

The RUSTY HOOK

Seattle ILWU



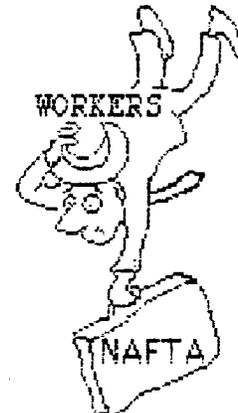
PACIFIC COAST PENSIONER'S ASSOCIATION

Vol. 1 No. 1
July/August 1993

3440 E. MARGINAL WAY S.
SEATTLE, WA 98104
(206)343-0504

Schedule:

September 13: PCPA regular meeting
(Re-scheduled because of Labor Day)
September 20: PCPA CONVENTION
(Park Terrace Inn, 1900 Hilltop Dr.
Redding CA phone(916)221-7500)
October 4: P.C.P.A. regular meeting
(Reports of Convention Delegates)



THAT SINKING FEELING

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Since this is the initial issue of our latest attempt to publish a pensioner's bulletin, we think the editorial policy and goals should be set forth clearly as possible.

It is our opinion that our policy should be to support, in any way we can, the betterment of the wages, hours and working conditions of our active brothers and sisters.

Additionally, Brother John Waddell, Area Welfare Director, has offered to write an occasional article informing our members of their benefits and rights under the Pension-Welfare Agreement and, hopefully, easing his job in the office. This will certainly be a benefit to all hands

We will include a calendar of events, a synopsis of the minutes of the previous pensioner's meetings, and copies of articles which we consider important to the membership's well-being. We might even include a cartoon or two.

In addition, because labor has been slowly placed in a legislative hole, we will support any efforts to enact laws that will give labor a more level playing field on which to confront the employer. The current legislative battle is drawn around the striker replacement bill.

HR 5, the House version, was passed in May. The Senate bill, S.55, is still awaiting action. It is vitally important that we contact our senators, urging prompt and positive action on this bill. The United States is the only large industrial nation that permits an employer to fire a striker and permanently replace him/her. In fact, in many civilized countries, union membership is a requirement of employment. Permanent replacement of a worker for defending his/her rights renders the right to strike a bitter farce. It effectively disarms workers in their battle to better their lot in life, or to even stay even.

Although the employer has had this right since the Supreme Court's Mackay Radio decision in the late thirties, no employer dared use it until Ronald Reagan fired the 12,000 aircraft controllers in 1981. This gave employers the governmental license and the courage to utilize this inhuman practice and they have been increasingly availing themselves of it since that time. The Greyhound strike is an excellent example.

We will write more on labor law reform, which is long overdue, in subsequent issues.

Dick Moork

These statistics were taken from Economic Notes, a monthly tabloid published by Labor Research Assn.. My explanations and comments are put in parentheses.

- 1) Real average weekly earnings of American workers in terms of 1982 dollars. (These figures constitute wages as adjusted to inflation.)
 - a. 1972 real earnings...\$315.44
 - b. January 1992 real earnings....\$255.30
 - c. Percentage decline since 1972....19.1%
 - d. This constitutes an approximate 1% decline per year.
- 2) Corporate profits after third quarter taxes (Multiply by four to get approximate annual rate)
 - a. 1991...\$209.6 billion -- 1992...\$222.2 billion -- An increase in profits of 6%
- 3) Trade deficit, 1992...82.3 billion --- Up 29% from 1991
- 4) Budget deficit, fiscal year 1992...\$290 billion
- 5) Present federal debt...\$4.231 trillion
- 6) March 1993 consumer prices...up 3.1% from March 1992.
- 7) Average hours worked by full time workers in Feb. '93...43.5 hrs.
- 8) Average gross weekly earnings of non-supervisory workers...\$370.88... (An average of \$8.53 per hour)
- 9) Average weekly wages of union and non-union workers in 1992 (This includes supervisory personnel.)
 - a. Union...\$547 (roughly \$12.57 per hour)
 - b. Non-union...\$413 (roughly \$9.49 per hour)
- !0) Union membership
 - a. Total membership...16.4 million -- 15.8% of total work force.
 - b. Private sector membership...9.7 million -- 11.5% of work force.
 - c. Public sector membership...6.7 million -- 36.7% of public work force.
- 11) Official unemployment...7.0% in March and June of this year. Official unemployment is determined by a poll which counts only those actively looking for work for most of the time as reported by the Census Bureau for the Labor Department during a designated week in each month.
- 12) Real unemployment...18 million, or 13.7%. (This includes those too discouraged to look for work most of the time, along with some others not calculated in the official report.
- 13) Foreign unemployment... (Method of calculating unemployment in these countries not specified.)
 - a. Canada...11% -- b. Germany...7.8% -- c. Britain...10.5% -- d. Japan...2.3%
- 14) Hourly labor costs per nation. (This includes, in addition to wages, such items as occupational taxes, health insurance and employer contributions to social security).

