It’s what the ILWU has always done, the not-so-secret formula of our union’s success through the decades—and that is to mobilize the power of the rank and file. That was the most effective tactic we used in 2002. Training rank and file and expanding our capacity to work effectively has been the focus of our programs and our practice in the last three years and will continue to be our priority.

As the delegates at our last Convention mandated, we have expanded our rank-and-file education, training government’s latest findings into public consumption and reporting requirements. In the fall of 2007 we will hold another of our LEAD, or Leaders Education and Development seminars, or our unique blend of skills building and grounding in the history and traditions of the ILWU. The Titled Officers have decided to put further educational programs on hold in 2008 in order to devote all our research and education resources to the upcoming contract negotiations that year.

We have been using our educated and motivated members to fight back on the political and legislative front. Following the mandate of our last Convention, we have held two Legislative Conferences in Washington, D.C., one in 2004 and another just last March. We sent about 60 rank and fileers to directly lobby Congressional Representatives and Senators and their staffs. They were learning by doing it, and in the process they have learned how to do it better. We are asking each member to contribute $50 toward our Political Action Fund. Last time many members offered more, giving as much as $500. We need to do even better this time.

Many of the ILWU credit unions along the coast are working with us to put aside a certain amount each week out of ILWU members’ paychecks. In your report backs to your locals, please urge your members to sign up with their credit unions and have a small donation made weekly toward protecting their jobs.

In 2008, we have done a series of public and media speaking trainings along the coast for local officials. Last January we held a week-long seminar to train 61 rank and filers in speaking, writing and video skills. As usual, our members learned these things quickly. And many of them are ready for the advanced challenges and trainings we have planned.

Once again our trained members have gone back to their locals and put their schooling to practice. Besides making sure their regular communication with their members is strong, they have been working with other groups to make sure the ILWU’s issues are in sync with all the political activity going on at the state and federal level. We must do even better this time.

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International President James Spinosa’s Keynote Address
National Convention

The best example of this is the anti-air pollution campaign we call “Saving Lives,” started by Local 13 member and LA Harbor Commissioner Joe Radsich. Up and down the Coast the ILWU is backing this campaign and putting the union in front of the fight against the worst environmental problem facing all West Coast port communities. We are equating worker safety with public health. And in the process we are getting not only widespread publicity and sympathy, we have embraced the employers into doing far more to cut air pollution than we demanded in our 2002 longshore negotiations and couldn’t get from them.

Also, we designed and had built an ILWU exhibit booth we have used to raise our profile and spread our word at numerous events, including a major goods movement conference on pollution last January in Long Beach and at the AFL-CIO’s Union Label and Trade show in Portland last year and in Cleveland last week. Again, members who have gone through our education programs staffed the booth at all these events, giving the ILWU voice and face.

And of course, keeping up with the times, we’ve expanded our presence on the Web to give the ILWU greater visibility. Not only have we improved and updated the International’s website, particularly the Longshore Division section, but many of our locals have set up their own sites or upgraded their first ones.

Fortunately we are not in this fight alone. We are part of a larger national and international labor movement with many friends, some of whom are with us this week.

First, of course, is the AFL-CIO, whose Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka is with us again. Richard was at the table during our drawn out longshore negotiations in 2002, especially during the crucial time we were under the Taft-Hartley injunction, bringing his experience and the federation’s resources. We also have with us the leader of the British Columbia Federation of Labor Jim Sinclair, who works closely with our Canadian brothers and sisters. We will be hearing from both Richard and Jim during this week. But let me say right now that we are grateful for their dependable solidarity and are proud to be an active part of their federations.

We also continue our special alliance with the Teamsters and our East Coast longshore partners in the International Longshoremen’s Association. The ILA International officers have expressed continued support for our agreement. Our good friend Ken Riley, president of ILA Charleston Local 1422 and the leader of the Charleston 5 fight, is with us today.

Also with us today is Chuck Mack, a Teamster International Vice President and leader of their Port Truckers Division. Together our two unions have embarked on an historic organizing drive to unionize the port truckers, the worst paid workers on the waterfront. These are workers who, once organized, treated with dignity and fairly compensated, can become an essential back up for us in the ports. In the important Southern California ports we already have 2,000 truckers signed up for our union effort. Our goal is to have a Teamster/ILWU port truckers division.

Through our connections with the Teamsters we are keeping relations with the unions that have formed the new Change to Win federation. While we would prefer that the House of Labor stay united, the ILWU will continue to work with and support all workers engaged in struggle anytime and anywhere.

We are also fortunate to have many strong and strategically located international friends. The ITF, the International Transport Workers’ Federation, is one of the oldest global labor federations. The ITF’s Secretary General, David Cockroft, will be with us this week and will address the Convention. The ITF represents all kinds of transport workers—dockers, sailors, truckers and railroad and airline workers. As many of you know, the ILWU supplies the inspectors along the North American West Coast to check on the conditions of the seafarers aboard the ships we work. I’m sure Brother Cockroft will tell you more about that. You will also hear more this week about how the ITF is assisting our warehouse Local 17 in Sacramento to organize the Blue Diamond almond workers.

Another one of our great friends with us this week is Paddy Crumlin, the National Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia. The ties between the ILWU and Australia only started with the fact that our founder and first International President Harry Bridges was an Australian immigrant. Through years of struggle and solidarity, particularly recently, we have forged close bonds. We visit each other regularly to keep them tight. Paddy and the Australian miners union were instrumental in helping us put on the Mining and Maritime conference in Long Beach last year that brought together unions in those industries from around the Pacific Rim to find ways to help each other with our mutual international employers. Our pensioners in Australia have formed an alliance with the retired MUA members.

Unfortunately, our friends from the International Longshoremen’s Association have not been invited to join us here this week, but we stay in regular contact with them. We sent delegations twice recently to Europe to demonstrate to the ITF and the EU organized against government and employer attempts to de-unionize their ports. We know that if it happens there, it will be to give the workers the right to organize a fair fight in the port. Our actions stopped those plans. The European dockers know they can count on us and the workers know—they will be there for us if we need them in 2008.

Before we recess today we will also be renewing our strong and important relationship with the dock workers of Zenekowans. For decades we have had strong worker-to-worker ties with our Japanese longshore brothers that transcend our language and cultural differences. We will once again honor those bonds and formally renew our friendship and solidarity.

But the ILWU also has internal difficulties we need to deal with this week, problems within all our divisions and groupings we need to address.

As we all know, 9-11 changed the world. The very real threat of terrorism has made us as dock workers have to face up to the vulnerability of our ports and the need for real security. Since Sept. 12, 2001 the ILWU has been engaged in shaping port security policy.

We have been lobbying politicians, testifying before Congress, intervening in legislation and joining every committee and board on the issue we can to make sure our concerns and point of view are included. But let’s be clear here—the Republicans and our employers have been just as busy devising new ways to use legitimate security concerns against our union, to handcuff us with more and more regulations and take away our jobs and dispatch halls. We have been trying to focus security efforts on the real risk—the millions of uninspected containers that enter the U.S. and Canada every year, the unchecked container seals and the empty containers.

But the employers and the Republicans have been focusing on longshore workers as the security risk and pushing for background checks and restricted access. Their plans are much less effective in providing real security, but are much easier to implement.

So now we are facing Terrorism Watch list name matching and TWIC Cards, the Transportation Worker Identification Cards, TWIC cards, required to work on the docks, that include criminal background checks.

If the government uses the Terrorist Watch list and the TWIC background checks to come after our union, if they dare to turn this into a McCarthyite witch hunt, let me assure you, the ILWU will respond with our full fury and force and that of our many friends. We will not provoke this fight, but we will not back down.

In an effort to cooperate with the government, the International Officers and I are in agreement to move the union in a positive direction and seek employment of our members in the West Coast ports and the need for real security. Since Sept. 12, 2001 the ILWU has been engaged in shaping port security policy.

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The plan is to follow the massive amounts of containers from the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to the warehouse and distribution centers in inland Southern California and use our port power to help those workers organize into the ILWU.

But Local 142 has followed the economy’s transition from plantations to tourist destination. They’ve done it with good, old-fashioned organizing, working hard and working smart. And now tourism is the biggest sector of the local. Our people in Alaska, especially in longshore, are having a hard time hanging onto their work because of the lack of union density. Employers are going unchallenged as they set up new, non-union operations, often right next to our union ones. Alaska longshore workers won a good contract last year after some very difficult bargaining. But if these new facilities and their workers are not brought into the ILWU and share in our bounty, all the work will flow there and the good contract will be meaningless. A resolution to support a new organizing drive in Alaska will be coming before you this week and we need your vote and your active support.

There’s one last thing we must do before I finish. We must pay our respects to those in our ranks who have lost their lives in accidents on the job in the last three years. We all know the worse may happen every day we turn to, but it’s hard to think about it and still get through the day. But every time we strap on our hard hats, slip into our neon vests and lace up our safety boots, we should think about those we are going back home to when the shift is over. Be safe for them, yourselves and all your brothers and sisters around you.

I am now going to read the names and locals of those we have lost and then I ask you for a moment of silence in their memory.

Richie Mraz—Local 13
Douglas Espinoza—Local 6
Matt Petrasich—Local 94
Robert Padgett—Local 10
Robert Smith—Local 23
Kimberly Ruchman-Miles—Local 23
Ephranis (Epi) Hernandez—Local 500
Warren Minura—Local 142

Thank you. Now in remembrance of all those who came before us and made so many sacrifices to get us here, and in dedication to those who will follow us, let’s make this Convention a great success.

The Convention stops for a moment of silence in honor of ILWU members killed on the job.

Northern California’s Local 6, our biggest ware-
Spinoso awarded Emeritus status

By Terri Mast
IUW National Secretary-Treasurer

The Convention passed a resolution supporting the Working Families Party and the concept of fusion voting. However, many delegates had misunderstandings about what fusion voting actually is.

The Working Families Party was founded in 1998 in New York by a coalition of labor and community based organizations including the Northeast regions of the United Auto Workers (UAW) and the Communications Workers of America (CWA), locals of the garment and hotels workers’ union (UNITE HERE), the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), and Citizen Action.

The Working Families Party is also endorsed by the AFL-CIO. Its legislative agenda includes universal health care, rent regulation, a living wage and closing the income gap through progressive legislation. We, as a fusion voting candidate, work hard to learn from the Spinosa and the other officers on how to conduct myself with the employers, how to represent my members across the table, and how to fight for our jurisdiction.

A few things I learned from Spinosa were, number one, that you fight as hard as you can for your members and year jurisdiction. Number two, you always speak your mind, no matter if people disagree with it. You make your feelings known. And number three, that the employers never, ever are our friends.”

Spinoso was obviously touched and while saying his acknowledging the honor had to pause a moment to compose himself.

“This honor is really a great send-off. I appreciate it. The Italian in me gets a little emotional sometimes,” he said. “It’s been just a wonderful ride for me through my career, coming into this union and then having the honor to represent you, as I have, as your President, Vice President and officer at the local level. It’s just something that I am going to take with me all the rest of my life. It’s been the highlight of my life.”

—S.S.

