New Officers take union’s helm

International Secretary-Treasurer William E. Adams, International Vice President, Hawaii Wesley Furtado, International President Robert McElrath, International Vice President, Mainland Joseph R. Radisich, Northwest Coast Committeeman Leal Sundet and California Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz Jr.

ILWU attends ITF Congress in South Africa

Former Local 6 Pres. Keith Eickman, 1913-2006

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keep up the good work

by james spinosa

ILWU International President

I would like first to start out by thanking all the members of our great union for the privilege you bestowed on me to represent you as International President. For me personally it was a dream come true and continues to enforce that the ILWU democratic practices allows bottom up representation to happen.

I would also like to thank the other International Officers and Coast Committeemen who have served with me over the last six years for their support and unity, and for the great leadership they have shown through our struggles.

The highlight of my presidency and my career was the prolonged 2002 Longshore contract negotiations. I want to thank the entire Negotiating team, including the Safety Committee, for their professional work. They were steadfast throughout the battle, especially the lock-out and the Taft-Hartley injunction, working together as brothers and guiding the Longshore Division through difficult times. I am very proud to have chaired this team.

As this will be my last column as your President, I would like to share my thoughts on where I see the ILWU today and things we need to continue doing to further strengthen and build this union. Three and a half years ago we emerged victorious from the biggest attack the employers have made on the ILWU in more than 50 years. The challenge of that struggle has made us wiser and stronger.

Since then I have made it a priority as president to reorganize committees to educate our ranks, not only on union principles that we all share, but also on our future responsibilities in the work place and the world as they change.

I would like to commend all who have stepped up and served on committees. Your efforts have without a doubt moved us forward so as members we can continue to enjoy the future benefits of this great union.

I want to emphasize how important it is to keep our committees in place and continue the work they have been doing. Elected union officials can only do so much. We need the energy and input of our rank-and-file members to take on the work of the union.

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by necessary for continued success.

Politics is essential for us to understand. Our union and workers in this country and around the world are faced with a political scene that is opposed to all we believe in. The WTO, for example, is a political organization formed to break standards of middle class people and control future news. We must change our thinking and demand our politicians represent the needs of working people.

But to achieve this we must participate in the process. Our political action committee has done a fine job, but politics is money. We need to be able to make sure that we get people elected who support our cause and that of the entire labor movement. So we need all of you to donate and give this union the tools that make change possible. Your future depends on it.

Last, but not least on this, get out and vote! Be responsible to this union and your convictions.

The future is here. Let’s take it and make a better work place and world. Thank you once again for the opportunity and privilege to represent all of you.

In solidarity and love,

Spiner

ILWU titled officers

ROBERT MCCULLRATH

President

JOSPEH R. RADISCH

WESLEY FURTADO

Vice President

Secretary-Treasurer

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

The battles are not over and our committees need to keep educating our members and continue to work and think progressively and stay ahead of the curve. Our future depends on us meeting change with change.

I have also recognized as a priority the need to better position ourselves in the international arena. We have strengthened our network with international unions and dockers around the world. Over the past six years we have hosted many conferences, allowing dockers and their unions the opportunity to build solidarity, share common problems and develop future strategies to meet globalization changes head on. The ILWU is without a doubt the strength and beacon of hope for struggling workers around the world. Continued networking and globalizing of unions is one of the keys to future success and stability.

Our union can only be as strong as you, the rank and file, let it. We must continue to recognize that we need to protect and preserve what we believe in. Our past gives us great history. The struggles will continue. Solidarity and education are critical for future success to be had. We must do a better job of meeting our obligation to this great union. Going to union meetings is an essential part, so we all understand future needs the union encounters. We live in a world of change, and understanding it creates the atmosphere and solidarity...
New Officers sworn in, take charge

The ILWU International Executive Board met in the union’s headquarters in San Francisco Sept. 7 and 8 to certify the results of the International election and to swear in the new officers.

Outgoing International President Jim Spinosa presided over the beginning of the meeting as the Balloting Committee chair Jack Wyatt, Sr., Secretary-Treasurer of warehouse Local 17 reported on the vote counting held Aug. 14. He noted that the balloting process went smoothly and all candidates and observers present were afforded the opportunity to watch and ask questions and did so without disruptions.

The Elections Procedures Committee chair, Martin Jenson, an IEB member from Local 142, reported that the committee had received no timely challenges to the election, so the it recommended the board certify the election. Jenson also reported that the Financial Disclosure Committee found no problems in the candidates’ campaign finances that would have affected the outcome.

With that the board voted unanimously to certify the election results and Spinosa administered the oath of office to all the newly elected officers. They are:

**International President:** Robert McEllrath
**International Secretary-Treasurer:** William E. Adams
**International Vice President, Mainland:** Joseph B. Radisch
**International Vice President, Hawaii:** Wesley Furtado
**California Coast Committeeeman:** Ray Ortiz Jr.
**Northwest Coast Committeeeman:** Laöl Sundet
**Southern California IEB representatives:** Mike Mitre, John Toussaint, Luisa Gutz
**Desert Southern California:** Michael Davenport
**Northern California IEB representatives:** Fred Pecker, Lawrence Thibeaux, Richard Cavalli
**Columbia River IEB representatives:** Jerry Ylonen, George O’Neil
**Puget Sound IEB representatives:** Max Vokich, Conrad Spell
**Hawaii Local 142 representatives:** President Fred Galdones, Nate Lum (longshore), Joey Silva (tourism), Robert Zahi (sugar), Avelino Martin (pineapple), Kenneth Ige (General Trades)
**Alaska:** Pete Hendrickson
**Canada:** Tom Dufresne
**IBU:** Alan Cote’

With the new officers and board members sworn in, newly installed International President McEllrath oversaw the board’s selection of the new Board of Trustees from among its members. They are: "Alan Cote’, Nate Lum, George O’Neil and Max Vokich.

The board also passed a Statement of Policy in Support of the Sobeys Workers, members of the Retail, Wholesale Distribution and Service Union (RWDUS), an affiliate of ILWU Canada in the province of Saskatchewan, who have been on strike for a year (see below).

The board then voted to accept the American Radio Association (ARA), the more than 100 ship radio operators, as an autonomous affiliate of the ILWU. The affiliation will be similar to that of the IBU, except that for purposes of IEB representation, the ARA will be considered a part of the Northern California area.

The IEB will next meet Dec. 7-8.

Statement of policy in support of the Sobeys workers

The workers at Sobeys on Albert Street in Regina, members of RWDSU Local 454 and an affiliate of ILWU Canada, walked off the job Sept. 11, 2005. Their Collective Agreement expired in Jan. 1, 2005, more than 21 months ago and their Employer continues to fail to offer a fair settlement on wages and benefits.

Sobeys refuses to provide competitive rates of pay to its workers and in fact is paying its non-unionized stores’ workers better than its union workers. Sobeys has been found to be in violation of Canadian labor laws on a number of occasions and, unlike most other Canadian employers, refuses to provide wage increases from the date the agreement expired.

Sobeys is the second largest retail food company in Canada with a major presence in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes. Sobeys net earnings for their first quarter ending Aug. 6, 2005 were $48.2 million. This company can afford to compensate its workers fairly.

