

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

# The RUSTY HOOK

Seattle ILWU



PACIFIC COAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

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DEL CASTLE  
ART MINK

**MEETINGS:**  
April 5  
May 3  
June 7  
July 5 (Bloody Thursday)



## Editorial

BY ART MINK

**They are lying about the great Social Security crisis.**

Advocates of Social Security privatization are working hard to convince the American people that Social Security is in deep trouble, and that the only solution is to transform the current social insurance system into a privatized system based on hundreds of millions of individual stock market accounts.

Jack Kemp, former Republican Congressman from New York, President Bush's Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, testifying on Social Security before the House Ways and Means Committee, said, "...the actuaries of Social Security are scaring the American people by coming to the conclusion that if our economy slips to 1.3 percent growth

over the next three years, retirement will not be there for them."

Here, before he was quickly cut off by Chairman Archer, Kemp let the cat out of the bag: If we continue having even modest economic growth, there is no reason to believe the Social Security system will reach a crisis.

The projected shortfall in Social Security, around the year 2032, according to the system's trustees, is

**1999 Dues are due**  
**\$12.00 dues**  
**\$3.00 Convention Assessment**

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based on the astonishingly pessimistic assumption that the U.S. economy will all but grind to a halt.

The real news, writes economist Doug Henwood in his book *Wall Street: How It Works and for Whom*, is not that Social Security is going belly-up, but that "either the trustees are using deliberately bearish growth assumptions to promote public doubt of the system . . . or are foreseeing seventy-five years of depression ahead of us."

This is the fundamentally fraudulent part of the argument that we can save Social Security by investing it in the stock market: A booming stock market that produces good returns for retirement, and a massive economic slowdown that would make the Social Security trust fund run dry, simply can't happen at the same time.

Perhaps the greatest risk is that scores of millions of gullible Americans will be lured into risky stock market ventures by the siren song of unscrupulous Wall Street traders. While Wall Street dangles the lure of "minimum-wage millionaires" before a gullible public, the only guarantee they offer is that they themselves will collect hefty management fees whether the market rises or falls. Those fees—estimated at \$240 billion over 12 years—provide ample motivation for Wall Street to fund organizations willing to flack privatization schemes.

To arrive at their dismal conclusions about economic growth, the Social Security actuaries abandoned professional standards of practice, according to David Langer of Consulting Actuaries, a New York City firm that specializes in employee benefit plans. Langer reviewed the last twenty years of Social Security Administration reports.

"I've come to the conclusion that the actuaries of Social Security disregarded the edict of looking at the long-term past in developing future assumptions," he said. "They are assuming a 50 percent drop in GDP (Gross Domestic Product). If you use figures from the past seventy-five years, GDP looks a lot better than that. Had the actuaries followed the rules, there would be no shortfall."

### THE TAX CAP SECRET

There is a simple way to solve the so-called "Social Security crisis" that does not involve cutting benefits, spending trillions of dollars in transition costs, or asking 130 million Americans to speculate in the stock market. It involves raising the Social Security tax cap.

Under current law, all Social Security taxes for the year stop after an individual crosses the salary income threshold of \$68,400 (for 1998). No other tax stops altogether when you make more money—not even Medicare.



The result is that a worker earning \$35,000 a year pays Social Security taxes all year long while his boss—making \$140,000 a year—stops paying Social Security taxes by the first of July and gets a 6 percent raise for the rest of the year!

Y o u

may recall, as I do, that when the Wall Street shills first started crying "the sky is falling" Social Security was supposed to go belly up in 2030. Two years later they say 2032. What do you think they will say in 2001 if no action is taken? I'd bet on 2034. Watch them keep on shooting at this moving target.

Call or write you Representative and Senators. Tell them you see through the lies. Tell them to keep our and our children's money out of the stock market.

(SOURCES: *WILL DEMOCRATS ABANDON SOCIAL SECURITY* BY RUTH CONIFF, THE PROGRESSIVE, MARCH 1999; *THE SOCIAL SECURITY TAX CAP SECRET* BY STEVE PROTULIS, SENIORITY FEBURARY/MARCH 1999)

## Correspondence

Our correspondence is less than usual this issue of the RUSTY HOOK. We have a note from JEAN GUNDLACH. It is a quote from Simone De Beauvoir, French author and philosopher:

### "A Message For Our Day"

"There is only one solution if old age is not to be an absurd parody of our younger life, and that is to go on pursuing ends that give our existence a meaning - devotion to individuals, to groups, or causes: social, political, intellectual or creative work. One's life has value as long as one attributes value to the life of others - by means of love, friendship, indignation, compassion."

