

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

The RUSTY HOOK

Seattle ILWU



PUBLISHED BY
SEATTLE ILWU PENSION CLUB

VOLUME 4 - No. 3
Winter 1996

3440 EAST MARGINAL WAY SO.
SEATTLE, WA 98134
(206)343-0504

EDITORIAL STAFF

RALPH ADLER FRED BERG
DELL CASTLE ART MINK

This issue funded by the members of
Local 19, I.L.W.U., Seattle, Washington



MEETINGS:

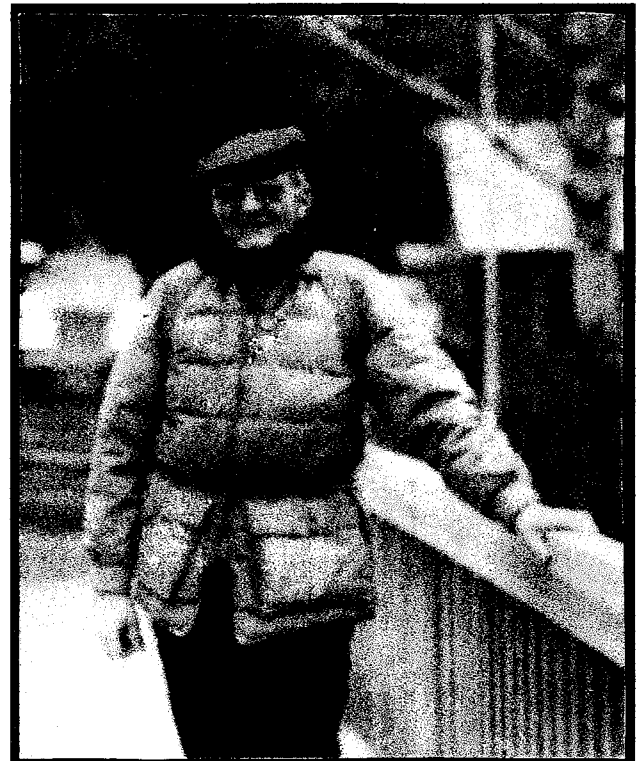
DECEMBER	2
JANUARY	6
FEBRUARY	3

DICK MOORK WORKER WITH A VISION

Brother Dick Moork was one of a kind. He never wavered in his personal struggle to defend and enlarge the rights of workers and all who suffer under an unfair system devoted to enhancing profits at the expense of the people. He spent his time in the labor movement trying by every means possible to raise living standards generally; while at the same time knowing and conveying to others that our economy would never allow freedom for the people. He felt that the "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" was not possible with the bosses in control.

Many of us felt he literally wore himself out giving unstintingly and heroically to the cause in which he believed so strongly. He never gave in. He could not be bent, broken or bought.

He believed, as did Abraham Lincoln, that the strongest human bond is that uniting workers of all lands and kindreds. If we can achieve his vision we will be far better off than at any time in history. Farewell to Dick — Old Timer, Brother and Comrade.



LOCAL 19 AND RUSTY HOOK

As you know, our RUSTY HOOK has been a publication by the Old Timers for our membership. That may be enlarged to be circulated to the membership of Local 19. Local 19's Executive Board voted in its October 22 meeting to request the membership to

(Continued on Page 2)

People Before Profits

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

(Continued from Page 1)

endorse a proposal to help finance its publication as part of its membership educational program. If the proposal passes two meetings of the Union (a by-laws rule) we will be publishing a new RUSTY HOOK devoted to that purpose. We will be including material on the history of the ILWU, the principles of unionism, questions and problems in labor relations, parliamentary procedure, etc., and any other subject the membership feels will be helpful.

This is felt necessary because we will be facing a new kind of labor relations in '99. The employers showed its hand in the '96 negotiations by stalling on every single Union proposal. The union was forced to call for strike action before the employers began to bargain in good faith. Finally, after prolonging negotiations past the deadline of 7/1/96, the employers gave in and a contract was signed.

