

# AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



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## President Moork III

We are sorry to announce that Brother Dick Moork has been undergoing chemotherapy. He will be unable to continue the fine job of editing the RUSTY HOOK that all of us have enjoyed.

While he is undergoing treatment for the next three or four months, we remaining three editors will do our best to publish a reduced version until he returns. We are simply not able to duplicate the time and energy he did so ably in past editions.

We will try to keep you abreast of developments on the waterfront and in the union, and current events as much as space in the reduced version will allow. In the meantime we look forward to Dick's return and our return to the tradition of the lively and informative RUSTY HOOK. We know you, as well as we all wish him a speedy and full recovery.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>PCPA CONVENTION</u>	<u>SEP. 18-20</u>
October meeting	Oct. 2
November meeting	Nov. 6
December meeting	Dec. 4

## THE TWENTY FOUR HOUR COAST WIDE WATERFRONT SHUT DOWN

Not since the 1971-72 strike has the Pacific Coast waterfront been shut down as it was August 7. The twenty four hour work stoppage was in protest over unfair and unjust treatment of Brothers Pat Vukich and Wayne Erickson by the Northwest and Coast Arbitrators.

From all accounts, Vukich and Erickson had been caught in an illegal entrapment set up by the local PMA during a beef over hiring practices of foremen out of Local 19. According to the story, PMA had illegally "wired" a member of Local 23 who was recruited by the PMA to apply for a foremen's job in Seattle during the beef. A verbal altercation ensued in which Vukich and Erickson engaged in some typical waterfront language, totally unaware that they were being taped.

The PMA used the illegal tapes as evidence in filing charges against Vukich and Erickson. To make a long story short, the charges went through the grievance machinery, ended up in Coast Arbitrator Kagel's hands and Vukich and Erickson were fined 15 days off dispatch.

Such unjust treatment called for massive protest. Thus, the twenty four hour coast wide work stoppage.

We haven't seen such action since the 30s. The local PMA fumbled the ball. The results are yet to be determined. We'll keep you posted.

++++FOOD FOR THOUGHT++++

"Even though I think the Republicans are doing the wrong thing, I'd feel a lot better about it if I thought they actually knew what they were doing."

Molly Ivins



Two of our newly elected Republican Congress.....(persons?) celebrate the rolling in of campaign contributions from anti-labor political action committees

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### GOP "CONTRACT WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE"

If one believes in the Tooth Fairy, one might listen to the GOP Contract on America's myth that the people on welfare using food stamps, those voracious children eating school lunches and those availing themselves of Medicare and Medicaid, or those trying to get justice after being injured or made ill by corporate negligence are the source of the nation's economic woes.

However, if one looks at the facts - that since the 1981 Reagan tax cut for the wealthy and drastically increased military spending, the nation has seen the greatest upward transfer of wealth in world history -that during that time, our federal budget went from just under \$1 trillion to today's almost \$5 trillion -that during this time the gap between the haves and have-nots has grown beyond description, one would realize where the money went. If one would visualize over \$500 billion being given, through deregulation, to the S&L bandits, one would know why deregulation is so important to the "contractors".

The "contractors", who are the same people who gave us Reaganomics, are now taking the next giant step -- blaming the results of their actions on the victims. In addition, they are now trying to extract the next pound of flesh from these same victims.

There is not one word in the Newtster's 'contract' that isn't meant to enhance the coffers of the wealthy and the corporations and push the lower classes back to the standard of living of the 19 Century.

All of the attack on government regulations can be traced to such self-styled populist outfits as; The National Association of Manufacturers, Chemical Manufacturers Assoc., Edison Electric, and the National Petroleum Institute. They comprise the "Alliance for Reasonable Regulation"; "Citizens against Government Waste", an anti-regulatory outfit founded by J. Peter Grace, whose commission has actively sought to eliminate government regulation and social spending for the poor.; "Citizens for a Sound Economy" whose 'citizens' are companies like Amoco, Bell Atlantic, Citibank, General Electric and General Motors. These companies are all fighting government regulations because they, the statutes, jeopardize the companies' profits. These are the leaders of the anti-regulatory and anti-people movement.

The best example of deregulation is the S&L debacle. This was caused by the deregulation of savings and loan banks, allowing them to grant loans for other than home building. The greatest rip-off in U.S. history ensued. Hundreds of thousands of ordinary Americans lost their life savings in this bit of deregulatory legerdemain,

With the deregulatory slant of the 'contract', they are after OSHA, the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. They have already targeted these highly successful statutes. Where would we be without an enforced OSHA?