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour has endorsed a boycott of all Sobeys stores in Saskatchewan and Regina to support the workers on strike and to encourage Sobeys to negotiate a fair settlement with its workers.

The ILWU Executive Board supports the workers on strike at Sobeys and will alert all its locals to do everything in their power to support the Sobeys workers. The ILWU International Executive Board salutes the workers of Sobeys on the first anniversary of their strike and sends its solidarity greetings to RWDSU Local 454.
Less than a week after they ratified their first contract, three workers from Oxbow Carbon and Minerals jetted up to the ILWU International Convention. They stood front and center, loud and proud, at the action backing the Blue Diamond workers: Jose Villegas (second from left in front), Alex Galvan to his right, and Secretary-Treasurer Jack Wyatt Sr. behind them.

“We want to share our experience,” Guzman said. “We want people to know this is positive.”

The contract the Oxbow workers signed July 13 as members of ILWU Local 13A gives them a $10 per hour wage increase over two years and a fully paid Kaiser health plan. They have two new holidays and four personal days plus two weeks’ vacation. Galvan said, “But the biggest thing you can’t put a price on, is recognition and respect. Management looks us in the eye now.”

The workers made their gains by acting as a union in the face of the job. They buttoned up and stickered up and walked off the job for three informational pickets. When Galvan walked into the office, eight guys followed behind him. When Oxbow tried to fire one of the guys, they got his job back. And when Oxbow stalled and crawled in negotiations, they took a strike vote. It came down 31 to zero. Ten days later they had a tentative agreement.

KORUS-FTA would undermine workers’ rights in their own country. Already, many of Korea’s 15 million workers must work long hours in unsafe conditions. More than half are “irregular,” meaning they work part-time or are self-employed.

Representatives from the KCTU and FKTU came to Washington, D.C. to protest and lobby when talks on the KORUS-FTA opened in June. After a productive few days of work with AFL-CIO AFSCME, the ILWU had gone to Oxbow there, they invited the U.S. unionists to the next round of talks in Seoul July 18-14.

Esparza and Ramirez traveled with senior staff from the AFL-CIO. During their five days in Seoul, they met with a Blue Diamond distributor and with the union that represents workers at Lotte confectionery, a big BDG customer. They spoke at a press conference organized for them by the KFTU and KCTU, and told people at several rallies and cultural events why Blue Diamond workers need a union. They also added their voice to the loud, dramatic and determined anti-KORUS protests that rocked Seoul that week.

Around 170,000 workers all over South Korea answered KCTU’s call for a general strike July 12, the day of the biggest march and rally in South Korea. The unions joined forces with farmers’ and civic groups in the Korean Alliance Against KORUS-FTA, a coalition of 282 organizations. The rally in Seoul drew 40,000 people despite a drizzling downpour. The ILWU/AFL-CIO delegation headed up the march with the Korean movement leaders, walking just behind a sound truck bristling with nine amplifiers. Three people took turns on the microphone, keeping up a ceaseless stream of chanting. The crowd yelled back, not fazed by the rain.

“The Koreans are so dedicated, so strong for the cause,” Esparza said. “You can see it in their eyes... and they’re out there rain, shine or snow.”

ZEN(KOWAN) AND THE ART OF SOLIDARITY

The ILWU’s ties to Japan’s dock workers date from the late 1930s and have deepened over the years. Zenkowan’s General Secretary Akinobu Hoh visited the ILWU convention this year, and heard the Blue Diamond workers speak. He immediately offered to coordinate actions for the ILWU and invited them to participate.

ILWU Warehouse Local 17 Secretary-Treasurer Jack Wyatt Sr. and organizing committee member Randy Reyes went to Japan July 29. They met with the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) and the International Union of Food Workers, put together a demonstration outside Blue Diamond’s Tokyo office. The 50-some participants came from unions representing a total of 500,000 workers. At first Blue Diamond declined to meet.

“It was very persistent, very professional but very persistent,” Wyatt said. The sales and administration representatives finally gave in. After listening intently, they promised to see that the message got to their manager and to Blue Diamond in the U.S.

“The Japanese take workers’ rights very seriously,” Reyes said. “They said they will let a lot of people know Blue Diamond is treating us badly.”

The same day on the other lip of the Pacific Rim, ILWU longshore Locals 10 and 13 anchored rallies in the Ports of Oakland and Los Angeles. About 50 ILWU members and allies gathered in each port to show support for the Blue Diamond workers.

CALIFORNIA BACK ROADS

In between the actions in Korea and Japan, the organizing committee began its series of California road trips. Braving July’s record-breaking heat, the committee members headed off to visit members of Blue Diamond’s board of directors—and alert their neighbors and associates to the coop’s anti-worker antics. “We went to show a presence in the places they feared for their workers,” Olivera said. “I don’t think they care for that. It’s like airing their dirty laundry for them.”

Blue Diamond CEO Youngdahl also serves as vice-chair of the California Almond Growers’ association that promotes almonds as well as grower-friendly public policy. The unionists began their tour by showing up at the Almond Board’s July 19 meeting in Modesto. Members of the Central Valley Democrats, Food Not Bombs and the United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFWC) joined them for the action.

“You could tell Youngdahl was flustered when we walked in with our yellow shirts even though he acts like Mr. Cool,” committee member Ann Kruk said. “He said, ‘If you are going to make cold on his face and tightened his lips.”

The workers couldn’t get time on the agenda, but they did talk with a reporter from the Modesto Bee and hand out to members to march in the audience. Then they found a few air-conditioned oases to hang out in between heading up to a meeting of the evening. The ILWU there, they invited the U.S. employees’ Assn., he let loose some slurs people talk about.

“We told the member, ‘We could replace you with monkeys,’” said CSEA rep Laurie Mitchell-Cole. CSEA has been organizing dock workers wearing their colors and loudly backing up the Blue Diamond crew when Hurlbut addressed the meeting.

“We told the workers the schools should be about representing what’s right,” Hurlbut said. “They should carry that representation into the community.”

Chair Howard Isom also chairs the board of Chico’s newest financial institution, the Community Development Bank, and the workers caravanned to Chico July 21 to try to meet with him. Despite the day’s 108-degree heat, the bank employees wore their colors and loudly backing up the Blue Diamond crew when Hurlbut addressed the meeting.

“We’re just hoping the message gets back to Youngdahl,” Hurlbut said. “We’re just going to keep on, one action at a time, until they hear us.”
Facing an era of ever increasing capitalist globalization, with trans-national corporations that own and control the economy consolidating their power and using it to lower the living standards of those who work for them, the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) held its 41st Congress in Durban, South Africa Aug. 2-9.

At the gathering, the ITF, a world-wide organization of 624 dockers, seafarer, truck, rail and aviation unions from 142 countries, scoped out a strategy to respond and protect its members. The ILWU, which is affiliated with the ITF, sent a delegation of four to the meeting—International President Bob McElrath, International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, ILWU Canada President Tom Dufresne and ILWU Director of International Affairs Ray Familatte.

“Strong transport unions are central to exerting social control over the global economy, but to do that we can no longer rely on the traditional way of organizing,” the ITF’s General Secretary David Cockroft told the assembled delegates at the opening of the meeting. “We have to get unions to focus on appealing to new groups of people who are joining the work force.”

