

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

The **RUSTY** HOOK

Seattle ILWU

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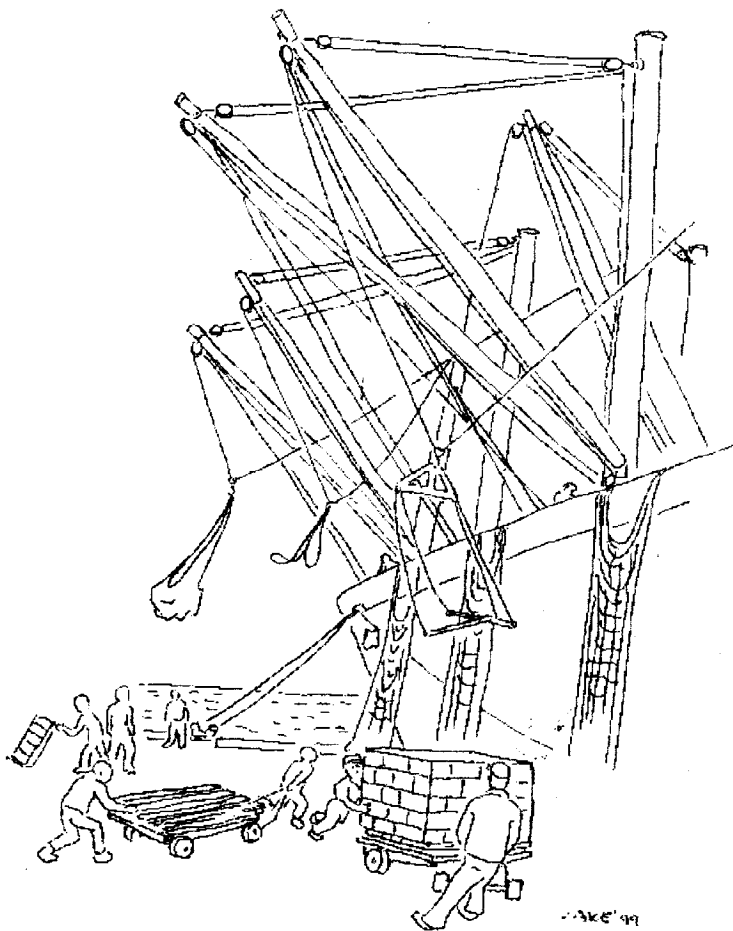


PACIFIC COAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION



MEETINGS:

July	3
August	7
September	August 28
October	2



"Working four gears"

A nostalgic memory by Seattle Longshore artist Jake Arnutoff

ILWU CELEBRATES MAY DAY!

On May 1st, the opening day of the 31st International Convention of the International Longshore And Warehouse Union (ILWU), hundreds of delegates took over the streets of downtown Portland in a solidarity march with striking workers at Powell's Books, one of the most profitable bookstores in the nation.

The May Day action, which took on the character of the Seattle WTO protest, was held to support more than 400 members of ILWU Local 5 who went on strike at 11:30 a.m. that morning.

Standing under a banner reading, "An Injury to One Is an Injury to All," International President Brian McWilliams gave the keynote address.

He focused on the need to "to shore up internal resources" in order to meet the new challenges of globalization and bosses "who are dressed up in new clothes but are still dancing to the old tune of putting profits before people.

"Now is the time to raise the stakes again [like in the 1930s]", said McWilliams. There can be "no business as usual" so long as the transnationals and governments do not put workers and their families first.

In front of the entire convention and to a standing ovation, the vice president of the Japanese dock workers Kenji Yasuada and McWilliams signed an agreement that said in part that the two unions agree "to enhance labor activities in the port and transport industries in the United States and Japan in order to improve working conditions, union rights, and the living standard and social welfare of

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union members and their families.”

Also addressing the Convention will be John Coombs, president of the Maritime Union of Australia and Manuel Cordero Aguila, secretary general of the National National Sugar Workers of Cuba.

In a moving presentation, Powell's strike leader and shop steward Mary Winzig confessed that at first workers were afraid to show the union button at work. "But look at us now," she said, "we closed the damn store. We are on strike. I am proud to be in the ILWU ... Harry Bridges is on the picket line!"

Addressing the Convention was new Congressman David Wu (D. Ore.) who told delegates, "You will have a big say on who controls Congress, the White House and the Supreme Court."

Hundreds of Portland youth who had organized their own peaceful celebration of International Workers Day earlier were confronted by an army of riot geared police who attacked them with batons and bean bag rounds.

