

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



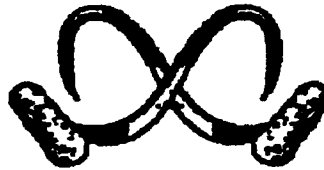
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Spring 2002



PACIFIC COAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

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SEATTLE, WA 98134
206.343.0504

MEETINGS:

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July	1

Mr. Miniace's Anti-union Terrorism

Mr. Miniace (Miniahchee), President and CEO of the Pacific Maritime Association, our boss, has declared open warfare on the ILWU. He is quoted in the last Dispatcher as saying that if the ILWU does not accept his proposals for increasing productivity in the coming negotiations, he will lock waterfront workers out. He will shut down the waterfront. In other words he no longer recognizes our union, the legally recognized collective bargaining unit of longshore, warehouse workers and foreman. We accept his dictatorial provisions for the coming contract or we are unemployed.

Such arrogance is unacceptable. It puts the gun to our head. As ILWU President Spinosa said, Miniace is not putting a bargaining proposal on the table, he is putting a gun on the table. If Mr. Miniace thinks threats are going to scare the union and waterfront workers, he has another thought coming. Such threats are nothing new to us. We've handled worse before during and since 1934 and we can handle this one.

In fact Miniace is in a very weak position. Productivity under the present M&M program is way beyond previous levels. He wants to cut a few clerking jobs. In the first place he is off base because his proposal violates the "no layoffs" clause in the M&M agreement. In the second place he threatens a jurisdiction recognized under established ILWU rules.

If he gets away with this scheme to gut clerk jurisdiction, it would become a precedent to threaten jurisdiction in all our work categories. The very existence of our union is threatened. It seems as if Miniace would prefer a waterfront totally free of workers. If he does not back off his ant-union terrorism, he better start looking for another job.

Another anti-union proposal threatened by Miniace is to do away with local arbitrators, one for each ILWU division. Local arbitrators were established to facilitate unresolved issues by local joint labor relations committees. This was to ensure speedy resolution of such disputes – work would proceed with minimum delay. The agreement also provided that work should continue as before the dispute until the local labor relations committee ruled. If there was appeal from that ruling, the matter is referred to the local arbitrator. The union or employer has the right to appeal the local ruling to the Coast Labor Relations Committee or arbitrator. The proposal to remove the local arbitrators may seem a small matter. But the hook in Miniace's move is that future disagreements would have to be settled at the coast level since local arbitrators are absent. The employers main concern is that the present arbitration system gives the union a shot at settling disputes fairly.

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Mr. Miniace's Anti-union Terrorism

From Page 1

They want that removed to the Coast level, away from local influence by the union, where their influence can mean more favorable rulings for employers. Simply put, it takes power from the union. Also, work continues under the disputed conditions. That would mean work would continue for a lengthy time under onerous conditions while being distantly arbitrated at Coast headquarters. Such delay could last for days, weeks or months while the Coast is processing such disputes up and down the entire coast and elsewhere. Thus you see the employer advantage - work continuing under disputed conditions for long periods of time under onerous or even illegal conditions to the advantage of the employer. It also means Miniace is ready to weaken the union to the full extent he can get away with.

Miniace should not forget that we are well armed if he wants to use the gun. The U.S. labor movement is looking for an opportunity to strengthen its ranks. - world labor will welcome a chance to rally around our cause if it comes to a lock out against the ILWU. Mr. Miniace's threat to turn back the clock on labor relations is part of a world globalization program to lower global wages, working conditions and living standards, Apparently the PMA and Mr. Miniace have decided to lead off on that campaign. If they can seriously weaken or destroy the ILWU they will score a significant victory against unionism everywhere.

