

Important Notice—
see page 14



The DISPATCHER

Published by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union

Vol. 64, No. 8



The Dispatcher (ISSN 0012-3765) is published monthly except for a combined July/August issue, for \$5.00 a year and \$10.00 a year for non-members by the ILWU, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Periodical postage paid at San Francisco, CA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Dispatcher, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109.

September 2006

www.ilwu.org

New Officers take union's helm



page 3

International Secretary-Treasurer William E. Adams, International Vice President, Hawaii Wesley Furtado, International President Robert McEllrath, 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

page 5



Former Local 6 Pres. Keith Eickman, 1913-2006

page 15

INSIDE

- ILWU election results local by local pages 6-7
- Oral history: Frank Thompson and organizing the Islands 1944-1946 pages 8-9
- The ILWU's November election endorsements page 10
- ACLU uncovers widespread police spying, infiltration page 11
- Mexican miners face off with the government pages 12-13

Inside Line

SCHWARZENEGGER'S MEDICINE SHOW

*"You know he always holds it in a tent,
And if you're looking for the real thing,
He can show you where it went."*

—J.R. ROBERTSON

As the November election approaches, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is doing his best to appear liberal, embracing Democratic issues and Democrats, seeking smiling consensus and conspicuously avoiding George W. Bush. He's no longer the mean, vindictive anti-union crusader who got his political clock cleaned in his special election last year. But while he's trying to shed his snake skin, he's selling snake oil.

He's not really a liberal—he's just playing one on TV. His charade is as movie box office as any role he's played—all make believe. He's been forced by the political reality of California to change his act.

Now he's signing bills to raise the minimum wage, to provide prescription drug assistance and to curb greenhouse gases. With unexpected money in the state coffers he's increasing spending on education and settling contracts with unions he was previously at war with. He's out promoting the \$37 billion infrastructure bonds on the state ballot, a measure all sides agree with.

But, it's all a fraud. While he is making a big show out of signing these bills, he's quietly vetoing more important ones—one that would provide health care to all Californians and another that would have extended unemployment payments to locked-out workers. He is expected to veto another bill that would increase worker disability payments. And he's attacking his Democratic opponent Phil Angelides as pro-tax because he is proposing raising taxes on the richest one percent of the state's population to fund health care and education for all—reason enough by itself to vote for Angelides.

On any issue that actually divides along lines of the rich versus working people, Schwarzenegger sides with the rich and the rest of you be damned. The November election gives us a chance to fold up Arnold's tent and send his right-wing sideshow packing.

—Steve Stallone

DISPATCHER AWARDS

The *Dispatcher* won several awards for its 2005 coverage in the journalism contest of the International Labor Communications Association (ILCA), the organization of union publication editors, web masters and communication staffers. Marcy Rein, ILWU Communications Specialist for Organizing, won First Award for Best Organizing Story for her "Desert Docks and Octopi: How is ILWU work changing and why" (January). *Dispatcher* graphic artist Jim Swanson won First Award for Best Front Page for his depiction of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger as a caveman dragging California back to the Stone Age (September) and Second Award for Best Cartoon for his drawing of Schwarzenegger manhandling the "girlie special interests" of teachers and nurses (March). Harvey Schwartz, Curator of the ILWU Oral History Project, won Second Award for Best Labor Story for his piece "That Red Button Girl: Billie Hendricks of Local 6" (March). And finally, *Dispatcher* editor Steve Stallone won Second Award for Best Column for "The Priceless Cost" (February).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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 through 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 reinforce and create 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. It allows not only for more to get done, but for it to be done better with the views and experience of all involved. It also helps build the leadership skills of many more of our members, making the ILWU stronger for the future.

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 solidar-

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.



ity 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,
Spinner

The DISPATCHER

Published monthly except for a combined July/August issue, for \$5.00, \$10 non-members, a year by the ILWU, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6898. The *Dispatcher* welcomes letters, photos and other submissions to the above address. © ILWU, 2005.



www.ilwu.org

Steve Stallone
Editor

Tom Price
Assistant Editor

ILWU Titled Officers

ROBERT McELLRATH
President

JOSEPH R. RADISICH WESLEY FURTADO
Vice President Vice President

WILLIAM E. ADAMS
Secretary-Treasurer

New Officers sworn in, take charge



Outgoing International President Jim Spinosa swears in the new officers.

John Showalter

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 pres-

ent 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 unani-

mously 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 R. Radisich

International Vice President, Hawaii: Wesley Furtado

California Coast Committeeman: Ray Ortiz Jr.

Northwest Coast Committeeman: Leal Sundet

Southern California IEB representatives: Mike Mitre, John Tousseau, Luisa Gratz

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 Vekich, Conrad Spell

Hawaii Local 142 representatives: President Fred Galdones, Nate Lum (longshore), Joey Silva (tourism), Robert Zahl (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 will be Alan Cote´, Nate Lum, George O'Neil and Max Vekich.

The board also passed a Statement of Policy in Support of the Sobeys Workers, members of the Retail, Wholesale Distribution and Service Union (RWDSU), 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.

—S.S.



Members of the IEPC and Balloting Committee (BC), left to right: Arthur Reeves, Local 142, IEPC; Jack Wyatt Sr., Local 17, BC; Donal Mahon, Local 6, BC; Eli Miura, Local 142, IEPC; Steve Fyten, Local 10, BC; Martin Jenson, Local 142, IEPC.



New International President Bob McEllrath takes the gavel from his predecessor Jim Spinosa.

Tom Price

Steve Stallone

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 Saskatoon 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.

Wherever they go, there we are

by Marcy Rein

Early on the organizing committee members at Blue Diamond Growers (BDG) learned they would have to think outside the gates of their Sacramento almond-processing plant to win their drive to join ILWU warehouse Local 17. This summer, their campaign has taken them to places they never thought they'd see, like Seoul and Tokyo—and to small towns all over north-central California, like Modesto, Atwater, Chico and Colusa.

"Almond Growers tries to paint the campaign into a little square around 18th and C Streets," said organizing committee member Mike Olivera. "I tell people it's on a world scale. Wherever Blue Diamond is, we will be there as well."

BDG has a global reach, shipping 70 percent of its almonds overseas. Japan ranks third among BDG's top 10 customers. South Korea ranks sixth.

Blue Diamond also has deep roots in California. It runs as a cooperative and its almond-farmer members and decision-makers live and work in towns scattered around Hwy. 99, from Bakersfield in the south to Chico in the north.

And BDG is anti-union. It met the workers' drive with a nasty union-busting campaign. The National Labor Relations Board found it guilty of more than 20 labor law violations, including the firings of two union supporters. Though the company re-hired the two, it insists it did nothing wrong.

The committee members have pushed back. Last year, they had dozens of meetings with unions and community groups and public officials around Sacramento, seeking to build backing for their right to organize. Now they are reaching deeper into Blue Diamond's networks of customers, distributors, shippers and decision-makers, and pressing for a formal neutrality agreement between the company and the union.

SEOUL BROTHERS

Organizing Committee member Gene Esparza couldn't believe his ears when ILWU organizer Agustin Ramirez told him he would be going to Seoul, South Korea in July.

"I asked him to repeat himself three times," said Esparza, a forklift driver with 36 years at the Blue Diamond Growers (BDG) plant in Sacramento.

The ILWU has coordinated two international days of action in support of the BDG workers, the second during its convention in Vancouver in May. Several global and national unions and federations have helped carry the workers' message to BDG customers and distributors overseas.

Most recently, South Korea's two main federations—the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) and the Federation of Korean Trade Unions (FKTU)—have stepped forward, along with the Zenkowan, the All-Japan Dock Workers' Union.

The Koreans linked the Blue Diamond workers' organizing to the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (KORUS-FTA) now being negotiated. In March 2006, Blue Diamond asked the U.S. Trade Representative to include a provision in the KORUS FTA that would eliminate the duties on U.S. almonds imported into Korea.

"We are deeply disturbed that Blue Diamond Growers, with its disgraceful labor rights record, is trying to secure future expanded almond sales in Korea," KCTU President Jun-Ho Jo wrote in a letter to Blue Diamond CEO Douglas Youngdahl.

The Koreans also fear that

OXBOW WORKERS SHARE WINNING SPIRIT



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 Chuy Guzman behind Galvan.

"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.

"But the biggest thing you can't put a price on," Galvan said. "It's recognition and respect. Management looks us in the eye now."

The workers made their gains by acting like a union at the table and on the job. They buttoned up and stickered up and walked off the job for three informational pickets. When Galvan got called 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.

—MER

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 the AFL-CIO as well as the ILWU there, they invited the U.S. unionists to the next round of talks in Seoul July 10-14.

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 FKTU 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. 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 drenching 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 chants. 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 dockworkers date from the late 1930s and have deepened over the years. Zenkowan's General Secretary Akinobuh Itoh attended the ILWU convention this year, and heard the Blue Diamond workers speak. He immediately offered to coordinate actions for them in Japan—and invited them to participate.