From JOHN F. PRONG:

"Here's something to help keep the RUSTY HOOK alive and whatever is necessary. This is 20 years of

< Continued on Page 6 >

## AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



Harry Bridges  
Chair in Labor Studies

# Seattle STRIKES!

UW CENTER FOR LABOR STUDIES AND UW  
LIBRARIES

a commemoration of the 1919

## Seattle General Strike and the Great Maritime Strike of 1934

### Continuing events

#### March 31 - April 8

Global Mariner tours: in Seattle from March 31 through April 5 and in Tacoma on April 7 and 8. Free tours available. For information, call 206 706-4730.

**April 7** Symposium: Human Rights and Labor in the Global Economy. 7:00 p.m., Port of Tacoma on board the Global Mariner. For information, call 253 692-5655.

**April 22** Films: An Evening of Film with Allan Sekula. 7:30 p.m., Henry Gallery Auditorium. \$6 general, \$4 Henry members. For information, call the Henry Art Gallery at 206 543-2280.

**April 25** Open Studio: Fish Story. 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Henry Art Gallery Education Studio. Free with museum

admission. For information, call the Henry Art Gallery at 206 543-2280.

**May 5** Symposium: The Port of Tacoma in the 1934 Strike. 11:30 a.m., Port of Tacoma Administrative Building, East 11th Street. For information, call 253 692-5655.

**May 6** Art Dialogue: Ian Kennedy ILWU Local 52. 7:00 p.m., Henry Art Gallery, south gallery. Free.

**May 12** Lecture: Filipino Communities and Labor Organizing: ILWU 37 and the Alaska Cannery Industry. 7:00 p.m., Ernie Tanner Center, 1710 Market St., Tacoma. For information, call 253 692-5655.

**May 13** Art Dialogue: David Olson, professor of political science, University of Washington. 7:00 p.m., Henry Art Gallery, south gallery. Free.

### Exhibitions:

Allan Sekula's FISH STORY, Henry Art Gallery

February 11 — May 11.

SEATTLE STRIKES 1919 and 1934, Allen Library Lobby March 4 — April 12

## Final Dispatch

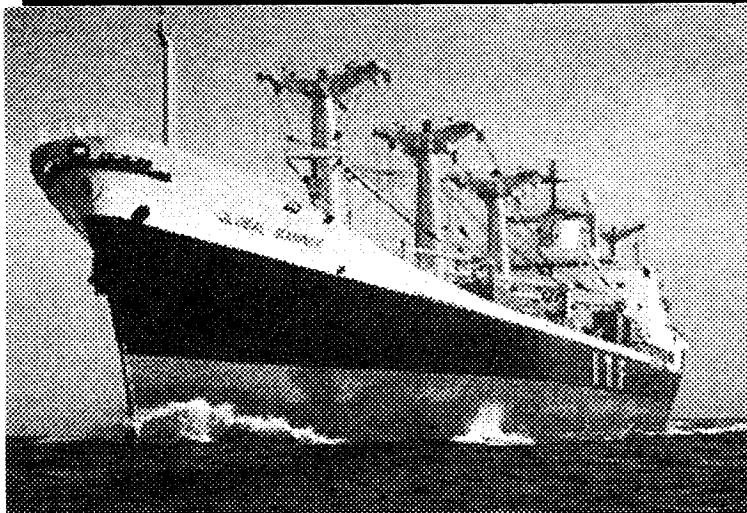
William A. Armour	19
Gale Bloomer	19
Chester L. Brees	19
J. Higginbotham	19
Arne Gjerset	52
Willard Kirk	98
George Monson	19
George Niemi	19
Fredrick C. Noreen	19
James A. Shelton	19
Leroy Swanson	19
Everett H. Towell	19
Survivors	
Anne Carlson	52
Marie Ducharme	19
Renne M. Jenkins	19
Millie R. Toomey	19
Beverly I. Truman	98
Eva A. Vogel	19
Edythe Webster	19
Mattie Wooliscroft	19



Poster from 1934  
Longshore Strike

**AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL**

# The Global Mariner will be in Seattle, Pier 66, March 31 thru April 4th.



*Global Mariner*



## What is the ITF?

The ITF brings together some 500 unions in more than 125 countries in every part of the world, and represents over 5 million trade union members in every branch of transport.