Not allowing this to stop their celebration, the youth marched in the streets of downtown Portland eventually joining the ILWU strike support action.

When the youth entered the ranks of hundreds of union men and women, ILWU President McWilliams told the police that the union expected the officers to respect the march. The police did just that, halting their attacks on the youth and moving aside "The union was our safe house," grateful 21 year-old Elijah told the World. He was surrounded by smiling students who chanted loudly "ILWU, ILWU!"

(Courtesy of the Peoples' Weekly World, 5/6/00.)

CORRESPONDENCE

We received a sad message from HELEN NELSON, widow of BURT NELSON, from Lynwood.

"Dear Brothers:

Life dealt me quite a blow on February 17. I took a sleeping walk in the middle of the night. A neighbor in the middle of the night found me lying on my front deck and found I was O.K. Then got me into bed and tucked me in so I would warm up, then went on to his home and called my Grandchildren who immediately got a hold of my doctor. He told them I could no longer live alone which means I am selling my beloved houseboat.

I have been included in the Trade Union movement. I have enjoyed being on the Executive Board. I have no means of transportation. If there is someone who lives in my direction could pick me up and return me I would try

to make it up to him.

I wish the best for each of you and hope you can help me. Thank you. Sincerely Helen Nelson"

Note: Helen's address is: 18706 36th Ave. W.

Lynwood, WA., 98037

We are truly sorry to hear of your distress, Helen. We urge anyone who can help her get to meetings to do so. Helen's telephone number is available in the club office.

On a lighter note we have a letter from JERRY TYLER, the author of the original HOOK, and our incomparable mentor. His letter was posted in the hall. From Everett:

"Del, Art or whoever is in charge:

My old ILWU jacket has seen better days. Like me! Getting battered and loose around the seams. How do I go about getting a new one?

I'm doing okay considering the year model and mileage. Eyes going downhill to the point where I take blank checks to the Schooner or Dog House to have friends write them out for me. Ditto my mail. So you will please excuse typos. An electrician friend of mine, a strong union man, reads the Rusty Hook to me. Does us both good. I'm able to sit up and take nourishment go to the head all by my self, eat good and have my two cans of beer a day. Better than a lot of people our age. Wish I could say comes from clean living but even I can't lie like that. My best regards to all hands. JERRY TYLER, 55650

We sure wish we had your gift with the old vocabulary. It is always refreshing to hear from you, JERRY! The Old Timers recall the original HOOK with fondness - like say "Stevie Adoree", the poor fellow whose coordination was so off he couldn't walk down first Avenue and chew gum at the same time! Keep in touch, man!

JERRY left his phone number. Give him a call. 425 258 5922, for old time's sake.

A good chat of a letter comes from Old Timer CLARENCE "HUB" HUBBARD, Colville, WA.:

"Dear RUSTY HOOK

I'm happy to send my check for the assessment and also an extra hundred to further the cause of the RUSTY HOOK.

I started on the permit board in '42. My Dad was a longshoreman. After I returned from 3 years military service (South pacific) I came back to the old hiring hall at Pike and Western Ave.

At the June meeting of 1946 the membership inducted 26 of us vets into the union. I can't remember them

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Left to right: Bob Kelsey, Parker Johnston

Congratulations to Parker Johnston, the first place finisher and Bob Kelsey, the second place finisher in our Men's Pool Tournament. Parker is now known as the 1999 Pool Champion. Both Parker and Bob will represent the Renton Senior Activity Center at the King County Senior Citizen Pool Tournament at the 211 Club in downtown Seattle

all but a few were MARTIN JUGUM GLEN BARNES, ARNIE SHEVIG, PETE PETERSON, MEL STANBERG KENNY BARKLAW

I went to work steady at the grain elevator (pier 25) in 1950. I served on several negotiation committees (Grain Handlers). First with DEL WOLFE and later with DEL and ARNIE GUNDERSON.

I succeeded DON BASS as foreman at pier 25 and later moved to the new elevator at pier 86. I retired from there in 1978 on disability.

My son invited me to Seattle last year for a ball game at the new Safeco field. My son said of the stadium, "Ain't this a change, Dad? I looked out at the waterfront from the top floor and I could see the old "Tongass" loading at Alaska Steam. My Dad was a slingman for for 46 gang. GUS ENBERG was the hatch tender, AXLE WIVART was on the winches. I said to myself, "Isn't this a change, Dad?"