ILWU warehouse Local 17 Secretary-Treasurer Jack Wyatt Sr. and organizing committee member Randy Reyes went to Japan July 28. Zenkowan, working 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 850,000 workers. At first Blue Diamond declined to meet.

"Itoh 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, committee members set off to visit members of Blue Diamond's board of directors—and alert their neighbors and associates to the cop's anti-worker antics.

"We went to show a presence in these fat cats' neighborhoods," Olivera said. "I don't think they care for that. It's like airing their dirty laundry for their neighbors."

Blue Diamond CEO Youngdahl also serves as vice-chair of the California Almond Board, a growers' association that promotes almonds as well as grower-friendly public policy. The committee members 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 (UFCW) 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 Hurlbut said. "He got this real stiff, cold look 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 flyers to many of the growers in the audience. Then they found a few air-conditioned oases to hang out in before heading up to Atwater for the evening meeting of the Merced Union High School District.

Blue Diamond Director Robert Weimer sits on the school district's board. During last year's contract talks with the California School Employees' Assn., he let loose some slurs people still talk about.

"He told the members, 'We could replace you with monkeys,'" said CSEA rep Laurie Mitchell-Cole. CSEA happily turned out about 25 members wearing their colors and loudly backing up the Blue Diamond crew when Hurlbut addressed the meeting.

"We told Weimer the schools should be about representing what's right, and the school board members should carry that representation into the community," Hurlbut said.

Blue Diamond Board Chair Howard Isom also chairs the board of Chico's newest financial institution, the Golden Valley Bank. The committee caravanned to Chico July 21 to try to meet with him. Despite the day's 108-degree heat, the bank employees gave the visitors the cold shoulder—though they eventually agreed to get a message to Isom. The committee then leafleted briefly outside the bank with support from Chico City Council member Andy Holcombe, the Democratic Action Committee and Women's Health Specialists.

Blue Diamond Director Elaine Rominger faces a November runoff in her bid to become the Colusa County supervisor from District 1—and whether she knew about the cop's violations of labor law and kept quiet, or didn't know, the committee thought the voters should be concerned. Just about everyone they met on their Aug. 2 visit seemed friendly and interested.

The firefighters offered cold drinks and popcorn and the staff at the public library and the Farm Bureau offered to distribute their flyers. The editor of the *Colusa County Sun-Herald*, who they went to see, promised to print the letter they brought and called the reporter in to do an interview—though at press time no article had appeared.

"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."

McEllrath takes leadership role

ILWU solidifies international solidarity at ITF Congress

By Steve Stallone

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 McEllrath, International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, ILWU Canada President Tom Dufresne and ILWU Director of International Affairs Ray Familathe.

"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 solidarity actions aimed 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 Maersk's headquarters.

During the meeting, delegates watched a Dutch-made film on the campaign by European dockers to defeat the recent attempts by the European Union to pass the Directive on Self Handling which would have allowed seafarers to perform longshore work by loading and discharging cargo from ships. Paddy Crumlin, National Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia and newly elected chair of the Dockers' Section, remind-



ILWU and ILA delegations at the ITF Congress: (left to right) ILWU Director of International Affairs Ray Familathe, ILWU International President Bob McEllrath, ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, ILA General Organizer Jerry Owens, ILA's John Baker and ILA Legislative Representative Ingo Esders.

ed 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 Familathe 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 accommoda-

tions, 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 Doumbia-Henry told the delegates that at least 30 countries representing 33 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 coun-

try's railways. SAWATU 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 McEllrath, who nominated both Crumlin and Bowers for their positions, will serve on the Steering Committee of the Dockers' Section and on the Joint Seafarer-Docker Committee, as well as chair the North American Dockers Committee.

Recognizing AIDS is the most globalized epidemic in history and how the crisis is having a profound affect on transportation workers, the ITF Congress voted to prepare a worldwide 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 Iranian 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.



Newly elected ITF President Randall Howard emphasized the need to organize women and young people.

Region, Local	INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS							
	PRESIDENT		MAINLAND V. PRESIDENT		HAWAII V. PRESIDENT		SECRETARY-TREASURER	
	<u>McEllrath</u>	<u>Write-in</u>	<u>Radisich</u>	<u>Write-in</u>	<u>Furtado</u>	<u>Write-in</u>	<u>Adams</u>	<u>Write-in</u>
Southern California								
13-Wilmington	1601	39	1826	13	1577	4	1560	16
20-Wilmington	17	0	18	0	15	0	18	0
26-Los Angeles	67	1	83	0	61	0	67	1
29-San Diego	19	0	19	0	18	0	20	0
46-Port Hueneme	32	0	31	0	31	0	32	0
56-San Pedro	10	0	10	0	9	0	9	0
63-Wilmington	848	25	972	8	843	1	860	6
68-San Pedro	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	0
94-Wilmington	193	4	217	1	174	0	178	1
subtotals:	2797	69	3186	22	2738	5	2754	24
So. Calif. Desert Area								
30-Boron	95	1	95	0	95	0	92	3
Northern California								
6-Oakland	182	6	169	3	180	0	182	0
10-San Francisco	191	8	172	4	187	1	192	5
14-Eureka	12	0	12	0	12	0	12	0
17-West Sacramento	71	0	67	0	66	0	69	0
18-West Sacramento	11	0	9	0	10	0	11	0
34-San Francisco	115	7	115	2	117	0	119	1
54-Stockton	22	0	21	0	21	0	22	0
75-San Francisco	11	0	10	0	11	0	11	0
91-San Francisco	32	2	32	1	31	0	34	0
subtotals:	648	24	609	10	636	2	653	7
Oregon & Columbia River								
4-Vancouver	81	0	82	0	82	0	84	0
5-Portland	127	1	119	0	121	0	122	0
8-Portland	212	8	201	6	211	1	214	4
12-North Bend	33	1	30	0	32	0	34	0
21-Longview	83	2	83	0	80	0	81	1
28-Portland	17	0	16	0	16	0	17	0
40-Portland	49	2	49	0	50	1	54	0
50-Astoria	13	0	12	0	13	0	12	0
53-Newport	8	0	8	0	7	0	7	0
92-Portland	30	0	27	0	27	0	27	0
subtotals:	660	14	635	6	647	2	660	5
Puget Sound								
7-Bellingham	18	0	17	0	15	0	19	0
9-Seattle	13	0	11	0	13	0	11	0
19-Seattle	167	10	166	2	164	3	165	2
22-Tacoma	11	0	11	0	10	0	11	0
23-Tacoma	210	3	200	1	204	0	227	1
24-Aberdeen	15	1	19	0	19	0	21	1
25-Anacortes	7	0	7	0	7	0	7	0
27-Port Angeles	24	0	24	0	24	0	25	0
32-Everett	18	0	21	0	20	0	21	0
47-Olympia	7	5	17	0	15	0	17	0
51-Port Gamble	7	0	7	0	7	0	7	0
52-Seattle	86	6	92	3	89	2	93	2
98-Seattle	55	1	53	0	55	0	58	2
subtotals:	639	26	646	6	643	5	683	8
Alaska								
200-Juneau	35	0	35	0	32	0	36	0
201-Longshore	66	1	61	1	65	0	61	1
subtotals:	102	1	97	1	98	0	98	1
Canada								
500-Vancouver	260	3	208	1	232	2	242	3
502-Surrey	73	4	64	1	70	0	66	0
505-Prince Rupert	12	0	10	0	11	0	11	0
514-Burnaby	189	0	161	0	172	0	171	0
517-Vancouver	15	0	14	0	15	0	15	0
520-Vancouver	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
522-Vancouver	3	0	2	0	2	0	3	0
523-Prince Rupert	9	0	8	0	8	0	9	0
subtotals:	563	7	468	2	511	2	518	3
IBU-Marine Division								
IBU	349	2	329	5	335	3	346	2
Hawaii								
142-Honolulu	243	1	834	0	1024	7	924	2
160-Honolulu	9	0	5	0	15	0	10	0
subtotals:	952	1	839	0	1039	7	934	2
GRAND TOTALS:	7564	145	6904	52	6742	26	6738	55

Totals do not always add up because the local designation on some ballots was removed.