The ITF exists to provide help and support for its affiliated unions. It fights for social justice, against unemployment and poverty, for decent wages and working conditions and for a safe and healthy working environment. It is dedicated to the advancement of free and democratic trade unionism and to the defense of fundamental human and trade union rights. It believes in the need for a social dimension to all international and regional free trade arrangements.

The ITF is one of the International Trade Secretariats — global bodies each representing workers in a

## Lifetime Memberships

A single payment according to the following schedule:

Age 55—60	115.00
Age 60—70	95.00
Age 70—90	85.00

specific industry — which, together with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, which brings together national trade union centers, make up the international trade union movement.

## Flag of convenience campaign

The ITF's activities in the maritime industry are spearheaded by the campaign by seafarers' and dockers' unions against the transfer of ships to flags of convenience (FOCs) to evade national laws and national unions. ITF unions have been battling against the FOC system for half a century, seeking to establish a "genuine link" between the nationality of a ship and its owner and setting minimum standards on wages and conditions of employment on flagged-out ships. The ITF only approves collective agreements if they have acceptable working conditions and a minimum wage scale, currently based on \$1,200 a month for an able seaman, including the cost of other employment and social benefits.

Seafarers who are hired to work on FOC ships are often given strict instructions not to make contact with the ITF. Some are even made to sign contracts or loyalty letters in which they promise not to do so. There are even some employers who will sign an ITF agreement and then defraud their crews by paying lower wages — a practice known as double book-keeping.

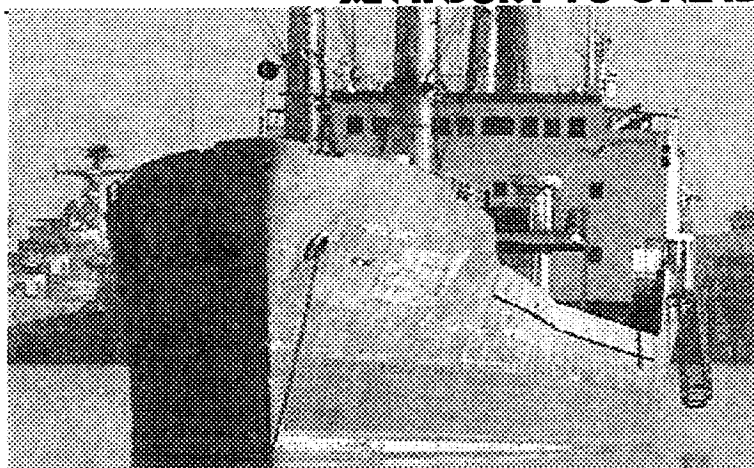
FOC seafarers who have problems with their pay and conditions, or any other grievance about the way they are being treated, can get in touch with the ITF either directly (see our addresses and numbers on the inside back cover) or can contact one of our Coordinators or Inspectors based in ports around the world

*Special Message  
to All Lifetime Members:*

*Life time membership does not include the assessment for the PCPA Convention to be held in Seattle in 2002.*

*The assessment is \$ 3.00 per year for 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002*

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The PRAMS KUNTI

Crew-members from the GLOBAL MARINER gave food to the crew of an abandoned FOC vessel in the ship's first port of call in Chile.

The Maltese flagged PRAMS KUNTI has been in



PRAMS KUNTI hatch cover

Talcahuano since early October. The ship had been inspected by Chilean Port State Control and was revealed to be seriously substandard. Problems included missing fire hoses, rotten winches and badly rusted hatch covers.

The crew has received no wages since the end of August and the owner did not respond to requests that their back pay be paid. The owner had raised hopes that a charter would be found for the vessel, but nothing came of it.

The ship was finally abandoned by the owners (**the beneficial owner is Prams Water Shipping Co, based in Miami in the USA**) and money for supplies, including fuel, stopped. The ratings (mostly from South and Central America) returned home some time ago, leaving only the Latvian and Russian officers on board.

The crew has been dependent on donations from the people of Talcahuano, organised through a Chilean affiliate of the ITF, SIPROMAM. The PRAMS KUNTI will now be auctioned in order to recover the money owed to the crew, a process that could take between 3 to 5 months.