I spent 36 years on the Seattle waterfront and never

regretted a day of it.

My wife for 51 years passed away a couple of years ago. I have my own home and keep busy as President of the Colville Senior Citizens group. (last four years).

I think I've rambled long enough. I enjoy the "HOOK." Keep up the great work. Your Brother, CLARENCE "HUB" HUBBARD."

Dear "HUB": We enjoyed your letter no end. Also your contribution of \$100.00 to the RUSTY HOOK. We hope we get more such letters from Old Timers such as yourself. Your letter brings the past to the present, something too much neglected nowadays. So keep the letters coming, Brothers and Sisters!

We were handed a fine picture of our triple threat Pension Club active, PARKER JOHNSTON who got congratulations as first place finisher in the Men's Pool Tournament. PARKER is now known as the 1999 Pool Champion. PARKER is also head of our Spring banquet committee. He (among others) is also on other committees and is always available to work where work is needed. Congratulations, PARKER!

From Mrs. JANE BROWN Portland, OR., we received a \$20.00 donation to the RUSTY HOOK. Thanks, JANE. As we have said before we doubly appreciate contributions from widows because they represent more than the money sent considering their lesser pensions.

The same goes for Mrs. BEVERLY CLARK, Seattle, who not only sent a \$10.00 contribution, but also initiation fee for membership in our Club. We hope other widow survivors know they are sincerely welcome to join the Club.

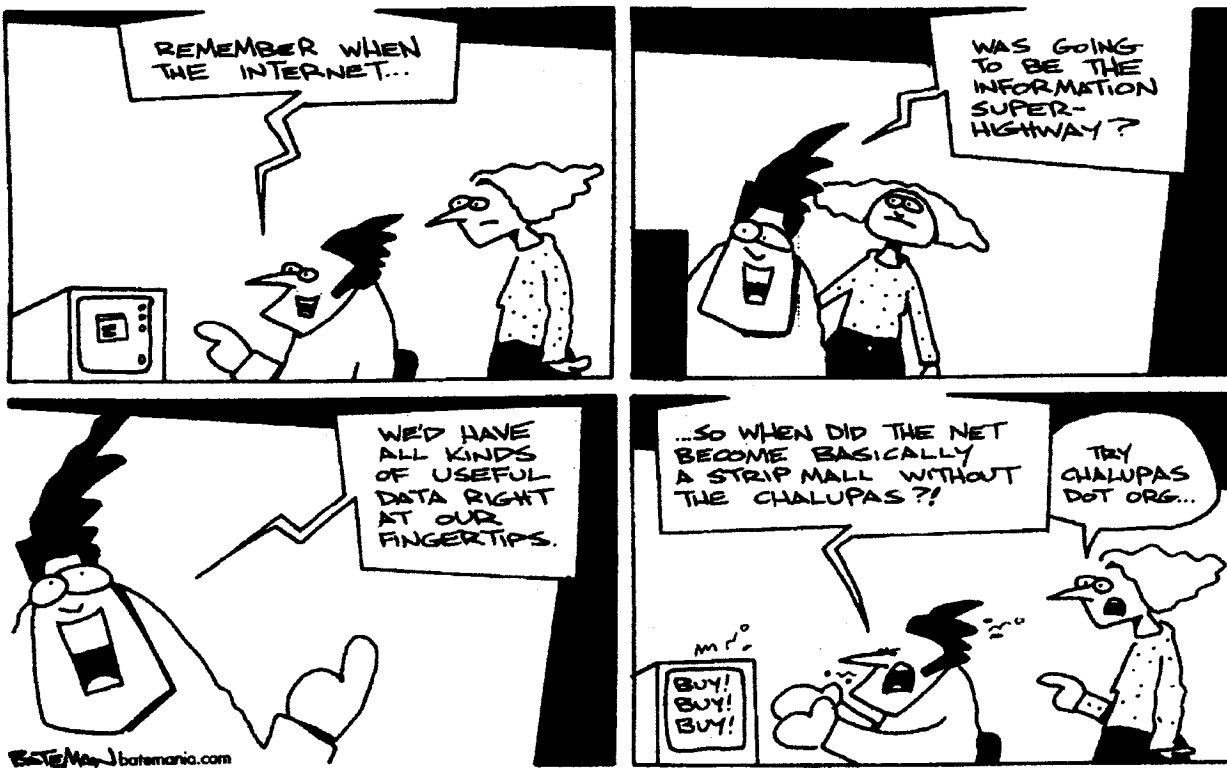
Another very welcome communication from Foremen's Local 98 comes in the form of a contribution of \$2000.00 to our 2001 convention fund. As you know, we are hosting that convention in Vancouver, B.C. in honor of the Vancouver Club joining the PCPA last year - a new step toward international solidarity. It will cost us in the neighborhood of \$20,000, so keep your assessments and other contributions to the fund coming in!