COAST COMMITTEE					INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD							
CALIFORNIA		NORTHWEST			Podue	Mitre	Fageaux, Jr.	Gratz	Shelton	Toussseau	W-i	
<u>Ortiz, Jr</u>	<u>Write-in</u>	<u>Johnson</u>	<u>Sundet</u>	<u>Write-in</u>	1167	1547	299	426	431	1290	33	
1763	20	375	1098	4	8	12	4	13	4	10		
0	0	0	0	0	38	49	10	88	17	33		
0	0	5	11	0	10	14	0	8	13	12		
17	0	13	15	0	10	24	1	4	37	20		
24	0	0	0	0	10	12	1	8	1	5		
0	0	182	413	0	481	692	431	290	183	892	12	
778	10	0	0	0	5	5	0	2	2	6		
0	0	0	0	0	139	155	21	70	42	167	6	
0	0											
2584	30	575	1539	4	1869	2511	767	910	731	2437	51	
Ortiz, Jr		Johnson			Davenport	Panter	Write-in					
-	-	-	-	-	76	42	4					
Ortiz, Jr		Johnson			Brueckner	Cavalli	Thibeaux	Pecker	Write-in			
0	0	0	0	0	94	125	139	235	7			
182	7	63	128	1	83	158	148	148	4			
11	0	7	3	0	12	8	6	7	0			
0	0	0	0	0	45	44	43	61	0			
10	0	5	5	0	12	4	2	4	0			
103	1	51	58	0	71	113	74	83	7			
23	0	5	12	0	18	13	11	11	0			
0	0	0	0	0	3	14	13	10	1			
0	0	0	0	0	25	26	18	25	0			
329	8	131	206	1	364	507	456	586	19			
Ortiz, Jr		Johnson			Ylonen	O'Neill	Takas	Hanson	Write-in			
82	1	48	37	1	45	54	22	35	0			
0	0	0	0	0	17	15	142	55	0			
206	3	84	152	0	174	91	57	137	2			
31	0	20	15	0	21	21	7	14	0			
76	0	58	27	0	71	36	30	29	0			
0	0	0	0	0	7	8	5	12	0			
51	0	30	25	0	35	46	11	16	0			
13	0	8	5	0	9	9	3	3	0			
7	0	4	3	0	8	2	0	5	0			
0	0	0	0	0	21	19	4	16	0			
473	4	254	270	1	411	303	285	326	2			
Ortiz, Jr		Johnson			Ventoza	Austin, Jr.	Spell	Vekich	Write-in			
11	0	19	0	0	2	13	8	14	0			
0	0	0	0	0	7	10	4	2	0			
159	1	104	90	2	145	124	34	83	0			
0	0	0	0	0	2	5	5	6	0			
198	1	133	103	0	26	52	216	135	0			
22	0	20	4	0	5	5	7	21	0			
7	0	7	0	0	0	5	4	5	0			
20	1	24	0	0	4	12	16	16	0			
14	0	16	0	0	2	23	6	14	1			
15	0	18	0	0	1	5	14	16	0			
7	0	7	0	0	0	4	3	7	0			
88	2	79	27	0	49	32	27	93	1			
0	0	0	0	0	33	11	36	36	0			
541	5	427	224	2	277	301	380	449	2			
Manowski		Hendrickson			Write-in							
56		6			2							
3		78										
59		85			2							
Dufresne		Write-in										
311		11										
94		0										
13		0										
200		3										
20		0										
2		0										
3		0										
11		0										
654		14										
Cote		Write-in										
419		11										
PINEAPPLE		SUGAR			TOURISM		GEN. TRADES		LONGSHORE			
Martin		Zahl			Silva		Ige		Lum		Write-in	
820		796			849		806		871		31	
8		7			7		9		13			
3927	47	1387	2239	8	828	803	856	815	884	31		
3927	47	1387	2239	8								

Southern California elects three.

Southern California 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

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.

"He was quite a character, an old-time Wobbly (member of the militant Industrial Workers of the World, or IWW), a hardy, efficient guy with an endless amount of energy. Frank worked well with Jack, although they didn't see too much of each other because Frank spent so much time in the field."

Thompson, who was born in 1906, worked tirelessly during his brief career in Hawaii. During those 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. Still, 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."

After his return from the Islands in 1946, Thompson was elected secretary-treasurer of Local 17. He held that post until his retirement in

1970. During 1967 he sat for a tape session in Sacramento, Calif. with Professor Beechert, the author of the indispensable "Working in Hawaii: A Labor History." That interview was conducted as part of the Pacific Regional Oral History Project at the University of Hawaii, which Beechert founded and directed. We are greatly indebted to Beechert for allowing us to use the transcript of that tape as the basis for this article.

FRANK THOMPSON

Edited by Harvey Schwartz,
Curator, ILWU Oral History Collection

In 1934 I started putting together what later became ILWU warehouse Local 17 here in Sacramento. Going back into the '20s, I organized for the IWW in the logging camps. I worked in them camps a good many years. After 1929, during the Depression, I supported the unemployed councils and the Cannery and Agricultural Workers Industrial Union (CAWIU). We'd go see Lincoln Steffens, the famous muckraker, when he was still alive in the early 1930s. He was living down at Carmel with his wife, Ella Winters, who was a progressive 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 (ILA). 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 out 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 groceries and the rice mills. We've been 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 indicated he had no desire 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'd go. I told him, "Things are in 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 let Jack Hall stay in Honolulu and take care of being regional director.

The first island I went to was Hawaii. I went down there on a ship under blackout conditions because WWII was still on. It took all night to get to Hilo from Honolulu. I made a visit up Hamakua Coast and over to Oloa. Then I went back to Honolulu. The next visit I made was over 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 way 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 the guy to come see him, he had to get permission from his manager. And the other guy had to get permission from his manager to go over to see the first guy. The workers were used to 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 people about the '34 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 carry 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



Frank Thompson



Plantation housing for sugar workers was often substandard, but after WWII the ILWU pressured employers into making improvements.

Islands organizer, 1944-1946



finally got the idea that going ILWU was one way to solve some of their problems. I knew this whole psychological background was there, too. I could feel it all the time. Coupled with the fact that when you organized a plantation the people stayed there, why, very few of 'em got away from us.

Of course, the conditions on some of the plantations were pretty rough, too. At Ewa on Oahu they had a good facade. Any visitor would be shown the front part. But in the back they had open sewers. The toilets were in the house, but the offal would run down this wooden tube right through the camp. This was right alongside where people were walking. It's a wonder they didn't have typhoid or something. We raised hell about that and about housing, but during the war the plantations didn't do a hell of a lot about it. They couldn't get the materials even if they wanted to. But when the war was over we put the heat on, and the plantations began to clean up some of these backward places.

In Hawaii you had to deal with these different racial camps the planters had set up, but I'd had a lot of experience with racial groups in California before I went to the Islands. In the Sacramento Valley you had Filipino and Mexican agricultural field workers. You had people who in many respects were similar to what you got in Hawaii. I'd helped these different groups in the CAWIU all the way from 1929 on.

I spent hours up in the mountains in Hawaii, particularly around Hilo. All along the Hamakua Coast you'd go in there around quitting time in the afternoon. The Filipino workers didn't want to be bothered right away. The first thing a guy did was get that fighting cock. Pretty soon another Filipino would come along. A chunk of dough would go down, the roosters would hit the ground, and zinging, it's over. Then you could sign 'em up. You learned that pretty early.

The Filipino workers spoke either Ilocano or Viscayan, but we really didn't have any trouble with language. Most of the guys understood what was going on. You'd use pidgin English and those that didn't understand, why, one of the other guys with you would translate pretty easily.

After we organized several Big Island plantations there was a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) hearing. The employers screamed that the workers were agricultural and were legally excluded from the NLRB, which could only certify non-agricultural bargaining units. The hearing was in Hilo in October 1944. In January 1945 a decision came from the NLRB in Washington, D.C. directing NLRB elections in about a dozen plantations and ordering two units giving us everything out to the end of the railroad tracks, or out to the flumes. They even gave us the bargaining rights on the guys that worked a horse pulling a stone boat loaded with sugar cane. The NLRB called them transportation workers.

Basically we got anything that was transported from the field. One bargaining unit went right into the mill. The second one covered the bull cooks, the storekeepers, the janitors—all the basic camp personnel. I think we held our first election in February 1945 at Olaa. Then we had other elections right on up to Hamakua Coast. I think we ended up down around Naalehu, or Pahala, south of Hilo.

The next election we held was over in Maui. Then we moved down to Oahu. They were still holding elections on Kauai about the time I left Hawaii for the first time. This was in 1945. Of course, we won almost all of the elections quite handily.

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 VJ 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 disunity you might say.

Some of the guys on the Big Island and the Jack Kawano faction in Honolulu was whipping up a little storm. Jack Hall was having to keep the peace. I figured out a scheme whereby we'd send a lot of these people out of the Islands so they couldn't engage in 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 gel 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 war the sugar planters tolerated us to keep the war going, 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 faced with. We either moved with the whole bunch 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 to ship rice to the Islands from the outside. We prepared for a long siege. When the strike came, it lasted for three

months and all the planning paid off.

A bit before the strike the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association recruited 6,000 workers from the Philippines as potential strike breakers. I was there the day the first group came ashore in Hilo. We'd sent John Elias and another Filipino guy, Joe Dionas, down to the Philippines on a freighter. They could speak the language and tell the guys about the union. Between the both of 'em, when the Filipino workers come down that gangplank, they had these big blue ILWU buttons on.