IN RECOGNITION OF BROTHER JAMES SPINOSA AND BESTOWING EMERITUS STATUS ON PRESIDENT SPINOSA

WHEREAS: Brother Jim Spinosa has been a member and also has served this great ILWU for 38 years; and
WHEREAS: In 1984 Jim was selected by the Coast and served as the Coast CFS monitor until 1987; and
WHEREAS: Since 1987, Jim has been elected as Caucus and Convention Delegate in the Longshore Division; and
WHEREAS: In 1988, 1991, 1996, 1997, Jim served as President of ILWU Local 63 Marine Clerks, Southern California; and
WHEREAS: In 1991-1994, Jim served the Longshore Division as a Coast Committeeman; and
WHEREAS: In 1993, as Coast Committeeman, Jim served as Co-Chairman of the Longshore Division Contract Negotiating Committee; and
WHEREAS: In 1997, Jim was elected as Vice President of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union; and
WHEREAS: In 1999, as Vice President of the International, Jim was selected by the Longshore Division to be the Chairman of the Longshore Negotiating Committee; and
WHEREAS: In 2000 and 2003, Jim was elected President of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union; and
WHEREAS: In 2002, Jim, as Chairman of the Longshore Division Contract Negotiations, and under his leadership, the Negotiating Committee successfully negotiated a six-year contract, preserving Pension and Welfare benefits, and don’t hold true to it, we will have a politician will have to sign onto our affiliation, and they are now gathering signatures to place the Working Families Party to do the same in Washington in 2007.

The Working Families Party has expanded to Connecticut and Oregon. They are now gathering signatures to place the initiative to legal fusion voting in Oregon and there are plans for the Working Families Party to do the same in Washington in 2007.

**Mandatory age limits enshrined in the ILWU Constitution back in the 1970s meant International President James Spinosa could not run for re-election to a third term. Known affectionately to his union brothers and sisters as “Spinner,” he has served as clerks’ Local 63 President, Coast Committeeman, International Vice President, Mainland and, finally, as International President for the last six years, culminating his career by piloting the Longshore Division through the dangerous 2002 negotiations.

Spinoso long held a reputation as a tough and strategic negotiator, and that shone through undeniably in 2002. So the proposal at the Convention to confer upon him the honorary title of “President Emeritus” was a surprise only to him.

Spinoso’s longtime friend and fellow Local 63 marine clerk John Toussau, who had also worked on several Longshore Negotiating Committees with Spinosa read the resolution bestowing the title (see below) and then spoke from his heart.

“I have been privileged to know him since we were young kids together. I have seen him come up through the ranks of the ILWU. Toussau said. “As we all know, as President and Vice President of this great International Union, he has helped us not only at our local levels and the Coast level, but at the International level, helped us reach to the stars and reach to other unions, helping us talk to people from all over the world, whether it be the ITY or the ILWU reaching out to all the various countries of the world, through the MUA in Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. He has never, ever faltered and never, ever let us down. He has always given support to everybody.

“I think that the recognition, seeing the people who have come here from Japan, from Vietnam, all over Australia, every place, even from South Carolina, demonstrates that Jimmy is an incredible man.

Local 63 Vice President Joe Gasperov hit the mic and recounted the lessons he learned from Spinosa.

“I first met Spinner when I was a young and new member in Local 63. Spinosa had just been at sea for years as a Coast Committeeman,” Gasperov said. “I quickly learned that Spinner was a fighter. I kind of sat back as a new union officer and tried to learn from Spinner and the other officers on how to conduct myself with the employers, how to represent my members across the table, and how to fight for our jurisdiction.

A few things I learned from Spinosa were, number one, that you fight as hard as you can for your members and your jurisdiction. Number two, you always speak your mind, no matter if people disagree with it. You make your feelings known. And number three, that the employers never, ever are our friends.”

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—S.S.
ILWU workers seek help

Del Monte outsources its Hawaii pineapple operations

By Steve Stallone

Globalization hit the shores of Hawaii again last February when Del Monte announced it was moving its pineapple operations, its jobs and its specially developed fruit to Costa Rica, Brazil and Kenya. At the U.S. West Coast Convention representation of the 700 workers who grow, pick and pack pineapple and run a processing plant in Kunia, it was no surprise to learn that the ILWU workers there were seeking the help of the International Transport Federation (ITF) and the longshore workers in the Seattle area.

But instead of concentrating on the call for solidarity, the crowd at the convention was treated to a “Power Point” presentation that told the story of pineapple growing in Hawaii from the plantation days of the 1920s to the new century. It began with a joyous look at the days when children were happy to help their parents pick the fruit. These managers were so happy to help, said Richard Palmerton, a soon-to-be-unemployed pineapple worker, because they built the industry and made the company profitable.

“I myself and my co-workers worked very hard with our blood, sweat and tears to keep Del Monte going and become profitable,” Boyd Isenoe, chair of the plantation unit there, said when he addressed the convention. “Now we know what kind of people we are working for. But we are not giving up. We have a petition we would like everyone here to sign. It asks Del Monte to be fair to us, to help us with money and benefits so we can make the transition to new jobs. They must help us this much. We are seeking enhanced severance pay and an extension of medical benefits six months beyond the present date of final employment. Through Sen. Dan Inouye (D-HI) and Sen. Daniel K. Akaka’s (D-HI) offices earmark checks for ‘Del Monte outsource Hawaii operations’ put them in the hands of the union. The workers fear being left homeless as well as jobless. Del Monte has agreed to give the plantation camp homes to the workers—company is not willing to adjust job training funds, but the company is going bankrupt were more willing to help than Del Monte.”

“We have gone through plantation closures before,” International Representative Tracy Takano said. “But even sugar plantations that were going bankrupt were more willing to help than Del Monte.”

To get a copy of the petition to sign and get others to sign, download it at: www.ilwu.org/aboutConvention/2006/index.cfm.

Send financial support for the Del Monte workers to: ILWU Local 142 / 451 Atkinson Drive / Honolulu, HI 96814. Earmark checks for “Del Monte workers.”

Flag of Convenience campaign

ITF holds docker/seafarer solidarity workshop

About 50 Convention delegates took their lunch break one day to learn more about the mutual solidarity campaign of dockworkers and seafarers.

For more than 50 years the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF), a global organization of docker, sailor, trucker and railroad and aviation unions, has run what it calls the Flag of Convenience (FoC) campaign. The term refers to the practice by shipowners to have their ships fly the national flag of some country other than their own, sometimes that—conveniently and for a small fee—exempts them from taxing, labor and environmental laws. Shipowners conveniently avoid national seafarers unions and operate their vessels nearly like 17th century slave galleys, paying their seafarers very little and often subjecting them to all labor and environmental conditions.

ITF U.S. West Coast Coordinator and ILWU Puget Sound Regional Director Jeff Engels, an able bodied seaman by profession, explained to the audience that there are now more than 2000 covered by ITF contracts, told stories of how ILWU Canada longshore workers had worked with him to enforce those agreements. It’s a constant struggle with unscrupulous maritime employers in today’s free trade system, he said.

“Transport unions are the impediment to making trade cheaper,” Lahay said.

—SS

The ITF West Coast Inspectorate is prepared to show the PowerPoint presentation at any ILWU local. Contact Jeff Engels at: engels_jeff@itf.org.uk.
In the streets and on the floor, Convention pushes organizing

by Marcy Rein

VANCOUVER, BC—The clerk at the Robson Street Safeway seemed quite flustered. At just about 1 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16 a crew of people burst into his store. They marched down the aisles holding balloonions and shouting, “I-L-W-U!” He moved to bar the door, but there seemed to be 300 of them at least and many were bigger than him. Another couple hundred people gathered in the parking lot. What was going on?

The ILWU’s 33rd International Convention had recessed to take action in support of a key organizing drive, marching on the Safeway store to enlist that supermarket chain’s support for the workers at the Blue Diamond almond processing plant in Sacramento.

The British Columbia Federation of Labour and ILWU Canada laid the groundwork for the March and parking lot rally, which anchored the second International Day of Action in support of the Blue Diamond workers. Affiliates of the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) fired up other solidarity actions around the world, giving the delegates a glimpse of what global cooperation could produce.

All try to shape their strategies to today’s realities, the need to “organize along the global supply chain,” has come to the fore. The ILWU is looking at organizing where exports are processed and shipped, and organizing where imports are stored and sorted for distribution.

“The rail, road and dock unions are ideally positioned for special attention because of the industrial leverage we have in globalization,” Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) National President Paddy Crumlin told the Convention. “We have to identify those that are identified as ‘retail giants’ in collusion with the manufacturing giants, the logistics and transportation companies. We need to mobilize mining and maritime services they require. We have to organize every part of that chain.”

This puts a new twist on the ILWU’s history of international work.

“We’ve always been connected internationally,” ILWU International Vice President Bob McEllrath said. “Because the world has shrunk and the world economy is so much more connected, the connections we have internationally are now helping us organize locally.”

McEllrath opened the organizing section of the Convention agenda May 16, then turned the program over to organizing Director Peter Olney. After the briefest of introductions, Olney asked the Oxbow Carbon and Mineral workers to take a bow.

The workers at Oxbow, a bulk petroleum coke shipper in the Port of Long Beach, had just ratified their first contract as members of ILWU Local 13-A. They surprised Olney and the officers by presenting plaques to the International and the Organizing Dept. with thanks for their support over a year and a half of organizing and bargaining.

Then three workers from Blue Diamond took the stage. They put faces to the stories ILWU members had been hearing for months and made the reasons for organizing come alive.

“One of our co-workers, Cesario Aguirre, had a bad accident a couple years ago,” Ann Hurbut told the crowd. “A piece of equipment fell on his head and hit him so hard his eye popped out. He was out of work for more than a year. When he came back, he lost his eligibility for medical benefits and paid time off, even though he had been at Blue Diamond for more than 20 years.

“We work hard, we’re honest and we give 110 percent even though we’re treated like crap,” she said, holding up a picket sign à la Norma Rae. It read, “Respect for hard work is all we ask.”

Larry Newsome described Blue Diamond’s efforts to intimidate and divide the workers and turn them against the union. The company fired, spied on and questioned people, threatened them and tried to mislead them. Some people are scared, he said, but the organizing committee has stayed strong.

“My brothers and sisters at Blue Diamond are making demands that a company’s labor rights record into negotiations. (Blue Diamond has asked the NLRB to certify at the State Capitol and the rank and file, and these people are saying, ‘Here, sign these cards, you’re organizing’),” McEllrath said.

People at the Blue Diamond workers with every heart, our minds and our souls. This is not a dispute about Sacramento so much as it is about every worker,” he said.

With that, the Convention recessed for the march to Safeway. Some 500 delegates and guests, along with members of the BC Fed, took over Robson Street, one of Vancouver’s main shopping drags. Pedestrians gave thumbs-up and passing trucks blared air-horns in solidarity. When the marchers reached the store, about half the crowd pushed inside.

Fired up by this foray into the streets, the Convention delegates passed six organizing resolutions. The most far-reaching of these put the union on record in support of a New March Inland in Southern California. It directed the International and particularly the Southern California locals to tackle the vast non-union warehouse and distribution industry there, focusing on companies where the union can have strategic leverage. To carry out this new work, the Southern California locals are to create and fund a regional organizing committee that can work with the International Organizing Dept.

“Right now in organizing we don’t have the resources we need to go where we need to go,” said Peter Poyton from marine clerks Local 63, who made the motion. “If we don’t take this piece, we will lose in our end game. This is one of the two most important things the union needs to do.”

Members will need to understand what this process entails, McEllrath stressed.

“People think, ‘where’s your organizing,’ and they shrug their shoulders,” he added. “It’s not just walking into a place and saying, ‘Here, sign these cards, you’re organized.’ It takes the help of the locals and the rank and file, and these days it is also a worldwide project.”
When you say the right to be wrong, you mean they can still deny you even if they haven’t got something solid on you? We don’t accept that. Correct. They could say they have a suspicion. They read a newspaper story, or this whole thing is tied in with the concept of interference with the marine transportation system. So if you’re a person who has number of trucks crossing the dock or demonstration against the government or in a demonstration against you, you are interfering, or you might interfere with the transportation system. And, you know, it’s just a totally unacceptable situation.

