

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



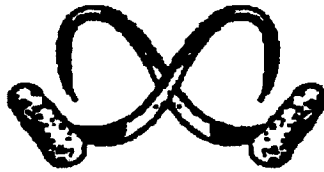
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MEETINGS:

June	7
July	5
August	2
September	none

MORE THAN ENOUGH ON IRAQ

Our Rusty Hook points out that its record of criticism and opposition to Bush's war in Iraq has been more than proved correct by mounting public criticism and its fumbling prosecution by neo-conservatives. From every corner of American life we hear increasing opposition. It has risen to the point of open calls for pulling out of Iraq now, even in the daily press.

People are beginning to wonder how Bush and his neocon imperialist cohorts thought they could fool the American people and others into backing a fictitious president in a war for fictitious reasons as Michael Moore put it in his recent book, *Dude. Where's My Country?*

The Bushies may have followed the theme of the book *Friendly Fascism* by Bertram Gross written in 1980. In his book Gross proposes that neo-fascism need not rely on forceful suppression at home, but could gain a dictatorial hold by clever, modern use of mind control. After all, with almost monopoly control of the media and Republican control of the government, it would seem opposition to their plans would dissipate in short order. Of course the unconstitutional Patriot Act and Attorney General Ashcroft would be a back-up just in case. In addition, if you pick a victim such as Iraq that is uneducated, in the habit of being oppressed, there is a combination guaranteed to succeed. But "the best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft-agley" as the Scottish saying goes.

Things can go wrong.

They certainly did. What went wrong is what is always wrong with leaders of the corporate world - they believe we are a bunch of low class, ignorant slobs that cannot think beyond TV, games, and entertainment. Otherwise we would be smart like they are and have lots of money. Unfortunately most people think wealth is a measure of intelligence, that we are measured by the content of our purse rather the content of our character, to paraphrase Martin Luther King Jr. Purse and color are not measures of intelligence or character. We are slowly learning that in our struggles for human rights. What we have learned is that war is the problem, not the solution. We learned that in both Korea and Vietnam. We learned a very profound truth which the necons cannot learn. War against an aroused people's power is a loser.

It may have to do with land - in fact it surely does. If we digress for a moment we can point to the history of land control beginning fifty or a hundred thousand years ago when grass seed was genetically transformed to grain seed. Grain seed was heavy and stayed put when falling to the ground. It eventually began to dawn on hunter-gatherers that a means of cultivating grain in a stable location was possible. Thus we were transformed from wandering hunter-gatherers to farmers - and the need to control land.

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Control of land lead to warfare and imperialism and eventually to the industrial revolution. Its gains and ills are now being visited upon us. War is the mother of all its ills.

We are learning that. The Iraq war in that sense has served the good purpose of awakening. We can see we are being conned by the neocons. We don't like being conned and we are going to dump the conners out of office in the coming election. We should put them in jail, but the system doesn't allow that unless we take them before the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity, of which they are guilty.

As a sign of widening concern about who is to blame for the mess in Iraq, we turn to George F. Wills, probably the most recognized U.S. conservative spokesman. Wills writes in *The Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, 5/11/04: "But empire is always about domination. Domination for self defense, perhaps. Domination for the good of the dominated, arguably, but domination. And some persons will be corrupted by dominating. That is why leaders of empire must be watchful. Very watchful. ..."

So, regarding Rumsfeld who should have been "very watchful", . . . "He knows he failed the president.", Will writes . . . "When there is no penalty for failure, failures proliferate . . . "Failures are multiplying because of choices for which no one seems accountable."

"One question is... Are the nation's efforts in the deepening global war - the world is more menacing than it was a year ago - helped or hindered by Rumsfeld's continuation . . ."

He knows his MacBeth and will recognize Were he to resign, would discerning people say that nothing in his public life became him like the leaving of it?" Or, in other words, is it not honorable to desert the sinking ship? Finally, Will quotes Charles DeGaulle: "The graveyards are full of indispensable men ." The same might be said of Donald Rumsfeld and George W. Bush.