A welcome letter from FERN HALGREN, Seattle. She generously includes a donation of \$100.00 to convention assessment and a note which says:

"RUSTY HOOK,

"I enjoy reading it every time and not a day (or moment) goes by that I am not thankful for the ILWU and HARRY BRIDGES. FERN HALGREN, widow of SVEN, mother of JON, mother-in-law of FRED SCHUR, JOHN LEVICK. Keep up the good work."

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HOLLAND who served two terms as President of the Columbia River Pensioners for nine years:

“Someone once said to me that Unions have become obsolete, that the employers and politicians have lost their fear of us because we are not able to muster a cohesive organized force to stand up to them.... Do you come to area retirement Clubs to educate yourselves of the issues affecting your retirement? About 80% of you

Thank you, again, FERN.

From W.P.LEWIS, Shoreline with a \$250.00 donation to convention fund.

“Sorry I’m so late. Love the RUSTY HOOK. Better late than never. Keep up the good work.”

W.P. BILL LEWIS, 53074”

Thank you so much, BILL. With donations such as yours, we know the convention will be a sure success.

From JANET E. CHRISTENSON, Seattle.

“Dear Staff of the RUSTY HOOK.

Thank you for sending me the RUSTY HOOK since Carl died in 1995. It is so nice to be remembered. It is such a part of the ILWU. Many times I think of the wonderful conventions in Redding Calif. and meeting so many wonderful people. Enclosed is a donation of \$45.00. Thank you all, Love.”

Thank you, JANET, it is so good to hear from you.

From SAM ROSENBERG, a Local 19 poolee who went wrong and took up pencil pushing, Camano island.

“Enclosed find a check for \$100.00 for a lifetime membership and the PCPA assessment.”

Thank you, SAM. You did right by us in joining our Club. We hope more of your brothers and sisters will do likewise!

Which reminds us of the message of Brother DUTCH

don’t. Why?

Don’t make the job of those looking out for your future, ensuring your pension, health and welfare issues any more difficult. Participate in the process. Your union and your retiree clubs need you. If the employers and politicians pick our pockets, we’ve only ourselves to blame. Because if we stand by, unorganized and dissociated with one another, they win - but most importantly we lose. Give it back at ’em. Come to your retiree meetings.” We’re glad Brother RUDY MARTINEZ gave us DUTCH HOLLAND’S message. Again we say, SOLIDARITY WINS!

Like the banana said: “Stick to the bunch or you’ll get skinned”.

Final Dispatch

PENSIONERS

Phillip R. Crawford 19
 Nichola J. Engeles, Sr .98
 Arthur Gagnon 19
 Hugh F. Jesper 19
 Vernon J. Johnson 98
 Ernest C. McAuliff 19
 Roger T. Van Brocklin 52

SURVIVORS

Bebe B. Fowler 19
 Willie M. Gray 19
 Luella Mc Manus 19
 Juanita Murphy 19
 Gloria Olson 19
 Ethel M. Smith 19
 Mary Waugh 19

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PCPA Executive Board Meeting & 31st ILWU Convention

Sunday, April 30, 2000 the PCPA Executive Board convened at the Mallory Hotel in Portland, Oregon at 9:00 AM. Our resolution for Port to Port Conventions was accepted for discussion at the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association Convention to be held at the Cathedral Hill Hotel, San Francisco, CA on Sept. 11, 12 ~ 13, 2000. All ILWU Pensioners are invited and encouraged to attend. Al Perisho, Tony Salcido and their wives (Local 13) were thanked for their excellent reports on the Cuban trip and we voted to reimburse them \$500 for school supplies they distributed there. We also donated \$1000 to ILA Local 1422 in Charleston SC who are struggling against scab workers in that port. We adjourned for lunch and to attend the opening of the 31st ILWU Convention at the Portland Hilton Hotel at 1:00 PM.