ILWU Canada has been lobbying heavily to try to deal with this, working with other longshore unions.

The ILA on the East Coast and CUPE 375 in Montreal. We formed a coalition called the Canadian Maritime Workers Coalition to deal with this issue and labor code issues or any issues where we have a common problem that may be arising. We have resolutions of support from municipalities and from the local shipping community and a lot of big businesses that see that as an unwarranted intrusion into people’s personal lives. And, when you can get people in business turning around and joining the union, you’ve got to figure, hey, there’s something wrong here.

You hold a seat on the British Columbia Federation of Labor? Yeah. Also I’m a vice president of the Canadian Labor Congress [CLC] through a small union caucus. There are four seats reserved for small unions and the ILWU was elected to one of those positions in the last two conventions. This past February, for the fourth year there was now representing the small unions in Canada. I’m also on the executive council of the New Democratic Party of Canada [NDP].

How does working with other unions affect and support ILWU Canada? Well, it helps keep us in contact with other unions throughout the province that may have being problems with their employer, but also it gives us some clout whether a problem might come up on the docks the ILWU needs to address. We can have the support of other unions, we can explain our position to them and have them join with us to make presentations to the government.

For instance, a lot of people are opposed to port development and the number of trucks crossing the city streets. So we’ve got a chance to get together with them and explain the benefits that are going to come out of the port expansion, you know, more jobs for us, but also more jobs for them, and that’s good for the economy. So it helps us in getting our case out there.

You mentioned you were on the Executive Council of the NDP, a decided labor party, did it do what you think it does that bring the labor movement? Well, the advantage is in the situation we’re in, you could bring in a minority government. [No party in Parliament won a majority in the last election. ] The NDP could hold the balance of power. So we have a right-wing government in office right now with a minority number of seats. The NDP can hold them accountable.

For instance, if they want to start coming forward with some laws like in Australia, anti-union or anti-labor laws, the NDP can threaten to withhold their support for the party and actually cause the Parliament to collapse. And a lot them also introduce bills that’ll help workers. In the last minority parliament, they passed a bill that makes it a criminal offense for the officers of a corporation to knowingly operate an unsafe work place. They can be fined or jailed. It hasn’t been used, but it was put in place. They also proposed a law protecting workers’ pensions in the event of bankruptcy. We’ve seen the same thing in Canada as in the U.S. with Chapter 11 bankruptcies and courts coming in and slicing up collective agreements and slashing pension plans. So the NDP managed to sponsor a bill that would protect workers’ pensions.

What other things have you accomplished because of the NDP? Right now we’re fighting for anti-scab legislation to be introduced in Parliament. It was introduced in three provinces currently, Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia. It has been found that having anti-scab legislation lowers the number of days lost due to strikes in all sectors because employers have a tendency to focus their attention on the bargaining processes and friction disputes instead of trying to operate and keep the union aside.

Also you have card-check recognition which makes organizing a little easier. Right. In the provinces, you have card-check recognition and under the Canada Labor Code, you can show that you have 35 percent of the members of a bargaining unit signed up to cards, you’re automatically entitled to a vote. If you have more than 55 percent of the members of a plant signed up, you get an automatic certification. And you also get an automatic certification if your employer interferes in the bargaining and it can be proven in front of the Canadian Industrial Relations Board that the employer has interfered to such an extent that it’d be impossible to get a collective agreement. The board can order a certification and issue a first collective agreement.

What do you see in the future for ILWU Canada? Well, I see us getting to work getting certifications at the container freight stations inland. The land around the waterfront is very, very expensive no matter where you are in North America or in the world. And so the tendency of big corporations like Wal-Mart and Canadian Tire is to want to move their storage facilities inland where they’ll load their containers on trains and take them to the midpoint, then entrust the waterfront workers with the transportation system. So if you’re a person who has certification, you can take them to big distribution warehouses and then distribute from there rather than going all the way back east to Toronto or Chicago, what have you. So we believe there’s an opportunity there to organize those warehouses, distribution hubs, and also to organize container freight stations where they’re shuffling containers and where they’re loading trains and unloading trains of containers.

Is there anything else that you’d like to mention to the members? Just the fact that we enjoyed having the International Convention in Vancouver, Canada one again, and we look forward to it being here again in 18 years. It’s good because our members, many of whom may not get to travel to the distant places that the convention is held, it gives them an ability to come downtown here and sit in for a couple hours or come to the social in the evening and then meet their brothers and sisters from the International, from different locals up and down the Coast. And it gives people a chance to realize that we are one big family and that people, whether it be in Seattle or San Pedro, have many of the same problems that we have, and that we have a common enemy and that’s the boss, and we have a common fraternity and that’s the ILWU.

For full interview with Dufrasne, see www.ilwu.org/about/ Convention/2006/index.cfm
Danny Glover

“It doesn’t take a rocket scientist—it really doesn’t—to figure this out. We can talk about all kinds of statistics and strategies around profit, about all the theories around markets. But there is something in that discussion that cannot be reduced, that cannot be ignored. What cannot be reduced is those who don’t care about what happens to human beings, what happens to children, what happens to those who work all their lives and who then retire. We cannot be reduced to forgetting about that. No matter what the market strategies, whatever the market theories, whatever the current economic theories are, we cannot be reduced to believing that all of this is natural science. This is not natural science. This is about what human beings do and how human beings transform themselves or not transform themselves, how human beings themselves act and decide what is important. If life and the preservation of life is important, then that is what we have to elevate. Not the preservation of profits, not the preservation of evil-spiritedness, not the preservation of inhumanity. We have to hold on to the preservation of people. And unions do that. Unions talk about the people and they do that.”

Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer

“I want you to think about a convention hall like this that goes back a hundred years when our forefathers sat in a place like this fighting, struggling, bleeding and sometimes dying so that we could build a better country. Now they are trying to tear it all down. You see, the contradictions are stark and the damage to working families is deep. Quite frankly, when I look at it, I am ashamed of our country, what it’s doing to workers.

“Brothers and sisters, these atrocities didn’t just happen accidently. Neither God nor the mysterious hand of the marketplace is responsible. They are the result of a corporate war on working families, and it’s been going on for 25 years now. The wounds are raw and the wounds are visible and the effect that it is having on our country is more pronounced than it has ever been.”

David Cockroft, IFT General Secretary

“I arrived yesterday from Washington where I was briefing many U.S. affiliates of the IFT on our action program, just in time for the Blue Diamond march which showed very clearly that the ILWU is a fighting union, ready to take its demands onto the streets. I was very happy to be part of that rally—which we will be publicizing to unions around the world as part of our electronic online news service. I’m happy to see the close cooperation here in the beautiful city of Vancouver between two IFT affiliates—the ILWU and the Teamsters. And that in holding a rally outside Safeway you were demonstrating the importance of coordinating the entire supply chain—production, transportation and distribution—to making union solidarity effective in today’s globalized world.

Ah Quon McElrath

“Somebody said, it’s impossible to organize among immigrants. Well, you know, the ILWU did it in Hawaii. Do you realize that in 1944 we organized all of the sugar workers, all of the progeny of people who were brought to Hawaii under the Masters and Servants Act which was enacted in 1850. We organized the Japanese, the Chinese, the Koreans, the Hawaiians, the Portuguese, the Spaniards, the Filipinos. Talk about immigrants. Yes we did it!”

To see full text of guest speeches visit www.ilwu.org/about/Convention/2006/index.cfm
Continuing preparations for what is expected to be another continuous round of negotiations in 2008, the Longshore Division Caucus reviewed and outlined its plans to be in a position of strength.

They grappled with new government port security regulations that could screen members off the waterfront, plotted a legislative and electoral plan, strategized the continuing conflict with the employers over jurisdiction and technology, took the next steps to further the Coast public relations program, authorized the development of new member education materials, acquired its alliance with a growing international dockers organization and approved a budget for the next year to carry it all out.

PORT SECURITY

In a belated attempt to appear pro-active on port security, the Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) has mandated that all longshore workers must be checked against the FBI’s terrorist watch list. To do so the government has required employers and unions to provide it with the names, dates of birth (DOB) and Social Security numbers of all workers having unescorted access to U.S. ports.

Forewarned by those who are not terrorists in the ILWU, the Caucus agreed to furnish the names and DOBs in compliance with current government regulations. But citing privacy and identity theft concerns, the Coast Committee does not keep nor would it give out members’ Social Security numbers, especially since recently the personal information of 26 million war veterans was stolen from government data bases. The Social Security numbers are not required, and since recently the personal information of 26 million war veterans was stolen from government data bases, the Coast Committee does not keep nor would it give out members’ Social Security numbers, especially since recently the personal information of 26 million war veterans was stolen from government data bases.

If there is a match with the terrorist watch list, the government will notify the individual and the union and the employer. The individual can notify the individual and the union and the Coast Committee that they are not terrorists in the ILWU, the Caucus agreed to furnish the names and DOBs in compliance with current government regulations. But citing privacy and identity theft concerns, the Coast Committee does not keep nor would it give out members’ Social Security numbers, especially since recently the personal information of 26 million war veterans was stolen from government data bases. The Social Security numbers are not required, and since recently the personal information of 26 million war veterans was stolen from government data bases.

PENSION AND WELFARE

The Pension and Welfare Benefits Committee reported that health care costs continue to rise substantially, driven by administrative costs and the profits required by the American private health insurance system. Still, the maritime trade industry is booming and the Coast employers can afford the Longshore Division’s demand of Maintenance of Benefits (MOB).

The committee recommended that in the 2008 negotiations the union “remains committed not to accept any increases in co-pays of any type.” Once the union opens the door to co-pays, the committee insisted, there’s no telling where it will stop or how high it might go. To keep the ranks solid in that position the committee also recommended preparing a member education program on health care and the need for MOB and that Area Benefits Directors, Locals and Pensioner Clubs continue to remind MediCare eligible actives, pensioners and surviving spouses that they receive their prescription drug coverage through the ILWU Welfare Plan and that Medicare eligible actives, pensioners and surviving spouses are not to sign up for the Medi-Care Part D Prescription Drug Benefit. The committee also stressed the importance of checking the Explanation of Benefits (EOB) that comes in the mail to verify all the services billed were received.

While keeping its maintenance of benefits the fundamental requirement, the union continues to pursue alternative approaches to quality health care and to work to pass universal single-payer legislation as the only real solution to the national health care crisis. The union will request the employers to join in this effort as agreed to in the 2002 contract.

The report also stressed the importance of the longshore Defined Benefit Pension plan. And the committee proposed discussing a study of the environmental health of longshore workers on it and port communities. The Caucus accepted all the committee’s recommendations.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The PR Committee reviewed its work of the last year to improve the union’s image and train its rank and file to do the on-the-ground work to make it happen. This included the Coastwise media trainings for local officers, its week-long communications seminar for 61 rank and file members last January and the recent projects where the skills learned were put to use—unveiling the ILWU’s anti-air pollution “Savings Lives” campaign and staffing the ILWU exhibition booth at high profile events.

The committee recommended and the Caucus agreed, to continue its local officer and rank-and-file training program, build the union’s website and its e-activism capacity, support the Tacoma-based “Black History and labor” celebrations produced by the Coastwise media trainings for local officers, its week-long communications seminar for 61 rank and file members last January and the recent projects where the skills learned were put to use—unveiling the ILWU’s anti-air pollution “Savings Lives” campaign and staffing the ILWU exhibition booth at high profile events.

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HISTORY

The meeting was very worthwhile, and the only disappointment was that we did not have more time to discuss additional safety-related issues. It is our hope that we can all meet again soon to continue exchanging ideas and share information.