"Well, we could go on and on. We won't really take care of the problem unless we curb the power of the corporate world. The election of Kerry for president could be a step in that direction. But it will require continued pressure from all of us to make sure needed changes are made to restore democracy after Bush's schemes to wreck it..

LETTER TO PAPERS

from pensioners Club (not printed)

In regard to the article appearing in the *Seattle Times*, "Stagen Sticks to his Vision ...", 4/4/04, in which he advocates replacing Pier 46 Hanjin shipping terminal with condos and commercial development, we wish to endorse the position of Herald Ugles of Seattle ILWU Local 19 in opposition to Stagen, who says,

"You can build biotech, condos or a coliseum anywhere but you can't build a deep-water terminal anywhere. They are part of our national security."

In addition, Seattle would suffer commercially by replacing a thriving and increasing cargo terminal with condos, restaurants and the like which would replace 1400 high paying jobs with low pay janitor and restaurant jobs. Add the reduction in taxes likely from a high-finance cargo operation to Skagen's proposal, and you see how harmful it is to Seattle's economy. For instance the *New York Times*, 2/21/04 reports that:

"Perhaps more than anyplace else in the country, this port lives or dies by trade. The Seattle area and Washington State earn more per capita from trade than any other area of the country - \$5,875 in 2002. One of three jobs in the state is tied to trade. And with its deep historical ties to northern Asia, Seattle sees China more as a customer than a competitor."

Finally, it needs to be pointed out that high-rise condos will obstruct Seattle's view of the sound more than the viaduct. If you combine the two, Seattle's waterfront view will be lost forever.



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PAC FUND

We have asked all our members to make a voluntary donation of \$50.00 to our Political Action Fund. Most of you have responded and we extend our thanks to you all. Brother Rudy Finne, President of Local 19 sends his thanks for our efforts so far. We've raised a considerable amount to ensure Bush's early retirement.

But some have not responded. While we stress that it is voluntary, we want to remind those who may have forgotten, overlooked or just waited, to get your donations in as fast as possible. We know the election is still some months off, but we need to start right away because the job of defeating Bush is the largest and most urgent task we as trade unionists have ever faced.

We don't need to repeat that the Bush corporate administration is the most anti-union to ever be elected. We know how he abolished unions in the federal government when the office of Homeland Security was set up. We know he wanted to do away with overtime pay. We know he has a plan to stop all workers over 65 from getting industry pensions by saying they don't need pensions because they have Social Security and Medicare. Meanwhile he is proposing to privatize Social Security and Medicare, which would weaken or eliminate them. In addition, Alan Greenspan, head of The Federal Reserve has said the budget deficits in multi-billions of dollars can't be cut if Social Security and Medicare aren't seriously cut.

So if you feel threatened personally, defend yourself.

Also, it is not just we as workers that are threatened. Our country would be thrown into political chaos if the above proposals to cut American's living standards to that level are allowed. And remember, that includes the middle class - everyone but the rich.

So get your donations in. We might even suggest more than one donation from those that can afford. Also, in case you are wondering, all donated money is in a separate Pension Club account. No money will be paid out for any reason without our membership O.K.

So, give the fifty.
The life style you save
may be your own!

FROM AUSTRALIA

Our good Recording Secretary, John Johnson, traveled with a delegation of 12 PCPA members in March to Australia and New Zealand. Arne Auvinen, PCPA president, was among the delegates.

The big thing noted by all delegates was the great hospitality offered by Australians everywhere. It seems to be a tradition among Australians to stress hospitality wherever and whenever they meet with others or among themselves. So the trip was one continual round of lunches, dinners and barbecues. And everything was first class.