While the GLOBAL MARINER was in Talcahuano, ITF representatives visited the PRAMS KUNTI and offered to repatriate the seafarers left on board. The offer included a cash advance of 20% of their outstanding wages with an additional payment of

~~\$200 pocket money.~~ The crew accepted the offer and Alfredo Albarran (ITF inspector in Chile) will finish the case on departure of the GLOBAL MARINER. When the vessel is auctioned it is expected to generate enough money to ensure that the crew get 100% of their outstanding wages and repay the ITF advance.

The GLOBAL MARINER had arrived in Talcahuano just as the sun was setting over the bay at 2000 on 16th January. A reception ceremony took place at 1100 hours the following day, with more than 200 guests. The ceremony opened with the Chilean national anthem and speakers included ITF National Coordinator Miguel Osés Lorca, Deputy Mayor of Talcahuano Fernando Varela Carter, Regional Governor Martin Zilic, ITF Inspector Alfredo Albarran Olivares and Dave Enever, our master. A plaque and a scroll (representing the keys to the city) were presented to Dave Enever by the Deputy Mayor. This was followed by a religious service given by Hermano Juan Pradenas Toledo and then there was a performance by a traditional folk group, Cielo Tronador.

The Captain and two crew members were invited to visit the office of the Mayor, Leacon Portus G., where they received a very warm welcome and exchanged presents.

The response of the people of Talcahuano to the ship was overwhelming and in two and a half days more than 9,000 people came on board. On the second day there were hundreds of people eager to come up the entrance gangway – so many that three crew-members had to be called in to help with crowd control.

The local sea lions were also curious about the exhibition and they could be seen swimming all around the ship throughout our stay. The crew were taken on a sight-seeing tour of Talcahuano, and spent a few hours at a nearby nature reserve.

The GLOBAL MARINER left port at 1400 hours on January 21st, headed for Valparaiso, our next port of call in Chile. The running total of visitors on leaving Talcahuano was 148,654

**Editor's note;** This story and pictures were downloaded from the Global Mariners Web site. There is lots more: Stories of port calls all over Europe and the East Coast of the Americas. Photos! movies! Great stuff!

<http://www.itf.org.uk>



## AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

Well, I looked into this question. What I found was quite surprising. It was not money, capitalists, intellectuals nor great research and development projects such as NASA or military requirements that brought the Industrial Revolution. It was brought about by ordinary, uneducated workers. They laid the basis for modern industry and technology. This statement is proved by the historical record:

In the period between approximately 1850 to 1830 the following inventions were made by people such as the following:

1. Alexander Maysmith started as an apprentice coach painter. His son, inventor of the steam hammer, made a brass cannon at the age of nine. Later he said, "The truth is the the eyes and fingers - the bare fingers- are the two principal inlets to sound practical invention."

2. Joseph Braman, a machine-tool inventor created the first patent lock, the hydraulic press, the beer pump, the modern fire engine, the fountain pen, the first modern water closet, started as a carpenter's apprentice and got his essential learning and experience from the blacksmith's forge.

3. Henry Maudsley, perhaps the ablest of all machine-tool inventors, who created the first industrial assembly line for Brunel's block-making [rope hoisting block] factory in Portsmouth, began work as a powder-monkey in a cartridge factory and graduated to the smithy.

4. So was a forge graduate, the great engine designer and manufacturer Mathew Murray of Leeds, who shared with James Fox of Derby the honor of inventing the first planing machine. Fox began as a kitchen boy and butler.

5. Welshman Richard Roberts, another brilliant inventor of machine tools and power looms, including the Self Acting Mule {a cotton mill tool} - 'one of the most beautiful pieces of machinery ever contrived' - was a shoe maker's son, had literally no education, and began work as quarry laborer.

6. John Kennedy, Fairbank's partner in the second Industrial Revolution and first great builder of iron ships, was another poor Scot who received no schooling except in summer, and started as a carpenter's boy.

7. Frederick Koenig, who built the first steam

presses in London, was the son of a Saxon peasant and began as a printer's devil.

