

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



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PACIFIC COAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

3440 EAST MARGINAL WAY S.
SEATTLE, WA 98134
206.343.0504

MEETINGS:

March	1
April	5
May	3
June	7

THE MANY REASONS FOR WAR

There have been many different reasons offered as to why we are at war. We are reacting to the 9/11 WTC bombing is the most obvious. Another is that Saddam Hussein was going to drop Weapons of Mass Destruction on us. Another is we are seeking more oil profits. Or we are destined to be the 21st century U.S. empire. Also that we are the only super power, so we can push the rest of the world around.

We think there is another reason - fear. Fear among the U.S. corporate powers that they are in real danger of losing what empire and super power status they had before Iraq. If you take a look at the article in this issue of the RUSTY HOOK- EYES ON CHINA - and read about the real lack of U.S. super power financial and economic status compared to the rest of the world - the euro gaining on the dollar, balance of payments negative for U.S., a federal budget teetering on the edge of bankruptcy, WTO in ever increasing dead ends, less developed countries rebelling against U.S. domination, the peoples' world peace and justice movement, China becoming a 21st century super power, etc., we begin to see that fear is a great motivator of bluff and exaggerated bravado - a President Bush characteristic. He tries to cover the weakness of the "big stick" with a loud voice.

In other words, rather than U.S. being moved to establish empire because it has the power, it is being

moved by fear of inevitable decline. It hopes super military power will offset lack of industrial and economic power.

It doesn't work that way. Strong military power has to be backed by strong economic, financial and industrial power in order to succeed - a lesson learned in the Civil War, World War I and World War II. And even then, as we learned (or didn't) in Vietnam, a mighty concentration of power inevitably fails when it meets the power of a determined people who have their nation to lose - as we are learning in Iraq.

So then we have to ask ourselves - Are we in danger of losing our nation, our country, our U.S.A.? That is entirely possible if the super power gamble continues. If the neocon, empire first gang in the Whitehouse is not ousted, we will see a continuing decline of U.S. power, prestige and democracy as the "war against terror" eats more of our economic, political, and democratic substance.

Needless to say we can put a stop to this madness by voting Bush out of office in the coming election. Your vote counts not only as a means of changing presidents and government policy, but really means saving our country from its greatest danger - loss of U.S.A. as we know it.

THE BUSH "RECOVERY"

Car sales down so far in 2004. GM car sales down 16.8 percent. Car sales for Ford, Lincoln and Mercury down 20.1 percent. Chrysler's sales down 23.2 percent. With that kind of sales record and the loss of jobs that goes with it, the economy could use something besides a Bush "recovery".

Another Bush "recovery" item is the housing market, long held to be a main supporter of recovery. Home sales so far this year are down 7.1 percent in January. And, if the Federal Reserve raises interest rates, the housing market is predicted to slow further.

Instead of recovery, we have Congress considering a renewal of Unemployment Compensation for another 13 weeks. The Labor Department reported that for the week ending Dec. 27, 2003 there were 339,000 new applications for unemployment insurance. It is estimated that the economy needs at least 150,000 new jobs a month to turn out of the recession. So far, new jobs have numbered in the tens, not hundreds of thousands per month. And those few jobs come in the low pay, service sector. Bush's "recovery" reminds us of the "prosperity is just around the corner" that Herbert Hoover announced in the bottom of the Great Depression.

If you add to the above the sad state of government finances, things look even worse. Federal treasury is borrowing to finance regular operations as well as paying interest on the national debt approaching \$7 trillion. That figure of national debt, \$ 7 trillion, needs close watching because it is closing in on what some economists think is an upper limit of \$12 trillion dollars of U.S. debt that would cause overseas investors to withdraw from the U.S. market. That would mean total world wide financial panic. There would not be a single sound financial market base in any currency to finance world economic transactions. It would be the Mother of all depressions.

Do we, or do we not need another, better economic system?