The Congress’ theme, “Organizing Globally: Fighting for our Rights,” was reflected in the programs its participants agreed to implement. In the Dockers’ Section this meant the “Ports of Convenience” campaign targeting ports and terminals with substandard conditions for dockworkers. This is occurring mostly in places where ports are being privatized and union dockers are being replaced with casual workers. The campaign will coordinate the efforts of all dock worker’s unions at employers trying to break up union contracts.

At the Congress delegates unanimously agreed to set up an AP Moeller-Maersk worldwide network of union activists and officials to organize employees at the company and its subsidiaries and contractors. The first meeting of the AP Moeller-Maersk network will be organized next spring in Copenhagen, the location of the company’s headquarters.

During the meeting, delegates watched a Dutch-made film on the campaign to organize the workers which would have allowed seafarers to perform longshore work by loading and discharging containers from ships. Paddy Crumlin, National Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia and newly elected chair of the Dockers’ Section, reminded delegates how such international solidarity actions aided his union in 1998 when the stevedoring company Patrick conspired with the Australian government to eliminate the jobs of 1,400 dockers and replace them with non-union workers.

The delegates at the Dockers’ Section also discussed the current situation with dockers in Mexico and Latin America as terminal operators move to use Pacific Coast ports there as alternatives to U.S. West Coast ports operated by the ILWU.

“Since the early 1990s when ILWU delegations visited Mexican longshore workers in Manzanillo and Lazaro Cardenas we have a good rapport with them,” ILWU Director of International Affairs Ray Familatte said. “We are looking to reconnect with them and schedule meetings and further discussions to strengthen relations and mutual solidarity.”

The Seafarers’ Section focused on a new international Maritime Labor Convention, also known as the “Seafarers’ Bill of Rights,” bringing together and updating more than 60 maritime labor standards set by the International Labor Organization (ILO). It would set minimum requirements for seafarers’ conditions of employment, including accommodations, recreational facilities, food, health, medical care, welfare and social security protection. Ships covered by the convention would be required to have certificates proving they meet these key standards.

At the Congress the ILO’s Director of Labor Standards Dombia-Henry told the delegates that at least 30 countries representing 35 percent of world shipping gross tonnage had to ratify the convention before it could come into force. She announced that the ILO would pursue a five-year action plan to promote the rapid ratification of the convention.

The Congress also elected new officers to run the federation for the next four years. Randall Howard, General Secretary of the South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (SATAWU) was elected president of the ITF, becoming the first African and youngest leader of the organization in its 110 year history.

“I am looking forward to seeing the ITF expanding with new memberships following this process of unity, and also because of our renewed commitments to recruitment and organizing, particularly of women and young workers,” Howard said in his acceptance speech after being elected president. “There are key priorities in terms of making sure unions can operate democratically to defend workers. We have to take a strong position against those who are attacking quality employment, and basic rights—for example, in Iran, Pakistan and Australia.”

“As a leader, Randall Howard is a man of action, resourceful and full of creative energy,” ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams said. “He will be a beacon of light for the ITF. His speech was passionate and it struck a chord with the delegates.”

Howard’s union, SATAWU, was the Congress’ host union. It was formed in 2000 as a merger between the Transport and General Worker’s Union (TGWU) and the South African Railways and Harbors Union (SARHWU). Both unions received ITF-coordinated assistance during the days of apartheid and with their recently combined strength were able to halt attempts to privatize the country’s railways. SAWTU is a member of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), one of four trade union centers in the country. Of the 2.9 million trade union members in South Africa 1.8 million belong to COSATU affiliates, which is 38.9 percent of the trade union movement in South Africa.

Paddy Crumlin was elected chair of the Dockers’ Section and Lars Lundgren of the Swedish Transport Workers Union took over the 1st Vice Chair position while ILA International President John Bowers became 2nd Vice Chair. ILWU International President Bob McElrath, who nominated both Crumlin and Bowers for their positions, will serve on the Steering Committee of the Dockers’ Section and on the Joint Seafarer- Dockor Committee, as well as chair the North American Dockers Committee.

Recognizing AIDS is the most global and epidemical of its kind and how the crisis is having a profound affect on transportation workers, the ITF Congress voted to prepare a world-wide campaign against HIV/AIDS to be launched on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, 2006. Holding its Congress for the first time in Africa, where 30 percent of the population is HIV positive and projections are for that to double in the next five to ten years, gave the matter further urgency. So the Congress committed its affiliated unions to a campaign of programs and activities designed to combat the spread of the virus, and to provide care and support to those infected and their families.

In other matters the Congress also condemned the continuing violence in the Middle East and called for a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine as the only way to peace. The Congress passed another emergency resolution against the Iraqi government’s abuses of workers’ rights. It also condemned the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, London and Madrid, called for no outside intervention in the internal affairs of Venezuela and Cuba, for the ITF and its affiliates to prioritize the participation of women in their organizations and for moves to strengthen trade union rights in Pakistan.
### INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

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Subtotals do not always add up because the local designation on some ballots was removed.
### COAST COMMITTEE

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### INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

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### Southern California
- Elects three.

### Desert Area
- Elects one.

### Northern California
- Elects three.

### Columbia River
- Elects two.

### Puget Sound
- Elects two.

### Alaska
- Elects one.

### Canada
- Elects one.

### IBU
- Elects one.

### Hawaii
- Elects one each from sugar, tourism, pineapple, longshore and general trades.
Frank Thompson: Islands organizer, 1944-1946

September 2006

Introduction by Harvey Schwartz

This is the first of a three-part series featuring the recollections of ILWU leaders who made important contributions to the building of the union in Hawaii. In 2004 The Dispatcher carried oral history articles on former officers Louis Goldblatt (International Secretary-Treasurer, 1943-1977) and Jack Hall (Hawaii Regional Director, 1944-1969), who are generally considered the main figures in the organization of the Islands. This month's oral history spotlights Frank Thompson, the Sacramento warehouse Local 17 charter member and founder who was also the chief field organizer in Hawaii during the 1944-1946 unionization drive there.

Goldblatt was instrumental in selecting both Hall and Thompson to organize the Islands. “We decided we needed a guy in the field like Frank Thompson who was as good an organizer as this country has ever seen,” he told Edward D. Beechert of the University of Hawaii in a 1979 interview.

Frank Thompson, who was born in 1906, worked tirelessly during his brief career in Hawaii. During these two years more than 20,000 new workers were organized into the ILWU. Most of the workers Thompson talks explicitly about here were from Filipino sugar plantation camps. But he also organized Japanese, Chinese, native Hawaiians, Portuguese and other workers and some pineapple facilities.

In many ways 1944-1946 was a unique moment in time, as Thompson’s oral history reveals, when things came together just right for the union. Thompson was the man who went out into the field and made it happen. As then International President Jimmy Herman said when Thompson died in 1979, “Frank Thompson was one of those incredibly devoted and selfless people that made the very existence of this union possible.”