The first item on the Convention Agenda was to raise the salaries of titled officers: President \$92,000; Vice President \$88,000; Coast Committeemen \$117,000 each. This passed easily. I have been to eight conventions in the last 24 years and there was more politics involved in this one than in any five of the past put together. There is going to be a struggle for the Presidency. Nominations are: James Spinosa (current vice president) to run against Brian McWilliams; Bob McEllrath running unopposed for vice-president; Joe Ibarra running unopposed for secretary-treasurer; California Coast Committeeman, Ray Ortiz, Local 13 Wilmington against Eddie Gutierrez, Local 34 San Francisco; Pacific NW Coast Committeeman, Leal Sundet Local 8 Portland against Joe Wenzl, Local 19 Seattle.

Subjects discussed at the Caucus following the Convention included problems of fair treatment of minorities in view of recent legislation passed in the Pacific Coast States; the "for life" medical is one big hot hot issue; Job injuries and the Harbor Workers Act which is not being adhered to by some employers and the concerns of small ports who feel they are being overwhelmed by ports with

Highlight of the annual Luncheon was the presentation, by Local 52 BA Jimmy Dean, of a \$3,500.00 contribution from the Checkers to the Fund for the 2001 P.C.P.A. Convention which will be held here in Seattle!

more votes.

I wish to mention and thank members of Seattle ILWU Pension Club who attended:

Rudy Martinez, Betty Hill, Bob Rogers, Mr. & Mrs. Ted Hansen, Mr. & Mrs. Russ Alexander, Mr. & Mrs. Lee Anderson, Shirley McCabe, Dallas Delay and Mark Downs, and Mrs. Laura Botler from the Ladies Auxiliary, Local 19.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul S. McCabe
Delegate, Local 19 Pensioners' Club

MUCH ADO ABOUT MICROSOFT

We are hearing and reading a lot about Microsoft the Monopoly nowadays. Maybe more than we need. Break up of monopolies is supposed to be all for our good. If Microsoft is split as is being rumored that is supposed to lead to "greater competition and lower prices and rates." Whenever we hear that it reminds us that the same was supposed to happen with the break up of Ma Bell. It didn't. The Standard oil break up years ago was also supposed to lead to lower prices down through the years. But we all know what has been and is happening at the gas pump. This does not mean we are in favor of monopoly ownership. We're all for control of monopoly. But monopoly today arises out of control of all production through financial control which always tends toward monopoly in order to increase profits. What it is all about is competition among profiteers who see opportunity to increase their profits by cutting in on Microsoft's take of the market.

So we need to know how Microsoft got so much profit. While its edge in the market undoubtedly contributed to its multi billions, another factor, likely the major one, is an exaggerated exploitation of its workers. While productivity in industries has steadily increased during the last decades, the rate has reached phenomenal proportions at Microsoft.

For instance, according to Monthly Review, an independent Socialist magazine:

"A concrete example of the radical changes taking place in large corporations can be seen in the case of Microsoft. In the fiscal year 1997, Microsoft had a total sales revenue of 11.4 billion dollars, while its labor and material costs of production were only 1.1 billion dollars. (Research and development was 1.9 billion dollars, sales and marketing 2.9 billion dollars, general administration

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362 million dollars, and gross profits before taxes 5.3 billion dollars.) Prime production costs (the labor and materials costs of production) thus accounted for less than 10 percent of sales revenue, while profits made up 47 percent of sales revenue. The remainder was accounted for by the pursuits of monopoly power. The 5.3 billion dollar profit was earned with a total investment in equipment, inventory, and buildings of less than 2 billion dollars."

So the story goes. If it weren't for the productivity of Microsoft workers, those billions would not be in the pockets of Bill Gates, Mr. Allen or the Microsoft shareholders. For instance, if we just take the ratio of gross profits to labor costs, we see it is over 5-1 in favor of profits! But we also have to take into account that the other costs of production listed above also come out of corporate income which is also based on labor productivity. Long live the cause of unionism. It is a route to putting people above profits!

THE FED IS AFTER US

DEL CASTLE

Allan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, has raised interest rates again in what he calls the "fight against inflation." It is an inflation which by reputable accounts does not exist. The rate increase to "stop inflation" came on the same day the U.S. Labor Department reported tame inflation for April and critics quickly assailed the Fed's move as hurting consumers and small businesses.

"The Fed is flying blind on interest-rates policy, Senator Dorgan, D.-N.D., said. "Inflation is down, productivity is up. There is no excuse for central bankers to impose another increase in interest costs on the American people. Also, "there's very little real inflation", said Carl Weinberg, chief economist at High Frequency Economics in Valhalla, N.Y.