ONWARD AND UPWARD

Stephen H. Dunphy, Seattle Times' columnist on the economy informs us that Pacific Rim international trade is on an upswing. In his column for January 28 he informs us that:

“At the Port of Long Beach during December, the number of loaded import containers was up by 13 percent over the year, while the loaded export container count jumped by 31 percent. This was the sixth month in a row of increases. For 2003, the total container count at Long Beach was up by 3 percent to nearly 4.7 million TEU's, or 20-foot equivalent units, the industry's standard measure.”

“At the Port of Los Angeles, the total count for 2003 was up by 18 percent to 7.2 million TEU's. The import container count was ahead by 18 percent, while the number of loaded export containers increased by 6.4 percent. The 2003 container count for the two ports combined was up by 10 percent to 11.9 million TEU's. Not bad for a year in which there were cargo diversions because of congestion early in the year, and concerns over a weak economy.”

“Seattle and Tacoma ports together have moved about 3 million containers through November, with both ports reporting strong gains from 2002.”

Dunphy also reports:

“The Port of Seattle took top honors for productivity and reliability in a nationwide poll of shipping companies, landing ahead of power-house ports in New York, Los Angeles and Long Beach.

The Port of Tacoma ranked fifth in the poll, (besides being ranked, elsewhere, as the most distressed city in the U.S.) conducted by Marine Digest, an industry magazine based in Seattle.”

EYES ON CHINA

Again we quote from Stephen H. Dunphy, Seattle Times, 2/1/04:

“China is growing so fast that its trade surplus with the United States continues to grow each month, On the question making it a political issue that raises fears of trade restrictions. And a growing number of white-collar jobs are heading for China, an unexpected development that troubles the promoters of globalization.”

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EYES ON CHINA continued from page 2

"One of the big questions as 2004 gets under way is whether China is growing too fast. It was a subject of a cover story in Business Week recently, and the New York Times splashed the idea across the top of its Sunday Business section several weeks ago. ...

China is in a much more fragile state than either" [Japan or U.S.] "making any economic dislocation all the worse for them - and for us.

This is not to take away from China's extraordinary growth, its emergence as a world industrial power called 'the most profound social transformation in world history.

China devoured a third of the world's steel production last year, single-handedly boosting the prices of iron ore and nickel. It consumed more than half of the world's cement. It accounted for a third of the world's GDP growth in trade and more than half of its international direct investment.

China has its problems. Growth is accelerating too fast in several areas: real estate, some industrial production such as steel. It produces either runaway prices or overcapacity, neither of them good for the economy. ...

A bubble? Perhaps, but the signs so far are of an economy that can sustain itself for the foreseeable future."

All of the above is of real interest to us on the Seattle waterfront. It is beginning to appear as if as China goes, so goes the world. However, that depends on how the political-economic experiment in China a capitalist economy ruled by a socialist government works out. If it means a socialist government takes as large a share of capitalist profits needed for social welfare, it might avoid the inevitable capitalist bugaboo of recession and depression. That is not guaranteed because economic pressures for capital expansion have in the past such instances - as in Great Britain and the Soviet Union - overruled the social welfare budget.

China is opening all its doors to capitalism. It remains to be seen if it can maintain socialist political control. It is interesting here to note that Lenin tried a similar program in 1920 - the New Economic Policy. He said he could not guarantee the outcome. It is likely Hu Jintao, China's President, cannot guarantee the outcome in modern China.

However, if you think the China question is unsettling, try taking a look at the U.S economy which is not good:

In an interesting article appearing in the *Monthly Review* (Dec., 03), an article by Richard B. DuBoff, Emeritus Professor of Economics, Bryn Mawr College, provides a description of the decline in the U.S. economic power in major sectors around the world:

An idea of the decline of American economic power can be formed from the following:

In 1950 the United States supplied half the world's gross product, against 21 percent at present. Sixty percent of the world's manufacturing production came from the United States, 25 percent in 1999. The U.S. share of exports of commercial services, the fastest growing part of the world economy, stood at 24 percent in 2001, while the European Union (EU) had 23 percent - 40 percent if intra-EU exports were counted.