Thompson reminisced about his efforts in organizing sugar workers. According to Steffens, the famous muckraker, when he was still alive in the early 1900s, he was living down at Carmel with his wife, Ella Winters, who was a pro-gressive writer herself. We’d put the bum on them for money when we wanted to put out a leaflet or feed somebody.

Around the beginning of 1935 I was approached by the guys in the Pacific Coast District of the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILWU). This was two years before the West Coast ILA became the ILWU. The ILA had a bargemen’s local on the waterfront in Sacramento. They were on strike and needed help from somebody who’d had a little experience. I stayed with them until the strike was won.

After the bargemen’s strike, we put on a big drive to finish up organizing warehouses here. We’d actually started in ‘34, but our organizing drive stalled in the early spring of ’35. Warren Denton from the San Francisco ILA warehouse local had been up here working with us, but he had to drop it. I had to pick the thing up after he left. This was later that spring.

In November of ‘35 we got our first contract. It was at the old Pioneer Mill and the warehouse here. Then we organized the wholesale grocers and the rice brokers. We’re in business ever since. I stayed with Local 17 until ‘44 when the ILWU International asked me to go to Hawaii.

They had sent Mat Meehan down there, the longshoreman out of Portland. He was there a couple or three months and then he decided he had to get a job to stay. Lou Goldblatt, the ILWU International secretary-treasurer, was looking for somebody else that could go down there and do ‘em a job. He asked me if I wanted to go. I told him I had been thinking of pretty good shape in this local. I’ll go on down and take a whack at it.” That’s how I went to Hawaii.

I went down there as regional director, but after looking the thing over a week or two I decided they didn’t need no regional director. That is, they didn’t need me, anyway. I decided I’d rather go out to organize the outside islands and get Jack Hall and Thompson to organize the Islands. “We've been in business ever since. I stayed with Local 17 until ‘44 when the ILWU International asked me to go to Hawaii. I went down there as regional director, but after looking the thing over a week or two I decided they didn’t need no regional director. That is, they didn’t need me, anyway. I decided I’d rather go out to organize the outside islands and get Jack Hall and Thompson to organize the Islands. ‘We've been in business ever since. I stayed with Local 17 until ‘44 when the ILWU International asked me to go to Hawaii. I went down there as regional director, but after looking the thing over a week or two I decided they didn’t need no regional director. That is, they didn’t need me, anyway. I decided I’d rather go out to organize the outside islands and get Jack Hall and Thompson to organize the Islands. ‘We've been in business ever since. I stayed with Local 17 until ‘44 when the ILWU International asked me to go to Hawaii. I went down there as regional director, but after looking the thing over a week or two I decided they didn’t need no regional director. That is, they didn’t need me, anyway. I decided I’d rather go out to organize the outside islands and get Jack Hall and Thompson to organize the Islands. ‘We've been in business ever since.

The first island I went to was Hawaii. I went down there on a ship under blackout conditions because we didn’t want to tip things off. It took all night to get to Hilo from Honolulu. I made a stop up Hamakua Coast and over to Olai. Then I went back to Honolulu. The next visit I made was to Kauai. All our organization there had been smashed since Pearl Harbor was bombed and military rule came in. We had to pick up the pieces from there.

We started the drive in Lihue, Kauai, particularly the big plantations. The rest of ‘em fell into line as we went along. One time the manager of the Lihue Plantation invited me to take a trip. He had a dandy yacht and he went fishing out for swordfish. I refused to go. You get on the guy’s boat, maybe he dumps you overboard. That’d be one good way to get rid of Thompson.

The union was definitely attractive to the workers. In many cases, from the time a guy was born until he died his whole life was run by the plantations. In other words, life was a form of serfdom, a peonage. On the Big Island at a lot of places if some worker had a friend in another plantation and he wanted to get permission from his manager to go to see the first guy, they used to do this, but a lot of ‘em resented it. So anything they could do to improve their wages and things of that kind, why, they were for it.

One thing that helped us organize is that during the war the workers were frozen to their jobs in all the outside islands. They couldn’t go to Honolulu even to work in defense unless they got a permit, and they couldn’t get a permit because the manpower committees wouldn’t allow ‘em to. The authorities had to keep men on the islands to run that sugar ‘cause sugar was considered war essential. So we weren’t organizing people one day and then having to reorganize a place over again the next day. The workers were all stuck there.

Another element that helped was the background of the union sailors coming ashore in Hawaii at the various ports and talking to the sugar workers and other ‘44 strike. The maritime workers were probably among the world’s best organizers back then because of the nature of their travels and the people they came in contact with. They could deliver a message quicker than a newspaper.

Beyond this, the missionaries and planters had given the Hawaiian workers a pretty good primary school education. Consequently the people weren’t illiterate. They could read what was going on. So they...
After that, and after the passage that same year of the Hawaii Employee Relations Act, nicknamed the Little Wagner Act, that covered agricultural workers, the plantation owners said, "Look, there's no use having elections. If you sign up the people in the agricultural fields and think you've got a majority, see the plantations manager. If you can show applications signed by 51 percent, we will recognize you." That's how we got the agricultural units in.

Like I said, I left the Islands for a while, but I came back on V/2 Day (Victory over Japan Day), August 15, 1945. I wasn't gonna go back, but things got rough so I hustled back and stayed until the end of August 1946. The problem was that the workers were having a little dispute among themselves, a little divisiveness. I called Harry Bridges and said, "I wish you'd blow a little smoke and tell these guys how good they are. Tell 'em you'd like to give 'em schooling and you're inviting them to the mainland as students." This is what he did. When they came back from the mainland they were different people.

The guys had been green and they had figured things should go a lot faster than they did. But things just gel so fast and no faster. The first contract they had in sugar wasn't much to speak about and they were pretty dissatisfied about that. But it was a start. Some of the red hots expected more in the way of benefits than what they originally got. Going into the 1946 sugar negotiations we pretty well figured there'd be a strike. During the strike the sugar planters wanted to keep the workers down, and course we got quite a boost when we got that NLRB decision. But what we got in that first contract in 1945 was goddamn little and the sugar planters had no desire to do real collective bargaining. So with the war over, we knew what we were facing. We either moved with the whole hapa crew and did a job on those planters or they'd run us out of business.

To prepare we had a lot of educational meetings. We knew one of the questions in the workers' minds was, "How do you feed this bunch of people?" So Bob Robertson, the ILWU International vice-president, and I exhorted the workers that we're gonna have to set up kitchens, send some of our people out to sea to catch fish, and send others into the hills to do some hunting if there was anything running around loose up there to shoot at. In the meantime we'd organize them transportation workers.

We spent hours up in the mountains in Hawaii, thinking what they were gonna do to our union. Those goddamn planters were looking at all these guys, figuring what they were gonna do to our union. When those employers saw those buttons, man, their faces dropped a foot-and-a-half, you know? So we raised a lot of hell because the accommodations the planters had for these people were the same as you'd do cattle, only worse. We had a hell of a demonstration over that one.

When I left Hawaii that second time at the end of August 1946 it was the eve of the sugar strike. Back on the mainland I spent a good deal of time with Virginia Woods, one of the research workers in the ILWU. We were the ones who got the rice for the sugar strikers. First we got a commitment on rice from the rice mills over here. You had to go through the maritime commission to get a ship, and the guy sitting on that commission was an ex-shipowner. No surprise, we couldn't get our own ship, but we got enough space on this one vessel to get the rice to Hawaii.