But they can also suffer a significant defeat. The ILWU is not alone. We have many allies such as the national AFL-CIO, Teamsters union, East Coast International Longshore Association, many unions overseas such as Japan, Australia, France, Italy, South Korea, and others. These unions are itching to strike a blow against U.S. employer arrogance. They, and we, believe, in the words of John Sweeney, President of the AFL-CIO that "A better world is possible. We also have strong supporters outside of labor. We have connections with U.S. anti-globalization forces, which are considerable. We have such groups as Jobs With Justice, Senior and retiree groups such as the Alliance of Retired Americans, Unemployed groups who have a score to settle, student groups on many campuses, connections with environmental movements, and others.

And certainly not least, the vast and increasingly powerful human rights movement. They and we see that union rights are human rights.

So Mr. Miniace, bring on your guns, but you better cover your rear - a three letter word!

In response to the above, we have received a communication from the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association as follows: "On January 17, 2002 the mid-year meeting of the ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners Association Executive Board passed the following motion: "All U.S. members of PCPA Executive Board begin donating \$50 per month, beginning February, in case of work interruption in the upcoming negotiations between the ILWU and PMA. This money be put in a special fund to aid the Longshore division in case of work disruption and will continue until a contract agreement is reached" The motion passed unanimously.

Further, the Executive Board, during discussion on the motion, agreed to notify the various PCPA pension clubs Groups to get them to contact all pensioners to donate at least \$50", or at least as much as you can afford.

... "Should a contract settlement be reached without any problems, your money will be returned."

So, sisters and brothers, rally to the cause. The money you can give now may save us money in the future! Our union and our pension future is at stake!

NOTE: The recent Caucus passed a motion assessing each working ILWU member \$100.00 per month for the same reason.



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ILWU CONTRACT CAUCUS

San Francisco, CA., January 2002

We arrived at the Caucus meeting Monday, January 28th and were very much surprised to find that the Retirees' Benefits had been discussed the week before. We had previously been informed that these topics would be on the Agenda the week of January 28th. The only one of our group who was present the week of the 21st, when they were brought up, was George Kuvacas Sr., President of Local 13 Retirees..

There was a lot of argument regarding increases of wages particularly by the crane operators. A lot of people were on the mike especially from Local 13. They have power to control the West Coast between Local 13 and Clerks Local 63. Seventy percent of the delegates from those locals, all in key jobs, are only interested in an increase in money.

It is not expected to be an easy negotiation. There are a lot of issues negotiated in the last contract that the employer is disputing particularly in regard to welfare. While our Pension is secure in the event of a strike (or lockout), our health and welfare benefits are likely to be cut off until settlement. We would recommend that anyone and their spouses and dependents who have elective health or dental problems get them taken care of before the end of June. This applies to actives as well as retirees.

The ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners' Association Executive Board passed a motion at their meeting that each member of the Board would donate \$50 per month beginning with February to be put in a special fund to aid the Longshore division in the event of a strike (or lockout). Should the contract be negotiated without work stoppage the money will be returned to the donors.

Paul S. McCabe,
 Delegate &
 John Johnson,
 2nd Vice President
 Local 19, Pensioners Club.
 Pacific Coast Pensioners'
 Assoc.

LOCAL 23 BRAGGING RIGHTS

We see in the Seattle Times recently that the Port of Tacoma handled more containers last year than Port of Seattle. Their record for 2001 was 1,320,274 T.E.U's, compared to 1,315,109 Port of Seattle. In other words an edge of about 5,000 containers. According to latest figures, Tacoma has more union members than Seattle. This is the first time since 1995 the record shows. Its larger number of cargo shipments to Alaska explains Tacoma's edge. Also, the recession hit Seattle harder. Tacoma lost 3 to 5 percent while Seattle lost 12 percent. Whether this is a permanent situation depends on the regular ebb and flow of shipping.

But there are more Tacoma local 23 advances. They know how to go forward in gaining public support. For instance on Feb. 20, according to the Peoples World, they sponsored "A Celebration of Black History and Labor."

