

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



**PUBLISHED BY**  
**SEATTLE ILWU-PENSION CLUB**

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**VOLUME 13 – No. 3**  
*Fall 2004*

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**MEETINGS:**

September	none
October	4
November	1
December	6

## Special Election Issue

In view of the extreme importance of the 2004 election, we have asked union officials to answer a few questions regarding their opinions.

Brother RUDY FINNE, President, Local 19, feels it should be obvious to all of us that John Kerry as president would be much more helpful to the ILWU and all unions than George W. Bush. Kerry has stated that outsourcing jobs, cutting overtime pay and unfair laws against union organizing must be eliminated. Furthermore, well-paying jobs, he says, are necessary for a strong America.

Kerry's position on outsourcing is not too clear, but we think we stand a far better chance of handling it with Kerry than with anti-labor Bush. Our present struggle with the PMA over outsourcing clerks' jobs is an immediate threat. Furthermore, a future threat is the possibility of laws being passed by an anti-labor President to allow foreign seamen to unload longshore cargo in U.S. ports. Kerry would be more pro-labor on that issue than Bush.

I strongly urge all our members to support the Democratic ticket all the way. To vote Republican is to vote not only against the interest of labor, but the interests of the American people as a whole.

Also, don't forget to send in your \$50.00 special PAC contribution if you haven't done so. It is

sorely needed.

Brother RUDOLPH MARTINEZ, President of Seattle Longshore Pensioners club, points out that Bush has already cut overtime pay and has stated that if you are receiving Social security you should not be receiving a company pension. He has given high tax breaks to the large corporations, he has given contracts to Cheney's company without any other company being able to bid on the contracts. He is taking care of his cronies.

Privatizing Social Security by Bush will be worse for the future of ILWU pensions. Putting Social Security on Wall Street, which is what privatization means, we would lose buying power. Furthermore, privatization means if the stock market goes down, we will be taking a very dramatic cut in our pensions.

Anything Kerry does for a single payer health plan would be far and above anything Bush has done for a peoples' health plan. Bush cut appropriations for health care.

I would tell my membership to vote for Kerry. Bush has already tried to break our union. When we were negotiating our last contract he got us locked out. If he was not so involved with the war in Iraq we would have

## THE ILWU SUPPORTS SENATOR JOHN KERRY FOR PRESIDENT

HERALD UGLES, chair of Local 19 PAC, says it is very important that the ILWU stands up for Senator John Kerry and the Democratic party. Bush and company have attacked the working people of this country since day one.

As President Kerry will respect the rights of Unions and let us have a voice in the democratic process. Bush Inc. has equated unionism with terrorism. Tom Ridge labeled the ILWU "economic terrorist" during the lockout and the head of education called the teacher Unions terrorist.

The real "economic terrorists" are Enron, Halliburton and the oil companies reaping billions of dollars out of the hides of American workers.

With President Kerry we can expect to see a reversal of all the executive orders Bush Inc. signed against the American workers. Some of the laws passed by Congress will take longer but that is why it is important to also help elect Democrats for Congress.

In 2002 we learned how important it was to have sympathetic politicians. Harry Bridges knew of the importance and we as a younger generation had to relearn the lesson. To prepare for the 2008 contract we must elect politicians who understand it is the workers of this country that make it strong, not the multinational companies who outsource jobs and take massive tax cuts.

On the local level ILWU Local 19 helped elect Alec Fiske to Port of Seattle Commission to save pier 46 for now. Next year we have 3 Port Commissioners, five City of Seattle Council seats and the Mayor up for re-election. We must step up and get more involved on all levels.

It is important for all ILWU members and pensioners to look beyond the misinformation and half truths and ask ourselves is Bush Inc. bringing this country down the right road? I don't think so.

So let's get off our butts and register people to vote, volunteer at phone banks, and most important, donate money to the candidates you believe in.

Thank you for giving me the honor to address this important issue in the famous "RUSTY HOOK".

## WILL WE WIN?

There is good reason to believe we will win the 2004 election - that we will oust Bush and stop the corporate drive to push our country backward.

We believe that because in critical periods of American history such as present, the American people have always won against those who would reverse our progress toward a better world. There are many instances of that scenario.

For instance, right after the successful U.S. revolution against British imperialism, the Federalists (early day conservative property interests) passed an Alien and Sedition law (a forerunner of present Patriot Act). It made it illegal to criticize the President and illegal to support the French revolutionists. The next Congress under the leadership of Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin repealed that law as a threat to U.S. constitutional rights.

The next great clash of democratic and propertied interests came in the Civil War. The forces of democracy and progress won and abolished slavery.

After the Civil War, the propertied interests stole land for railroad owners and raised shipping rates that put farmers out of business. Industry brutally exploited labor. As a result a populist and trade union movement began to grow and forced passage of the Sherman Anti-Trust law that counted as another victory for peoples' interests. Also, under president Theodore Roosevelt, the environmental movement was launched. The trade union and radical political movements continued to grow until World War I.

We fought that war to "save democracy" but were sold out by international big business.