The psychological idea of the rice was to show the union couldn't only organize the people, but it could also deliver, because the Hawaiian workers were always fearful that the employers would starve 'em to death. Back on the mainland I spent a good deal of time with Virginia Woods, one of the research workers in the ILWU. We were the ones who got the rice for the sugar strikers. First we got a commitment on rice from the rice mills over here. You had to go through the maritime commission to get a ship, and the guy sitting on that commission was an ex-shipowner. No surprise, we couldn't get our own ship, but we got enough space on this one vessel to get the rice to Hawaii.

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SSCD/NCCD California endorsements

Governor
Phil Angelides (D)
Li. Governor.........JohAnn G. Geren (D)
Att. General........Roy Ashcroft (D)
Sec'y of State......Debra Bowen (D)
Treasurer.........Bill Lockyer (D)
Controller.........John Chiang (D)
Imm. Comm........... Cruz Bustamante (D)

Board of Equalization
District 1........Betty Yee (D)
District 2.........No Endorsement
District 3.........No Endorsement
District 4.........Judy Chiu (D)

Ballot Measures
Proposition 1A — YES
Transportation Funding for Legislative Constitutional Amendment
Proposition 1B — YES
Highways, Safety, Traffic Resolution, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond

Proposition 1C — YES
Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Act of 2006
Proposition 1D — YES
Kinderhook University Public Education Facilities Bonds Act of 2006

Proposition 1E — YES
District Proposers and Fiduciary Protection Act of 2006

Proposition 83 — No Recommendation
San Andreas Fault, Sex Offenders, Sexual Predator, Forestry and Sensitive Habitats

Proposition 84 — YES
Water Quality, Safety and Supply, Flood Control, Natural Resource Protection, Park Improvements, Bonds

Proposition 85 — NO
Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor’s Pregnancy, Initiative Constitutional Amendment

Proposition 86 — YES
Tax on Cigarettes, Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statutes

Proposition 87 — YES
Alternative Research, Production, Incentives, Tax on California Oil, Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statutes

Proposition 88 — NO
Education Funding, Real Property Parcel Tax, Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statutes

Proposition 89 — No Recommendation
Political Campaigns, Public Financing, Corporate Tax Increase, Contribution and Expenditure Limits, Initiative Statutes

Proposition 90 — NO
Government Acquisition, Repopulation of Private Property, Initiative Constitutional Amendment

United States Senator
Dianne Feinstein (D)

U.S. Congress

District

Candidate

1.
Mike Thompson (D)
2.
No Endorsement
3.
Bill Durston (D)
4.
Charlie Brown (D)
5.
DK Mattis (D)
6.
Lynn Woolston (D)
7.
George Miller (D)
8.
Nancy Pelosi (D)
9.
Barbara Lee (D)
10.
Ellen Tauscher (D)
11.
Jerry McNerney (D)
12.
Tom Lantos (D)
13.
Fortney “Pete” Stark (D)
14.
Anna Eshoo (D)
15.
Mike Honda (D)
16.
Zoe Lofgren (D)
17.
Sam Farr (D)
18.
Denise Cauzano (D)
19.
T.J. Cox (D)
20.
Jim Costa (D)
21.
Steven Haze (D)
22.
Sharon Berry (D)
23.
Lois Capps (D)
24.
Bill Martinez (D)
25.
Robert Rodriguez (D)
26.
Cynthia Matthews (D)
27.
Brad Sherman (D)
28.
Howard Berman (D)
29.
Adam Schiff (D)
30.
Henry Waxman (D)
31.
Xavier Becerra (D)
32.
Hilda Solis (D)
33.
Diane Watson (D)
34.
Lucille Roybal-Alard (D)
35.
Maurine Waters (D)
36.
Jane Haman (D)
37.
Juanita Millender-McDonald (D)
38.
Grace Napolitano (D)
39.
Linda Sanchez (D)
40.
Francesco Filippone (D)
41.
Duali: Louise Conforta (D), Jerry Lewis (R)
42.
No Endorsement
43.
Joe Baca (D)
44.
Louis Vanderberg (D)
45.
Daveロック (D)
46.
Jim Brandt (D)
47.
Loretta Sanchez (D)
48.
Steve Young (D)
49.
Jenni Cervantes (D)
50.
Francine Busby (D)
51.
Bob Filner (D)
52.
John Rinaldi (D)
53.
No Endorsement

California State Senate

District

Candidate

1.
Pati Wilkins (D)
2.
Paul Singh (D)
3.
Darrell Steinberg (D)
4.
Leland Yee (D)
5.
Ellen Corbett (D)
6.
William Nickle (D)
7.
No Endorsement
8.
Dean Florez (D)
9.
No Endorsement
10.
Alex Padilla (D)
11.
Gil Cedillo (D)
12.
Raul Romero (D)
13.
Mark Ridley-Thomas (D)
14.
Jenny Oropeza (D)
15.
Gloria Negrete-McLeod (D)
16.
Lou Correa (D)
17.
Mark Hansen (D)
18.
No Endorsement
19.
Denise Dutcher (D)

State Assembly

District

Candidate

1.
Patty Berg (D)
2.
No Endorsement
3.
Mickey Harrington (D)
4.
Rob Haswell (D)
5.
Brandon Belt (D)
6.
Jared Huffman (D)
7.
Noreen Evans (D)
8.
Lisa Walk (D)
9.
Dave Jones (D)
10.
Jim Cook (D)
11.
Mark DeSaulnier (D)
12.
 Fiona Ma (D)
13.
Mark Leno (D)
14.
Bob Wieckowski (D)
15.
Terry Coleman (D)
16.
Sandi Swanson (D)
17.
Barbara Boxer (D)
18.
Mary Hayashi (D)
19.
Genn Mullin (D)
20.
Perla Mabbs (D)
21.
Ira Ruskin (D)
22.
Sally Lieber (D)
23.
Joe Coto (D)
24.
James Beall (D)
25.
Chuck Box (D)
26.
John Laird (D)
27.
Anna Caballero (D)
28.
Nicole Parra (D)
29.
Juan Aambrizula (D)
30.
Robert Cuffevelt (D)
31.
No Endorsement
32.
Pedro Nova (D)
33.
Bo Byam (D)
34.
Ferali Msaly (D)
35.
Lynn Shaw (D)
36.
Michael Alcorn (D)
37.
Lloyd Levine (D)
38.
Julia Browuley (D)
39.
Mike Feuer (D)
40.
Paul Krekorian (D)
41.
Anthony Portantino (D)
42.
Kevin de Leon (D)
43.
Fabian Nunez (D)
44.
Karen Bass (D)
45.
Mike Davis (D)
46.
Mike Eng (D)
47.
Hector de la Torre (D)
48.
Carren Price (D)
49.
Mervyn Dymally (D)
50.
Ted Lieu (D)
51.
Betty Karnette (D)
52.
Laura Richardson (D)
53.
Tony Muraca (D)
54.
Charles Calderon (D)
55.
Ellen Hernandez (D)
56.
Charles Calderon (D)
57.
Dilliot Banker (D)
58.
Van Tran (D)
59.
Neli Soto (D)
60.
Wilmer Amms Carter (D)
61.
No Endorsement
62.
Paul Rasso (D)
63.
Rita Ramirez-Dean (D)
64.
Maxine Waters (D)
65.
Ray Roberts (D)
66.
Paul Lucas (D)
67.
Jose Solorio (D)
68.
Mike Glover (D)
69.
Charlie La Chance (D)
70.
John MacMurray (D)
71.
No Endorsement
72.
Roxana Fochscu (D)
73.
No Endorsement
74.
Lori Saldaña (D)
75.
Christopher Larson (D)
76.
Mary Salas (D)
77.
Steve Cline (D)