It was no simple local affair. A list of speakers present was international. They included Ossie Davis, DR. Naomi Tutu, daughter of Desmond Tutu, Joe Wenzl, Coast Committee, Paddy Crumlin, national secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia, Prince Cedza Dlamini, grandson of Nelson Mandela, and Cicely Tyson. When it comes to meeting the challenges of the PMA, such broad public events strengthens our public strength.

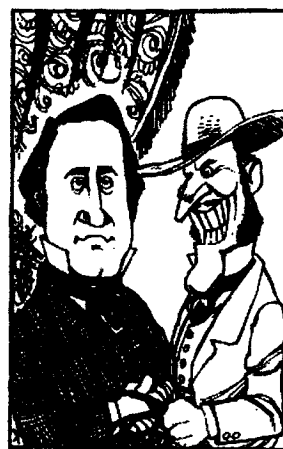
Way to go, Local 23'

Three absurd scenarios: Which one really happened?...



1801

U.S. HAS A PIRACY PROBLEM.
 VICE-PRESIDENT BURR SEEKS
 ADVICE FROM BARBARY PIRATES.



1857

U.S. HAS A SLAVERY PROBLEM.
 VICE-PRESIDENT BRECKINRIDGE
 SEEKS ADVICE FROM SLAVE OWNERS.



2001

U.S. HAS AN ENERGY PROBLEM.
 VICE-PRESIDENT CHENEY SEEKS
 ADVICE FROM ENRON.

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A BETTER WORLD IS POSSIBLE

The above is a statement made by AFL-CIO President Sweeney at one of the recent anti-globalization rallies. How does he and others propose to arrive at a better world? By building a powerful labor movement that puts people before profits - a point many union members must remember.

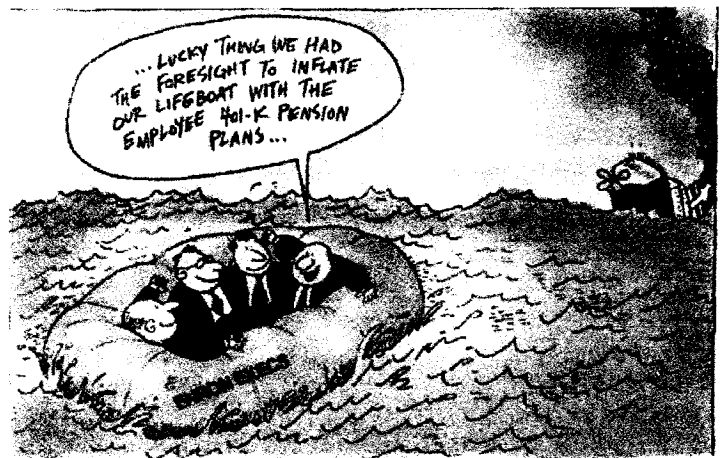
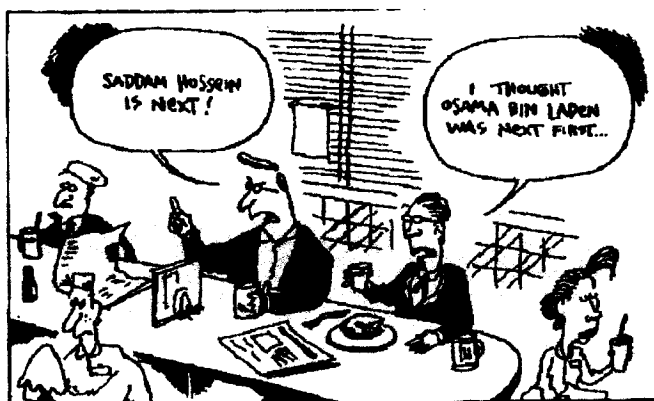
While we are devoting most of our attention to combating Mr. Miniace's anti-union terrorism campaign, we must not overlook the ILWU organizing campaign. Its purpose is to build the union, and keep the boss from breaking unions everywhere. Everyone agrees union building is necessary if living standards are to be defended. It is the only and best way to guarantee decent wages, hours and working conditions and pensions. If unions lose ground, living standards lose. It is as simple as that. Something we have learned during and after 1934.