The Filipino guys had all been organized into the union on the way over. Those goddamn planters were around there 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 then 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 that the union could not only organize the people, but it could also deliver, because the Hawaiian workers were always fearful that the employers would starve 'em to death. Going back 50 years, the employers had starved many people to death in those islands during strikes before. So when our rice came through, it had a hell of a psychological effect. And, of course, the union won the strike, got some important concessions and survived in the Islands.

A powerful red-baiting campaign against the union got going the year after '46 sugar strike. A lot of the workers didn't pay any attention to it. It didn't have the effect that was expected. The workers in Hawaii remained pretty true to the people who had organized them. With the drive for union organization, I think the moment had arrived in Hawaii when things that had been brewing over time came to a head. The workers were tired of living in a sort of island reform school. That's what I would call living on a Hawaiian plantation before the union, where people were treated like kids who can't leave or go over the wall. Since the ILWU broke that, most of the workers remained loyal to it despite the red-baiting.



Striking sugar workers marching through Hilo in 1946.

STORY PROJECT
III, Part I

Thompson:
organizer,
-1946

ILWU NOVEMBER 2006 ENDORSEMENTS

SCDC/NCDC California endorsements

- Governor.....Phil Angelides (D)
- Lt. Governor.....John Garamendi (D)
- Att. General.....Jerry Brown (D)
- Sec'y of StateDebra Bowen (D)
- TreasurerBill Lockyer (D)
- Controller.....John Chiang (D)
- Insurance Comm.Cruz Bustamante (D)

Board of Equalization

- District 1Betty Yee (D)
- District 2No Endorsement
- District 3No Endorsement
- District 4Judy Chu (D)

Ballot Measures

Proposition 1A — YES

Transportation Funding Protection. Legislative Constitutional Amendment

Proposition 1B — YES

Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006

Proposition 1C — YES

Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006

Proposition 1D — YES

Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006

Proposition 1E — YES

Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006

Proposition 83 — No Recommendation

Sex offenders. Sexually Violent Predators. Punishment, Residence restrictions and Monitoring. Initiative Statute.

Proposition 84 — YES

Water Quality, Safety and Supply. Flood Control. Natural Resource Protection. Park Improvements. Bonds. Initiative Statute.

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 Statute.

Proposition 87 — YES

Alternative Energy. Research, Production, Incentives. Tax on California Oil. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

Proposition 88 — NO

Education Funding. Real Property Parcel Tax. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

Proposition 89 — No Recommendation

Political Campaigns. Public Financing. Corporate Tax Increase. Contribution and Expenditure Limits. Initiative Statute.

Proposition 90 — No

Government Acquisition, Regulation 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	Doris Matsui (D)
6	Lynn Woolsey (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	Dennis Cardoza (D)
19	T.J. Cox (D)
20	Jim Costa (D)
21	Steven Haze (D)
22	Sharon Beery (D)
23	Lois Capps (D)
24	Jill 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-Allard (D)
35	Maxine Waters (D)
36	Jane Harman (D)
37	Juanita Millender-McDonald (D)
38	Grace Napolitano (D)
39	Linda Sanchez (D)
40	Florice Hoffman (D)
41	Dual: Louie Contreras (D), Jerry Lewis (R)



Phil Angelides, labor's choice for California Governor.

42	No Endorsement
43	Joe Baca (D)
44	Louis Vandenberg (D)
45	David Roth (D)
46	Jim Brandt (D)
47	Loretta Sanchez (D)
48	Steve Young (D)
49	Jeeni Criscenzo (D)
50	Francine Busby (D)
51	Bob Filner (D)
52	John Rinaldi (D)
53	No Endorsement

California State Senate

DISTRICT	CANDIDATE
2	Pat Wiggins (D)
4	Paul Singh (D)
6	Darrell Steinberg (D)
8	Leland Yee (D)
10	Ellen Corbett (D)
12	Wiley Nickel (D)
14	No Endorsement
16	Dean Florez (D)
18	No Endorsement
20	Alex Padilla (D)
22	Gil Cedillo (D)
24	Gloria Romero (D)
26	Mark Ridley-Thomas (D)
28	Jenny Oropeza (D)
30	Ron Calderon (D)
32	Gloria Negrete-McLeod (D)
34	Lou Correa (D)
36	Mark Hanson (D)
38	No Endorsement
40	Denise Ducheny (D)

State Assembly

DISTRICT	CANDIDATE
1	Patty Berg (D)
2	No Endorsement
3	Mickey Harrington (D)
4	Rob Haswell (D)
5	Brandon Bell (D)
6	Jared Huffman (D)
7	Noreen Evans (D)
8	Lois Wolk (D)
9	Dave Jones (D)
10	Jim Cook (D)
11	Mark DeSaulnier (D)
12	Fiona Ma (D)
13	Mark Leno (D)
14	Loni Hancock (D)
15	Terry Coleman (D)
16	Sandre Swanson (D)
17	Cathleen Galgiani (D)
18	Mary Hayashi (D)
19	Gene Mullin (D)
20	Alberto Torrico (D)
21	Ira Ruskin (D)
22	Sally Lieber (D)

23	Joe Coto (D)
24	James Beall, Jr. (D)
25	James Lex Bufford (D)
26	Kenneth Goeken (D)
27	John Laird (D)
28	Anna Caballero (D)
29	No Endorsement
30	Nicole Parra (D)
31	Juan Arambula (D)
32	No Endorsement
33	Robert Cuthbert (D)
34	No Endorsement
35	Pedro Nava (D)
36	Bo Bynum (D)
37	Ferial Masry (D)
38	Lyn Shaw (D)
39	Richard Alarcon (D)
40	Lloyd Levine (D)
41	Julia Brownley (D)
42	Mike Feuer (D)
43	Paul Krekorian (D)
44	Anthony Portantino (D)
45	Kevin de Leon (D)
46	Fabian Nunez (D)
47	Karen Bass (D)
48	Mike Davis (D)
49	Mike Eng (D)
50	Hector de la Torre (D)
51	Curren Price (D)
52	Mervyn Dymally (D)
53	Ted Lieu (D)
54	Betty Karnette (D)
55	Laura Richardson (D)
56	Tony Mendoza (D)
57	Ed Hernandez (D)
58	Charles Calderon (D)
59	Elliott Barkan (D)
60	Van Tamom (D)
61	Nell Soto (D)
62	Wilmer Amina Carter (D)
63	No Endorsement
64	Paul Rasso (D)
65	Rita Ramirez-Dean (D)
66	Laurel Nicholson (D)
67	Ray Roberts (D)
68	Paul Lucas (D)
69	Jose Solorio (D)
70	Mike Glover (D)
71	Charlie La Chance (D)
72	John MacMurray (D)
73	No Endorsement
74	Roxana Folescu (D)
75	No Endorsement
76	Lori Saldana (D)
77	Christopher Larkin (D)
78	Maxine Sherard (D)
79	Mary Salas (D)
80	Steve Clute (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

Susan Castillo

Ballot Initiatives

Measure 39 — NO

Term Limits

Measure 40 — NO

Judges by District

Measure 41 — NO

Bill Sizemore's Tax Scam

Measure 44 — YES

Prescription Drug Purchasing Pool

Measures 46 and 47 — NO

Campaign Finance

Measure 48 — NO

Colorado TABOR Failed Experiment

U.S. Congress

- District 1David Wu
- District 2Carol Voisin
- District 3Earl Blumenauer
- District 4Peter DeFazio
- District 5Darlene Hooley

State Senate

- District 3 Alan Bates
- District 4 Floyd Prozanski
- District 6 Bill Morrisette
- District 7 Vicki Walker
- District 10 Paul Evans
- District 11 Peter Courtney
- District 16 Elizabeth "Betsy" Johnson
- District 17 Brad Avakian
- District 19 Richard Devlin
- District 20 Kurt Schrader
- District 24 Jesse Cornett
- District 26 Rick Metsger

State House of Representatives

- District 3 Howard Owens
- District 5 Peter Buckley
- District 8 Paul Holvey
- District 9 Arnie Roblan
- District 11 Phil Barnhart
- District 12 Elizabeth Terry Beyer
- District 13 Nancy Nathanson
- District 16 Sara Gelsler
- District 17 Dan Thackaberry
- District 19 Brian Grisham
- District 21 Brian Clem
- District 22 Betty Komp
- District 23 Jason Brown
- District 24 Sal Peralta
- District 25 Charles "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 Greenlick
- District 34 Suzanne Bonamici
- District 35 Larry Galizio
- District 36 Mary Nolan
- District 38 Greg MacPherson
- District 40 Dave Hunt
- District 41 Carolyn Tomei
- District 42 Diane Rosenbaum
- District 43 Chip Shields
- District 44 Tina Kotek
- District 45 Jackie Dingfelder
- District 46 Mary Botkin
- District 47 Jeff Merkley
- District 48 Mike Schafler
- District 49 Rob Brading
- District 58 Jim Gilbertson

The Puget Sound District Council Washington State endorsements

U.S. Senate

Maria Cantwell

U.S. Representatives:

- 1st DistrictJay Inslee
- 2nd DistrictRick Larson
- 3rd DistrictBrian Baird
- 8th DistrictDarcy Burner
- 9th DistrictAdam 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 an anti-war demonstration at the port April 7, 2003, their attorneys discovered the police had engaged in illegal surveillance of the plaintiffs before the protest.