COUNCILS AND COORDINATION

The convention provided the extraordinary opportunity for longshore safety committee representatives, most of whom were delegates, to meet May 19, after the adjournment of the convention. The states of California, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii and Alaska, as well as the Canadian Province of British Columbia were all represented at this meeting. Numerous safety-related issues were discussed, including diesel and ship's emissions, Automatic External Defibrillators, Vertical Tandem Lifts, Horizontal Tandem Lifts, Multiple Flatrack Lifts, safe methods of steel discharge and discussions regarding the recent accidents and fatalities that have occurred in different ports around the world.

The meeting turned out to be an excellent opportunity for committee members to exchange ideas promoting safer longshore work practices, discuss furthering the education of our membership on the importance of safety awareness and discuss the need to promote the "Greener Ports" initiative that has already been undertaken on the West Coast. All Safety Committee members took advantage of the opportunity to exchange phone numbers and e-mail addresses in order to improve communications. And in this, it is our intent to make all of our work-sites a safer place to work.

The following Longshore Safety Committee members were present at the meeting: John M. Castanho (Local 10, Chula Vista, Calif. 91910), Joseph Wenzl (8), Mike Zuliani (63), Pete Favaizza (M&RF), Dennis Young (200), Frank Leys (Local 500), and Richard Alvarez (13). For the Hawaiian longshore safety committee, Nate Lum (Chairperson, Local 142), Ross Fuyoriyama (142), Nathan Dudoit (142), David Jones (142), Kimo Brown (142), and Terrence Talau (142) from the Alaskan longshore safety committee, Pete Hendrickson (200) and Dennis Young (200) from the Puget Sound, and representing the Canadian longshore safety committee were Al Le Monnier (Chairperson, Local 500), Bill Haggerty (502), Chuck Zuckerman (500), John Collins (502), Dan Cook (505), Dave Dosen (500) and Dave Fritchett (500).

FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT—JOHN M. CASTANHO (10), PETER HENDRICKSON (200), JEREY YLONEN (8), AL LE MONNIER (LOCAL 500 AND THIRD VICE PRESIDENT, ILWU CANADA), DAVE DOSEN (500); MIDDLE ROW—CHUCK ZUCKERMAN (500), JOHN COLLINS (502), PETER FAVAZZA (M&RF), DENNIS YOUNG (200), ROSS FUYORIYAMA (142), NATHAN DUDOIT (142), DAVID JONES (142), KIMO BROWN (142), AND TERENCE TALAU (142). FOR THE ALASKAN LONGSHORE SAFETY COMMITTEE, PETE HENDRICKSON (200) AND DENNIS YOUNG (200) FROM THE PUGET SOUND, AND REPRESENTING THE CANADIAN LONGSHORE SAFETY COMMITTEE, AL LE MONNIER (CHAIRPERSON, LOCAL 500), BILL HAGGERTY (502), CHUCK ZUCKERMAN (500), JOHN COLLINS (502), DAN COOK (505), DAVE DOSEN (500) AND DAVE FRITCHETT (500).
International Convention emphasizes organizing

Rank and file delegates from throughout ILWU territory—California, Oregon, Washington state, Alaska, Hawaii and British Columbia—gathered for the union’s 33rd International Convention in Vancouver, B.C. May 15-19. They agreed on a strategically targeted approach to organizing; an unequivocally anti-Bush, anti-Iraq War position; a progressive domestic policy agenda, particularly on health care and the environment; a political action plan for the upcoming elections and a budget with a small dues increase to fund it all.

THE BUDGET

The budget proposal brought to the Convention delegates was worked out by International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams and the other Titled Officers, along with the International Trustees and with the input of Hawaii Local 142 Secretary-Treasurer Guy Fujimura and IBU National Secretary-Treasurer Terri Mast. Already a consensus document, the assembly passed it without opposition and without amendments.

The budget is mostly a status quo plan, keeping most all International programs and departments funded at the same levels with small increases to account for expected inflation. It includes modest, progressive increases in members’ dues, with those who make the most contributing the larger share of the increase.

ORGANIZE! ORGANIZE! ORGANIZE!

The budget adheres to the mandate of the 32nd International Convention to dedicate 30 percent of the union’s revenues to organizing. The Organizing Dept. has been focusing on strategic drives, moving into areas where the union has strength and the leverage to win, and where the newly organized industries and workers help protect where the union already is. The policy resolutions the convention’s delegates passed kept to that approach.

“The New March Inland in Southern California” (P-4) is the core policy of the ILWU’s new organizing program. It commits the International and the Southern California locals to focus attention and resources to following the mass migration of container cargo from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to the inland areas where the warehouses and information services run by the longshore employers of the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) and their subsidiaries have seen an explosion of employment.

These cargo-handling and tech workers labor without the advantages of union contracts, wages, conditions and benefits. They are prime targets for the union’s organizing efforts, can be helped by the ILWU’s port power and in return can strengthen the Longshore Division.

Another resolution (P-3) similarly commits the union to develop strategies for organizing in the ILWU’s Marine Division, the Inlandboatmen’s Union’s (IBU) critical tug and towboat sector on the West Coast and Hawaii. The ILWU has lost density to non-union operators, threatening not only their good jobs, but also the security of the ILWU on the docks.

The organizing of these non-union towboat operators will also strengthen the bargaining position of Alaska Longshore, the IBU Alaska Region and the IBU’s Region 37.

Alaska is dependent on maritime transport for receiving goods and exporting its natural resources. But union strength at ports in that state has been eroded by the continuing emergence of non-union shipping and stevedoring companies, especially in Dutch Harbor, the largest fishing port in the world. Many of these non-union companies are also making inroads at ports in the state of Washington.

So the delegates and a resolution (P-7) committing the union to provide resources to organize in Dutch Harbor and throughout the Alaska maritime trade industry.

During the Convention the delegates heard from the workers from the newly organized Oxbow petroleum coke facility in the Port of Long Beach. Three workers from the organizing committee at the Blue Diamond Growers almond processing facility in Sacramento told the Convention their conflicts with their employer. Taking a break from their proceedings, the delegates marched 500 strong to a local Safeway supermarket where they convinced management to send a letter to Blue Diamond asking the employers to recognize the union (see story page 7).

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

The delegates took several practical steps towards the ILWU’s long-standing policy goal of universal health care. The most important of these was changing the ILWU to join many other unions and progressive health care organizations in the growing movement to endorse HR 676, a bill currently in Congress by John Conyers (D-MI) that phases in universal, single-payer health care for every American.

The U.S. spends more than $2 trillion per year on health care, 50 percent more of its Gross National Product than nations with universal single-payer systems. And yet 46 million Americans lack coverage and 18,000 people die each year because they cannot afford the care they need. Over $400 billion alone is spent on paper work and administrative costs, much of it duplicative and unnecessary. HR 676 would provide equal access to all necessary medical care regardless of income level, without deductibles or co-pays. It would cover hospitalization and office visits, prescription drugs, dental and vision care, home health, nursing home, long-term and mental health care and rehabilitation, and would remain in place even if someone becomes unemployed or retires.

The delegates also passed a resolution on the prescription drug problem. It notes that the Republican-passed plan does not “make prescription drugs available and affordable for every senior who needs them” as Bush promised. Costs remain high because the law prohibits Medicare from bargaining for cheaper prices and the program is administered by private insurance companies with a multitude of confusing plans. The resolution commits the ILWU to support legislation that would restore coverage in Medicaid (for lower income people, seniors and disabled), eliminate privatization in administering the prescription drug plan and revert back to Medicare and authorize Medicare to negotiate cheaper drug prices in the U.S. and Canada.

GREEN AND BLUE

The delegates to the 33rd Convention placed the ILWU firmly in the environmental movement, rejecting the false choice between good jobs and healthy work places and communities, and demanding both. The cornerstone of this policy is the “Saving Lives” campaign, the program for cleaner, greener ports begun by I. A. Harbor Commissioner and International Vice President, Mainland candidate Joe Rodisich. As part of a larger anti-pollution effort, the resolution on the Saving Lives campaign (P-13) commits the ILWU to fund it all.

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to press industry into cleaning up smoking secret emissions, the single largest cause of air pollution at ports, not just at ILWU ports, but on a global, industry-wide basis.

Those trying to regulate industry pollution always run up against objections that there is scientific proof that these emissions cause cancers and disease. Although IBU workers on tugs and barges in the San Francisco Bay Area have been found to have the highest mortality rate in California, statistical evidence of the causes has been lacking. The delegates passed a resolution to have the ILWU support and organize life-long port worker and resident health studies of illness and death, and to organize health and safety campaigns for port workers regularly exposed to maritime toxic hazards.

The delegates passed another resolution (R-5) brought by members of ILWU Canada demanding the Canadian government require manufacturers to disclose what carcinogens, no matter how small, are in their products, and that employers must inform their employees of any carcinogens they may be exposed to at work.

**POLITICAL ACTION**

The need to take action to change the political atmosphere and the social policies unions operate under in the U.S. and Canada was on the mind of every delegate and echoed in most of the guest speakers' presentations. The Convention’s delegates took several steps toward that end.

They passed a symbolic “Vote of No Confidence” in George W. Bush (R-15). Then in a resolution going on for two pages listing Bush’s crimes against humanity, democracy and unions, they enumerated a basic five-point program to “Take Our Government Back” in the 2006 and 2008 elections. It calls on the ILWU to mobilize its members to elect pro-labor candidates in 2006 and 2008, calls on locals to urge their members to contribute to the union’s Political Action Fund, calls on every local and region to establish functional political action programs, and urges all locals to undertake workplace campaigns to educate members about the union’s political action program, register members and their families to vote and get out the vote.

Another resolution (P-19) requires more communications among the District Councils, the regional political arms of the ILWU. It directs the District Councils to expand their capacity to contact and educate members about the ILWU’s positions and urges all locals to affiliate with and participate in their AFL-CIO state federations and central labor councils.

Yet another resolution (P-11) urges members to make regular payroll deduction contributions to the ILWU Political Action Fund through their local credit unions and that payroll deduction authorization cards be available through local halls and at local meetings.

Many delegates expressed frustration with the Democratic Party’s seemingly spineless, loyal opposition to Republican policies. The need for new political formations that could stand firmly for labor principles echoed throughout the hall. A long debate ensued for a resolution about “fusion voting” (R-16), a new electoral system that can help third parties get elected and influence policy (see story page 5).

The system is in place and working in New York State and many unions in Oregon and Washington state are supporting initiatives on the November 2006 ballot in their states to legalize fusion voting. Some delegates hesitated to vote for a system they were unfamiliar with, but the majority passed it and its position for the ILWU to promote and fund efforts to legalize fusion voting.

The delegates passed another resolution (R-36) supporting ILA Charleston Local 1422 (home of the Charleston 5 and Ken Riley) and the South Carolina labor movement’s pioneering efforts to run independent Labor Party candidates for state office in November 2006.

**IMMIGRATION**

With the immigrant rights movement front and center on the current political scene and its mass demonstrations happening on May Day, International Workers Day, the delegates took the opportunity to reaffirm the ILWU’s long-standing policy in support of immigrant rights. They passed two resolutions (R-35 and R-52) blaming the dislocation of millions of people and the recent unprecedented levels of global immigration on multi-national corporations’ economic policies, and calling for a “sane” immigration policy: no criminalization of workers crossing borders; no guest worker programs designed to strip workers of human rights and the right to organize; and a clear and reasonable path to permanent resident status and citizenship.

**EDUCATION FIRST**

The budget approved contained the money for one of the union’s ongoing member education programs. It funds another Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) Institute in early 2007 and another Secretary-Treasurer training seminar for local financial officers later that year.

The delegates also passed a resolution to fund an updated and improved edition of “The ILWU Story” booklet that is used widely for new member orientation.

**INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY**

The ILWU’s internationalism continued on next page
was front and center at the 33rd Convention. First and foremost was simply holding it in Canada for the first time in 18 years. From the border crossing customs checks and currency exchanges, to the signage in English and French (French is the other official language of Canada), the delegates got a good dose of the cultural and political differences between the two countries as well as the similarities.

Jim Sinclair, president of the British Columbia Federation of Labour, addressed the convention, asserting that workers need to ignore national borders, especially when dealing with politics and organizing. Workers in both countries need to defend national health care in Canada and work to establish a similar system in the U.S., he said. He also noted that food unions in British Columbia are supporting the ILWU’s Blue Diamond organizing drive.

The delegates also heard from Jack Layton, the national leader of Canada’s New Democratic Party (NDP), the country’s pro-labor political party. While the NDP has doubled its seats in Parliament in the last two elections, it is in minority government. Nonetheless, Layton pointed out, the NDP used its strength to stop a massive corporate tax cut and instead used the money to help working people, investing in public education, housing, public transit and cleaner air and water programs. They are continuing in that direction this year, proposing legislation to ban strikebreakers and to protect workers’ pensions when companies go bankrupt.

“We’ve gone to move forward by building on our successes,” Layton said, “because the place for unions is not just on the shop floor, but on the floor of the House of Commons and the floor of Congress.”

Other guest speakers added to the Convention’s international flavor.

Akinobu Itoh, General Secretary of the Japanese dockworkers union Zenkowan, came to the Convention to renew his union’s special Solidarity agreement with the ILWU and to present a banner to commemorate the mutual friendship. He told the delegates that Zenkowan is fighting off government attempts to deregulate and privatize Japan’s ports.

“We hope to use the Solidarity statement as a lever to oppose multinational corporations that seek to control global distribution,” Itoh said.

Do Van Quang, President of the Vietnamese Shippers Lines Workers’ Union, told the delegates that his country is moving further towards a market economy, presenting new challenges to unions there. He expressed the hope that a relationship with the ILWU will help them through it.

David Crockett, General Secretary of the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF), a global organization of docker, sailor, trucker and rail and aviation workers’ unions, told the convention of how his group coordinates solidarity actions around the world (for more see story page 6). ITF Dockers Section Secretary Frank Leys informed the delegates of specific actions the ITF and its affiliates coordinated in support of the Blue Diamond workers in Japan, Korea, Australia, India and Latin America.

Paddy Crumlin, National Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA), railed against Bush and the right-wing Prime Minister of Australia John Howard, who he called “Bush’s pet poobie.” Crumlin spoke of the new anti-labor laws passed in his country that do not directly outlaw unions, but make most everything they do acting as unions illegal. Collectively bargained agreements can be terminated at any time at the whim of the employer. If in negotiations union officials dare to ask for a remedy for an unfair firing, or ask for payroll deductions for union dues as a minor union involvement in training and safety programs, the union is fined $30,000 and the individual union official is fined $6,000.

“If you are a recidivist like me and keep doing it, then, of course, they stop fining you and send you to jail,” Crumlin added, laughingly defiantly. “We have stood together on many battlegrounds over many generations to deliver dignity and decency for all workers, all workers facing oppression and exploitation, and we will continue to, wherever there is a campaign or wherever there is a picket line.”

The delegates were also treated to a good dose of the Squamish Band, giving the invitation to commence the Convention.

The delegates were regaled by several star-quality speakers, including movie actor and activist Danny Glover. He spoke of the importance of unions in the past and in today’s world. He noted that both his parents were union workers and union organizers, and that he learned his sense of justice from them.

“We need unions more than ever now,” Glover said. “People need jobs the delegates to put their energies into defeating the Republicans in the November Congressional mid-term elections. He offered an optimistic assessment of the labor movement’s chances.

“There is some good news, if you want to call it that. President Bush’s approval rating is now under 29 percent,” Trumka said to the delegates’ applause. “But here is the question I have for you. What is 29 percent thinking? What would the guy have to do to lose favor with them?”

The delegates were treated to another history lesson from one of the ILWU’s living legends, Ah Quon McElrath. Now 90 years old and still full of verve and insight, McElrath worked for the union since it first organized Hawaii’s sugar and pineapple workers in the 1940s, first on its fledgling newspaper and later in its social service and educational programs.

This time she put globalization and its effects on workers in a long-view perspective and challenged the rank and file to organize or allow the employers to dictate the terms of their work and their lives.

Paul Robeson Jr. narrated between rare archival film clips from the 1940s and 1950s of his father, Paul Robeson Sr., the radical black actor, singer and activist whom Harry Bridges made an honorary member of the ILWU. Like Bridges, Robeson was accused of being a Communist and his brilliant career was stunted. But he never stopped using his art and his activism in support of worker and civil rights.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICER NOMINATIONS

With International President James Spinosa retiring, International Vice President, Mainland Bob McElrath will run for International President without opposition. Those who nominated and seconded his nomination were from all over the union—Joe Cierzo from longshore Local 13, Hawaii Local 142 Longshore Chair Nate Lum, Fred Pecker, Secretary-Treasurer of the largest warehouse local, Local 6 and ILWU Canada President Tom Dufresne.

Local 13 member Southern California District Council President and L.A. Harbor Commissioner Joe Radisich will run unopposed for International Vice President, Mainland, as will incumbent International Vice President, Hawaii Wesley Furtado and incumbent International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams.

Most of the area seats on the International Executive Board, the union’s highest governing body when the Convention is not in session, are races with several candidates. Their photos and statements, as well as voting rules, appear on pages 18-24.
**STATEMENT OF POLICY ON CONVENTION LOCATIONS (C-I)**

The Titled Officers and the Trustees recommend that Article X, Per Capita and Assessments be amended so that the Constitutional Amendment be updated to provide for the 2012 Convention located at the Westin Hotel, Anaheim, California during the week of the International Union for the 2012-2013 two year period. The recommendation below reflects a careful balancing of the diverse membership of the International with the size and transportation issues and costs associated with the division or local where the average earning is less than Sixteen Dollars ($16.00) per member per month for those members whose rate of pay is less than Twenty-One Dollars ($21.00) per hour, Eleven Dollars and Eighty-Seven Cents ($11.87) per member per month for those members whose rate of pay is equal or greater than Twenty-One Dollars ($21.00) per hour and any additions and/or deletions of the ILWU. In arriving at this balance the Titled Officers and the Trustees seriously considered the interests of the affiliates and the ability of the affiliates to meet the per capita obligations.

The recommended per capita structure below will fully fund the programs of the International Union and should generate a modest surplus at the end of the first two years. It should be noted that while a small surplus will be generated, the recommended per capita obligation will still be below our historic target of the reserves of the International Union and should seriously considered the financial condition of the affiliates and the Inlandboatmen’s Union of the Pacific.

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RESOLUTIONS

PORT SECURITY TRAINING (R-17)
RESOLVED: The ILWU seek the Federal Government’s participation and funding in Port Security training for the ILWU. Given the workers’ need for this training and the work done by ILWU personnel independent of the District Councils, that the District Councils and Labor Councils co-sponsor the training with the relevant agencies like the USCG.

PATRONIZING UNION ESTABLISHMENTS (R-3)
RESOLVED: The ILWU supports unionized workers and businesses, and will purchase from the ILWU patronize Union hotels, airlines and restaurants whenever possible.

WITHDRAWAL FROM IRAQ (R-4)
RESOLVED: That the ILWU Canada continue to demand an immediate withdraw- al of all U.S., British, Australian and all Coalition forces.

That the ILWU Canada work to increase the participation in demonstra- tions planned to protest the illegal occupation.

That the ILWU, with the ILWU Canada, the ILWU International, increases its militar- ize with the people of Iraq, and in par- ticular with its Trade Union Movement and the trade unions in this region.

PROTECTION FROM CARCINOGENS IN CANADA (R-5)
RESOLVED: That the ILWU Canada bring forward their call for the ILAC and community demand that our government protect its people from harmful carcinogens and require mass testing that if their products contain a carcinogen, no matter how small, and that employers are also to inform their employees of the presence of carcinogens they may be exposed to; and That this resolution be forwarded to the ILWU Canada, to the ILWU International Longshore Caucus (ILCU) and the ILT, for inclusion in their upcoming Congress.

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CONFLICT NEGOTIATIONS (R-6)
RESOLVED: That the 33rd ILWU Convention delegates pledge their sup- port for Local 20 in their struggle in securing a fair contract with Rio Tinto Tinto Haul and; The ILWU Convention officers and local union officers within this Region do their best to support Local 20 in attorneying any rallies or letter campaigns and or take any other appropriate action in securing a fair contract with Rio Tinto.

OPPOSING INCREASES IN VETERANS’ HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM (R-7)
RESOLVED: That the ILWU go on record as being in favor of benefits for our military men and women.

COPRA CRANE (R-8)
RESOLVED: That the ILWU Convention and Longshore Division Caucus support the restoration of this historic Copra Crane with the ILWU $20,000,000 for San Francisco to full conclusion; and The ILWU will work with the above mentioned partners to work through a number of different project developers, Iron Workers, building trade allies, commun- ity and local government leaders to help provide the material and money to make this happen.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS (R-9)
RESOLVED: That the 33rd Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union call upon the Federal government to fully fund the prescription drug coverage of all American citizens in the Medicare program.

That the ILWU will call upon the state and federal government to encourage, develop and utilize legislation that will autho-
RESOLVED: That the entire ILWU organization, including Local 142 Hawaii, on behalf of its Grand Wailea Resort employees, expresses its gratitude to “You” the NFL Players Union for their support and to the ILWU International Officers and regions.

That this Convention of the ILWU hereby urges the NFL Players Union for their support,

That this Convention reiterate the original mission of protecting the safety and health of working people and making agreements which protect all involved in the workplace safe, and that this Convention hereby urge the NFL Players Union to take the lead in protecting the safety and health of our members.

By forming strong health and safety committees,

• By providing more safety and health training for our members, especially those employed by the National Labor College;

• By educating our members to deal with workplace hazards by forcing the companies to correct them;

• By making safety and health issues a priority in negotiations;

• By working politically to strengthen the Occupational Safety and Health Act;

That the ILWU oppose a Guest Worker Program in any form, and that the ILWU supports the workers in the City and County of San Francisco to banish the Alcatraz Ferry run operated by Blue & Gold Fleet; and

That the framed and signed copy of this Resolution be presented to Senator Boxer.

In solidarity with Iraqi Longshore Workers (R-48)

RESOLVED: That the ILWU calls on the Iraqi government, Transport Minister Mr. Salam Al-Maleky, and the Iraqi Port and Harbour Authority to immediately stop their attacks on the Port Workers’ Union and take effective action on behalf when necessary; and that the ILWU support for the privatization of Iraq’s factories, natural resources and other state assets; and that the ILWU express concern that the United States has access to quality, affordable food; and that the ILWU support the ideas contained in the proposal to rebuild America’s infrastructure.

That this Convention hereby urge the U.S. government to make immigrant workers feel safe; and that the ILWU support the ideas contained in the proposal to rebuild America’s infrastructure.

That this Convention hereby urge the U.S. government to support the privatization of Iraq’s factories, natural resources and other state assets; and that the ILWU express concern that the United States has access to quality, affordable food; and that the ILWU support the ideas contained in the proposal to rebuild America’s infrastructure.

That this Convention hereby urge the U.S. government to make immigrant workers feel safe; and that the ILWU support the ideas contained in the proposal to rebuild America’s infrastructure.