Then the Great Depression of the thirties brought a great advance in the principles of democracy and progress. With "one third of the nation ill-fed, ill-housed and ill-clothed," marching in the streets demanding relief, the New Deal was launched to strengthen the economy and democracy. We won again! Then came the great anti-fascist second World War and the defeat of anti-democratic forces worldwide. Another profound peoples' victory. Many times since then, corporate interests have tried unsuccessfully to turn the world back to a pre-World War I status. They have been defeated at each turn such as the anti-union period of the 30s that was stopped by the great union organizing drives in basic industry. The McCarthy "un-American" period of the fifties was completely routed as a serious threat to civil rights.

## **John Kerry's Health Care Plan Works for Working Families**

Basic health care is unaffordable for too many people in this nation. The United States spends more on health care than any other country in the world, yet nearly 44 million Americans lack medical coverage. Too many employers refuse to offer affordable health insurance coverage to workers. And even when they do, employers increasingly are shifting costs to workers, requiring them to pay higher premiums, deductibles and co-payments. Meanwhile, rising drug prices and drug company profits are driving up health care costs.

But so far, President George W. Bush's policies have been bad medicine for the nation's health care crisis. The Medicare prescription drug bill Bush signed into law last year encourages companies to drop retiree health coverage and doesn't allow the U.S. government to negotiate price reductions with pharmaceutical companies. Bush supports a weak Patients' Bill of Rights that would allow HMOs and accountants to make medical decisions. His plan would only expand health care coverage to 2 million people by offering risky and expensive individual health accounts.

### **Kerry's Plan Would Ensure Health Care Coverage for All**

In contrast, Sen. John Kerry would extend health care coverage to 96 percent of all people living in the United States by creating incentives for employers to offer job-based coverage, expanding public child health insurance programs and making it easier for small employers to provide workers with health coverage through a new insurance plan modeled after the health plan for members of Congress. Kerry supports a strong Patients' Bill of Rights—one that allows doctors to make medical decisions and patients to have access to the specialists they need. He pledges to overhaul Bush's misguided Medicare prescription drug law and replace it with policies that discourage employers from dropping retiree coverage and allow the United States to negotiate lower drug prices. Funding for Kerry's plan will come from rolling back Bush's tax cuts for wealthy people earning more than \$200,000 a year.

"With these reforms, we will make real savings in the cost of health care," says Kerry. "We'll save lives, we'll save jobs, we'll save paychecks and we'll save businesses. We'll build healthier households, more prosperous communities and a stronger America."

## **The Real Economic Story**

U.S. corporations now are racing to outsource white-collar jobs—including work in computer sciences, engineering, entertainment, financial and medical services—to countries where workers earn far less. A Forrester Research study predicts U.S. employers will move about 3.3 million white-collar service jobs and \$136 billion in wages overseas in the next 15 years, up from \$4 billion in 2000.

Corporate profits and CEO salaries are way up, but wages and family incomes are stagnant—even though U.S. workers are more productive than ever. Weekly wages for nonsupervisors grew less than 2 percent in the past year—the lowest wage increase since 1987. Meanwhile, corporate profits jumped 25 percent last year. Household incomes actually declined by 1.7 percent between 2000 and 2002.

Sources: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; U.S. Commerce Department, Census Bureau.

Bush administration policies are cutting further into families' paychecks and decreasing job quality. The administration is pushing changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act that could take overtime pay from 8 million workers, including veterans—and the U.S. Labor Department has published descriptions for how employers can avoid paying low-wage workers for their overtime hours. The administration has taken union rights from many federal workers and has rolled back job safety protections.

Health care is becoming out of reach for America's working families. Nearly 75 million Americans—almost a third of us younger than

America has been bleeding jobs since President George W. Bush took office.

Since January 2001, we have lost a net 2.9 million private-sector jobs, including 2.8 million good manufacturing jobs. The few jobs created in recent months are not enough to employ the people entering the job market for the first time, much less to make a real dent in unemployment.

Unemployment and underemployment still are devastating families and communities. Almost 15 million workers are unemployed, underemployed or have given up on looking for work in this "jobless recovery." Close to 5 million of them work part-time because they couldn't get fulltime jobs.

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## AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

The Bush administration has cheered about the unemployment rate dropping slightly. But President Bush inherited a much better unemployment rate of 4.1 percent and presided over rates as high as 6.3 percent. In truth, much of the recent unemployment rate decline has been because jobless workers have given up hope and stopped looking, and many other people who would like to work, such as recent college grads, are not looking because the job market is so weak.

The good jobs America has lost aren't coming back. In their place, we're adding lower-wage jobs that provide few if any benefits. In the industries now adding jobs, pay is 21 percent less than in American industries losing jobs. Much of the manufacturing capacity, which gave us jobs that paid well and came with good benefits and built and sustained our middle class, has moved permanently to low-wage countries

such as China. Now, we're exporting white-collar, high-tech jobs, too. 65—lacked health insurance at some point in 2001 and 2002. These days, too many jobs are moving in the direction of providing Wal-Mart-style health coverage that's too expensive for many workers and too stingy to protect working families from financial ruin in case of serious illness. Between 2000 and 2002, workers' costs for family health insurance coverage rose 50 percent.