Over the next couple of years, ACLU lawyers also discovered a number of other cases where California law enforcement agencies similarly spied on and infiltrated legitimate, peaceful activist organizations and labor unions.

Most disturbingly, the justifications authorities gave for their actions—that anti-terrorist security concerns override all Constitutional liberties—suggest that what they have learned so far is only the tip of the iceberg.

At a press conference in San Francisco July 27 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 police spying in Oakland, Fresno, Sacramento, Santa Cruz and San Francisco. Students also faced infiltration and monitoring at U.C. Berkeley and Fresno State University. It also points out that since Sept. 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 than 20 local police departments 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 profiting from the Iraq war. Their demo ended in a police riot that injured 40 protestors. Nine ILWU workers who were well away from the picket line and waiting for an arbitrator’s ruling on health and safety were also attacked and injured.

“Prior to the April 7 demonstrations, there was a secret meeting between government agencies, the Port of Oakland, the shipping companies and the police,” then-Local 10 Business Agent Jack Heyman told the press conference. “They planned out what was going to transpire April 7. There was direct collusion. The *New York Times* quoted then-Police Chief Richard Word saying he mobilized his troops at ‘the behest of the maritime companies.’ One wonders who the government and the police are working for.”

The cops brutally arrested Heyman while he tried to get his members away from police fire. Injured demonstrators later won a \$2 million lawsuit from the city.

Other government documents, quoted in the *Oakland Tribune*, revealed that the Oakland police had received an “intelligence” report April 2 from the California Anti-Terrorism Information Center (CATIC) warning of violence at the April 7 demo. The CATIC, staffed with agents from the FBI, the Defense Intelligence Agency and other state and federal outfits, had gleaned information from websites and monitored list serves—including the ILWU Yahoo discussion group—without warrant or reasonable cause to believe illegal activities were taking place. The unlawful spying led to unlawful violence by the police on the Oakland docks.

The police action did not stop with just illegal surveillance and physical injuries. When demonstrators returned to the Oakland docks



At the ACLU Press Conference, bottom row seated left to right: Dorothy Ehrlich, Executive Director, ACLU Northern Calif.; Mark Schlosberg, ACLU-NC and author of “The State of Surveillance;” top row standing: Jack Heyman, ILWU Local 10; Camille Russell, Past President of Peace Fresno; Dan Yaseen, First Vice President, Peace Fresno; Professor Donna Hardina, Faculty Advisor for the Campus Peace and Civil Liberties Coalition at Fresno State.

May 12 to protest the brutality of April 7, they were unaware that police agents had infiltrated their planning meetings. Police Deputy Chief Howard Jordan said April 28, 2005 in sworn testimony in the case *ILWU v. City of Oakland* that police had gotten two of their own elected to plan the route of the march.

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.

“The police want to know 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 gather the information and maybe even direct them to do something we want them to do,” Jordan told the Oakland police review board.

Labor became a target again Jan. 24, 2004 when two deputies of the Contra Costa Sheriff’s Homeland Security Unit infiltrated a demonstration in San Francisco in support of striking and locked out Safeway and Albertson’s workers. United Food and Commercial Workers leaders fingered the deputies because they had visited UFCW offices in Martinez the day before, asking about the rally. When Art Pulaski, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Calif. Labor Federation, asked if they were cops, they denied it and told a cover story. After several more questions, they admitted it.

“We are alarmed at having undercover officers at a union rally,” the report quotes Pulaski telling the deputies. “I am greatly offended that you wouldn’t give your names and that you continued to lie about being in law enforcement.”

Using homeland security to justify monitoring lawful activity “is sending a chilling and intimidating message to all of us,” Pulaski said. Legal experts agree.

“This kind of infiltration has the inevitable consequence of chilling the participation of innocent people in what is otherwise a constitutionally protected activity,” said law professor and former State Supreme Court Justice Joseph Groden, according to

the ACLU report.

Fresno, Calif. schoolteacher Camille Russell got quite a shock when she picked up her *Fresno Bee* newspaper Aug. 31, 2003 and saw a picture of policeman Aaron Michael Kilner who had died in a motorcycle accident.

“We knew him as Aaron Stokes. He said he was unemployed,” Russell said at the ACLU press conference. “That’s how I discovered that Peace Fresno had been infiltrated. No one ever thought Peace Fresno was a terrorist organization. However, in the anti-terrorism hysteria following 9-11, someone was equating dissent with terrorism.”

As Stokes, Kilner participated in protests and handed out flyers, the ACLU report said.

The *Oakland Tribune* of May 18, 2003 quoted CATIC spokesman Mike Van Winkle equating dissent with terrorism.

“If you have a protest group protesting a war where the cause that’s being fought against is international terrorism, you might have terrorism at that [protest],” Van Winkle said. “You can almost argue that a protest against that [war] is a terrorist act.”

In an apparent justification for spying on the April 7 demo, Van Winkle came up with another chilling remark:

“I’ve heard terrorism described as anything that is violent or has an economic impact, and shutting down a port certainly would have some economic impact. Terrorism isn’t just bombs going off and killing people,” the *Tribune* quoted Van Winkle as saying.

Police infiltrators comprised 10 percent of the 60 participants at a Nov. 10, 2004 Fresno State Univ. rally, according to the ACLU report. The Campus Peace and Civil Liberties Coalition had hosted a speaker from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals who spoke on the benefits of a vegan diet. The Dept. of Homeland Security had declared PETA a terrorist threat, and that justified the surveillance, according to university police Chief David Huerta.

“I don’t understand what the problem is,” FSU Director of Public Safety David Moll said, as quoted in the *Fresno Bee*. “There’s undercover police everywhere. They’re gathering intelligence to keep order, not to repress anybody.”

Students wrote letters and held a hunger strike at the campus administration building demanding a halt to the spying. FSU President John Welty partially relented in May 2005 and issued orders that surveillance activities could not be done “unless

required by law and have been expressly approved,” 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 taping, she reportedly replied, “This is a crime scene.”

“Bill Lockyer came out with a manual in Sept. 2003 that made it clear that law enforcement agencies under California’s constitution are not permitted to monitor or gather information on people engaging in legitimate First Amendment-protected protest activities without reasonable suspicion of a crime,” said 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 regulation 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 protecting the right of privacy in local police cooperation with federal agencies.

The report is available online at: www.aclunc.org/surveillance_report.

Mexican miners face off with

Story and photos by David Bacon

Just days after conservative candidate Felipe Calderon declared himself the winner of Mexico's July 2 presidential election, the country's federal labor board lowered the boom on striking miners. At Nacozari, one of the world's largest copper mines just a few miles south of Arizona, 1400 hundred miners have been on strike since March 24. On July 12 the board said they'd abandoned their jobs, and gave the mine's owner, *Grupo Mexico*, permission to close down operations.

Under Mexican labor law, during a legal strike a company must stop production. The use of strikebreakers is illegal, and no enterprise can close while workers are on strike. By ruling that there was no legal stoppage, and that *Grupo Mexico* could therefore close the mine, the board gave the company a legal pretext to fire every miner.

The closure was a legal fiction. In the days that followed, mine managers began soliciting applications from workers for jobs when the mine reopens. Some of the very miners who were terminated may be accepted back as new employees—but with no seniority and no union contract. And not everyone will be going back. Those most active in the strike are on a blacklist.

On the day of the announcement, Sonora Governor [FIRST NAME TK] Bours Castelo issued arrest warrants against 21 strikers. The two striking local unions offered to sit down with the company to work out a solution to the conflict, but Bours Castelo responded that the union contract doesn't exist anymore.

"Negotiations are no longer possible," he declared, "since the union no longer has any bargaining relationship with the company."

These were the latest efforts by Mexico's outgoing conservative Fox administration to force an end to a labor war that has rocked the country for six months, a war that has the beneficiaries of Mexico's privatization landrushed worried and afraid. It is no coincidence that Fox moved quickly to crush the strike once Calderon, his hand-picked successor, declared himself elected in the midst of accusations of fraud and huge demonstrations demanding a recount.

Unions in the country's mines and mills are determined to roll back the conservative economic reforms of the past two decades. A victory by Calderon's opponent, former Mexico City mayor Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, would increase the political

pressure for such a rollback. According to the country's wealthy elite, however, Mexico must be brought back under control instead.