a. U.S...\$16.17	d. Canada..\$17.02
b. Japan..\$16.16	e. South Korea..\$4.93
c. Germany..\$25.94	f. Mexico..\$2.35

JIM HIGHTOWER

Jim Hightower is a progressive populist from Texas and he has one of the sharpest wits in existence. He is past Secretary of Agriculture in that state. In addition, his sharp wit can describe a situation better than a camera.

Hightower once said, of our past and unlauded president, "Bush was born on third base and he thinks he hit a triple."

He also is an unrelenting foe of NAFTA. He describes as "so ugly it'd rot a cantaloupe at 100 paces." and any attempt at public relations cosmetics is "as useless as putting earrings on a hog." Further, Wall St heavies trying to convince us that they're backing the treaty for the betterment of the people are "kinda like Col. Sanders saying

his mission is to improve the lifestyle of chickens."

Hightower now has a syndicated talk radio program which is broadcast in the Seattle area. He says that he got tired of hearing the "day-in and day-out right-wing or corporate types" dominate the airwaves.

As of the middle of May, he had 31 radio stations signed up, including many in major population centers. His sponsors include the AFL-CIO

At this time, we do not have his radio outlet in the Seattle area, but we certainly will have it by the next issue. After all, someone who says that the rich are "sipping fine wine and eating pate while we're lucky to stop at the 7-11 for a tall Bud and a Slim Jim" can't be all bad.

REPORT FROM JOHN WADDELL
AREA WELFARE DIRECTOR

The following information is for all retired members and their dependents. Every day I receive calls from retired members asking the following questions:

1) If something happens to me, what will my survivor receive from the Union?

Your survivor would receive half of your pension plus 100% medical coverage. — The Benefit Plan office would want the following: A certified copy of the death certificate, plus a photo copy of your marriage certificate.

Your Benefits Plan office can supply you with any other information you may need.

2) Do I have any death benefits? If so, how much and to whom can I leave it?

All retired members have a death benefit of \$5,000. \$10,000 if the death is accidental. It can be left to anyone. The Benefit Plan office must have a beneficiary card completed and sent to the plan office in San Francisco. This must be done while both are still alive. Most members name their spouse as beneficiary but name a son or daughter.

3) Do we have to sign up for Medicare, Part "B"?

Yes. All persons in the family must accept Medicare, Part "B" when they turn 65 — some earlier, if they retire on a disability pension. If you elect not to take Medicare, Part "B", you could lose your medical — not only you, but your entire family. If you have any questions concerning Medicare, Part "B", it is very important that you call your local, or your the welfare office.

4) If I accept the Medicare, Part "B", who will pay the \$36.60 per month?

When you accept Medicare, Part "B", the Social Security Department will take \$36.60 per month out of your Social Security check. And, if you send a copy of your Medicare card to the plan office, or bring it in to my office, the Benefits Plan will add \$36.60 to your monthly pension checks. This has been part of the negotiated agreement since Medicare was initiated.

In the next issue of the "Rusty Hook", we will be talking about vision coverage, dental coverage, the hearing aid program, direct deposit of you pension check, change of address, etc.

John Waddell

.....

Bob Dole is the neanderthal depicted in the cartoon and it graphically portrays what will happen if S.5, the striker replacement bill, does not pass. In addition, if this worker's emancipation proclamation fails, we will be no better off than that poor impaled

soul under Dole's boot.

One need only ask him or herself what chance a worker would have if he could not organize into a union and thus could not use the economic power that goes with organization and the right to withhold one's services as a bargaining tool.

The Supreme Court decided, in the Mackay Radio beef, in the 1930s that it was legal for the employer to fire strikers and hire permanent replacements. Although this could have been a mortal blow to trade unions at that time, the unions were strong enough and had enough public support so as to make the employer fearful of using this power.