A glaring example of that truth is the Enron example. Just think for a moment how the Enron pensions and scuttled 401 k's could have been saved if Enron workers had a strong union. Their loss came from putting faith in a ruthless, greedy corporation instead of unionism. We hope they, and us have learned the lesson. It is a simple choice a strong union or bankruptcy.

So what the ILWU organizing campaign is asking of us is to think organizing daily, hourly and in a thousand ways. No one is expected to sign up a hundred new union members in day or two. But we hope you can come up with some organizing ideas. Even seemingly insignificant ideas some times bear great fruit like seeds that become strong trees.

Turn your ideas in - at the union office, union officials, shop steward, the Old Timers office or wherever is handy.

A Better World is Possible!



NOTES ON ORGANIZING

A turning point in history

There is little doubt the anti-union, anti-peoples corporate forces are betting the ranch on the outcome of a worldwide campaign to lower living standards and raise profits. This is because the first law of corporatism is to increase the rate of profit. This has reached the point where today as reported recently in the Washington Post, the "385 of the richest people in the world have a net worth equal to the combined annual income of the poorest 2.3 billion." Up to this point they have generally succeeded with the exception of periods of recession or depression. But now they face a crisis of no room for expansion. The world markets have reached a point of saturation. This is seen in the incredible world wide financial transactions, under the electronic computerized system, which transfers trillions of dollars daily across all borders. The only way left to continue increasing profits is to cheapen the cost of production, to increase worker productivity.

Alan

Greenspan has reminded us of this in his various economic pronouncements from the Federal Reserve Board. Their only hope now is to lower wages around the world.

To do this they have set up a plan involving the WTO, IMF, World Bank, etc. In other words a total program based upon no outside regulation, secret deliberations, no governmental, let alone peoples' democratic control. It is worldwide control of industry, government, political and social - a corporate controlled world system. It is an anti-union, anti-democratic, anti-people system of total exploitation.

CAN WE SAVE UNIONISM AND DEMOCRACY?

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NOTES ON ORGANIZING

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We can by extending and strengthening unionism. It is necessary to understand that unionism is the strongest and most essential anti-corporate power. Even Peter Drucker, guru of management consultants agrees that unions defend workers' rights and democracy against the tyranny of corporate power. Without unions democracy cannot exist. One look at the world history shows that where unions function democracy is strong. Under dictatorships unions are outlawed. In addition it is clear that higher living standards are characteristic of democracy. It can be said that higher living standards is a foundation of democracy.

The history of unionism in our own country as well as elsewhere is marked by terrorism against unions. Unionism has been involved in a struggle against corporate terrorism as long as it has existed.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

The opportunities for organizing are not a lot. Having just come out of the prosperity of the 90s, the need for unionism is not clearly seen. Workers have been taken in by get rich quick stock market fantasies and comparatively high wages in some industries. But that was restricted to less than the majority of workers. Now that we are in a service economy with a huge segment of temp workers, we see a wage slip-page. Younger workers no longer have the opportunities for well paying jobs as the manufacturing sector continues to shrink. In such circumstances union organizing is difficult. If workers are being laid off they are no longer there to be organized. And if they are available as a source of cheap labor, the downward pressure on wages increases. But such conditions in the Great Depression led workers to seek union support. It works both ways.

In addition laws, government bureaucracies and media bias all militate against organizing. Under Bush government policy will become more anti-union. It is likely that union militancy will be labeled a threat to the war against terrorism under Bush's "You're for us or against us" statement.

What we have going for us is, for one thing the great ILWU reputation. Practically any worker except those in highly skilled crafts would be proud to belong to the ILWU. If we get the message out to them we will not have too much difficulty

getting new members. Coupled with this, the large number of low paid workers adds to the opportunities for organizing.