Last April steel workers stopped operations at the huge Sicartsa steel mill in Lazaro Cardenas, Michoacan, and have occupied it since then in a *planton* or tent city. Although Michoacan's leftwing governor refused to send in troops to dislodge them, local police beholden to management tried unsuccessfully on April 20, shooting and killing two union workers, Mario Alberto Castillo Rodríguez and Héctor Álvarez Gómez. Miners at Mexico's other huge copper mine at Cananea went on strike in June.

Nacozari and Cananea are owned by *Grupo Mexico*, which in turn belongs to one of the country's wealthiest families, the Larreas. The Sicartsa mill belongs to *Grupo Villacero*, which is the family business of the wealthy Villareal clan. Both the Larreas and the Villareals owe their enormous wealth to the wave of privatization that transformed the Mexican economy in the 1980s and 90s. The Villareals were small metal merchants when former President Carlos Salinas virtually gave them the steel mill for a tenth of its real value in 1991, making them instant billionaires. The Larreas got Mexico's two great copper mines, making *Grupo Mexico* one of the world's largest mining companies.

Grupo Mexico's board of directors now includes directors of Kimberly Clark Mexico (the family business of U.S. Congressman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), author of last year's anti-immigrant bill HR 4437) and the Carlyle Group (whose board included former President George H. W. Bush). In the 1990s *Grupo Mexico's* mushrooming capital gave it the resources to buy one of the U.S.' oldest and largest mining companies, American Smelting and Refining Co.

Rich Mexicans weren't the only beneficiaries of privatization. Union Pacific became the owner of the country's main north-south rail line, and immediately discontinued virtually all passenger service, as railroad corporations did in the U.S. When new private owners moved to boost profits and cut labor costs, Mexican rail employment dropped from over 90,000 to 36,000.

In Cananea, workers struck against the Larreas in 1998 over similar workforce cuts, meant to make the privatized mine more profitable. Their strike was lost, and 800 people were blacklisted. Many left for Arizona, 50 miles north.

"I had no alternative," said Jorge



Copper miners on the bus taking them out of the pit at the end of their shift.

Mendoza, now an undocumented worker in Phoenix. "I really didn't want to leave, but I went a year without being able to find work."

Mexico's ports were privatized in the same wave. Companies like Stevedoring Services of America, Hutchinson and TMM now operate the country's largest terminals. The impact on longshore wages was devastating. In Manzanillo and Lazaro Cardenas, the two largest Pacific Coast ports, crane drivers made about \$100-160/day before privatization. Today they make \$40-50.

Low wages have become a magnet attracting U.S. and other foreign investors. In mid-June Ford Corporation, already one of Mexico's largest employers, decided to invest \$9 billion more in building new factories. Meanwhile, Ford is moving to close at least 14 U.S. plants, laying off thousands of workers.

In this election year, popular discontent with the impact of these reforms reached record levels. Fox, a former Coca Cola executive, sought to reassure Mexico's new elite that the government would continue protecting them. But ensuring the continuation of a favorable investment climate requires control of an increasingly angry workforce, and the old methods no longer work. Mexican employers themselves are discarding the social contract, in which unions once had a place at the table so long as they didn't upset it. Corporations like *Grupo Mexico* and *Grupo Villacero* want no unions at all.

Napoleon Gomez Urrutia, head of the Mexican Union of Mine, Metal and Allied Workers, said "They think we're like a cancer, and should be exterminated. This is no longer a country that can be called a democracy."

Gomez Urrutia is one of the main reasons why Fox and his corporate friends look at labor with new eyes. And the effort by Fox to remove him from his union's leadership was the flashpoint that set off the last few months of conflict. Gomez Urrutia's father was also head of the miners' union in the 1980s and 90s, a corporatist leader in the old style, with a reputation for cooperation. Gomez Urrutia is different.

When Fox pushed hard to reform the country's labor laws, at the behest of the World Bank, Gomez Urrutia brought even conservative unions into a coalition that finally spiked his proposals. Mexican labor law gives workers rights far in advance of U.S. legislation, which Fox prefers and would like to emulate. Prohibiting strikebreaking is just one example. Mexican law also gives workers the right to healthcare and housing, protects job security, mandates strict

hours of work, and imposes severance pay for laid off employees. Fox liked it even less when the miners union helped kill his proposal to tax workers' benefits.

Gomez Urrutia was elected union general secretary in 2001, and right away began to push hard against declining conditions for miners. Taking advantage of world record copper prices, he won 6-8 percent wage increases, twice those dictated by government austerity policies. He forced open the doors of the elite Technological Institute of Monterrey, where 700 workers and their children now study. He won better housing.

But all hell broke loose when 65 miners died Feb. 19, in a huge explosion in the Pasta de Conchos coal mine in the northern state of Coahuila. Horrified by the deaths, the union found that workers on the second shift had complained of high concentrations of explosive methane gas in the shafts the evening before the accident.

"They told us that welding was still going on, even after the failure of some electrical equipment," Gomez Urrutia charged.

At 2:20 a.m., after the start of the third shift, the gas ignited in a huge fireball.

Two days after the explosion, Gomez Urrutia accused the Secretary of Labor and *Grupo Mexico* of "industrial homicide." Fox filed corruption charges against him less than a week later. Labor Secretary Francisco Xavier Salazar Sáenz, with support from *Grupo Villacero* and *Grupo Mexico*, appointed Elias Morales, an expelled leader, to replace him. Under Mexican labor law, the labor secretary can use a legal procedure to choose a union's leader, regardless of what the union's members themselves decide.

So when Labor Secretary Salazar tried to replace Gomez Urrutia, workers reelected him twice, and then struck the Nacozari pit and the Sicartsa mill. And when work stopped at Cananea, on the 100-year anniversary of the uprising there that started the Mexican Revolution, miners announced they too wouldn't resume work until Gomez Urrutia was reinstated.

Of the 65 who were killed in the Pasta de Conchos explosion, 40 didn't actually work directly for *Grupo Mexico*, the mine's owner. Instead, they were employed by the network of small, private contractors who supply personnel to large industrial employers throughout Mexico. One of those subcontracted employees, Gomez Urrutia said, quit three days before the accident, after being required to weld while there were high concentrations of methane. "He



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.

the government

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 mines and the Sicartsa mill belonged to the government, all workers became permanent employees after 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 legally required indemnity for their deaths. Salazar owns two companies that supply chemicals to *Grupo Mexico*'s zinc refinery in San Luis Potosi. The bodies of almost all the dead miners are still in the mine, yet to be recovered. Even Cahuila's governor, Humberto Moreira Valdes, accused Salazar's local representative of corruption, and Salazar himself of being responsible for the disaster.

Miners union activists accuse Gomez Urrutia's would-be replacement, Elias Morales, of belonging to the same cabal. When he was in charge of the union's bargaining, Morales negotiated an infamous "productivity agreement" with *Grupo Mexico*, which led to big company profits and big cuts in income for copper miners. That led to his expulsion. Responding to pressure from



Copper miners head out of the pit at the end of their shift.

Grupo Villacero, Morales recently called on authorities to force workers at Sicartsa to end their strike. In response, Miners Local 271, the strikers' union, challenged him to come speak to 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 strikes. 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 *mineros*, and we're going to defend them."

The miners aren't Mexico's only labor rebels. Oaxaca's education workers were occupying the central square of their state capital for three weeks when they too were attacked in June. Teachers were demanding not just higher salaries or a more progressive school curriculum, although they want those too. They and other Oaxacan activists sought an end to state violence and violations of human rights so serious that Amnesty International investigated the administration of Governor Ulisses Ruiz a year ago, after scores had been jailed.

Oaxaca's Section 22 of the National Union of Education Workers is the most militant teachers union in Mexico, and has fought the conservative state government for years. Conflict became so bitter that one demonstration during the *planton* brought out 120,000 educators and supporters—the largest in Oaxacan history at that time. Then, on June 14 at 4 a.m., helicopters bombarded sleeping teachers and their children with tear gas shells. Hundreds of police charged into their tents. Within minutes, scores had been beaten. What had been a protest over wages was transformed into a movement to throw Ruiz out.

Ruiz belongs to Mexico's old governing party, the Party of the Institutionalized Revolution (PRI), while Vicente Fox heads the rightwing National Action Party (PAN). But both parties support the reforms that have created Mexico's new billionaires. Three days before the Oaxaca confrontation, Ruiz promised the state's business owners that he would use the "*mano dura*," or heavy hand, to put down protest.

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 accusations of fraud threw the tiny margin into doubt. Huge national demonstrations are now making the same demand, and tent encampments of protesters have thrown traffic into chaos on Mexico City's broad main avenue, The Reforma.

Mexico has traveled so far down the road of neoliberal transformation 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 Scotiabank, 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.