It wasn't until Ronald Reagan blazed the trail in the Aircraft Controller's strike of 1981 that the employers had the courage to hire permanent replacements. Since that time, we have seen a scourge of this cruel practice.

The House bill (HR 55) passed in May. The corporations are now pouring millions into their campaign to defeat the Senate bill. We have to contact our senators and acquaint them with our feelings regarding S.5 — it must be enacted. Local phone nos.
Patty Murray
553-5545
Slade Gorton
553-0350



"AFFLUENT SENIORS" SEEM TO BE SOMETHING LESS

Recent news accounts in Seattle papers summarize a report from the National Institute on Aging that puts the lie to those who claim greedy seniors are living off of future generations. It also debunks the claims of the 53 corporations who sponsor the anti-Social Security "Generational Equity" group and its campaign against Social Security.

For Instance, the article leads off by saying: "Millions of Americans are nearing retirement without pensions, assets or health insurance."

Further on, in direct contradiction to the "Generational Equity" crowd: "That the evidence clearly shows that we have many more generous grandparents than greedy geezers..." "Child care consumes a large amount of time for today's grandparents. At the same time, many are also helping frail parents of their own." And further on:

"But behind the average are large proportions of people who are falling into some category - ill or disabled, without pensions, insurance or assets, or lacking family support - that may rob them of a successful and satisfying retirement ..." To say the least! "Two in five will have no pension income other than Social Security."

The above is just a sampling of what appears to be the real picture of the inadequacies of American pension and Social Security programs. Compared to other industrial countries, we are pretty far down the list. Of course, that does not count the truly affluent corporate CEO retirees with their "Golden Parachutes!"

As we know, having a strong union like the ILWU makes a big difference in our welfare. While the survey does not compare the fortunes of union retirees with non-union, it goes without saying that the union makes a difference!

As further evidence of the lies of corporate efforts to turn young people against Social Security, we quote from an article in the 'Nation' magazine (7/19/93): "There is no reason to go private (to leave the individual worker to his own pension savings). The Social Security trust fund will actually accumulate a surplus of \$.3 trillion by 2015 ... the government is taking in more than three times the amount than it is paying out in Social Security benefits; it invests the surplus in special Treasury notes, which is another way of saying that the money goes to finance the national debt. If the government exhausts the surplus it can always issue fresh debt to pay for the notes that have come due; US government bonds are gilt-edged that way and if they ever become irredeemable, more than the Social Security system will be in trouble."

"All that aside, why would anyone try to organize a youth movement around the fear that when young people reach their sixties, they may not get Social Security?"

The answer is obvious. It has two cruel objectives: One is to drive down the living standard ; and two is to divide the young from the old so the pockets of both can be picked.

CARGILL HITS THE JACKPOT

"According to a memorandum of the Senate Investigating Committee, grain companies manipulate prices to gain big subsidies (the export subsidy program cost Americans \$333 million in agricultural subsidies in connection with the Russian grain deal.) The memo, which was made public by Jack Anderson, details how it worked.

"... we have information that one company (Cargill) sold wheat to its wholly owned South American affiliate (Tradex-Panama).

The company collected the subsidy when it showed proof of shipment to its affiliate.

The affiliate then sold the wheat to another affiliate in Geneva, which thereupon made a final sale for \$2.20 a bushel, or ten cents above the American price. ... as far as we can tell, the wheat never left the ship on which it was originally loaded and all transfers were mere paper transfers.

This practice was repeated numerous times.

"No Person has ever been born a negro hater, a jew hater, or any other kind of hater. Nature refuses to be involved in such suicidal practices" ----- Harry Bridges

FINAL DISPATCH

Duane Rash - 19
Velda M. Black, (Wife of Charley - 52)
Marilyn Bussanich, (Wife of Antonio - 19)
Harry Williams - 19
Francis Furlong - 19
Joe Ross - 19
Rod Barkley - 52
Mint Kaul - 52
Mrs. Harry Richey
Leona Swanson (Wife of Leroy - 19)
Tess Christenson (Widow of Earl- 19)
Tora Rystad (Wife of Gus -19)
Fay Yearka - 19
Harold Almskaar - 19
Jack Cordray - 19
Cesar Chavez - President,
United Farm Workers of America

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MEETING?