But even then, it took two ballots among the membership to get the 60% majority needed to ratify. That was because Locals 13 and 10 voted 'NO' the first time around because of local issues.

What all this shows is that the relatively peaceful period of labor relations since the 1971-72 strike is coming to an end. We will have to fight like hell in '99 to keep our union and the gains we have made.

Further evidence of a hardening employer strategy is the rumored move on the part of APL, and possibly Matson to pull out of the PMA. This would mean a whole new ball of wax. They may plan to set up an independent carrier group and negotiate separate contracts. In addition, as at the Mercy Docks in Liverpool, there is the threat of privatizing docks on the Pacific Coast. Along with this, there is the ever present threat of private, modernized docks in Mexico. We face a difficult future!

We hope the RUSTY HOOK will be helpful in promoting a union educational program aimed to prepare for tough times ahead.



"THEY SAY THE ADVERTISING WILL HELP SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS ... BUT I STILL SAY IT'S A UNIFORM..."

20 Z MAGAZINE APRIL 1996

CORRESPONDENCE

From BEULAH BENHAM in Burlington:

"I enjoy the paper and I'd appreciate it if you'd keep sending it to me. Thank you.

"My husband was HARRY BENHAM, who belonged to Local 19. He died of cancer in 1986 and I receive a survivor's pension."

Thank you for your welcome praise of the RUSTY HOOK. We'll see that you get it regularly. Sorry about Harry and our condolences to you and his survivors.



From CAE PITHAROULIS, Athens Greece:

"I am disturbed by my inability to obtain news about my friend Jerry Tyler. In his last letter, received about two months ago, he wrote that he had been very ill but had recovered. Since then, I have written, wired, phoned to no avail.

I am deeply indebted to Jerry. Without his help I never would have been published in my native U.S. which I left many years ago. When we were all younger, he often visited my late husband and me, then me when I was very much alone.

I would appreciate any news concerning him. The sooner the better. He often mentioned Dulce and Gus who were helping him with my book, A PERSONAL REPORT which I gifted to the Harry Bridges Chair. My trade union husband (maritime) was a friend and great admirer of Harry Bridges. I am a retired trade unionist, now 80 years old.

I get news about our mutual friend DICK MOORK from 'THE RUSTY HOOK' which Jerry always sent me along with other U.S. trade union and progressive publications after he read them. My deepest affection to DICK and I'm cheering his courage together with the rest of you."



From JESSIE HRASKA, our intrepid correspondent -
A UNION PICNIC - AND COORS BEER!

"Walking in Lincoln park, some years ago, I came upon a group of young people having a picnic. I noticed the caps the men wore, with a union symbol on them. They were all laughing and talking with the small children running all around. It was good to see these young people having fun, when my eyes lit upon the table where I saw, to my utter shock, a case of Coors beer on the table, a scab beer.

Oh Dear! What should I do? Should I stop and tell them how Coors treated its workmen? That it was the scabbiest company, the way it fought the workers' fight to organize into a union? And, Oh! also, should I take it upon myself to spoil their picnic? No! I couldn't just do this to them! So I passed by and got

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

behind a big tree to think about this chance I had to enlighten a lot of people. How I scourged myself at being spineless. What a fight I had with myself pro and con about this. I'll bet I argued about this for at least ten minutes. Then I became grim and decided, hell or high water, I had to do this.

Oh! So slowly I shuffled back, like a snail was my tortured pace. Finally, I was close so they could hear me, but first I had to let them know I was there. This was the hard part - 'Could I please speak to all of you for a few?', I asked. They all stopped their eating. "I won't take long. I know you are having a fun time, your picnic and all, and I can see by the mens' caps that this is a union picnic. Maybe you know it, maybe you don't, but you are drinking a scab beer, Coors! Coors has a terrible record of anti-unionism. It treats its workers like slaves. They dare not talk about organizing because Coors has its sleuths watching every move they make. However, as long as you have already bought this scab beer, don't throw it away. Finish it up!"