Non-U.S. companies dominated major industries in 2002, accounting for nine of the ten largest electronics and electrical equipment manufacturers; eight of the ten largest motor vehicle makers and electric and gas utilities; seven of the ten largest petroleum refineries; six of the ten telecommunications companies; five of the ten pharmaceutical firms; four of the six chemical producers; four of the seven airlines. Of the twenty-five largest banks in the world, nineteen were non-U.S. banks, although the two largest were Citigroup (New York, UN, 2002). The European Union (EU) includes all countries in Western Europe Except Norway and Switzerland; see www.eurounion.org." foreign multinationals (three British, two German). Of the top twenty corporations involved in cross-border M&A's from 1987 through 2001 only two were U.S. (General Electric and Citigroup); they accounted for 5 percent of the value of all M&A deals during these years."

Continued on page 4



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EYES ON CHINA continued from page 3

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The data above is drawn mainly from World Bank, Development Indicators 2003 (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003); World Trade Organization, International Trade Statistics 2002 (Geneva: WTO, 2002); *Fortune*. July 21, 2003; Development, *World Investment Report 2002*.

(Note: There are other voluminous notes supporting the above figures, too many to include in an article this size. If you wish to refer to them, check the Dec./03 volume of *Monthly Review*.)

The above is not just the speculations of a College professor. If we check with some of the leading U.S. financiers such as Warren Buffet, Chief Executive of Berkshire Hathaway and Stephen Roach of Morgan Stanley, we find an even more pessimistic outlook.

Buffet, according to November issue of *Fortune*, he bet against the dollar for the first time in his life." And, Our country's 'net worth', so to speak, is now being transferred abroad at an alarming rate."

Stephen Roach warns:

"The engine of the global economy, the U.S., is running not on gas but on fumes, on little more than tax cuts and borrowing", he said at the recent World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

There are still other perils of economic misfortune. The well known "balance of payments" in foreign trade, of immediate interest to shipping industries, has been out of balance for several years to the disadvantage of U.S. economy. The "balance of payments" refers to the difference between imports and exports for any particular country. If a country imports more than it exports to another country, it owes that country that many billions of dollars at the end of the accounting period. The U.S. has been running up huge debts in the "balance of payments" for several years.

This has not been an excessive burden because those countries we owe on balance of payments have been offsetting that by investing large amounts in the U.S. economy. This has a more or less balanced out in the past.

But what if those countries lose confidence in the U.S. economy? Or, what if the other countries' economies go belly up? Then panic hits the fan - and we face far more world wide devastating questions than Iraq, Middle East, North Korea, missile defense systems, colonies on Mars or almost anything else facing us now.

The time has come to take a serious look at our economic system. At this point it looks like the present oligarchic, corporate ruled capitalist system is on its last legs. It needs to be replaced with a system that reverses tax cuts for the rich replaced by its opposite, tax increases for the rich. It is said if we tax the rich they will not have money left over to invest in new industry. No problem. If they prove their case for new investment, they could be exempted from the tax.

With such a tax on the rich we could solve all the problems we face such as poverty, health care, care for the elderly, unemployment, race relations, human rights, education, environmental welfare, and threats of war. Can you imagine? Living in a peaceful and prosperous world?

WE GOOFED

Last issue we wrote that BOBBY KING, first Seattle longshore women retiree, was the first such on the Pacific Coast. We were wrong. We have been informed two or three other West Coast longshore women retired earlier. We apologize.

Seattle Pensioners PCPA Luncheon

BUREIN ELK'S
14006 1st. Ave. So.

WEDNESDAY MAY 19, 2004

For further info. Contact the Pensioner's Club.
206.343.0504

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A LIVELY ELECTION

We haven't had as lively an election period as we are now having around the country with people turning out in unexpected large numbers for primaries. There are several reasons why.

Number one is that we take being led to a war more widely opposed even before it began by lies. Those lies were supposed to be believed by us if repeated often enough by Bush and his neocons. We weren't taken in.