MAY

Ms Jackie Branz, organizer for the United Farmworkers of Washington State, spoke on the boycott of the Chateau Ste. Michelle winery and their products. She thanked us for our \$200 donation toward their efforts. In addition, she asked for our continued support in their boycott struggle.

Prof. David Olson, chair of the Harry Bridges Chair in Labor Studies, introduced Margaret Levi who, in turn introduced Prof. Rothstein, from Sweden, who is here to study U.S. labor relations. Prof. Olson then thanked several pensioners who spoke to his class on 'Politics of Labor. This included our historian, Ron Magden. The pensioners enjoyed speaking to the class and the class enjoyed the pensioners talks.

Sister Jean Gundlach donated a copy of a Masters Thesis, "West Coast Unions and Labor Militancy", to the Labor Center It was written by a friend of hers.

JUNE PROCEEDINGS

Endorsed Pastors for Peace shipment of medicine to Cuba and donated \$25

Sister Gundlach stated that she had cancelled her AT&T service because of their attempt to use scab labor to load fiber-optic cable in Astoria. ILWU, Local 50 has historically done the work. Local 50 put a stop to the operation. CWA assured Jean

that AT&T said it would not happen again.

Keg Restaurants sent a cynical and insulting response to some members requests that Keg stop stocking Chateau Ste. Michelle wines. This is in support of UFW of W's efforts to gain a contract with that employer (United States Tobacco Co). We sent a letter to Keg stating that they lacked social responsibility

Brother Bob Duggan reported that all UW publications now sport a union bug. He also announced a first anniversary celebration for the Harry Bridges Chair in Labor Studies.

NEW BUSINESS

It was M/S/C to oppose initiatives 601 & 602 because, if passed, they will scuttle most of the social programs, such as Health Care Reform, education, the mending of our infrastructure, crime prevention and, possibly Port funds, when the cutting gets in full swing.

NAFTA

We are all aware that the smallest project requires an environmental impact statement (EIS). The purpose is to assure we will keep our planet livable.

We are also aware that the environmental hazards of NAFTA are overwhelming and real.

Recently, a group of environmental organizations filed suit in Federal Court to force the administration to file an EIS. Unbelievably, a federal judge, Richey, ruled in their favor. He ruled that the Clinton administration could not proceed until they had filed an EIS that met all of our environmental regulations. According to experts, there is no possible way that NAFTA can satisfy these regulations. Consequently, the Clinton Administration filed an appeal of Judge Richey's ruling.

We have heard a lot of rhetoric from Pres. Clinton about his intention of not accepting NAFTA until all environmental and labor laws and regulations are satisfied. It seems as if that's just what it was — rhetoric.

Again, high-paid lobbyist for the corporations are working 24 hrs. a day in D.C. to assure the ratification of NAFTA. Our only weapon is our vote. We must contact our senators (they, alone, vote on treaties) and tell them we will not tolerate their support of NAFTA. Phone nos. in article on S.5.

STEVIE ADOREE (unsyndicated)

Dear Stevie: You and that flock of broken down old billy goats that you hang out with should be boiled in oil. That obscene thing you built and called a union has browbeaten the poor waterfront employers into paying \$21 an hour. No ~~crummy~~ longshoreman is worth that much money. The employers will go bankrupt and then where will all you worthless trash be? Hortense

Hortense: We were just talking about you after we heard Texas Jim Hightower say on the radio; "If ignorance goes to \$40 a barrel, I want drilling rights on that guy's head." We know you got some loose turns, Hortense, but even you must know that any wage increase an American working stiff is able to get has already been eaten up by inflation. The waterfront employers have a good thing going with us. Starting from 1960, in 1990, 2,803 fewer west coast longshoremen 125 million, 738 thousand, 168 more tons of cargo at \$1.95 less per ton. Tonnage increased 7 times and cost per ton dropped by 1/3. By the way, Hortense, you still with Willie the wino? He ever find out it was you swiped and hocked his teeth and not the neighbor's dog that carried them away? Stevie

	LONGSHOREMEN CLERKS & BOSSES	TONNAGE MOVED	LABOR COST PER TON
1960 -	12,529	19,877,926	\$5.77
1970 -	10,513	39,458,608	\$4.25
1980 -	10,245	73,538,059	\$4.57
1990 -	9,723	135,738,165	\$3.84

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~~Seattle, WA 98133~~

Arthur Mink
169 Power Ave.
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