"Thank you for giving me these few minutes and also remember to be careful and support those companies who have unions! Thank you again!" They listened - taken aback, so sudden was this stranger in their midst. I didn't wait for their response. I turned on my heel, grateful that they had let me speak; thankful that they were so decent. They could have stoned me, you know!

More power to you, Jessie!

Harry Bridges Chair in Labor Studies

Room 6, Smith Hall
University of Washington
Margaret Levy, Professor
Aaron Spitzer, Administrative
Assistant

Office hours: Tues. & Wed.
9—12 and by appointment.

Phone (543-7946)

A Civics Lesson

EXCERPTED FROM AN ARTICLE BY

BENJAMIN R. BARBET, DIRECTOR OF THE WALT WHITMAN CENTER AND WHITMAN PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, IS THE AUTHOR, MOST RECENTLY, OF *JIHAD VS. McWORLD* (BALLANTINE), WHICH APPEARED IN *THE NATION*, NOVEMBER 4, 1996

Politicians who ask to represent us in Washington by campaigning against the fundamental principles of democratic representation as well as against the city in which they are planning to spend the next four years do not deserve our vote. What they deserve is a basic civics lesson. Something along these lines:

In democracies, representative institutions do not steal our liberties from us, they are the precious medium through which we secure those liberties. Our Founding Fathers understood perfectly well that in the absence of government we get what Thomas Hobbes called the war of all against all: liberty in theory but, in practice, lives that are "nasty, brutish, and short." That is why in the constitutional preamble explaining what they were doing, these same Founders noted that it was precisely in order to "secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity" that they were going to "ordain and establish" a constitutional government.

No, they did not say they were going to abolish government to secure liberty, they said they were going to "ordain and establish" government, not just to secure liberty but also to "form a more perfect union" (not downsize it); to "establish justice" (not leave it to the states—that's what the Articles of Confederation had done with such dismal results); and to "insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare" (not privatize them in the vain hope that selfish individuals and commercial markets would somehow get the job done).

In time, the successors to our Founders figured out they could not really do all the things they were supposed to do on our behalf without adequate revenue. And so, in the Sixteenth Amendment, they gave Congress the power to "lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived." Senator Dole is right: The money does not belong to the government, it belongs to us. But government belongs to us too. "It" does not steal from "us," we pool resources so we can act on behalf of the commonweal the weal (wellbeing) common to us. If we do not like how our government spends what it collects on our common behalf, we should change the government, not deprive it of resources to do the job it does for us. Taxes are not

SOLIDARITY!

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

tithes imposed by tyrants, they are self-imposed duties that permit our government to discharge our common purposes.

To cry, "Give Americans back their hard earned tax dollars!" is a disingenuous way of saying, "To hell with establishing justice, promoting welfare and securing the blessings of liberty!" It's nothing more than a cynical bribe to citizens calling on them to give up on one another and go it alone. That may work for the rich and privileged but it's something most of us can ill afford. Big government—or let's call it strong democracy—is for the little guy; it's how he and his neighbors can take on the big bullies in the private sector. Naturally, the bullies resent the competition and make war on "big government," ostensibly on behalf of the little guy.

Bashing Washington in favor of Russell, Kansas, is just another way of bashing democracy. Russell, Kansas—and Hope, Arkansas, too—are a couple of small towns where politicians who now live and work in Washington once came from—a very long time ago—and where they still go every few years when they are running for office in a city they want to pretend they are not really from. The irony is not the hypocrisy—that's just politics, folks—but the unreality for America is much more like Washington, D.C., than like Russell, Kansas, or Hope, Arkansas. In fact, it is precisely the passing of small town life and the neighborly amenities and common assets it once afforded that necessitates governmental remedies for local problems. It is in large urban/suburban metropolises beset by problems of education, safety, transportation, health, housing, welfare and poverty that the greater part of America's sovereign people live, and they need government badly. Russell may represent a memory of someone's vanished youth and may once have helped heal Bob Dole's war wounds, but Houston, New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Chicago and, yes, Washington, D.C., along with the sprawling suburbs that surround them, define, for better or worse, the American present on the threshold of this new century, and politicians who affect to serve us need to start thinking about them instead of talking about the vanished magic of village life.