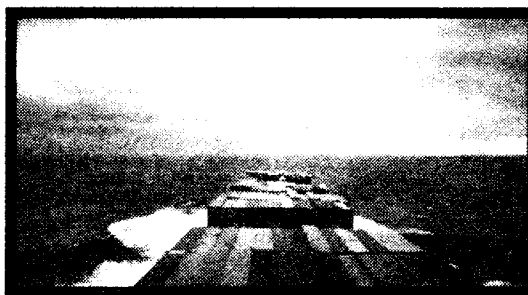
8. Charles Bianconi, who created the first successful passenger transport system, in the West of Ireland of all places, was a pack man from Lake Como.

9. Thomas Edison of Port Huron, Michigan had three months total education. He invented the stock ticker [much used in the New York stock exchange], automatic telegraph systems, mimeograph, advances in telephony that set the ground work for the telephone, phonograph, electric light, electric railway, storage battery, motion pictures and forerunner of the radio tube.

10. Alexander Graham Bell - the only one College educated - in England. But his phone invention was based on electrical discoveries of Edison.

If anyone should ask you why we workers have trade unions that seek a full share of the profits of industry - tell them they owe us!

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Source: The Birth of the Modern. Paul Johnson. Harper Collins, 1991.



FISH  
STORY

A l l a n  
Sekula

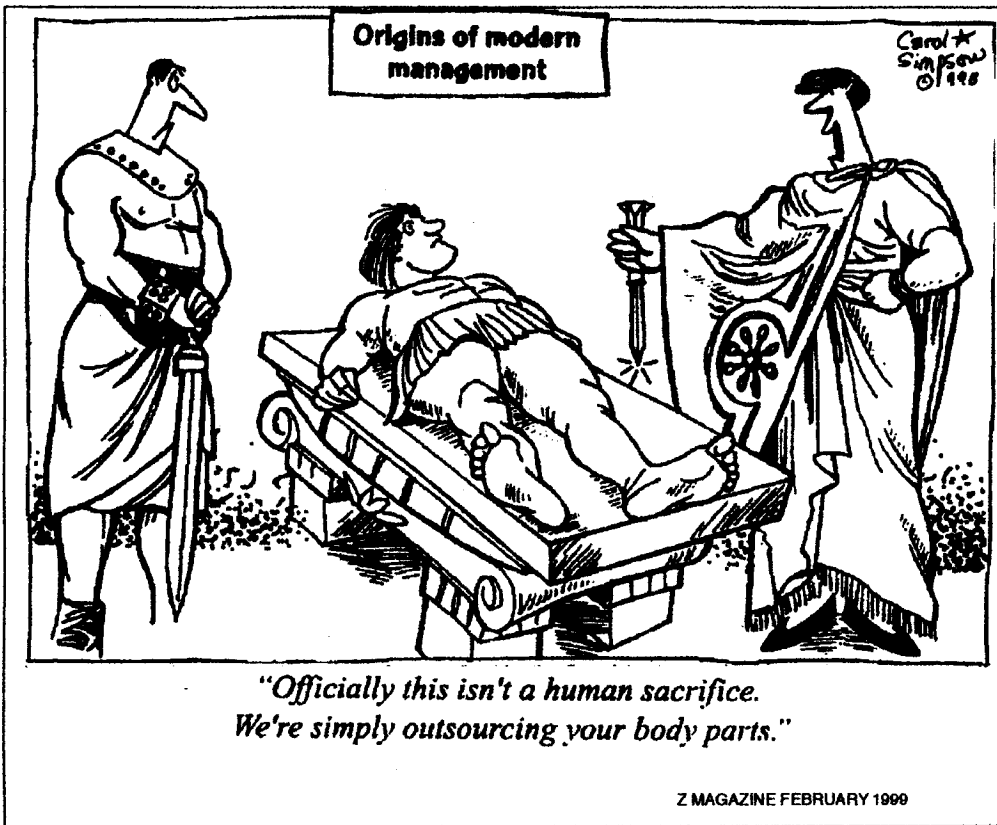
February  
11 — May  
16, 1999

**A COMPELLING EXAMINATION OF THE PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION OF PORTS AND THE CULTURE OF WATERFRONT WORKERS AROUND THE GLOBE THROUGH VIVID COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS, TEXTS AND SLIDE-PROJECTIONS.**

Henry Art Gallery  
University of Washington  
15th Ave. & NE 41st St.  
Museum Hours

11 am — 5 pm Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun  
11 am — 8 pm Thursdays

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*✂*

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Z MAGAZINE FEBRUARY 1999



Harry Bridges

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**Ken Lang, Assistant Director**  
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