And in the words of Greenspan himself quoted in the Seattle P.I., 5/15/00 "we are getting extraordinary productivity increases that are keeping unit labor costs down." Therefore, according to Greenspan, if unit labor costs increase inflation will follow. Thus, the Fed's real policy is low wage. Therein lies a statement of the critical role labor plays in the economy as a whole. Low wages

"Globalization can now be seen in a positive light as the best means of improving the human condition through out the world." IMF officer



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means 110 months of stock market prosperity while wages have remained largely stagnant.

The "problem" according to the Fed is low unemployment. With unemployment lower than 5 percent, pressure for higher wage will inevitably increase. Not only that, but the labor movement is finding new strength and militancy and public support for higher wages. This is what is worrying the Fed. So, to fight inflation in wages is the Fed's real but clearly under-stated policy.

This could turn into recession, as has been noted by Daniel Laufenberg, chief economist for American Express Advisors in Minneapolis. There is a danger that the Fed will squeeze too hard and tip the economy into a recession, he is reported as saying.

There is another consequence of the Fed's policy, never stated. That is, raising interest rates will put more money into the pockets of bankers and other financial barons. After all, the Federal Reserve was created to guard the financial interests first and foremost. For that purpose the Federal Reserve Bank was created as an independent agency beyond government or any democratic control. Basically its sole concern is the health of the moneyed interests regardless of the possibility of reces-

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sion. Expanded to the international economic scene, this reminds us that the W.T.O., IMF, World Bank, etc. have the same policy of protecting financial circles internationally at all costs. Fortunately the people's of the world are now fighting against such a ruinous international program. We should not let the Fed's "fight against inflation" fool us! Actually it is a fight against higher wages and for lower living standards all around to benefit the bankers and financial concerns regardless of recessionary economic consequences. We need to fight the Fed's "fight against inflation" for the welfare of the working class and the country.

All of this may be summed up in a letter from a reader of the Seattle Times:

"Why is it called a booming economy when the rich people get richer but we call it inflation when working people get raises?"

HARRY BRIDGES AND W.T.O.

BY DEL CASTLE

In 1986 Harry Bridges spoke before the Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research. That was 13 years before the Battle of Seattle. It was totally prophetic. We quote:

"Right now it looks like the labor movement is in real trouble. It is. The real trouble is the employers, with plenty of backing from the present administration of Ronald Reagan; they have been making things tough for unions.

Some people in the unions, some leaders, are kind of misled. What they're doing is, they're thinking, 'What

can we do about all this?'"

They're going to find out what can be done.

In spite of the fact that unions have been going through a rough time for a couple of years, now they're getting back together again. Now they're uniting and fighting back. Before this period is over, these attacks by the government, by the courts and by employers on the labor unions, which try to disorganize them, block them from making any gains - these efforts will fail.

I'm not dreaming. I'm speaking from experience - what I've gone through. What I've seen happen is going to happen again. The labor movement is going to come back. It's going to fight like hell.

Anybody wants to know what the future is going to bring, anybody wants to know where to put your faith for the future, for a good country and a good living? Put it with the labor movement, because there ain't no other place to put it.

That's not a dream. That's based on practical experience. There's no doubt about it: the labor movement has some weaknesses. It's got some inexperienced leaders in places. It makes mistakes. What the hell, it's human! That's the big thing about it.

But when a situation comes along on some issue, and I don't know what it will be, but the issue will come along and the labor movement will unite over night, just as we did in the 1934 maritime strike in San Francisco."

The "issue came along" all right - in the Battle of Seattle November, 1999 in the anti-W.T.O. movement. It is true that Bridges did not "know what it will be." He could not have foreseen that movements such as environmental, civil rights, church, feminist and many others would join with labor making it a totally new anti-corporate movement the likes of which has been seen few times in history. We are in a new historical period. **PERIOD!**

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

Special Message

to All Lifetime Members:

Life time membership does not include the assessment for the PCPA Convention to be held in Seattle in 2001.

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

Darwin's theory of the struggle for existence and the selectivity connected with it has by many people been cited as authorization of the encouragement of the spirit of competition. Some people also in such a way have tried to prove pseudoscientifically the necessity of the destructive economic struggle of competition between individuals. But this is wrong, because man owes his strength in the struggle for existence to the fact that he is a socially living animal. As little as a battle between ants of an ant hill is essential for survival, just so little is this the case with the individual members of a human community.

---Albert Einstein, from an address at Albany, NY, October 15, 1936

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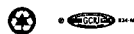
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