Retired miner Genaro Sanchez and his wife live in a home they were able to build with a subsidy from the company, during the years when the mine belonged to the Mexican government. Privatization stopped the housing subsidies.

Stockton longshoreman dies in port accident

Jose "Pepe" Perez Correa's long career as a longshoreman ended tragically Aug. 9 when his janitor's truck crashed through the bull rail and plunged into the Stockton Deep Water Channel. He was a few weeks shy of his 80th birthday.

Correa started at the Port of Stockton as a casual in the 1950s. In 1966, he got his "B" registration in longshore Local 54.

"He worked 15 years for his 'A' card," his son, Local 54 member Efrain Perez said. "He loved his work, that's why he was still working at nearly 80 years old. He probably holds the record as the oldest active member in Local 54."

Apparently no one witnessed the accident. Divers found the truck in 32 feet of water.

Correa was born in Mexico and spent the last 60 years of his life in Stockton. He worked in the canneries in the 1950s while he earned his casual card.

"He was still a hard working man on the job, he'd go down into the hold, taking hard jobs, shovel jobs, and keeping up with 20-year olds," Perez said.

Port Chaplain Mike DeToro remembers Correa performing his janitor's duties.

"He'd go up the gangway, right after the ship docks, and hook them up with water," DeToro said. "He was like an ambassador, he had a smile for the crew and nice words for everybody. He was a great asset to the port."

Correa was liked by everyone, said Local 54 President Dennis Brueckner.

"He was respected as a hard worker who was everybody's friend,"



Jose "Pepe" Perez Correa

Brueckner said. "He was always smiling, always willing to joke."

ITF Inspector Jose Perez remembers Correa as a supportive person.

"He always took the time to talk to me, and encourage me, or when I had a hard time in any situation, he encouraged me to be strong," Perez said.

The cause of the accident is still under investigation. But there was a 31-hour delay from the time of the accident until rescue-recovery divers recovered the body. Local 54 Secretary-Treasurer Gene Davenport sees that as a serious safety issue. He has since met with officials from the city and the port to lobby for rescue and recovery divers for inland rivers.

"With 1,000 miles of waterway in the area, it's a glaring hole in our safety and security that there's not a diver rescue and retrieval team in place," Davenport said.

—Tom Price

Stockton growth continues

by Tom Price

A seaport 75 miles from the ocean might have a hard time finding customers, but not the Port of Stockton. In fact, ocean-going trade has boomed in the last few years, and recent improvements mean the growth can continue.

"We finally got some dredging, and that was key to our expansion," longshore Local 54 President Dennis Brueckner said. "We're getting a lot more general cargo and more shipping companies are looking at us now because we have deeper water."

The dredging came about through vigorous lobbying and the efforts of Local 54, the Port, shippers and farmers in keeping Stockton a busy port on the San Joaquin Delta waterway. As the U.S. economy grows, more imports will flow in, and agricultural exports will grow as well.

The Stockton Ship Channel has an average depth of 37 feet at low tide and an average depth at high tide of 40 feet, according to the Port. It can accommodate vessels in the 45,000 to 55,000 ton class. Some ships as large as 60,000 tons can use the channel fully loaded. Vessels up to 80,000 tons use the channel partially loaded.

The Port has berthing space for 17 vessels, 1.1 million square feet of dockside transit sheds and 7.7 million square feet of warehousing for both dry bulk and general cargoes, including steel. Each warehouse has rail service.

These numbers will change as the port grows. Between 2004 and 2005, tonnage in and out increased by 51.6 percent and total vessel calls were up 13.7 percent. Barge traffic grew by 83.3 percent. Cement remained the largest import commodity, up 50 percent in the year with a total volume of 1,790,731 metric tons, according to the Port. Steel imports increased

from zero in 2003 to 67,212 tons in 2005.

Bagged rice remains Stockton's most valuable export commodity, with 196,486 tons shipped in 2005, mostly to Japan and New Guinea.

The port had positioned itself for expansion by taking over the U.S. Navy's former base at Rough and Ready Island in 2000, adding 1,400 acres. Brueckner had helped lobby Sen. Diane Feinstein, (D-CA), to get the Navy to dredge the channel. The port approved three new leases Aug. 14, adding 175 new jobs to the island. Next year a new road will link the island to State Highway 4 to the south.

The port actively seeks tenants. It recently signed a lease with American Biodiesel Inc. to construct a biodiesel plant at the port. Operating as Community Fuels, it will develop a multi-acre site with 40,000 square feet of warehouse space and will eventually pump 10 million gallons of fuel annually.

Stockton's geographical position on the landward side links ocean shipping to major interstate highways, two trans-continental railroads and one of the world's largest agricultural areas.

This means more work for Local 54 and more work for other union workers as well. Local 54 currently has 54 A registered workers, 22 B registrants and 60 C registrants. Five new B registrants came on in July and another five will be registered B in August. Local 54 would like the employers to allow more registration, Brueckner said.

"We are getting more shifts, we have casuals who already have qualified years, that's tell-tale right there," Brueckner said. "We have people coming from the Bay Area [longshore locals] to work here, that's how much work we've had."

SEPTEMBER 2006

NOTICE TO ALL ILWU-REPRESENTED EMPLOYEES, ILWU MEMBERS, FINANCIAL CORE NON-MEMBERS AND NEW HIRES

This notice applies to all ILWU-represented employees, ILWU members, non-members and new hires working in an ILWU bargaining unit, including members and individuals who happen at any time to become financial core members by any means, including by choice, suspension or expulsion from union membership in any local or division affiliated with the ILWU, for the one year period following the date of this notice or until such time covered by a later notice of similar kind.

The information contained herein applies to ILWU International per capita and, for those working in the Longshore Division, the ILWU Coast Pro Rata fees or payments of any kind under a union security clause. This notice also applies to local dues and fees paid to any affiliated ILWU locals or divisions, except those affiliates who have chosen not to be covered by this notice and have issued their own separate notice under their own separate policies and procedures. (Accordingly, this notice shall be superseded by any other notice issued by any affiliated ILWU local or division with respect to its dues and fees.)

Please be advised that individuals working under a union security clause contained in a collective bargaining agreement, notwithstanding the specific provisions of such clause, are only required as a condition of employment under such clause to pay uniform dues and any required initiation fees and may, by writing to the ILWU Secretary-Treasurer, or to their local ILWU secretary-treasurer, resign or decline union membership and choose to become a "financial core member" at any time. Such "financial core members" are deemed to be in compliance with any union security clause, regardless of any specific wording to the contrary, so long as they timely pay all regular and periodic financial core dues or fees properly charged by their bargaining representative as explained herein.

Please be advised, however, that financial core members deprive themselves of the valuable rights of union membership in the ILWU and their ILWU local or division. A financial core member does not have the right to vote, nominate for office, hold office, or be a candidate for office in the ILWU; nor may he/she participate in or even attend ILWU meetings or any functions of the union that are limited to union members. In addition, a financial core member has no right to vote on dues increases or on contracts submitted to the membership for ratification. These rights and privileges of union membership are accorded only to union members in good standing.

Nevertheless, financial core members are still legally required under a valid union security clause to pay to their union for the costs related to collective bargaining, contract administration, grievance adjustment, and union organizing of establishments within competitive markets of ILWU-unionized employers, and other activities reasonably related to the effectuation of the union's representational duties (hereinafter called "chargeable activities"). However, union expenditures for non-representational activities such as political activities, lobbying (hereinafter called "nonchargeable activities") - activities which most workers know help build a better climate for us all in bargaining with employers and in securing fundamental worker rights - may not be charged to financial core members who file timely objections.

For calendar year 2005 (which is the most recent audited year), the financial review has confirmed that no more than 13% of all ILWU International's expenditures were for nonchargeable activities. While each ILWU local and division may have different percentages of nonchargeable expenditures, financial reviews and practical experience confirm that the nonchargeable percentage for ILWU locals is significantly lower than that for the ILWU International. Nevertheless, those ILWU locals and divisions covered by this notice will not collect or seek to collect financial core fees greater than that based on the nonchargeable percentage of 13% stated above for the ILWU International for the applicable collection period herein or until such time as such local issues a separate notice.

For those individuals employed in the ILWU Longshore Division and work for a PMA-member company under the Pacific Coast Longshore and Clerks Agreement, please also note that with respect to Coast Pro Rata Fees (including "Fighting Fund" fees), for calendar year 2005 (which is the most recent audited year), the financial review has confirmed that no more than 9.51% of all ILWU Coast Pro Rata Committee's expenditures were for nonchargeable activities.

