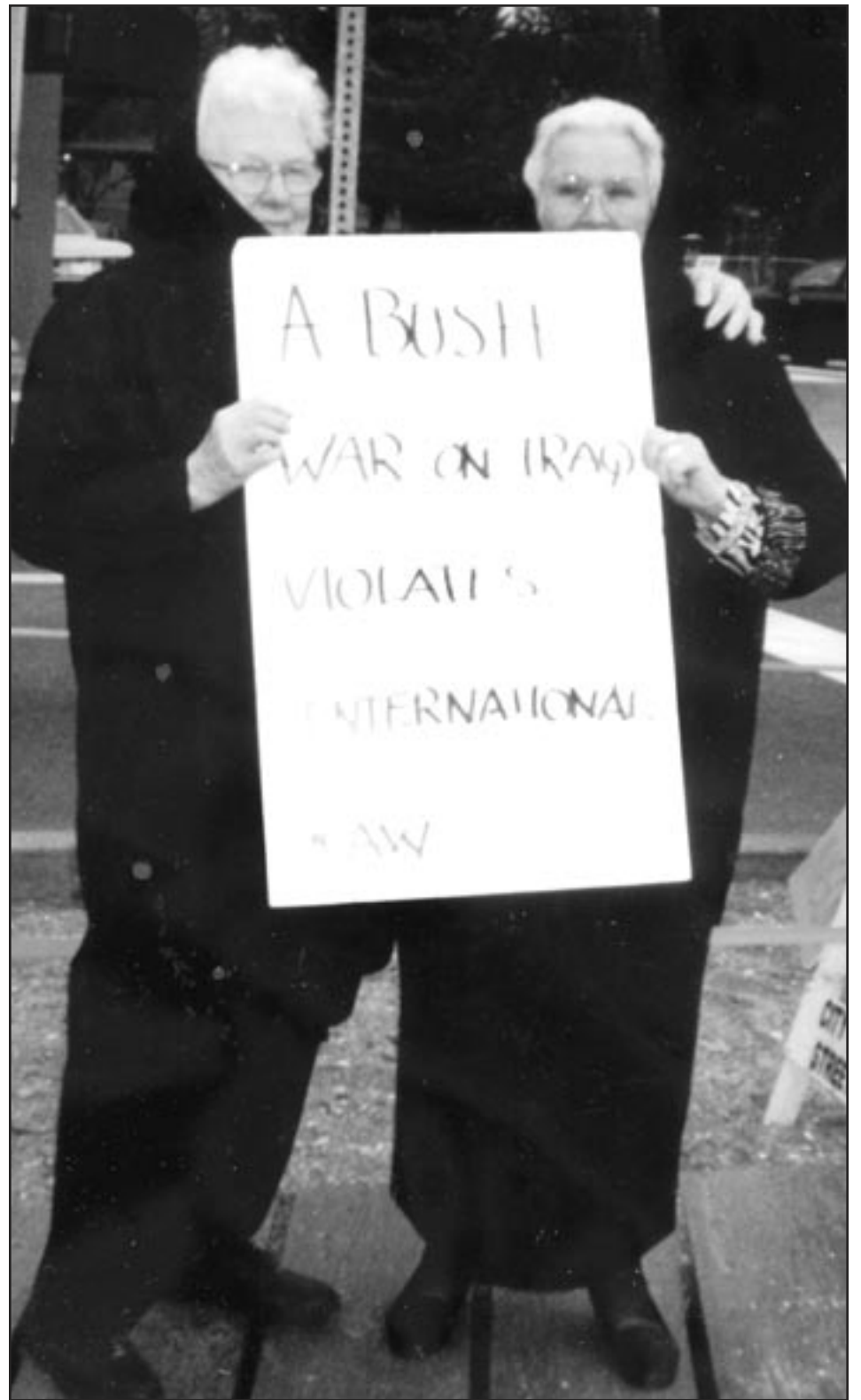
### RECENT RETIREES:

**Local 8**—Kenneth R. Smith; **Local 10**—Carl T. Navarro, Stephen Segurson, Juvenal Barreto; **Local 13**—Eddie M. Alvarado, David Winston, Robert Buck, Richard Denny, Moises A. Garcia, Joe Uranga, John Despal, Billy A. Olvera, Gabriel Sandland, Lloyd Ogden, Ricardo M. Ortega; **Local 18**—Roland Miller; **Local 19**—Lyle Roderick; **Local 23**—James Skiffington; **Local 24**—Robert Trader, Frank Franich, Kenneth Ketola; **Local 26**—Richard Sanchez, Rose Oosterveen, Barbara Tyler; **Local 29**—Joseph Sotelo; **Local 52**—Robert Fairchild, Richard Heinzen; **Local 54**—Anthony M. Flores; **Local 63**—Roger L. Montoya, Herbert Johnson, Ralph L. Gonzales, Joseph Jacobelly, Isaiah Berry, Antonio Martinez Jr., Pete Giacomi, Patricia Puente-Tuck; **Local 91**—Luis E. Alvarez, Caliph Brown Jr.; **Local**

**92**—Norman Haugen, Henry Breaker; **Local 94**—John Negrete, Billy Witty, Ellic Vaden II, Donald Collins, Daniel Ponce; **Local 98**—Larry Hartman.