Number two, neither were the Iraqi peopled taken in by phony promises of peace and democracy if only they let us run the show and control the oil.

Number three, and very important, we voters see a real difference between the Republican and Democratic candidates. For most elections since the Vietnam war, there has been less and less difference between the two parties. They thought there was only one issue that interested us voters - how to find the middle of the political road. Well, the more they ran to the middle, the more they bumped into each other and left the voter little political choice.

And finally, the democratic front runners, John Kerry and Howard Dean campaign clearly and unequivocally against the Iraq war. And, of real importance, all the Democratic hopefuls campaign on a clear commitment to our working families. They declare openly against the obscene differences in income and wealth between the lowest income levels and the upper rich.

We hope a real, powerful and militant populist movement for change for the better develops out of this election. It can.

So vote early and vote often as they used to say in Chicago.

Best Letter to the Editor

"Did you know that by tossing out one Bush you could save a whole forest?"

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 .

A CALL TO ACTION

By the time you get this issue of the RUSTY HOOK, you will have received the letter from Rudy Martinez informing us that the PCPA is asking for a voluntary \$50.00 donation from each member of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association for political action work in the coming 2004 election.

The need for an all out campaign to defeat George W. Bush in 2004 election is obvious to any worker unless he or she has been taken in by the torrent of lies told to Americans about how war is caused by weapons of mass destruction that don't exist, that huge federal deficits balance the budget, that unemployment is going down, and the environment is getting better by increasing pollution.

Unless we put a stop to the Bush administration of lies, deficits and destructive policies, we will become a nation returned to the nineteen twenties and Great Depression of the nineteen thirties. We cannot survive as a nation and a people if we allow our national purpose to become raising the corporate bottom line while lowering wages and living standards of the people.

Bush has a campaign fund totaling over \$130,000,000. The entire labor movement is calling for financial contributions to counter Bush's millions.

Do your part. Contribute \$50.00. Your contribution will go towards preserving our union, our pension, our health and welfare benefits, and a future world without war, poverty, disease, unemployment or environmental destruction.

LONGSHORE LEADS AGAIN

As you may have heard, ILWU Locals 13, 63 and 94 in San Pedro ports have put up \$155,000 dollars to pay health benefits for striking and locked out supermarket employees. The Locals have also pledged nearly \$1 million more in the next six months.

The supermarket clerks of Vons, Albertsons and Ralphs have been out over 101 days and their health coverage has been canceled. Under a placard reading "Stop Corporate Greed" Local 13 president Joe Donato warned the lockout was the beginning of things to come.

"It would be one thing if these companies were struggling financially, but their not," he said. "This will fester, this will snowball. Health care will be taken away."... "Since October, ILWU members have been there" (with clerks.) We will be there to the end."

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from page 5

Thus the great tradition of ILWU union Solidarity is being expressed in hard cash and moral support. It follows ILWU's campaign in support of North Carolina workers locked out last year. We supported them with cash and solidarity and they won. They supported us, and we won.

It also shows the way to defeat Bush in the coming election. If there was ever a need for militant solidarity to defend and enlarge labors' interests it will be in that election. Labor and the voters generally will decide whether we will go forward or backward.

Bush has taken us backward enough. Let's move forward!

THE LOCAL 19 "70th Anniversary" "Bloody Thursday" Memorial Picnic

July 5th, 2001

Will be held at;

Vasa Park & Resort

3560 W Lake Sammamish Rd SE Bellevue

Go east on I-90 to exit #13

(West Lake Sammamish Rd SE - Hwy. 901).

From the off-ramp take a left and stay in the left lane heading North on Lake Sammamish Rd for 1 mile until you see a large building painted "barn red" on the left side of the road.