Almost every current regulation is in place to protect the consumer, worker, and the environment from the anti-social actions of corporations. Don't let them take them away. Contact your senators.

Dick Moork

#### TAXES

Corporate income taxes in the very early 1980s were upward of 40%. Today, they are 14%. And the corporations are trying to get their taxes further reduced. Does this first fact go anywhere toward explaining the ever rising national deficit? Does the second explain why there is such a gap between the haves and the rest of us in America?

### THE UPS AND DOWNS OF LABOR

By Del Castle

Most of us know about the Seattle General Strike of 1919, credited by many as the first general strike in the United States. While that is not exactly true, there having been others in the 1800s, it was the first in more modern times and of greater extent and consequence.

To make a long story short, the strike failed. By the depression of 1921, Seattle's powerful, militant and radical trade union movement was a shadow of its former self.

How this happened is told in a recent book entitled Purchasing Power, - Consumer Organizing, Gender and the Seattle Labor Movement, 1919-1929 by Dana Frank, Cambridge Press. This book was assigned in the Seminar on American Labor History under the Harry Bridges Chair at

the University of Washington.

The strike was called by the Shipyard Metal Trades unions to demand a wage increase in September, just at the time the war ended and government contracts for warships were being canceled. They were joined by all other union workers in a matter of a few days.

But the shipyards that employed over 30,000 workers were closing down. That was the unions' first mistake.

But the workers thought they had an answer. That was to start up worker owned small industries, producer and consumer cooperatives and their own bank. Coupled with this they felt any shortfalls could be overcome by using the boycott tool. They had their own newspaper, the main form of media outlet of the day, The Union Record with a circulation of 100,000. In addition, they had a rudimentary motion picture studio, owned by the Motion Picture Operator's Union, which they thought could be used to good advantage.

All of this was to be financed by individual worker investment money and swollen union treasuries. The general feeling was that the surplus funds available from wartime earnings would be sufficient to beat capitalism at its own game. But, in the few cases where this succeeded, as in one laundry, profit making quickly began to displace the worker's cause.

The boycott tactic failed largely because the pur-

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chasers, mainly women, were not organized into the campaign, but were expected to follow orders as given by the male dominated unions. In addition, different craft jurisdictions would cause one craft to call off its boycott because it had won a contract for its workers, leaving the other crafts to continue on with out them.

The final nail in labor's coffin came in the form of a tightly organized anti-union campaign by the employers that many think set a pattern for the employers nationally.

By 1921, the game was over. "Perhaps most striking", Dana Frank wrote "was how fast it all happened. One moment white workers set their sights as high as they would at any point in the whole century, daring the dream of an independent worker's state achieved through secession maybe through profit, maybe through seizure of the state [ala the Wobblies]. The next moment it was over. The sense of the possible, so high in 1919, plummeted".

A little note to all this is that, after 1919, Wall Street boycotted all financing in the city of Seattle. For instance, a shipbuilder by the name of Rodgers tried to get financing for a private shipyard during this period. He was refused any bank financing because he was known as being friendly to labor.

Finally, there is a very important lesson to be learned from the above. It is not just that the working class cannot beat the capitalists at their own game; it is that labor can come back after almost total defeat.

Proof of that lies in the tremendous gains made by labor in the 30s, 40s and on up to the 70s. We have suffered a decline since then, but it is not as deep as in the, 20s and we will have an upturn again. The fortunes of labor, in our economic and social system, follow a cycle, not a single line up or down. From that we may take heart!

### MEMBERSHIP

The size of our membership is directly proportional to our effectiveness as a Pension Club. Politicians know what the relative size of our club is and, therefore, how many we speak for. This is vitally important in the world of Newtsville because numbers mean votes to politicians, votes are political clout and without political clout, no one will listen to you.

The Pacific Coast Pensioners Assn. (PCPA) is a vital, political organization that is active on all issues that affect seniors and the labor movement. We hold a convention every year and hash out these issues and take some strong political stands in defense of labor and senior rights. To be an accredited delegate, one only has to show up (the convention in 1995 will be held on Sept. 18 -19 &20 at the Expo Inn in Sacramento, only a short run from Reno). We are affiliated with the National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSC), coastwise, and the Puget Sound Council of Senior Citizens (PSCSC), locally.

Just as when we were working, it takes members dues to fund our activities.. Dues for the Seattle ILWU Pension Club are \$12 per year. This includes membership in the PCPA and a chance to add your voice and vote to the policies of the PCPA.