Join The Old Timers
Seattle ILWU Pension Club
3440 E. Marginal Way S.
(206) 343-0504

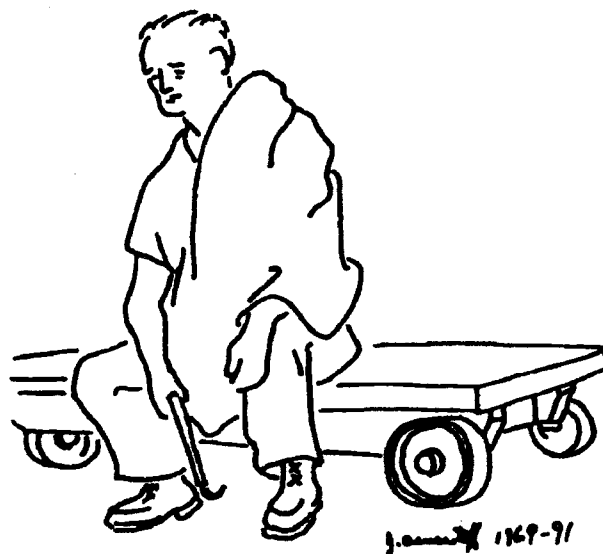
THE TACOMA PCPA CONVENTION GRANDEST AND GREATEST!

All those who attended the PCPA convention in Tacoma in September came away feeling they had been at an extraordinary event. Everything from the registration at the Sheraton, to the proceedings at the convention hall, the luncheon and the famous "Chow Down" was done in grand style! There couldn't have been anything more inspiring to those of us who sometimes feel that our cause is in the doldrums. We had our faith in unionism renewed.

The attendance set a record for PCPA conventions. The hall was packed, enthusiasm was high, and procedures went without a hitch thanks to the hosts and organizing committee.

Continuing support was voted for the Labor Party, and unanimous support for the Harry Bridges Institute, the Active Work Force and the 1996-99 Tentative Longshore Agreement

One of the things that set a strong tone to future of the PCPA was the appeal from past and present International Officers for the PCPA to lead in an educational program in the union membership. This was stressed by Brian McWilliams, Jimmy Herman, David Arian and Bill Ward. They appealed to us to utilize our experience in the struggles of the past to instill in ILWU members a strong spirit of unionism. Now, more than ever, a militant, united membership will be an absolute need if we are to defend our union and our gains. Everything points to the employers preparing an anti-ILWU offensive for '99. Our resources will be strained to the limit. We must be prepared!



AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

PIE IN THE SKY

By the time you receive this the '96 election will be over, and Clinton will be President for another four years if the polls' projections are accurate.

So what do we get? We get a "Republocrat." What is a Republocrat? He is a wolf in sheep's clothing. He will get away with doing what Dole promised (cutting social welfare) because, he is a so-called Democrat. This is the record Clinton has already made. He signed onto the Republican bill to do away with Aid to Dependent Children. This is a brutal reversal of a policy gained under the New Deal of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Those of us who were around then remember how bitterly the "Economic Royalists" fought the New Deal.

They are finally winning that battle. They are now prepared to engage in an economic genocide program against the poor. There is no other name for it. Genocide with guns that we see going on around us is brutal enough. Death is quick. But genocide by economic starvation is as deadly. And worse it is a prolonged process that sucks life by degrees. The suffering does not end until death. This could be called holocaust by other (economic) means.

Who will be among the first to meet the executioner? Obviously, the poorest of the poor. Who are they? First they are the children. But what kind of children? Again the poorest of the poor. And who are they? They are the children of minorities. African-American children, Latin-American children, Native-American children. Then come poor women in the same categories. Along with them will be youth searching for non-existent jobs. Finally, workers of all kinds will find themselves competing for fewer and fewer jobs. It is estimated that by 2020 only five to ten percent of the manufacturing work force will be needed to manufacture all the goods needed to supply

the market.