The ILWU International Executive Board and the ILWU Coast Pro Rata

Committee have adopted Procedures on Financial Core Members Objecting to Nonchargeable Expenditures (hereinafter called the "Procedures"). Said procedures can be obtained from the ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer at 1188 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. Under the Procedures, a financial core member of any affiliated ILWU local and division has the right within an applicable 30 day period of time to object to expenditure for nonchargeable activities of his or her local dues paid to the ILWU local and the per capita paid to the ILWU International, as well as any Coast Pro Rata fees paid to the ILWU Coast Pro Rata Committee. In the event a financial core member perfects such objection, he or she shall receive either the appropriate monthly reduction or an advance rebate of a portion of local dues and per capita reflecting the ILWU International's nonchargeable percentage of 13% stated above and, additionally for those working in the ILWU Longshore Division, an appropriate monthly reduction or an advance rebate of a portion of the coast pro rata fees reflecting the ILWU Coast Pro Rata Committee's nonchargeable percentage of 9.51% stated above.

Under the Procedures, an objection by a financial core member must be made in writing and post-marked within 30 days from the date of this notice or the date of becoming a new hire or a financial core member under an ILWU union security clause and receipt of this notice, whichever is later, and addressed to the ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer, 1188 Franklin Street, 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94109. To be valid, the written objection must specify the objector's name, address, social security number, current wage rate, the name of his or her employer and the name of the local union or division which represents the objector. A written objection must be timely in order to be valid. Without waiving the 30-day filing period with respect to other notices of this type, please be advised that under this notice only, objections filed by current financial core members will be deemed timely if postmarked on or before November 1, 2006. Individuals who after the date of this notice become new hires or financial core members may file an objection within 30 days of the date they become a new hire or financial core member or receive this notice, whichever is later.

Unless changed by a later notice, those financial core members and new hires who file timely objections will not be charged from the date they file a timely objection through October 2007 for expenditures related to nonchargeable activities based on the applicable percentages noted above and also will be provided detailed, independently audited financial information concerning the breakdown between chargeable and nonchargeable expenditures of the ILWU International, the ILWU Coast Pro Rata Committee (if the objector works in the Longshore Division) and of their ILWU local (if covered by this notice as explained herein). Objectors will also be given an opportunity to file, within 30 days of receipt of such financial information, a challenge to the amount and calculation of any such nonchargeable expenditures and percentages, as well as an opportunity to have such a challenge resolved, if not voluntarily settled, through expeditious arbitration before a neutral arbitrator selected by the American Arbitration Association (AAA) in proceedings conducted under AAA Rules applicable to objections to agency fees. Please also note that the amount or portion of financial core fees pending the period for filing any objection and challenge as well as the amount reasonably in dispute pursuant to any challenges will be kept in an interest bearing escrow account pending resolution of such challenges. Objectors who file challenges will receive any amount that may be determined to be owed them, plus accrued interest, pursuant to these Procedures.

It is important to know that the vast majority of ILWU represented workers believe that the little extra in dues for maintaining union membership and enjoying all the valuable benefits of full participation in the governing of the ILWU, and the negotiation of working conditions is quite a bargain. For a few cents more each week, union members enjoy all the benefits of membership in the ILWU. We sincerely believe that after careful consideration, new hires and financial core members too will agree that becoming and remaining a union member makes the most sense. If you are not a union member already but are eligible for membership under your Local's constitution and rules, please contact your ILWU local to join the ILWU.

This notice may be superseded or amended by later notices as issued by the ILWU, the Coast Pro Rata Committee or affiliated locals and divisions of the ILWU.

(rev. Sept. 2006)

Former Local 6 President Keith Eickman, 1913-2006

By Harvey Schwartz
Curator, ILWU Oral History Collection

The ILWU lost a much beloved leader and life-long activist when Keith Eickman of warehouse Local 6 passed away July 30. Eickman was a politically engaged youth in the 1930s, a warehouse worker by 1941 and a soldier in Europe during WWII. 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 San Francisco community figure. In keeping with his steadfast devotion to the ILWU, at 92 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 representation among the officers was sorely 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.

"He 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 District 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 old voting system, with its separate slates for each business agent. It was also characteristic of Keith that he consistently sought equity for us, but never stopped trying to bring all the people in the community together. He was a great humanitarian."

Alpha Hunter, another black worker of long standing in Local 6, entered the ILWU in 1943. Like King, she was a good friend and colleague of Eickman's for 60 years. Hunter served long as a shop steward and negotiating team member before her retirement in 1984. She was on the food committee with McClain and King in the 1949 warehouse strike.

"Keith came around all the time to ask how we were getting along during that three month strike," she remembered. "He was interested in everybody and everything."

Hunter recalls fondly how Eickman always got the various groups to work with him when he was in office.

"Keith never held meetings with just white people," she pointed out. "He'd recruit committees of nine or so dependable people and they were always completely integrated."

When she retired, Eickman recommended her as secretary-treasurer of the West Bay Pensioners. She won that position and still holds it today.

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

Betty de Losada 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 bring Local 6's finances under tighter rank-and-file 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 lower "women's rates" of the 1930s. She also remembers that Eickman was concerned about the welfare of the union's pensioners long before he became one himself.

Eickman was born in Canada in 1913. He graduated from Mission High School in San Francisco in 1932, "right in the middle of the Great Depression," as he put it in 1981 when I tape recorded him for the union's oral history project. "I was looking for answers to the problems of society and life," he recalled. That led him to join the Young Communist League (YCL) in 1936.

Eickman reflected back on the YCL as "the most sectarian group in the world," but remained a loyal Communist Party member for nearly 20 years before being expelled in 1955 when the CP was purging its own. Eickman, of all people, was charged with "white chauvinism" for debating a point with a black member at a Local 6 stewards' council meeting. He always argued, though, that the political education he received in the CP was invaluable.

"My life in the Party laid the basis for whatever role I played in Local 6," he insisted.



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 book-keeper 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 cannery 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 history, that he'd "practically reached glory."

In 1943 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 for the US presidency who received 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 insisting that they vote for Wallace.

"Fuck Wallace," one of them said to him. "We're going to vote for Truman."

Eickman was active in the Local 6 stewards' council and on negotiating committees into the mid-1950s. He then won office as a business agent a remarkable nine straight times between 1957 and 1968. Eickman was elected secretary-treasurer of Local 6 in 1970 and president in 1977. He held the latter position and served on the International Executive Board until his retirement in late 1982. After he officially "retired," Eickman administered the Local 6 Warehousemen's Welfare Fund for several years. He became an expert on health and welfare and kept this aspect of Local 6 afloat during a time of heavy assault by the employers.

Albert Lannon was a Local 6 business agent through most of the 1970s. Lannon followed Eickman as president of Local 6 and served for six years.

"In the late 1970s and early 1980s Keith and Local 6 went through some hard times," he pointed out. "Plants were running away from San Francisco or were closing. The situation was beyond Keith's control, but people were upset. There were a dozen revolutionary groups all clamoring for attention and claiming to know best. Yet through it all Keith kept the local on a steady course."

Lannon experienced some similar pressures when he was in office.

"Keith bailed me out of political trouble inside the union many times," he said. "I truly valued his counsel and we became very close friends. It always impressed me that Keith never became cynical and never succumbed to any of the temptations of union office. He remained vitally interested in people, in Local 6 and in his city to the end of his life."

Fred Pecker, the current secretary-treasurer of Local 6, also knew Eickman well.

"Back when I was a young steward at Guittard Chocolate Company, I was always ready to walk out at the drop of a hat," he said recently. "Then one day Keith gave a speech that really sobered me up. He explained that in the 1930s you had only your pay check. There was no health and welfare, no vacation provision, no seniority, no overtime and no pension fund. You didn't have much to lose, so it was easy to strike. But later there was so much in the package that you couldn't just walk out whenever 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 very wide. He was a true labor intellectual tutored by 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 San Francisco Legislative Committee—he was deeply involved in a variety of community affairs. A conservationist for many years, Eickman was 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 KQED, 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 re-issue of my then out-of-print book, "The March Inland: Origins of the ILWU Warehouse Division, 1934-1938."

"Keith set an example of how you 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, his son 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 Eickman at ILWU Local 34 hall at 4 Berry Street on Oct. 14 at 2 pm.

Suitable for Framing



Get your copy of the color 14 x 20 inch official ILWU 33rd International Convention photo.

Send a check for \$25 payable to
The Dispatcher / ILWU
 1188 Franklin Street 4th Floor / San Francisco, CA 94109.



Bound Dispatchers for sale 2005 Edition Now Available!

Beautiful, hardcover collections of *The Dispatcher* for 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 are now available. These are a must for Locals and individuals keeping a record of the union's activities. Get your copies of the ILWU's award-winning newspaper while the limited supply lasts. Send a check for \$50.00 for each volume (year) to *The Dispatcher* at:

Bound Dispatchers
 c/o The Dispatcher
 1188 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
 San Francisco, CA 94109

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

A Helping Hand...

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

ILWU LONGSHORE DIVISION

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

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

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

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

ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION

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

ILWU CANADA

EAP—British Columbia
 Ted Grewcutt
 3665 Kingsway, Suite 300
 Vancouver, BC V 5R 5W2
 (604) 254-7911