Columbia River District

Council Oregon endorsements

Governor
Ted Kulongoski
Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries
Dan Gardner

Sup’t. of Public Instruction
Sue Castillo

Ballot Initiatives

Measure 39 — NO

Measure 40 — NO

measure 41 — YES

Ballot Initiatives

Measure 46 and 47 — NO

California State Senator

U.S. Congress

District 1........David Wu
District 2.........Carol Voisin
District 3........Bill Otter
District 4........Peter DeFazio
District 5.........Darlene Hooley

State Senate

District 1........Alan Bates
District 4........Floyd Prozanski
District 6.........Bill Montiessie
District 7.........Rick Walker
District 10........Paul Evans
District 11.......Peter Courtney
District 16.......Elizabeth “Tony” Johnson
District 17.......Brad Avakian
District 19.......Richard Devlin
District 20.......Kurt Schrader
District 24.......Jesse Cornett
District 26.......Dick Metager

State House of Representatives

District 3........Howard Owens
District 5........Peter Buckley
District 6........Paul Holvey
District 9.........Amie Rubin
District 11.......Phil Barnhart
District 12.......Elizabeth Terry Beyor
District 13.......Nancy Nathon
District 16.......Sara Gelser
District 17.......Dan Thatai
District 19.......Brian Grisam
District 21.......Brian Clem
District 22.......Betty Komp
District 23.......Jason Brown
District 24.......Sal Peralta
District 25.......Chuck “Chuck” Lee
District 27.......Tobias Reed
District 28.......Jeff Barker
District 29.......Chuck Riley
District 30.......David Edwards
District 31.......Brad Witt
District 32.......Deborah Boone
District 33.......Mitch Greenick
District 34.......Suzeanne Bonamici
District 35.......Larry Goll
District 36.......Mary Nota
District 38.......Greg MacPherson
District 40.......Dave Loeber
District 41.......Carolyn Torme
District 42.......Diane Rosenbaum
District 43.......Chip Steeds
District 44.......Tina Kotek
District 45.......Jackson Dieglyder
District 46.......Mary Bobin
District 47.......Jeff Merkey
District 48.......Mike Schuaffer
District 49.......Bob Brading
District 50.......Jim Gilbertson

The Puget Sound District

Council Washington State endorsements

U.S. Senator

Maria Cantwell

U.S. Representatives:

1st District....Jay Inslee
2nd District....Rick Larson
3rd District....Brian Baird
8th District....Darcy Burner
9th District....Adam Smith

ENDORSED CANDIDATES WIN! REGISTER TO VOTE
ACLU report reveals widespread police spying, infiltration

by Tom Price

When ILWU longshore workers and peace activists sued the City of Oakland over police brutality at the April 7, 2003, demonstrations, they charged the police had engaged in illegal surveillance of the protestors before the protest.

At a press conference in San Francisco at the ACLU of Northern California released a report documenting numerous examples of unlawful police activities called “The State of Surveillance: Government Monitoring of Political Activity in Northern and Central California.” It details spying in Oakland, Fresno, Sacramento, Santa Cruz and San Francisco. Students also faced infiltration by the FBI in UC Berkeley and Fresno State University. It was also pointed out that since September 11, 2001, with the help of $500 million in federal funds, California has built its own central anti-terrorism center, numerous police and sheriff departments have developed their own homeland security units and more that anti-terrorism liaison officers have joined an FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force.

The ACLU report documents how the Oakland police played a covert role in the April 7, 2003 demonstration at the Port of Oakland. That morning peaceful demonstrators picketed two stevedoring companies, accusing them of hiring a private security firm. Their demo ended in a police riot that injured 40 protesters. Nine ILWU workers were well away from the picket line and waiting for an arbitrator’s ruling on health and safety were also arrested.

“Prior to the April 7 demonstrations, there was a secret meeting between the police and the Port of Oakland, the shipping companies and the police,” then-Local 10 Business Agent Paul Welty testified at the April 27 press conference. “They planned out what was going to be televised April 7. There was direct collusion. The New York Times quotes then-Police Chief Richard Word saying he mobilized his troops to ‘the bell of the maritime companies.’ One wonders who the government and the police are working with.”

The cops brutally arrested Heyman while he tried to get his members away from police fire. Injured demonstrators later won a $2 million lawsuit away from police fire. Demonstrators scoffed at Jordan’s claim that his undercover agents fooled these veteran activists, pointing out that no one was “elected” to do anything. All decisions were discussed and made by a full assembly at an open planning meeting—a group they estimate at 80-100 people.

“People want to know how about the events, but rather than meeting with the protestors, they’re infiltrating,” Heyman said. “And this provides fertile grounds for agents provocateurs. If there was something thrown at police, just who threw it?”

Jordan had hinted at infiltration in statements made two weeks after the May 12 demonstration. “If you put people in there from the beginning, I think we’d be able to direct them,” Jordan told the Oakland police review board.

Labor became a target again Jan. 24, 2004 when two deputies of the center’s support staff arrived on the docks four months after the April 7 demonstration. A San Francisco Tribune reporter asked about the Tottenham House, according to the ACLU report. However, FSU still required by law and have been required by law and have been expressed expressly, according to the ACLU report. However, FSU still refuses to release the police reports of the November 2004 demo.

The San Francisco Police Dept. has a policy with fairly strong protections against violating First Amendment activities. Nonetheless, without the authorization of the chief of police, officers posed as protesters to monitor demonstrations against the Iraq War in October 2002 and February 2003. One officer went so far as to wear a Che Guevara pin.

The Sacramento Police Dept. sent an employee to an anti-Iraq War rally Feb. 15, 2003 to videotape the demonstration. The camerawoman, wearing a jacket labeled “Identification Specialist,” was accompanied by two uniformed officers. When asked by rally organizers why she was tapped, she reportedly replied, “This is a crime scene.”

“Bill Lockyer came out with a mandate in March 2003 that it made it clear that law enforcement agencies under California’s constitution are required to protect the privacy of people on an ongoing basis,” the ACLU’s Mark Schlosberg, the report’s author.

Lockyer’s manual was printed and distributed to law enforcement agencies throughout the state. Last year the ACLU commissioned a survey of 103 law enforcement agencies to see how the manual was being implemented. They found a lack of regulations protecting people and organizations’ rights against government surveillance. Only a handful mentioned the Lockyer manual, or acknowledged having it. Only six departments had policies that restricted the monitoring of organizations engaging in First Amendment-protected activities. Only 20 provided documents regulating intelligence files, according to the report.