Finally, what was forgotten in the election is that politicians follow the money. We vote every few years but money votes everyday. This presidential election, according to press reports, will consume 800 million dollars, triple what it cost in 1992. How many other hundreds of millions was spent on congressional and state and local government campaigns we don't know. But the figure is undoubtedly staggering.

Is there a possibility of changing this frightening picture? There is. Fortunately we now have a Labor Party founded in convention in August with the backing of hundreds of unions. It calls for jobs for all, a \$10.00 per hour minimum wage, universal health care, universal free education, abolition of all forms of discrimination and a tax on the rich that will more than pay for rebuilding our country. If that isn't a real form of "family values" I don't know what else could be.

What the politicians propose can only be called one thing - "Pie in the sky when you die."

So, support the Labor Party and help bring an end to the rule of money!

Del Castle

Final Dispatch

Bob Everett, Sr.

A. Carruthers, Sr.

Bob Frazier

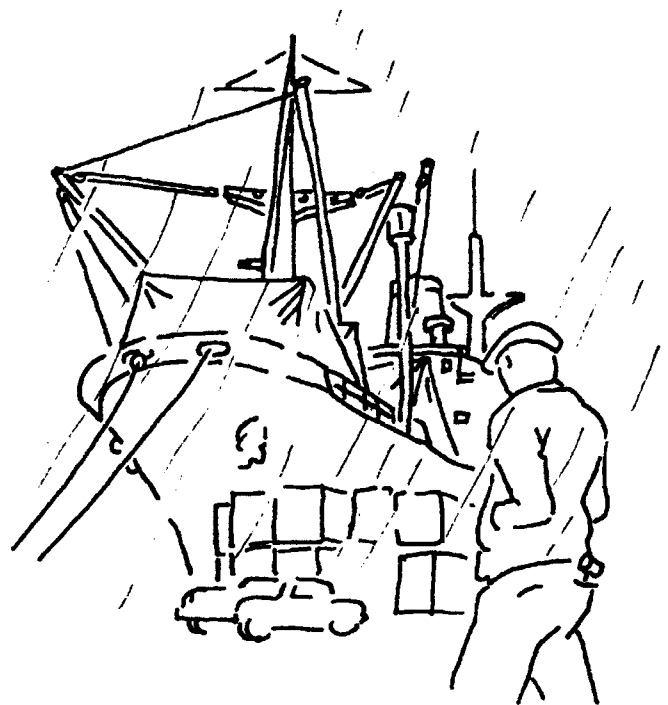
R. Roth

Dick Moork

Dewy Dugan

Esther Mosio, wife of Wayne

C. Bagwell



AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

BOOK REVIEW

BY FRED BERG

America: Who Really Pays the Taxes.
Donald L. Bartlett and James B. Steele,
Simon and Schuster, 1994.

A blurb on the cover of this book says that "our tax code has turned into a gold mine of loophole and giveaways manipulated by the influential and wealthy for their own benefit." We are told corporations pay little or nothing on their tax bills, that most successful companies pay more to foreign governments than to our own, and that if you can afford lawyers and lobbyists you never need to worry about your tax bills.

Nearly everybody knows what politicians tell us about what they are going to do about taxes and what they do are two different things. For instance, in his recent debate with Bill Clinton, Bob Dole claimed that he acted to save Social Security in 1983, leaving the impression that without his intervention the Social Security program would have gone defunct. Bartlett and Steele tell us a slightly different story. Back in 1983 Dole and Reagan raised the tax on Social Security from 5.85% to 7.65%, thus changing an eleven billion deficit in Social Security payments to a twelve billion surplus.

Over the past decade this surplus has risen to around fifty billion dollars a year. The Association of Retired Persons Voter's Guide tells us that, contrary to common perception, this surplus is not put into a special Social Security fund to pay our checks in the future, but it is, like all government revenue, deposited into a general fund from which all government expenses are paid. Thus Social Security revenue can be used for any purpose - from building highways to lowering the annual budget deficit.