Another plus is the connection between union organizing and the defense of democracy. As noted, trade union rights are essentially democratic rights. Many are becoming aware of this important fact. Thus we can count on wide spread public support for organizing. The ongoing demonstrations against corporate power have brought civil, religious and environmental groups and others together. To the extent we can strengthen this unity we will strengthen organizing. The importance of this cannot be over emphasized.

There is one practical suggestion that may bear fruit. That is guaranteeing that workers fired for union organizing get some kind of employment on the waterfront. Our union has a proud tradition of providing jobs for workers on strike. Unfortunately jobs opportunities on the waterfront are tight these days, but if we could offer that, we would probably find many volunteer union organizers in unorganized areas.

But our greatest problem in our organizing campaign is lack of rank and file support. This is hard to overcome, largely for the reason our workers are well satisfied comparatively speaking and aren't motivated to struggle as in the past. Overcoming this is not easy. It requires continued and patient efforts such as speaking before union meetings and lunch hours on the docks, talking to members individually and convincing them of the need for organizing. We need a vigorous agitation and propaganda campaign in our meetings, on the job and in our press. If we can make a real effort in this direction we will see real results.

Long live the ILWU unionism and democracy!

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.

Lifetime membership does not include the assessment for the PCPA Conventions.

The assessment is \$3.00 per year .

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CORRESPONDENCE

RUSTY HOOK GOES INTERNATIONAL

From TONY ADCOCK Kiama, Australia:

"Dear Friends,

Many thanks for the copy of the RUSTY HOOK & for your kindness in responding to Robert McEllrath's request that retired ILWU branches make contact with us here.

We had great pleasure in being part of the welcoming group of Port Kembla members and retirees to the ILWU delegation that visited Australia last April. Also having the opportunity to personally thank Robert & Co. for the marvelous demonstration of international solidarity displayed by our union during the horrors of the M.U.A./Patrick's dispute. The blacklisting of the vessel, Columbus Canada was one of the finest points of our people winning the dispute. The dispute, as you may well know, our organization was and still is severely wounded by that struggle.

I have distributed copies of your fine bulletin, sending one each to the Ports of Sydney and Newcastle (N.S.D.)

Our branch here in Kembla, although quite small, showed much interest in the publication & it caused much discussion.

A similar threat of privatization of ports around the coast is being tried and contained within. The plans are to abolish our long established rights to claim the work in part of the sea-going & and certainly the shore based areas.

Our last meeting also expressed much sorrow over the 11 th Sept. incidents & join with you in your grief. We also pledge to work for world peace & a solution around this and other issues, which exist around the globe.

We have a Federal election coming up on the 10th of November, 01 & most of us, if not all, are working and hoping for a change in the government.

As you may know our current leaders are there under the title of Liberal Party, but nothing could be further from the truth, in working class terms. So we will be doing our best to install the Labour Party. It will be no easy task.

Again thank you for the bulletin. We hope we can keep up the contact. Our people here around this industry have always held much respect for Harry Bridges and the ILWU.

Some of us remember correspondence from your member JERRY TYLER, who used to send articles to the Maritime Journal. Please extend our best wishes for an early recovery for his health.

Best wishes to you all for 2002.

Warmest greetings from Port Kembla retirees.

Yours, TONY ADCOCK

(President, P.K.R. Association)

Brother ADCOCK also sent us a very interesting copy of the recent issue of Australia's National Maritime Union Journal. Thanks, TONY

We wish we could reply to TONY's very interesting, friendly and informative letter, but our space is much more limited than we would like. However, if the brothers in Port Sydney and Newcastle would like to receive the RUSTY HOOK we would be glad to put them on our mailing list. Let us know.