The ACLU of Northern California is recommending three reforms by state and local authorities to safeguard liberties: 1) Adopt and implement local law enforcement regulations on monitoring any protected activity. 2) Pass regulations through the state legislature on state and local intelligence agencies. 3) Institute regulations and training promoting the right of privacy in local police cooperation with federal agencies.

The report is available online at: www.aclunc.org/surveillance_report
Jorge Mendoza was a leader in the strike at Cananea in 1998. After being blacklisted, he was forced to go north to Phoenix to find work. Copper miners on the bus taking them out of the pit at the end of their shift.
said his supervisor told him, "If you don’t like it, leave," Gomez Urrutia said.

A union worker can refuse, and a labor-management safety committee will back him or her up. But contract workers have no union or safety committee. Unions say employers push them harder to take more risks, and pay them less. At Pasta de Conchos, subcontracted coal miners were getting 90 pesos a day (about $9) working 10-12 hours, well beyond the legal 8-hour limit.

Contract employment is a new phenomenon in Mexico, a product of privatization. When the Cananea and Nacozari copper miners and the Sicartsa mill belonged to the government, all workers became permanent employees by probation. But when Sicartsa was sold to the Villareals, they put half the workforce on 28-day contracts. Mexican law stipulates that workers receive labor protections after 30 days.

In a July 2006 report the National Human Rights Commission found that the local office of the federal labor ministry had “clear knowledge” before the accident of the conditions that would set off the explosion. In 2004 labor safety inspectors found 48 health and safety violations in the mine, including oil and gas leaks, missing safety devices and broken lighting. Although Grupo Mexico was given an order to fix the illegal conditions, no inspection was carried out to ensure the company had done so until Feb. 7, 12 days before the explosion.

Lack of enforcement continues. Since the accident, eight miners in other mines have died in accidents. By August, Labor Secretary Salazar had still not paid the families of the dead miners at Pasta de Conchos the legal required indemnity for their dead miners at Pasta de Conchos the Mexican miners face off with the government

Moved by pressure from copper miners, that led to his expulsion, Elias Morales, of belonging to the miners' union, challenged him to come face-to-face with the workers themselves, and accused him of hiding in his office in the labor ministry.

Most Mexican unions say the charges against Gomez Urrutia are bogus, and have organized huge demonstrations to protest. They say the government has done the same to other unions, like those for airline and bus employees, which challenged its policies.

The same day Fox’s labor board announced it would allow Grupo Mexico to fire the Nacozari miners, his administration also issued arrest warrants against six other mine union leaders and raided the union’s national office in Mexico City. Facing the threat of closure at their own mine, the union local at Cananea then voted to end their strike, although they continue to demand Gomez Urrutia's reinstatement. At Sicartsa the strike was ended Aug. 22, when the local, which supports Gomez Urrutia, agreed to accept an eight percent wage increase, back pay for their time on strike and a $700 bonus. Grupo Villacero will compensate the families of the workers killed and those injured in the police attack.

In the meantime, however, Gomez Urrutia and his family fled Mexico. Interviewed by phone from a secret location, Gomez Urrutia said he and his wife received many death threats. Leaders of the United Steel Workers, which represents U.S. and Canadian copper miners, urged him to leave until his safety could be guaranteed. Fox has demanded that Canada extradite him.

The Mexican and U.S. unions formed a strategic alliance last year, but their ties go back much further. Copper miners come from the same families on both sides of the border. In the cold war era, the leftwing Mine Mill union, now part of USW, supported Mexican copper strikers. That tradition was renewed in 1998, when union caravans from Arizona brought food and help to Cananea.

"Grupo Mexico now owns mines on the U.S. side, so we’re facing the same employers," USW International Director Gerry Fernandez explained. "We’re directly affected by the Mexican government’s attack on the miners, and we’re going to defend them."

Mexicans headed for the polls in the middle of this turmoil. Grupo Mexico and Grupo Villacero poured money into Calderon’s campaign, funding commercials predicting chaos if Lopez Obrador, candidate of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), were elected. Images of violence on national TV from Oaxaca and Michoacan dovetailed with corporate-funded commercials for the PAN’s Calderon.

While Fox was trying to seize control of the mines, Lopez Obrador outlined his labor policy on a campaign swing through Sonora, where the copper miners were on strike.

"We will promote respect for union democracy," he told reporters, "and there will be no intervention in the life of the unions. Workers can freely elect their own leaders."

On July 2 the official count gave Calderon a 200,000-vote lead among more than 40 million votes cast. Mexico’s most progressive unions (including the miners) then called for a recount, after a吉林省香的 fraud threw the tiny margin into doubt. Huge national demonstrations have occurred in the same demand, and tent encampments of protestors have thrown traffic into chaos on Mexico’s broad main avenue, The Reforma.

Mexico has traveled so far down the road of neoliberalism, that union democracy alone cannot reverse its course. But the ability of workers to control their unions is the key to electing leaders willing to challenge corporations and the government policies protecting them. Despite their weakened state, unions are still a powerful force. And rank-and-file miners and teachers have been willing to face repression and violence to defend their leaders who demand a change in direction.

Whether or not Lopez Obrador and the PRD win a recount, this conflict over change will continue. The day Grupo Mexico announced it was firing the Nacozari miners, an anonymous spokesperson for Sonatran, one of Mexico’s largest, told Reuters that Mexican business welcomed the action.

"This sets a precedent, so the workers will think harder," he threatened.

But echoing Tom Joad, Cananea miners’ leader Francisco Hernandez responded: "Wherever there is a miner, there is a person fighting for labor rights and social justice," he said.

And in Oaxaca, on the day after the bloody confrontation, over 300,000 people marched through the city to defend their embattled teachers.
September 2006

NOTICE TO ALL ILWU-REPRESENTED EMPLOYEES, ILWU MEMBERS, FINANCIAL CORE-NONMEMBERS AND NEW HIREs

This notice applies to all ILWU-represented employees, ILWU members, nonmembers and new hires in an economic status, including employees who are members and individuals who happen at any time in the past during financial management matters and individuals, including by choice, suspension or expulsion from union membership in any contract. This notice is applicable to the one year period following the date of this notice, unless otherwise covered by a notice of similar kind.

Information contained herein applies to ILWU International per capita and, for those working in the Longshore Division, the West Coast Port Pro-Rata Committee. At the present time, this notice applies to any ILWU local and division with respect to its dues structure.