The authors also make the point that this surplus does lower income tax revenue by some fifty billion, and that the main beneficiaries of this tax cut are the wealthy. Moreover the Voter's Guide tells us that the Social Security benefits are not actually threatened, at least until the year 2029.

Norm Dicks says there is no immediate crisis in Social Security, although the program may need some fine tuning. Jim McDermott says the retirement age may eventually have to be raised and that he is against

"LABOR IS PRIOR TO, and independent of, capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed." Labor is the supporter of capital, and deserves the Higher consideration."

**From ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S
Presidential Message to Congress., 1861.**

any Republican attempts to privatize Social Security.

There is no doubt that the Social Security tax, unlike the income tax, is regressive, that is, lower income brackets pay at a higher rate than the upper brackets. In the case of the 1993 tax, that portion of incomes above \$60,000 was not taxed at all. **Bartlett and Steele suggest that the percentage tax be reduced and the ceiling be removed.**

But this is not likely to be done. It is much more probable that another two percent increase is in the works. This means that taxpayers earning \$60,000 will have to pay \$600.00 in extra taxes and that his or her employer will have to do the same.

Certain sources in the media have provided us with much talk about how the Social Security program will have to be saved yet another time. It is likely that this projected plan of salvation would include the above mentioned two percent raise. According to the estimates of this writer this would create a 180 billion dollar revenue surplus which would again be used to diminish the income tax payments of the wealthy. In other words, this would just about pay for the fifteen percent across-the-board tax cut as proposed by the Dole campaign. The net effect of all this would be to transfer a larger proportion of the tax-paying burden from the wealthy to the poor. It is to be noted this would fit into the plans of the conservatives who would "end the income tax as we know it."

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

Brother DICK NELSON wants us to remind you of the importance of having your paper work in order when your final dispatch comes around. He suggests three documents are necessary to keep lawyers, courts and hospitals from gobbling up your estate before any heirs get the benefits you worked so hard to provide. They are:

1. A DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY. This guards your estate from being gobbled up by Nursing Home care for you or your spouse. Under Washington State law it puts your Nursing Home expense under Medicaid.
2. A LIVING WILL. This states the terms under which you wish to be treated in case of terminal illness. That is, whether you wish your life sustained at all costs and odds.
3. A WILL. Most of us know a Will is another means of avoiding costly and time-consuming probate. Another measure of protecting the interests of your heirs.

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



STRAWS IN THE WIND

We are alarmed by a recent article in the VALUE LINE, a publication of INVESTOR SURVEY of 9/20/96. It was brought to our attention by Brother VINJE. What it tells us is that we face stormy weather ahead.

The article reads as follows:

"The benefits of APL's re-engineering are kicking in. Over the last two years, the company has implemented several initiatives to realign its operations and reduce its cost structure, (That is - downsize.) That process is now completed. About 900 positions were eliminated, and customer services and sales have been consolidated. Major investments have also been made in more efficient ships. These improvements are reflected in the second-quarter operating income, which increased 44% year to year before a gain on the sale of a distribution services unit of 16¢ a share (excluded from our earnings presentation.) This quantum leap in profitability occurred despite flatish volumes and higher fuel prices.

Rate pressure will limit near-term earnings power. Second-quarter revenues fell because of the sale of the Guam services to Matson and the sale referred to above, but