### Jim Hightower

If you wake up on weekends with a terminal case of the blahs, if you have the feeling that the whole world is against you and your brothers and sisters, or if you are fed up with the corporate lackeys such as Rush Limbaugh or our Own resident right wing mouthpieces, Mike Siegel and John Carlson, you should tune in to KIRO-FM (100.7 FM) every Saturday and Sunday at 11 am for "Hightower Radio". There is a guarantee that you will immediately improve both physically and mentally.

The irony of the situation is that he is carried on CBS, locally, while he is carried nationally on ABC (KOMO, our local ABC outlet, has refused, despite pressure from labor, to carry their network broadcast.

It would behoove all of us to write, or call, KIRO FM thanking them for carrying Jim Hightower and write, or call, KOMO, castigating them for their one-sided, corporate journalism.

### CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE And SENATORS

Congressional switchboard in Washington, DC:  
1-(202)224-3121, ask for your representative and  
Senators by name.

#### Local Offices:

Senator Slade Gorton: 553-0350.

Senator Patty Murray: 553-5545.

#### Representatives:

1st district, Rick White 640-0233

7th district, Jim McDermott: 553-7170.

8th district, Jennifer Dunn 450-0161

9th district, Randy Tate 839-8308

**TELL THEM "NO CUTS IN MEDICARE AND  
MEDICAID." "NO TAX SUBSIDIES FOR BIG  
BUSINESS"**

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## PRIVATIZATION

Privatization is designed to further erode the role of government, and thus the people, in the conduct of every day life in order to maximize profits and to further widen the gap between the wealthy and the middle, poor and poverty stricken classes.

The myth that the private sector can do it better is just that, a myth. I cannot think of one U.S. corporation that could operate without the largess of the government. Either in tax writeoffs, huge and unnecessary government contracts or direct subsidies. All one has to do is recall Chrysler, who would have gone under except for a huge government loan, the S&L rip-off, or the huge and unnecessary (being that we have no "mortal enemies", as during the Cold War) military budget, which is skyrocketing every year.

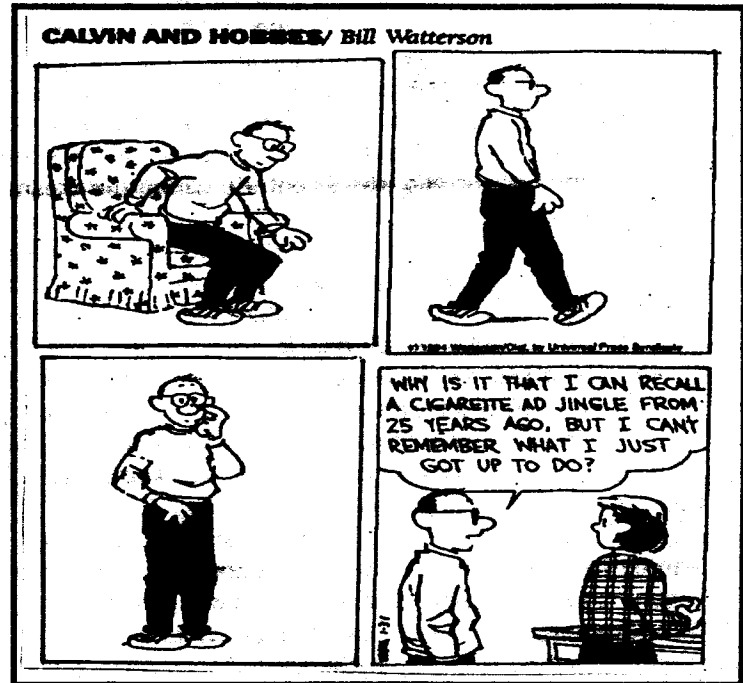
The hogs want to privatize everything that has any potential for profit -- even our educational system. If anyone has any doubts about the benefits of privatization, he/she need only look to the U.S. Postal Service, which was privatized by Nixon in the early 70s.

The revenue producing business, package delivery, was given to the likes of UPS, Federal Express, etc. Prior to that time, UPS was a nationwide local delivery company, delivering for department stores and such -- there was no Federal Express. The Postal Service handled most of the packaged out-of-town delivery and they did it efficiently.

Today, these private package delivery companies

have turned international, with fleets of 747s and we are stuck with subsidizing the junk mail industry. Incidentally, at the same time, we also subsidize the private package delivery companies. The private company reaps the profits and the taxpayer pays the losses.

This is the public benefit of privatization?



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