Finally, we may be calling on your National Maritime Union for some real international solidarity in our coming struggle against the Pacific Maritime Association's threat to lock us out if we don't agree to their anti-union demands. This issue of the RUSTY HOOK explains the critical nature of that struggle. Wish us well!

Another letter comes from VLADIMER DZUTSOFF. Raymond, WA.

"Dear Pensioners:

Enclosed please find check for \$35.00 for 2002 dues of \$12.00 plus \$3.00 assessment and the \$5.00 pro rata. I was behind for last year and thank Rudy for reminding me. But you see I belong to three ILWU Pensioner's Clubs - number 1, Raymond, number 24, Aberdeen, and number 19, Seattle. I pay dues to all of them. What is left over from my check (\$15.00) donate to the RUSTY HOOK fund as I really enjoy receiving it. I keep busy in my shop and yard and garden - plus helping all these widow ladies down here. But don't worry my wife keeps a close eye on me. HA! HA! Tell all the fellow retirees hello and keep fighting.

Sincerely,

VLADIMER A. DUTZOFF, #55486

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CORRESPONDENCE

Some like to write letters, others contribute but don't write. We truly appreciate them either way and we want to give notice where it is due. So we are going to list the many contributions from silent ones as follows:

From the widow of ERNIE LEWIS (name not included), Johnson City, TN. - \$15.00. We appreciate contributions from survivors especially. Thank you.

From BOB LINDSEY, Bainbridge Isl., WA. - \$10.00 - Thanks, BOB for the greenies.

From CHARLIE YEARKA, Seattle, WA. - \$50.00 - Thanks again, CHARLIE, who is a strong donation repeater.

From LUIS CASTILLO, Miami, FL. - \$60.00 - Thank you LUIS, another staunch repeater.

From PETE STARKOVICH, Seattle, WA. - \$60.00 to the kitchen fund. Plus 1/2 gallon of Black Velvet to the club. Wow! Thank you, PETE. PETE has donated several such good bottles in years past.

From CHESTER SAMPLES; Renton, WA. - \$20.00 to the Rusty Hook. Many thanks, CHESTER, We appreciate.

From HERB LENZ, Seattle, WA. - \$50.00 to RUSTY HOOK. Many thanks, HERB.

From JACK DENNISON, Seattle, WA. - \$13.00 to RUSTY HOOK. and Thanks to you, JACK.

From JOHN FISHER, Seattle, WA. -\$20.00 to RUSTY HOOK. Double thanks to you JOHN for your contribution plus the \$180.00 worth of ILWU History last issue.

From LEE ANDERSON, Bainbridge, Isl., WA. - \$20.00 to Rusty Hook. Great thanks, LEE.

We just want to say again how much we appreciate all these Sister's and Brother's support. We must be doing something right. And we look forward to THE RUSTY HOOK giving strong support to our union and our cause in the coming critical negotiations.

From S. SELLMAN, Shoreline, WA.

A very touching letter:

"RUSTY HOOK;

Now this one is going to get mailed even if I die first. I'm 70 years old as of 11-11-01. Was married to Claude (NMI) Sellman from Sep't. 5th, 6th or 4th. I burned up the license. The next morning, it didn't matter before we got legal, but it did when his son was born. He'd never been married - no children that he knew of. He was born May 10, '04 and as you can see there is a big age difference. Vern Hall was one of his last Longshore friends to die Vern helped me out so much with Veterans Act, Longshore, etc. and what all

Dec. 9 - 01

"Well I'm finishing up my yearly money problems. I've been in Hosp. since 10-19-? O.K. about a month. They determined it was cancer. I did stay for radiation therapy. At my age I only want the least possible. I'm ready to check out any time after we get the winter solstice over.

S. SELLMAN

P.S. Please continue to keep me semi anonymous. Thanks."

Well, we are certainly sorry to hear MRS. SELLMAN'S sad story. We sincerely hope she outlasts the winter solstice and more. Especially we like her tough spirit in facing the inevitable.

Final Dispatch

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