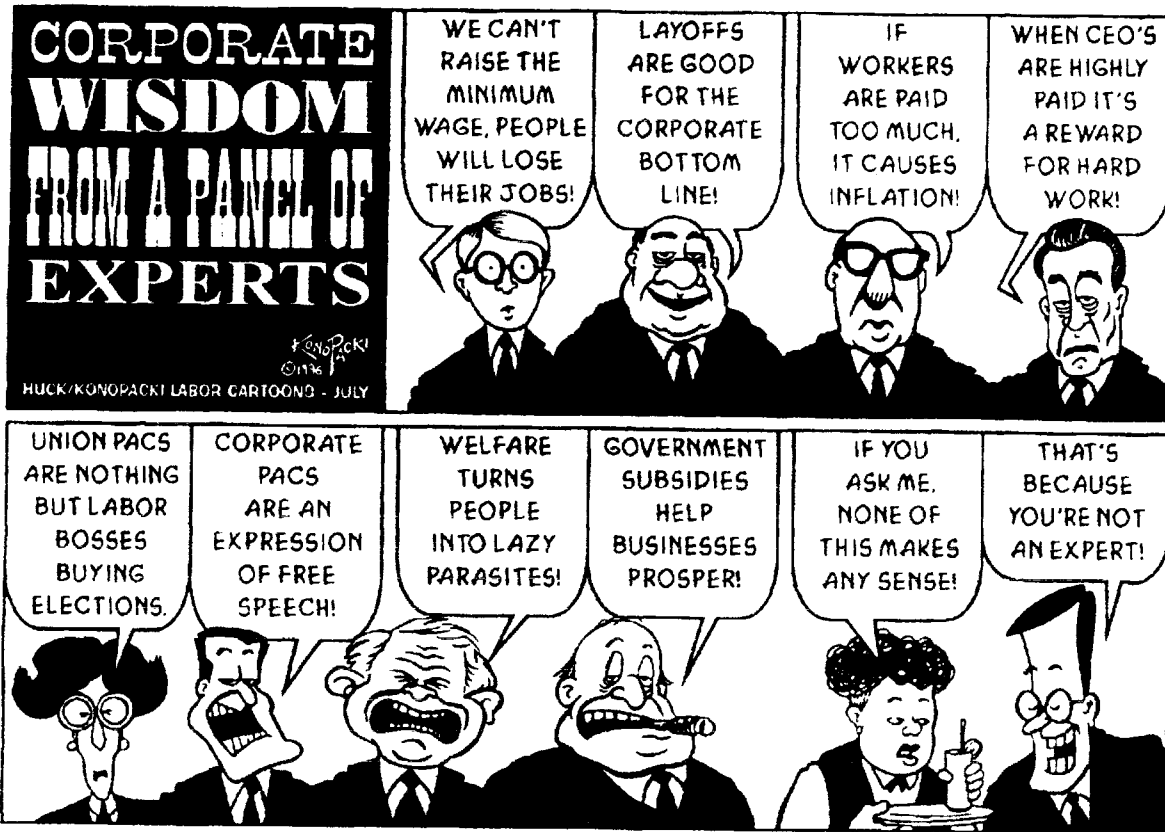
lower rates also had an effect. A dramatic rise in industry capacity has put downward pressure on the Transpacific and Asia/Europe trade lanes. This is particularly so in the Pacific-eastbound lane, which is a higher-priced, higher-volume market for API., so profits are disproportionately affected. Over the long term, however, we look for an industry shakeout, (Our emphasis.) and we expect APL to be among the best-positioned carriers under the new order.

Flexibility is built into the new labor deal. The company agreed to a new labor contract with its unionized workers (excluding Longshore.) that provides for increases of 5% in the first year, 3.5 % in the final year. However, if a new subsidy program (the current one expires at the end of 1997) is signed into law, this contract becomes null and void and APL will have 45 days to renegotiate an agreement before the workers can strike. If a subsidy bill is not approved, the company will put its seven U.S.-flagged ships under foreign registry and incur an \$8.5 million severance charge.

At the current depressed price, this neutrally ranked issue has superior appreciation potential out to 1999-01."

Craig Sirosis.

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO



The Labor Party, P.O. Box 53177, Washington, D.C. 20009 • Worldwide Web: www.iaa.apc.org/lpa/ •

Because of the increase in postage rates which went into effect 1 July 1996, we can no longer afford to send multiple copies of the Rusty Hook to each pension club.

Please feel free to copy as much as you like.

The Editors

ILWU Benefits Office
Nick Buckles, Director
2601 Elliot Ave.
Seattle, WA 98121
(206)256-9624

"THE RUSTY HOOK"
 3440 East Marginal Way So.
 Seattle, WA 98134

BULK RATE
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 SEATTLE, WA
 PERMIT NO. 6631