### DECEASED:

**Local 4**—Roger Fugman (Kathleen); **Local 7**—Loren Owens (Virginia); **Local 8**—James Lahaie (Alice), James Niehuser, Herbert Vaughn; **Local 10**—Joseph Myler Jr. (Dian), Cleveland Greene Jr. (Ida), Joseph Metoyer (Olivia), Joseph Falzon (Agnes), Antonio Freitas (Sung Hui), George Johnson (Sherryel), Carl Peterson, Garfield Jackson, Richard Hazelwood, Roosevelt Stroud, Jack Susoeff, William D. Clark, Garland Young, Raymond Perry; **Local 12**—Vernon Irion, Ralph Combs; **Local 13**—Manuel De Cort (Rosie), Marcelo Ramelb (Rosairo), Anthony Mazzaglia Jr. (Shirley), Anthony Pitesa (Sandra),



Dorothy Vekich (left) and Frances Schoening protesting the Iraq war.

## PCPA 39th Convention Plans Move Ahead

The ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners will hold their 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Tacoma, Wash. Sept. 18, 19 and 20, 2006. The PCPA Executive Board will be in session Sept. 17, 2006.

The Convention will meet at the Sheraton Hotel, 1320 Broadway Plaza, Tacoma, Wash. 98402. Accommodations at the hotel are \$124.00 for a single or double, \$10.00 for each additional person. A deluxe king is available for \$144.00 for a single or double plus \$10.00 for each additional person; suites are also available for \$234.00.

For reservations call the hotel at 253-572-3000 or reservations at 800-325-3535. When making your reservations, be sure to let the hotel know you will be attending the ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners Assn. Convention.

There is a \$45.00 registration fee for all members attending the Convention. The registration fee will cover all events planned by the Puget Sound Pensioners Convention Committee. To obtain registration forms, contact your local ILWU Pension Club or contact Bill Roberts at 360-879-5730 or Darryl Hedman 253-564-6472.

Stephens Webb (Janet), Ernie Burnam Jr., Terrence McLellan, George Branning, Miguel Martinez, Edmund Brooks, Samuel Christopher Sr.; **Local 21**—James Breedlove (Marion), Edwin Scott (Helen); **Local 23**—Gale Grassman (Virginia), Fred Mack (Lucy), Dave Edmunds (Peggy), Charles Shipman (Pamela), Richard Costigan Jr.; **Local 25**—William Holmes; **Local 34**—James Fleming (Lois), Reino Erkkila, James Fleming; **Local 40**—Royce Lint (Helen), John Bornkamp (Gloria); **Local 47**—Henry Uden; **Local 50**—Carl Geier (Patricia); **Local 52**—Frederick Berg, Peter Kalapaca; **Local 63**—Richard Carpenter (Gene), Ronald Younger (Sylvia), Norman Simmons; **Local 75**—Charles Klein (Mary Alice); **Local 91**—Charles Dehn; **Local 92**—Armando Gagliardi (Marlys), Willard Crippen; **Local 94**—Howard

Crumbly Jr. (Rosemary), Martin E. Campos (Jacob and Martin J.), Mike Lomeli (Herminia), Herman Anderson (Mitzie); **Local 98**—Roy Johnson (June). (Survivors in parenthesis.)

### DECEASED SURVIVORS:

**Local 4**—Arlene Irish; **Local 8**—Eva Bunch; **Local 10**—Ida Brooks, Rosina Brooks, Agnes Randon, Rosa Drew, Jayne Brown, Minnie Atkins, Jeanette Smith; **Local 12**—Winona Scott, Priscilla Jacobson, Myrtle Shaw; **Local 13**—Mary Madison, Juanita Martinez, Bonnie R. Trujillo, Phyllis Katnich; **Local 21**—Mabel White; **Local 34**—Bessie Miller; **Local 47**—Gloria Swanson; **Local 52**—Karen Money; **Local 54**—Wilma Lawrence, Cleo Wennhold, Blanche Reule; **Local 63**—Olive Harrigan; **Local 94**—Mary Wallin, Mary Ayers.

# Suitable for Framing



Frank Wilder

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Limited numbers from earlier decades also available, contact *The Dispatcher* for details.

## A Helping Hand...

...when you need it most. That's what we're all about. We are the representatives of the ILWU-sponsored recovery programs. We provide professional and confidential assistance to you and your family for alcoholism, drug abuse and other problems—and we're just a phone call away.

### ILWU LONGSHORE DIVISION

**ADRP—Southern California**  
 Jackie Cummings  
 870 West Ninth St. #201  
 San Pedro, CA 90731  
 (310) 547-9966

**ADRP—Oregon**  
 Jim Copp  
 3054 N.E. Glisan, Ste. 2  
 Portland, OR 97232  
 (503) 231-4882

**ADRP—Northern California**  
 Norm McLeod  
 400 North Point  
 San Francisco, CA 94133  
 (415) 776-8363

**ADRP—Washington**  
 Donnie Schwendeman  
 3600 Port of Tacoma Rd. #503  
 Tacoma, WA 98424  
 (253) 922-8913

### ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION

**DARE—Northern California**  
 Gary Atkinson  
 22693 Hesperian Blvd., Ste. 277  
 Hayward, CA 94541  
 (800) 772-8288

### ILWU CANADA

**EAP—British Columbia**  
 Ted Grewcutt  
 745 Clark Drive, Suite 205  
 Vancouver, BC V5L 3J3  
 (604) 254-7911