10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Food served 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Events;

A Picnic and Potluck

Raffle - Hand made "ILWU" quilt

Activities - Basketball, Volleyball, Horseshoes

Lake Fishing and Boat Launch

Swimming (life guard on duty) & Waterslides

R/V and Tent Sites Available

Glass not permitted on premises

CORRESPONDENCE

From our Secretary-Treasurer - we are reminded that SAL GRAN donated \$20.00 to the RUSTY HOOK way back 7/7/03 and was not noted or thanked. We apologize and hope we can be forgiven. Our "office staff" consists of casuals, part-timers and otherwise inexperienced and untrained personnel - meaning those of us who pass as editors. We'll do the best we can, but feel free to point out our errors. Maybe, if we last long enough we will gain enough experience to measure up. Otherwise we will do the best we can.

CORRESPONDENCE

From LORRAINE STENSON, Seattle, WA.
Seattle ILWU Pension Club: "Many thanks to the ILWU Pension club for all the benefits we are able to enjoy. You are wonderful. Please apply where needed.

LORRAINE STENSON,
widow of LESLIE T. STENSON, #19."

LORRAINE encloses a check for \$100.00.
Many, many thanks, LORRAINE!

From NADINE UELAND, Sequim, WA.
"My husband, KENNY UELAND passed away on the 4th of Jan. and I send this \$100.00 in his memory. Thanks for such wonderful work on the contract. Kenny was very proud of his union. Put the money (\$100.00) to good use.

Sincerely, NADINE UELAND.

I would love to keep receiving the RUSTY HOOK & the DISPATCHER.

Thanks, so much, NADINE.
We'll keep getting the RUSTY HOOK to you.

From PETER J. KOLLOEN, Redmond, WA.
Dear TERRY:
I have enclosed a check for \$100.00 for the Lifetime membership & assessments. The Pensioners Club performs a great service informing the membership as to what is happening on the local level and on the international level. Keep up the good work.

Yours truly,
PETE KOLLOEN, #53033"

From DALE MORTENSON, South Bend, WA.
"Tell everyone Hi. This" (\$25.00) "is for the HOOK.

Thank you."
DALE MORTENSON."

We appreciate it, DALE, thank you.

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CORRESPONDENCE

From DONN WALVATNE, Edmonds, WA.

"Just Because! Keep up the great work. Really enjoy reading your newsletter."

DONN WALVATNE, Local 19/52."

DONN encloses \$100,00

Your contribution is gratefully received.

From VICKY RAYMER, Gus's daughter, Hailey, Idaho.

"GUS RYSTAD died this past year in October. It was a great loss to all of the family and friends he has had over the years. He was 97 years old and had a wonderful life. He had a strong will for living and found a great strength in his work with all of his longshore friends and the RUSTY HOOK was a great way for him to keep up with the fellows he had spent so many years working with. I wish to thank all of you for keeping him informed as to what was going on in the ILWU.

Sincerely, VICKY RAYMER.
(Gus's Daughter.)"

There are many of us who have fond memories of GUS. He was a great fighter for the ILWU and all the militant principles of unionism. His departure is a distinct loss to the ILWU and the whole labor movement.

From ROY & SHERRY McDERMOTT, Yuma, AZ.

"From Yuma. We sure enjoy the RUSTY HOOK and look forward to getting it. Our friend, LARRY GULP who used to own the Green Front would like to get a copy of the RUSTY HOOK. We show him ours & he really enjoys it. He sends his best wishes to all his old customers and friends. Am enclosing \$20.00.

Thanks.

ROY and SHERRY McDERMOTT."

And thanks to you, ROY and SHERRY.

From THOMAS LYONS

A silent \$85.00 message that counts, THOMAS.

We are grateful.

From ROBERT D. DELEO, KAREN V. DELEO, Lynwood, WA.

\$50.00 donation. No message except the green one.

We express our thanks.

From SHIRLEY M. HOLLAND, Salem, OR.
"RUSTY HOOK

Taking advantage of your recent offer, please send the RUSTY HOOK to my daughter DENISE HOLLAND

Enclosed is my check for \$20,00 to help with postage. Thank you."

Thank you, and will do, SHIRLEY.
A good message.

From our regular, TANK NELSON, CA.