Pleas be advised that individuals working under a union security clause contained in a collective bargaining agreement, not withstanding the specific provisions of such clause, have the right to appeal any decision or employment under such clause to the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) and its affiliates or to the appropriate locals and divisions of the ILWU. Nevertheless, financial core members are deemed to be in compliance with the specific provisions of such a clause, and to the extent such a challenge is resolved, if not voluntary, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the ILWU International's nonchargeable percent of 13% stated above and, in addition, for this week going forward, a notice of a Division, an appropriate monthly reduction may be made. The ILWU Coast Pro Rata fees reflecting the ILWU Coast Pro Rata Committee's expendi-

The ILWU Coast Pro Rata Committee has adopted Procedures on Financial Core Members Objecting to Nonchargeable Expenditures (hereinafter called the "Procedures") for members who may, by writing to the ILWU Secretary-Treasurer, object to any item or class of expenditures of the ILWU International. Please be advised that individuals work under such clause to pay union fees, or to receive such benefits and may, by writing to the ILWU Secretary-Treasurer, object to any item or class of expenditures of the ILWU International. Nevertheless, financial core members are deemed to be in compliance with the specific provisions of such a clause, and to the extent such a challenge is resolved, if not voluntary, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the ILWU International's nonchargeable percent of 13% stated above and, in addition, for this week going forward, a notice of a Division, an appropriate monthly reduction may be made. The ILWU Coast Pro Rata fees reflecting the ILWU Coast Pro Rata Committee's expendi-

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The ILWU lost a much beloved leader and lifelong activist when Keith Eickman of warehouse Local 6 passed away July 30. Eickman was a politically engaged youth in the 1930s, a warehouse worker and a labor leader who dedicated his life to the ILWU. After the war, he helped bring about the racial integration of the local’s leadership. He was also a highly-regarded Local 6 business agent, secretary-treasurer and president, and a respected and beloved San Francisco community figure. In keeping with his steadfast devotion to the ILWU, Eickman was still president of the Local 6 West Bay Pensioners when he died.

One of Eickman’s great contributions was in striving for the full integration of Local 6 on every level at a time when the local’s leadership was entirely white. With a great influx of black workers into the local during and immediately after WWII, black workers found it nearly impossible to find a job immediately needed. But the local’s election rules then greatly favored incumbents over minority challengers. So when he entered office as a business agent in 1958, Eickman allied himself with the local’s young black members and used his position to help reform the electoral system.

“Keith was the first elected officer who worked on getting representation for blacks at the highest level of the local,” LeRoy King said. King, a fixture in San Francisco’s black community, is a former Local 6 secretary-treasurer who served for many years as ILWU Northern California Regional Director. He is still active with the ILWU Northern California Regional Council. King came into the warehouse union near the end of WWII. He worked closely with Eickman for 60 years.

“Keith was my best friend,” King said. “He was instrumental in getting Curtis McClain elected as Local 6’s first black officer in 1960 when he broke up the long segregation of the executive board by running for each business agent. It was also characteristic of Keith that he consistently sought equity for us, but always working to bring all the people in the community together. He was a great humanitarian.”

Ron Zoba Hunter, another black worker of long standing in Local 6, entered the ILWU in 1945. Like King, she was a good friend and colleague of Eickman. She remembered him fondly for how Eickman always got the various groups to work with him when he was in office.

“His was never held meetings with just white people,” she pointed out. “He’d recruit committee members of nine or so dependable people and they were always highly respected. He had a lot of influence.

When she retired, Eickman recommended her as secretary-treasurer of the West Bay Pensioners. She remembers him today as a “man who never quit.”

“I thought the world of Keith,” she said. “I don’t know what we’ll do without him."

Bettina Zadora was an active Local 6 adherent from 1946 to 1956. As a board of trustees member, she worked with Eickman and King in the 1950s to get the ILWU stewards’ council and purse control. Another long-time friend of Eickman’s, she emphasized that he consistently pushed in negotiations to narrow the gender wage differential in Local 6’s contract that was a hold-over from the old voting system, with its separate slates for men and women.

“Keith was active in the Local 6 stewards’ council and on negotiating committees into the mid-1950s,” he said. “He was interested in their wages, but never stopped trying to bring all the people in the community together. He was a great humani-

tarian.”

Robert Resnick, of course, laid the basis for whatever my then out-of-print book, “The March Inland: A Political History of the ILWU,” published in 1981, to be deeply involved in a variety of community affairs. A conservationist for many years, he has been appointed to the San Francisco Parks and Recreation Commission in 1977. He was also a member of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

Eickman sat on the board of directors of RQED, Northern California’s public broadcasting station, the San Francisco Exploratorium and the Zoological Society. He actively supported the Labor Archives and Research Center at San Francisco State University. He also gave the ILWU Legacy Fund $2,500 in 2000 to make possible the reissue of my then out-of-print book, “The March Inland: Origins of the ILWU Warehouse Division, 1934-1958.”

“Keith set an example of how you can be very can be very strong but very gracious, and at the same time remember what class you are from and be secure in that,” Pecker said.

Eickman was preceded in death by Nina Eickman, his wife, and Robin Eickman, his daughter. He is survived by Kent Eickman, and a union engineer, Peter Bissell, his stepson and an ILWU member, Patrick Mulkeen, his son-in-law and a union teacher, Yvonne York, his sister, three grandchildren and countless grateful ILWU members and their families.

Family and friends will hold a memorial for Keith Eickman at ILWU Local 34 hall at 4 Berry Street on Oct. 14 at 2 pm.

Keith Eickman (right) and LeRoy King during the Nestle strike in Salinas, Calif. in 1976.

An idealist in his youth, and in some ways throughout his life, in 1937 Eickman was a bookkeeper at the Rosenberg Dried Fruit Company in Santa Clara, Calif. He was not a member of the firm’s production staff. Still, he said of himself with characteristic self-reflection and humor in 1981, “armed with the virtue of my beliefs, I announced to everyone in the plant that the candy workers should join the Committee for Industrial Organization (CIO).” Rosenberg, of course, laid him off “for lack of work.”

Eickman collected unemployment, got a job through the New Deal’s Works Progress Administration, and did a short stint with Westinghouse Corporation. His date with destiny came in 1941 when he found warehouse work with the Zellerbach Paper Company in San Francisco through the Local 6 hiring hall. In 1942 he became the plant’s steward. He felt, he said in his oral his-
tory, that he’d “practically reached glory.”

In 1945 Eickman was elected secretary of the Local 6 stewards’ council. A month later he was drafted. He was in an army railway battalion in Europe when Nazi Germany surrendered in 1945. Eickman was discharged from the military the next year. He returned to San Francisco, Zellerbach and Local 6 and attended classes at the California Labor School.

Throughout 1948 Eickman campaigned zealously for Henry Wallace, the anti-Cold War Progressive Party candidate who ran as independent with the Communist support. Eickman later said he learned a hard but valuable political lesson about believing his convictions were always shared by others when some older Local 6 workers rebuffed him for insist-
ting that they vote for Wallace.

“Another lesson he taught me,” said Robin Eickman, “was easy to strike. But later there was so much in the package that you couldn’t just walk out when-
ever you felt like it. I never forgot that lesson.”

“When I needed advice I’d always go to Keith and, of course, my Uncle LeRoy,” Pecker continued. “Keith was a friend and a mentor. He was always concerned about the people around him, about their families and about how they were doing. Keith really didn’t have much formal education, but his interests and concerns in the world were always there. He was always interested in what his fellow students were doing in the school of hard knocks.”

Betty de Losada depicted Eickman as a Renaissance man, for his interests truly were boundless. Beside his commitment to politics—he served on the ILWU Northern California District Council and the union’s historic Campaign Committee—he was deeply involved in a variety of community affairs. A conservationist for many years, he has been appointed to the San Francisco Parks and Recreation Commission in 1977. He was also a member of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

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