That the ILWU call for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. forces and cease military operations and begin serious negotiations to rebuild Iraq, and that the ILWU call for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. forces and cease military operations and begin serious negotiations to rebuild Iraq.

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That this Convention hereby urge the U.S. government to make immigrant workers feel safe; and that the ILWU support the ideas contained in the proposal to rebuild America’s infrastructure.
An election by secret ballot is being conducted by mail to determine the selection of ILWU Titled Officers, International Executive Board members, and, for Longshore District locals only, Coast Committee men. The mail ballot procedure is the only method being used for vot- ing in this election. The election is being conducted pursuant to the ILWU Election Rules and Procedures adopted at the April, 1994 Convention and as subsequently amended. No later than Friday, June 30, 2006, ballot packages will have been mailed out to all ILWU members listed on the Voter Eligibility List.

If for any reason you do not receive

in the mail a ballot packet by Monday, July 3, 2006 and you believe you are an ILWU member who is eligible to vote in this election, you can obtain a ballot packet by calling Television Electronics Corporation, the outside agency assisting in this election, at 1-800-864-1263. Since most ballot packets have already been sent out, your ballot packet can only be obtained from Television Electronics Corporation and not from the International, the International Election Reform Committee, the ILWU locals and affiliates, or any of their officers and representatives.

Please also note that all voters must mail back their ballots in sufficient time so that their ballots arrive at the designated post office box in Oakland, California, no later than 9:00AM PST, August 14, 2006. Late received ballots will not be counted under any circumstances.

To prevent ineligible persons from voting, please note that any individual who requests a ballot pack and who is not on the Voter Eligibility List will be sent a challenged ballot for voting. All challenged ballots will be subject to possible later action as to ineligibility. Also, the ballot packets are electronically coded to prevent anyone from having more than one ballot counted. If a voter makes any alteration to the completed ballot, the ballot will be voided.

Any ILWU member who has a ques- tion about the election may call the ILWU Election Procedures Committee at 1-415-775-0333 or leave a voice mail message. If you call before 9:00 a.m., after 5:00 p.m. or on weekends and holidays, dial extension 150 during the answering machine message to be connected to voicemail.

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

(charge for one)

ROBERT “BIG BOB” MCCULLRATH, LOCAL 4

Leadership at the International level means vision, discipline, organization, and most of all, accountability. Leadership means knowing the goals of the rank and file, understanding the contract and representing the Union’s position to the employers. Leadership at the International level means protecting all divisions of the ILWU and enforcing all of our contractual rights and benefits. It means helping to clarify the direction of the Longshore industry. With an energized, focused and united workforce, our ILWU will continue to grow and be a vibrant force for the future.

As the President of the ILWU International, my job was to serve not only as Co-Chair of the Coast Labor Relations for Longshore, but to oversee the operations of the organizing department. In the last six years I cut unecessary items from the organizing bud- get which increased the funds available, allowing for more aggressive organizing programs to be taken on such as Blue Allow, allowing for more aggressive organizing efforts. I then worked closely with the ILWU locals and affiliates, or any of their officers and representatives.

I repeat what I have said before: I believe we must face the future as unionists as we were when we earned our place in the history books. We must have the ability to expend our daily energies on something I believe so strongly in—our union and the ILWU.

I know that the next three years are going to be exciting times. The new leadership is very poised and ready for our many challenges ahead. And yes, we have stepped up our game in organizing, political action, public rela- tions, education and in the international arena.

On behalf of the union, I have trav- elled to Australia, Brazil, France, Germany, Belgium, South Africa, Cuba and many other national regions, the proud banner and reputation of the ILWU.

I have rolled up my sleeves, and have worked with all of our members. I have learned so much from all of the divi- sions; I have built some great relationships with key Senators and Members of Congress in Washington, D.C. and in Hawaii. I have represented our family.

As the President, the International has been there backing up the needs of any local or division, whenever we have been called. And yes, we have stepped up our game in organizing, political action, public rela- tions, education and in the international arena.

We will give them our best and serve the membership of the ILWU.

WILLIAM E. ADAMS, LOCAL 23

It has been a privilege and high honor to have served the membership of the ILWU union for the past three years. My work is still not complete. I like to get quick and attack through my work and I am more comitted now then ever.

My varied ILWU experiences includes Longshore, Marine, Grain, Agriculture, General Trades in both Washington D.C. and in Hawaii. Staff organiz- ers are encouraged to participate in Local 142 and Division political action efforts whenever possible. Looking forward, we need to focus on impor- tant political races to strengthen our jurisdiction.

Involving the International works with the IBU-Hawaiian leadership in their negot- iations to improve working condi- tions and benefits. We are currently working on organizing campaigns to help build IBU membership in the Pacific.

The Hawaii Region Organizing Department works along with Local 142 Divisions. We have organized new members into our union in the last three years. To increase the effectiveness of organizing efforts the International, Local 142, and Divisions, negotiate employ- er neutrality and card-check agree- ments to support strategic organiz- ing.

In 2005, we negotiated the first Health & Welfare Trust Fund agree- ment for our members in the Tourism industry. This Trust Fund will help control the rising cost of health care insurance premiums.

The International supports train- ing for union members and leadership, organizing members in Hawaii. The International has supported educa- tion and training for union mem- bers pertaining to drug awareness and the like. The International has access to resources on the national level and internationally. The International communicates directly with other National or International unions and organizations who share common interests with our union members in Longshore, Agriculture, Marine, Grain, and General Trades groupings.

I’d like to thank my fellow union brothers and sisters for their support of the opportunity to serve as International Vice President - Hawaii. I ask for your continued vote of sup- port so I can continue to serve the membership.
Ray Ortiz Jr., Local 13
Brothers and Sisters of the ILWU, a solidarity greeting!

As a proud second-generation longshoreman, I have seen the waterfront evolve from the days of bulk bulk to today’s world of containerization. I have been a member of the ILWU since 1980 and a member of Local 13 for nearly four decades.

Serving the Union has always been my greatest passion. I have served on the Southern California District Council Board in the following Local 13 leadership positions: Executive Board; Trial Committee; Chairman of the Grievance Committee; Registration Committee; Labor Relations Committee; Night Business Agent; and Delegate to the Longshore Division Caucus. With that solid foundation, I served as your California Coast Local Commissioner for 3 terms: 1997-2000, 2000-2003, and 2003 to the present.

In that position, I work to protect your interests through Coast Labor Relations Committee meetings and the processing of all grievances and appeals, including Americans with Disability Act (ADA) accommodation requests, Uniform Service Employment and Reemployment Act (USERRA) military credit requests, registration, Coast arbitrations, participation on the Coast Benefits Subcommittee, and as Trustee of the Pension and Welfare Plans.

I now humbly seek your support to represent the Longshore Division as your California Coast Commissioner for a 4th term.

In the 2008 contract negotiations approach, my experience on the 1999 and 2002 contract negotiations committee will undoubtedly continue their efforts to reduce our Longshore Division jurisdiction, weaken our Dispatch Halls, and reduce our Pension and Health and Welfare benefits. I will work to protect your interests.

Education of our rank-and-file, especially in the ILWU history and traditions, the Longshore Contract, the Safety Code, and Grievance and Arbitration procedures will become increasingly vital. And because the Federal government, with Employee-support, continues to interfere in our Contract and labor relations, we as experienced during the 2002 Contract and currently with the screening of our workers against a “terrorist watch list” and government-mandated PREC’s, carefulTWIC criminal checks and biographical checks, developing “our outside game” in the political and public relations arena is absolutely critical now, and forever.

Finally, we must continue to strengthen our ILWU and our community relations in this global economy. I appreciate your continued support as we move together to ensure success for the ILWU and Longshore Division.

Voting for Ray Ortiz, Jr. for California Coast Commissioner. Thank you.

June 2006

California Coast Commissioner (Vote for one)

Ray Ortiz, Jr., Local 13
Brothers and Sisters of the ILWU, a solidarity greeting!

As a proud second-generation longshoreman, I have seen the waterfront evolve from the days of bulk bulk to today’s world of containerization. I have been a member of the ILWU since 1980 and a member of Local 13 for nearly four decades.

Serving the Union has always been my greatest passion. I have served on the Southern California District Council Board in the following Local 13 leadership positions: Executive Board; Trial Committee; Chairman of the Grievance Committee; Registration Committee; Labor Relations Committee; Night Business Agent; and Delegate to the Longshore Division Caucus. With that solid foundation, I served as your California Coast Local Commissioner for 3 terms: 1997-2000, 2000-2003, and 2003 to the present.

In that position, I work to protect your interests through Coast Labor Relations Committee meetings and the processing of all grievances and appeals, including Americans with Disability Act (ADA) accommodation requests, Uniform Service Employment and Reemployment Act (USERRA) military credit requests, registration, Coast arbitrations, participation on the Coast Benefits Subcommittee, and as Trustee of the Pension and Welfare Plans. I now humbly seek your support to represent the Longshore Division as your California Coast Commissioner for a 4th term.

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Voting for Ray Ortiz, Jr. for California Coast Commissioner. Thank you.
June 2006

Southern California International Executive Board

VOTE FOR THREE

International Executive Board / IUB

(Vote for one)

LUISA GRATZ, LOCAL 26

To maintain the strength of our organization, our representatives must be both longshore workers and warehouse workers, so that all voices are heard, and participate in decisions that affect our jobs, our union and our collective future. I have been elected to serve our union and membership on the International Executive Board. I was the first elected in 1983, and re-elected in 1994—present. I feel that I have served the rank and file, to the best of my ability, for the past 12 years, and would like to continue to serve you and this great union of ours.

I have been a member of the Longshore Division for 38 years 20 years in ILWU Local 13 and 18 years in ILWU Local 63. I have served as a negotiator for the Coast Longshore Master Contract in 1999 and 2002.

Again, I would like the opportunity to serve our members in the ILWU on the International Executive Board. God Bless you and thank you

John Toussieu

JOHN TOUSSEAU, LOCAL 63

Brothers and sisters,

My name is John Toussieu, and I am seeking re-election to the position of International Executive Member. I have been an Executive Board Member from 1994—present. I feel that I have served the rank and file, to the best of my ability, for the past 12 years, and would like to continue to serve you and this great union of ours.

I have been a member of the Longshore Division for 38 years 20 years in ILWU Local 13 and 18 years in ILWU Local 63. I have served as a negotiator for the Coast Longshore Master Contract in 1999 and 2002.

Again, I would like the opportunity to serve our members in the ILWU on the International Executive Board.

God Bless you and thank you

John Toussieu

Mervyns y Hermanas,

Mi nombre es John Toussieu, y dejo mi nombre en la elección para la posición de Miembro de la Mesa Ejecutiva del Sindicato Internacional.

Se servido yo en esta posición por 12 años, y pienso que se servido a este sindicato con toda mis fuerzas. Tengo 38 años con el ILWU; 20 años como estudiante en el Local 13, y 18 años en el Local 63. Miembro del ILWU.

También se sirvió en las negociaciones de los contratos de seguridad en 1987 y las negociaciones de los contratos individuales en 1999 y 2002.

Dios te bendiga, y muchas gracias

John Toussieu

WARREN SHELTON, LOCAL 46

I am Warren Shelton from Local 46, running for International Executive Board, Southern California. I am honored to be nominated for this position to serve this rank and file. I started in this great union in 1981 as a casual. Registered in 1986 as a Class "B" Longshoremen and was elevated to Class "A" Longshoremen in 1991. Transferred as a Union choice Clerk in 2003. I have served on these committees:

- Vice President Local 46: 2005-present
- Secretary/Dispatcher Local 46: 2002-2004
- Labor Relations Committee Local 46: 1993-1994, 2002-present
- Trustee Local 46: 2001, 2004-present
- Caucus Delegate Local 46: 2004-present
- Health Pension Welfare Committee: 2003-present
- Presidential Election Volunteer Coordinator: 2004

In order to protect the future of our Union I feel we need to mobilize and educate our members on many issues. Political Action is a very important area that we need to grow in. Our members need to understand the importance of State and Federal laws that are being drafted against Labor and Unions. We need to build our local district councils and raise money for our State and Federal Elections. We also need to educate our members on all levels of politics. Organizing is another area, we need to follow the “New March Inland” and also organize in the areas we are already established in. We need to hold the line on Healthcare and get involved in greening our ports and our communities.