Personal savings and economic security are becoming things of the past. Personal savings are at record lows, and personal bankruptcies and debt are at record highs. Hard work is supposed to enable working families to meet expenses, save some and get ahead. But today millions of families live paycheck to paycheck; a lost job or serious illness can drive a working family quickly into bankruptcy that can cost everything they've worked for, even their home. So many working families have to use credit cards to make ends meet that personal debt (not including mortgages) now averages \$18,700 per household, according to the U.S. Federal Reserve Board of Governors. As employers cut and kill pensions and the Bush administration and congressional allies threaten Social Security, the disappearance of personal savings will mean desperate struggles for a generation of retirees.

Our children could be worse off economically than our generation—a first in American history. Americans feel that jobs that pay well and offer good benefits are vanishing. Many decent jobs today require a college education, but financially strapped states are cutting tuition aid and raising tuition costs while parents aren't able to save for college costs.

Necessities such as homes and health care are harder and harder to afford. And many of our children will have to take up the burden of caring for us when we no longer can work.

The Bush economic record amounts to an attack on America's middle class. The wealthy have benefited from massive tax cuts. Corporations get tax breaks encouraging them to move jobs overseas and help from the Bush administration to avoid paying workers for overtime. Today, families in the middle of the income range have only 14.8 percent of the nation's income, compared with more than 17 percent back in the 1970s, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Bush economic record is fiscally irresponsible. Bush's policies have created a \$500 billion deficit, while still shortchanging working family programs, with more huge deficits to come. Such policies will result in a burden on our children and on today's workers when they try to retire.

The Bush administration is spending billions to rebuild Iraq's roads and schools, but not America's. Iraq greatly needs our help—but so does America. The Bush administration is spending \$87 billion for reconstruction in Iraq while ignoring too many needs here at home. President Bush is proposing unworkable tax credits that will at best help only a tiny fraction of the 44 million uninsured Americans gain health coverage, but 13 million Iraqis will receive health care access from U.S. taxpayer dollars.

*Continued on page 5*



**MEETING ATTENDANCE**

While we are stressing the importance of the 2004 election, we wish to point to the importance of attending meetings,

We feel it is important for our members to attend meetings so they can keep up with all the latest developments in this critical election period.

We appeal to all Pensioners, Ladies Auxiliary members and ILWU members to attend meetings. Keep up with the struggle for a better world. It takes all of us to do the job.

*From page 2*

The powerful civil rights movement of the 60s and 70s brought more victories for the people. Add to that the anti-Vietnam war struggles that led to victory for the Vietnamese against the most powerful military power in the world, and we begin to see the power of the people.

Now we see the latest in a corporate scheme to undermine democracy in the Bush administration and its corporate sponsors. This one is critical. They are betting the ranch this time. They know if they lose, they lose big. They do not have resources in the old capitalist system to recover from such a setback.

That is what makes this election so crucial. If the Bush's win they will turn us, and the world, back to undeterred corporate power and continued loss of democracy; or they will be defeated by the people and corporate power will be put on a leash for the foreseeable future.

The choice is yours. Do not let the people down!



*From page 1*

gotten his full attention to break the ILWU.

I am taking this opportunity to thank the brothers and sisters who voluntarily donated fifty dollars to the Seattle ILWU Pensioners Club for their contribution to our political fund.

I am asking the brothers and sisters that have not donated to please donate now. we would like to meet our goal of ten thousand dollars. We have reached 90%.

I urge every member to campaign for Kerry. Talk to your neighbors, relatives, friends. Ask them to vote for Kerry and the Democratic ticket. We cannot allow the present administration to be re-elected in November.

Finally, I am sad to report that Brother HECTOR GOULET, the last member of local 19 who was on the picket line in the 1934 strike where we got our dispatch hall and our Union, the ILWU, passed away July 12, 2004.

Fraternally,  
RUDOLPH MARTINEZ

*From page 4*

The budget for U.S. highways and transit requests only two-thirds of the funding needed to upgrade roads, bridges and mass transit. While proposing to fund explorations to Mars, President Bush has failed to adequately fund the No Child Left Behind Act. No funds have been allocated to modernize U.S. schools, but the latest rebuilding funds include \$90 million for Iraqi schools.

“Putting \$1,000 in the pockets of 310,000 families with urgent needs is going to provide far more stimulus to the economy than putting the same \$310 million in my pockets.”

—WARREN BUFFETT, financier, in The Washington Post, May 2003 op-ed

“My handicapped husband Saul just got back to work after almost a year of unemployment, and both of us still worry every day about losing our jobs and health insurance.”

—BLANCA MORALES, bakery worker, UFCW Local 881, Chicago

Sources: \$87 billion: H.R. 3289 and S. 1689, which became public law on 11/6/2003; Iraqi health care: Office of Management and Budget Memo; Iraqi schools: [www.cnn.com/2004/EDUCATION/01/14/sprj.nirq.schools.ap/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2004/EDUCATION/01/14/sprj.nirq.schools.ap/index.html).



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