TANK sends along a short story written by his daughter, SALLY JOHNSON, Taylorsville, Utah, who apparently has many longshore relatives. It is a good story about the virtues of compassion (not conservative). We enjoyed it. He also sends a Swedish proverb: "Fear less, hope more, eat less, chew more, whine less, breathe more, talk less, say more, hate less, love more and all good things will be yours."

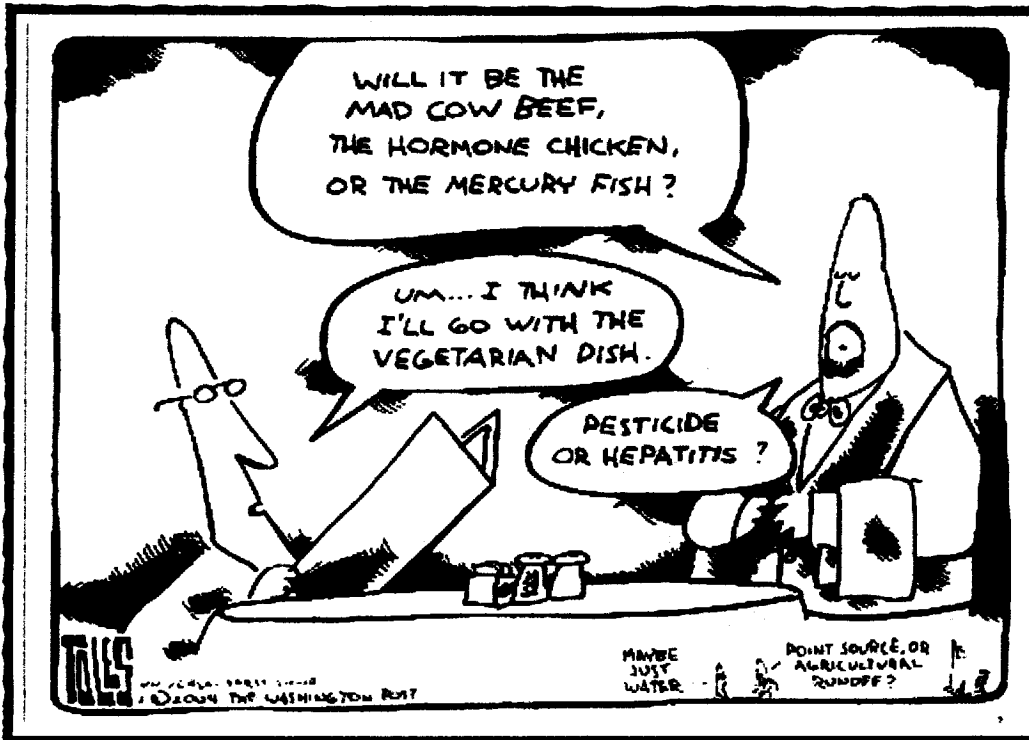
From EDWIN J. SMITH, Edmonds, WA.

"Dear RUSTY HOOK:

Could you please send the RUSTY HOOK to my father, ARCHIE JABINE SMITH, 76 years old and retired (1990) longshoreman from Local #51, Port Gamble, WA. My Dad really enjoys your news letter. My Grand father, EDWIN JOHN SMITH retired out of Local 19. He was a charter member of the Port Townsend Local. When Port Townsend merged with Port Gamble my Grandfather transferred to Local 19, Seattle. My father ARCHIE was one of five left out of the Port Townsend Local that transferred to Port Gamble Local 51.

Thanks, EDWIN J. SMITH, 68068, Local 19."

Will do, EDWIN. Your letter is good waterfront history.



Seattle ILWU Pension Club

President
Rudolph Martinez

Vice President
Paul McCabe

Secretary Treasurer
Terry O'Neil

Recording Secretary
Bill Sample

Trustees
Dick Melton
Steve Jacroux
Robert Mackner

ILWU Benefits Office – Nick Buckles, Director
Jefferson Square 4700 42nd Ave. S.W. #551
Seattle, WA 98116 **206.938.6720**

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