We also need to communicate with all the divisions better so that everyone knows what is taking place throughout the whole union.

I am qualified and committed to serve the International Executive Board and would greatly appreciate your vote! Thank You!

ALAN COTE, IBU

I am honored that the members of the Inlandboatmen’s Union of the Pacific—Marine Division of the ILWU nominated me for the International Executive Board. Keeping the ferries, tugs and waterfront workers union is my number one priority. As I write this, our division is organizing spill response workers and environmental workers as well as defending our existing jurisdiction on San Francisco ferries.

However, at the 2006 convention I learned that our struggle in San Francisco is one of many battles waged every day by ILWU locals. The entire ILWU is under a concerted attack and the denigration and even worse, elimination of our contracts is the prize sought by the very industries our labor created.

The guest speakers at the convention threw down the gauntlet: either unify the working class behind the great principles of the ILWU or slip into the darkness and despair of economic and political injustice. We were not just challenged to protect ourselves, but all of organized labor from American dockers to Blue Diamond Almond workers.

In order to wage this battle for ILWU justice as well as justice for all workers we must remain united. The convention is our opportunity to listen to all of the members through their delegations. Perhaps some of the delegats’ needs were not met, but the IEB representatives can continue to find better ways to internally organize, educate and represent all of the ILWU, then we can answer the challenge laid before us with strength and determination.

Even though many races, including mine, are uncontestated vote anyway, show support for the elected officers as they step up to the challenge ahead.

Alan Cote has been a member of the Inlandboatmen’s, the Marine Division of the ILWU, since 1980. Alan was elected Business Agent in 1999 and National President in March of 2006.

MYKE MITRE, LOCAL 13

My name is Mike Mitre and I am running for re-election to the Local 13 Executive Board (I.E.B.). When in session, the I.E.B. is the most powerful body of the union, and it is very important. Having served for the past several terms as one of the longshore representative’s from Southern California, I am grateful for the support that I’ve received. Having been a past President of Local 13, I am presently serving on the Longshore Legislative Committee, and as the Director of Port Security for the ILWU. I have testified before both the Senate and House Committees regarding Port Security, and most recently before the full Senate Committee investigating the Dubai Ports “incident.” I have served various terms on Local 13’s Executive Board, and as a past and present Caucus and Convention delegate.

Brothers and sisters, it’s at a crossroads, this is the most important time in the history of our union. We are dealing with multi-national employers and a Bush government so interconnected that it’s hard to tell where one leaves off and the other begins. Solid, good-paying American jobs are disappearing at a record rate and the inherent lack of respect for workers worldwide is only getting worse. And in the middle of this are the massive global corporations who aren’t just running this country, but the entire world. All workers deserve the same respect, regardless of your skin color, age, sex, or any other factor. But somehow, somehow, most of this basic messages has gotten lost. Today on the line, the Bush Administration has decided that workers and organized labor have no “duty” to convince the public of this. It is wrong. It must be challenged, and it must be changed. Brothers and sisters this is the battle we’re faced with. This is the battleground of the ILWU.

This is the same administration whose foray into Iraq is costing us 6 billion a month, who has given nothing but money and tax-breaks to the corporate rich, and who is virtually destroying the middle class. And what has Bush given us? Nothing less than the worst healthcare crisis America has ever seen and a social security fiasco that, if not corrected, is bankrupt not only ourselves, but our children and our children’s children.

Brothers and sisters, these are but a few of the issues facing the International Executive Board. The ILWU has developed a worldwide reputation for representing those who have a hard time representing themselves. The exploitation of children, the murderous regimes targeting unions and union organizers, and sweatshops who exploit women of every race, creed, religion, and color are but a small example of whom we speak for. For ourselves however, we all share one thing, we belong to the greatest labor organization ever, the ILWU. We must strive to educate our newer members how our forefathers swept sweat and blood for us; and that it’s up to us to maintain the legacy they’ve left behind.
TIM PODUE, LOCAL 13
Brothers and sisters, my name is Tom Podue. I have just served as a Local 13 Delegate to the International Convention and Longshore Division Caucus, and I am honored and grateful to have been nominated by President Mark Mendoza as a candidate for the International Executive Board. I have come up through the ranks, serving my local in many capacities, and appreciate this opportunity to give you some background information about myself and what I have to offer on the IEB.

I have served continuously on the Executive Board of Local 13 since 1995. I was elected as Business Agent in 1997, and have been a relief B.A. since then. I have been a Caucus Delegate 5 times since 1998, participating at the 1999 Contract Caucus and representing Southern California on the ILWU Safety Committee for several years during the 1999-2002 Contract. I served two terms as the Vice-President of Local 13 in 2000-2001.

During my term as Vice-President, I represented (with the help of former Committeeman Richard “Ole” Olson) the brothers of Local 13’s Allied Division during contract negotiations with the Crescent Warehouse in San Pedro, in which we achieved a good contract with a three-year term, and a $3 per hour raise over 3 years. I was also in charge of the Registration Committee, registering 2,600 new Class “B” members, and oversaw the Special Section 13.2 Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation. I was also in charge of USERRA policy (Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Administration) for the local, caring for Veterans returning from service. As V.P., I was also overseer of almost every Labor Relations Committee Meeting (Regular, Mechanic, Class “B,” Casual and Special).

Finally, I have spent countless hours of personal time and energy working on the following Local 13 Committees: Labor Relations, Grievance, Political Action, Constitution, Dispatch Rules, Budget, Outreach and Trademark.

Throughout my years of service, I have been responsible for both Contract Administration and administration of Local 13. I have devoted my heart and energy to the rank-and-file with these principles and current Union principles: respect our history, preserve our jurisdiction, protect our membership, and prepare for our future. All that I have ever asked for myself, the Employers and the Union membership is to “Do the right thing.” As an Officer, Delegate, and Committeeman in the last 10 years, I feel that I have grown to possess the broad experience and tested capabilities to give you strong, candid, responsible, and accessible representation at the International level. Progressive and tenacious, I am prepared and eager to represent all the Southern California Locals on the International Executive Board. I ask you to elect me to this new opportunity to serve the ILWU, and entrust me to “Do the right thing.”

JOHN FAGEAUX, JR.
LOCAL 63 OCU
Dear Brothers and Sisters:

My name is John Fageaux and I am seeking a position on the International Executive Board representing the Southern California area.

First I would like to thank you for taking the time to read my campaign statement and for allowing me to share with you the reasons you should vote for me in the upcoming election.

EXPERIENCE

I am a proud member of ILWU Local 63 OCU. I am currently serving as President of the local, a position I have been elected to for 5 consecutive terms. I first became a member of the ILWU by way of Local 13 Allied Division in the 1980’s. Since then I have held many different positions such as Shop Steward, Grievance Committee Member, Arbitrator, Convention Committee Member, Executive Board Member, Vice President, Business Agent and now President.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

While serving as an officer of Local 63 OCU I have negotiated dozens of contracts, all of which have resulted in substantial gains in wages, health & welfare benefits, pensions and most importantly, JOB SECURITY!

Under my leadership we have increased our membership base by 80% and have organized and brought under contract the following companies: Hanjin Shipping, Hapag Lloyd, China Shipping, COSCO Agencies, Los Angeles, Support Services International, COSCO/Long Beach, Inchcape and Consolidated Lashing & Terminating.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

I have been very fortunate in receiving a great deal of education and training related to labor and our unique industry. Following is a list of some of my education and training:

• Harvard University, Negotiating Labor Contracts 2002
• University of Michigan, Negotiating and Administering the Labor Contract 2005
• Labor Law and Arbitration Course 2003 and 2004
• International Legislative Conference in Washington, DC 2004
• Transpacific Maritime Conference 2001, 2002 & 2004
• Breakbulk Conference 2002, 2003 & 2004
• Three ILWU International Conventions 2000, 2003 & 2006
• ILWU LEAD Program 1998

In conclusion I believe it is clear that my experience and education provide me with the tools necessary to perform the duties and responsibilities of an International Executive Board and look to your support in the upcoming election.

Fraternally,
John Fageaux, Jr.

RAY E. PANTER, LOCAL 30
Dear brothers and sisters of the ILWU, my name is Ray Panter the current President of ILWU Local 30. I’ve held the President position for eleven years, Vice President for six years, Chief Steward, Steward, E-Board member and Convention Delegate at five conventions, elected by the rank and file.

I’m running for the position of the International Executive Board, Desert Region. This position was passed by the 32nd annual convention. I understand that only Local 30 ballots will be counted when their cast for this position, so when you receive your ballot in the mail please vote and return your ballot.

I have experience to serve on the IEB with being an ILWU member for 40 years. I will support in service, not only the Desert Region but the entire ILWU rank and file. Our first representative did not, if very little, give reports on the decisions made by the IEB but this go around, full reports will be made to the rank and file.

My opponent in this election is a very young man with limited experience and has little knowledge of how the union works, so “VOTE” for experience “VOTE” Ray E. Panter when you receive your ballot in the mail around June 30, 2006.

The next three years will be a global battle for all the ILWU including the Desert Regions, Battle with Rio Tinto.

I respectfully ask for your vote. Mail in your ballots.

MICHAEL DAVENPORT, LOCAL 30
I am a candidate for the International Executive Board, Desert Region. I am currently the Recording Secretary for Local 30 and look forward to the challenges of serving not only my local, but the brothers and sisters of all our locals within the ILWU. In May of this year I had the opportunity to represent the ILWU in Washington D.C. and share in the process of legislative action that I feel is essential to continuing and improving the way of life that we as Union members and American workers deserve.

My promise to you is that I will never lose sight of what it means to represent the members of our Union, that each and every voice deserves to be heard and that together we can make this Union prosperous and the envy of every working man and woman. I have many challenges ahead as we try to stay relevant in an ever changing workforce. It is important that we improve our methods of organizing and commit ourselves to supporting the brave men and women that take the chance to welcome us into their workplace. We have to earn the trust of our membership and provide information to those who elect us to keep our Union strong.

I thanks to all members of the ILWU.
Columbia River International Executive Board (Vote for two)

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<th>Brothers and Sisters:</th>
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<td><strong>STEPHEN HANSON,</strong> <strong>LOCAL 8</strong> Brothers and Sisters: I am running for the position of International Executive Board. I have been a member of the ILWU for 30 years and have served in various roles including Business Agent, Local 8 Committee Chair, and delegate to the International Executive Board. I have a strong passion for the ILWU and its principles, and I am committed to fighting for the rights of our members. Please vote for me, and I promise to always represent you and fight for what is right.</td>
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| **RYAN TAKAS,** **LOCAL 5** Fellow Workers of the ILWU! I am Ryan Takas, and I am running for International Executive Board as a Representative for the Columbia River District Area. I am a proud rank and file Local 5 member of over 20 years, and I am dedicated to fighting for the rights of our members. I have been an active union member since the day I joined, and I am committed to ensuring that our union remains strong and united. Please vote for me, and I promise to always represent you and fight for what is right. |

| **GEORGE D. O’NEIL,** **LOCAL 40** Brothers and sisters, My name is George O’Neil, and I am a candidate for the office of International Executive Board, Columbia River Area. I have served in various roles within the ILWU, including as an Area Chairman, Delegate, and District Council Trustee. I am committed to fighting for the rights of our members, and I promise to always represent you and fight for what is right. Please vote for me, and I promise to always represent you and fight for what is right. |

| **JERRY P. YLONE,** **LOCAL 8** Brothers and Sisters: I started on the waterfront in 1971 as a Casual longshoreman in Longview, Washington. Since then, I have served in various roles within the ILWU, including as a delegate to the International Executive Board. I am committed to fighting for the rights of our members, and I promise to always represent you and fight for what is right. Please vote for me, and I promise to always represent you and fight for what is right. |

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**International Executive Board—Hawaii**

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<td><strong>Nathan “Nate” Lum,</strong> <strong>Local 142, Longshore</strong> My name is Nathan “Nate” Lum, and I am a candidate for the position of President of the ILWU in Hawaii. I have been a member of the ILWU for over 20 years and have served in various roles, including as a delegate to the International Executive Board. I am committed to fighting for the rights of our members, and I promise to always represent you and fight for what is right. Please vote for me, and I promise to always represent you and fight for what is right.</td>
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| **Kenneth Ige,** **Local 142, General Trades** I am Kenneth Ige, and I am a candidate for the position of President of the ILWU in Hawaii. I have been a member of the ILWU for over 20 years and have served in various roles, including as a delegate to the International Executive Board. I am committed to fighting for the rights of our members, and I promise to always represent you and fight for what is right. Please vote for me, and I promise to always represent you and fight for what is right. |

| **Joey Silva,** **Local 142, Tourism** I am Joey Silva, and I am a candidate for the position of President of the ILWU in Hawaii. I have been a member of the ILWU for over 20 years and have served in various roles, including as a delegate to the International Executive Board. I am committed to fighting for the rights of our members, and I promise to always represent you and fight for what is right. Please vote for me, and I promise to always represent you and fight for what is right. |

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**International Executive Board**

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<td><strong>Tourism</strong> I am running for the position of International Executive Board as a Representative for the Columbia River District Area. I am a proud rank and file Local 5 member of over 20 years, and I am dedicated to fighting for the rights of our members. Please vote for me, and I promise to always represent you and fight for what is right.</td>
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| **General Trades** I am running for the position of International Executive Board as a Representative for the Columbia River District Area. I am a proud rank and file Local 5 member of over 20 years, and I am dedicated to fighting for the rights of our members. Please vote for me, and I promise to always represent you and fight for what is right. |

| **Governor** I am running for the position of International Executive Board as a Representative for the Columbia River District Area. I am a proud rank and file Local 5 member of over 20 years, and I am dedicated to fighting for the rights of our members. Please vote for me, and I promise to always represent you and fight for what is right. |

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**In solidarity forever, Stephen Hanson**
DENNIS BRUECKNER,
LOCAL 54
No statement submitted.

FRED PECKER, LOCAL 6
FRED PECKER FOR INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD
Brothers & Sisters,
I ask for your support in my run for a seat for the Northern California Area on the ILWU International Executive Board.

As Union workers we have to make our voices heard on many issues. The ILWU is faced with a host of issues-Jurisdiction, the Right to Organize, Environmental (e.g., dredging, air quality), Development and encroachment around maritime and industrial areas, Healthcare & Retirement, and Justice and Peace among them.

Over the years I have represented on behalf of all Divisions of the ILWU [Longshore, IBU, & Warehouse] in public hearings and other forums throughout the Bay Area [SF, Oakland, Richmond, Fremont], Stockton, Sacramento and Washington D.C. I participate in solidarity actions with other Unions regularly.

With your support I will continue to be a strong voice for Northern California on the International Executive Board.

I am currently Secretary-Treasurer of Local 6, Secretary-Treasurer of the Northern CA District Council, and as a Director of the ILWU-FSC Credit Union.

In Solidarity,
Fred Pecker
Local 6
Black Book # 11731

RICHARD CAVALLI,
LOCAL 34
My name is Richard Cavalli and I am running for reelection to the office of Northern California representative to the International Executive Board.

I have been on the Board for the last three years and I am also currently the President of Local 34 which represents Marine Clerks and Office Clerical workers in the San Francisco Bay Area and the Delta.

I will continue to represent the wishes of the rank and file while I serve on the Board as I have in the past.

This office is important within the structure of the Union as the International Executive Board is the Union’s highest governing body between the Conventions, which are held every three years. The recently finished Convention showed us that the Union has a number of serious challenges to deal with; and this International Executive Board will have the task of deciding on the ILWU’s course of action. The next three years will be crucial to our Union.

While the future is impossible to forecast with certainly it surely will bring forth challenges for us. The political activities of the Union that are crucial to its ability to continue to effectively serve the membership must be carried out in an energetic fashion. Because the International Constitution provides that it is an objective of the ILWU to secure legislation favorable to labor and to oppose anti-labor legislation, our course is already set. Political action and how our Union will raise the funds necessary to support that political action will be a key issue. The need to successfully organize new workers is of paramount importance to the Union and the Board will have a role to play; We must fashion a response to the immigration question that does not make targets out of those workers that our Union organizes. Furthermore, we must be ready to protect our members from attacks by those in government who claim in the name of national security the right to deny access of ILWU workers to their workplaces.

These are but some of the difficulties we will face in the next three years. I am sure there will be others, and this Board must be up to the task of finding solutions that carry the ILWU message.

Thank you for taking the time to allow me to share my concerns with you.

Fraternally
Richard Cavalli

LAWRENCE J. THIBEAUX,
LOCAL 10
My name is Lawrence Thibeaux. I have spent my working life dedicated to the ILWU serving in nearly every capacity on a local and regional level. With my long view of the ILWU history and my many years of varied experience, I bring a seasoned perspective and sound judgment to the International Executive Board.

I have been a registered member of longshore Local 10 since 1967 and was an A-man during the 1972 strike and Taft-Hartley injunction. Since then I have served as Local 10’s Business Agent, Secretary-Treasurer and President. I have been on the Local 10 Executive Board most of the time and have been a regular Caucus and Convention delegate since 1982. I spent 11 years as the Northern California District Council’s Legislative Representative. In that capacity I have worked in the California Legislature in Sacramento, testifying before numerous Assembly and Senate hearings and reporting the results to the council members. I lobbied for increases in the minimum wage, for higher unemployment and disability benefits. I know the system, the issues and the players and have used that for the good of the ILWU and all working people.

For the last five years I have been the Northern California representative on the Legislative Action Committee: I have lobbied for dredging of the Port of Oakland, Sacramento and Redwood City as well as formulating and executing the ILWU’s national political work.

I have always made our community and the ILWU role in it a central part of my work. I am currently working with the West Oakland Toxic Reduction Collaborative, a group dedicated to decreasing the harmful health effects of the port pollution on this predominantly African American neighborhood.

In the last two years served on the Coast Public Relations Committee, helping develop a new program to improve the ILWU image, to get out our story, and train our members to do it ourselves.

For the last three years I have served as the Northern California representative on the Longshore Port Security Committee, dealing with the government “Transportation Workers Identification Credential” (TWIC) and working to protect our members’ rights.

Finally, I have served in this capacity, as Northern California representative on the International Executive Board, since 1996.

I have witnessed the ILWU history for many years. No one can pull wool over my eyes—I was there when it happened!

I ask for your continued support to serve the ILWU.
Puget Sound International Executive Board (Vote for two)

MATT VENTOZA, LOCAL 19

My father worked on the waterfront for over 40 years and of those years he was a Seattle foreman for over 20. Traveling to get work many of those years. My father thought so highly of this industry that he suggested I follow with this great longshore tradition and make longshoring my career. It has never been a job to me but a lifestyle. I have been and will continue to be my life work.

My name is Matt Ventoza. I started working on the Seattle waterfront (local 19) in 1978. I accumulated nearly 10,000 casual hours before being registered to “B” status in May of 1993. I became an A registered longshoreman in June of 1994. I started attending the local JPLRBC meetings immediately to educate myself on how this aspect of our business operated from the inside. My services to my local include 2 years as a local 19 alternate Labor Relations Committee member (1998, 2002), 2 years as Stevedore Safety representative (1999, 2000), 2 years as Vice President (2004, 2005), 3 years as Area Labor Relations Committee member (2003, 2004, 2005), 3 years as a Delegate to 2 Conventions and 3 Caucus’ and 4 years as an executive board member (2000, 2003, 2004, 2005).

I am currently the Local 19 Port Security Representative.

I am running for the position of International Executive Board member because I care about this great Union we belong to. I want this Union to be here for your children, grand children and great grand children. I run for this position as a servant to the members that make this union what it is today. We as a union must be united and strong for our upcoming contract negotiations, as an I.E.B. member I will make sure your voices and concerns are brought to the attention of this body for the betterment of this union. The intelligence of YOU the collective body of members is what makes this possible.

Each one of your opinions matters and without your participation and foresight this Union would not be what it is today.

We must look to the future and make the necessary adjustments needed to protect our jobs and lively hood as well as our retirement plan. I believe that our retirees are the most important asset we have and we MUST protect their well being from contract to contract. Not only do our retirees provide us with wisdom but they know the history of this union and that is something we must never lose or forget. We must THINK OUTSIDE OF THE BOX. We are at a crossroads, with the declining union memberships across the country and we must not quit participating the way we have been with our legislative body or we will become just another statistic. I will do my part on the I.E.B. to make sure we continue with our forward thinking and seek new ways to move forward to protect this industry as well aid others in their struggle for the right to belong to a Union.

No photo submitted

RICH AUSTIN JR., LOCAL 19

ELECT RICH AUSTIN JR. TO THE INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD (I.E.B.)

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

As a third-generation longshore worker, I honor and appreciate the sacrifices made by the pioneers of our great union. When elected to the International Executive Board (I.E.B.) I vow to uphold our Union’s Constitution and the By-Laws of the Longshore Division. They have served us well. Soon after becoming a member of the ILWU, I began participating in the affairs of our Union. I am currently on the Local 19 Labor Relations Committee and therefore a member of the local’s Executive Board. In addition, I am a Convention and Caucus Delegate, a member of the Coast Education Committee, and the current Local 19 Shop Steward Chair. I have attended Educational Programs sponsored both by the International and the Longshore Division. Each of us has something to give back to our Union and all of us should make every effort to volunteer some of our time and pitch-in when needed.

The ILWU Constitution is a noble document. Its Objectives are:

“First, to unite in one organization, regardless of religion, race, creed, color, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation or nationality, all workers within the jurisdiction of this International;

Second, to maintain and improve the wages, hours, and working conditions for all of its members without discrimination;

Third, to educate the membership of this organization in the history of the American labor movement and in present day labor problems and tactics;

Fourth, to secure legislation in the interests of labor and to oppose anti-labor legislation.”

As a member of the I.E.B. I will do my best to preserve and uphold those four Objectives as well as our Ten Guiding Principles.

The membership wants the facts. Sometimes the news is good, but once it awhile it is not. In either event, you deserve the truth, not sugarcoated chatter. I will continue to tell it like it is.

At the recent International Convention and Longshore Caucus I cast votes that I believed were consistent with our International Constitution. I did not look around the room to see if I was taking the “popular” position. My votes were intended to uphold the working class heritage of our great Union. As your I.E.B. representative I will continue taking principled positions.

Be sure to vote. Vote for Rich Austin, Jr. for I.E.B. Thanks

“An Injury to One is an Injury to All.”

No photo submitted

MAX VEKICH, LOCAL 52

No statement submitted.

CONRAD SPELL, LOCAL 23

No statement submitted.