The delegates attended the Third Quadrennial conference of the MUA (National Maritime Union of Australia). A report by National Secretary, Paddy Crumlin, stressed "that in the Maritime industry we must press on our determination to secure stable and permanent jobs, improve working and safety conditions, recognize growth opportunities and resist any attack on stevedoring wages and conditions. Most important, 2004 gives the MUA an opportunity to get rid of the John Howard anti-labor liberal national government which is committed to destroying the trade union movement." (Sounds like the Bush administration).

The ILWU delegates were welcomed by the National Secretary of the MUA Veterans (pensioners) Bill Bodenham to the National Conference of Veterans delegates from Sydney, Newcastle, Southern Branch, Melbourne, Hobart, Fremantle, Brisbane and Townsville. Brother John Johnson spoke on the activities of the Seattle Pensioners and reported on the Harry Bridges Chair and the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies at the University of Washington. *Continued on page 4*



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We visited the Port Kembla retirees. Port Kembla receives the RUSTY HOOK regularly and Brother Tony Adcock mails us copies of the NMU periodical. Tony spoke at the Mayday rally "held in the Town Centre of Wollongong, in recognition of our commitment to the principle of solidarity with other retiree groups World wide", according to Kenny McBride. Brother Adcock mentioned the recent visit of the magnificent delegation from your country (U.S.) to our shores, and also "the reciprocal messages of support for each others ambitions of peace, justice and solidarity."

Brother Johnson's report covers many other parts of the Australian and New Zealand journey, but we don't have space to include all that we would like.

Thanks, JOHN JOHNSON.

PACIFIC RIM TRADE KEEPS BOOMING

The Seattle Times Peter H. Dunphy keeps us well informed about pacific shipping. He reports that "The Ports of Seattle and Tacoma held their own in 2003, both slightly increasing their market share of cargo moved on the West Coast. Tacoma, however, continues to be the larger of the two. A greater percentage of West Coast cargo now moves through the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. L.A. is the coast's largest port, with 34.8 percent of all cargo.

But there is more: "At Long Beach, the number of loaded inbound containers was up 31 percent compared with last March, while loaded outbound containers advanced by 14.5 percent. The total number of containers handled at the port in March was up 25.8 percent to 448,398 TEUs.

At Los Angeles, the number of inbound containers was up 14 percent, while the loaded outbound-container count advanced by 7.3 percent. The march total for Los Angeles was 611,616 TEUs, an 8.5 percent increase over last March. The total number of containers moved at the twin ports in March was 1,060,014. That's a record for the month.

Tacoma handles 9.7 percent of cargo, up from 9.2 percent in 2002. It is a major port for auto and truck imports, with more than 11 percent of the market.

The Port of Portland handled 6.7 percent, down slightly from 2002. Oakland handled 7.9 percent, up slightly from 2002.

West Coast ports are big engines of economic growth. Four million jobs depend on the trade that moves through ports in California, Oregon and Washington, according to PMA.

Seven percent of gross domestic product and about \$750 billion is tied to the loading and unloading of cargo.

Further indication of growth in shipping: "China is by far the largest sea borne trader with the U.S. Last year, it sent 4 million containers, or TEUs for 20-foot equivalent unit, the industry standard measure, to the U.S. Another 1.6 million came from Hong Kong. The second-largest trader in terms of container traffic was Japan, accounting for only 760,000 TEUs."

In view of the above information about Pacific Rim trade doubling in a couple of decades.

WHY WOULD THE PORT OF SEATTLE WANT TO SELL PIER 46 TO DEVELOPERS?

Related to the above is the question of West Coast port pollution. From PORT NEWS on the internet we find that "The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach received poor marks in an environmental report card grading the 10 busiest ports in the United States.

Long Beach got a C, while Los Angeles got a C-minus, according to the report by the Los Angeles-based California Coalition for Clean Air and the Washington, D.C.-based Natural Resources Defense Council, who conducted a year-long study of environmental programs and community outreach." The report states an environmental program would require, among other things, that "ships run on dockside electric power while at berth, to cut down on diesel emissions." No report so far on the Port of Seattle.

Also on the "Dockside" report is announcement that "negotiators for the ILA and waterfront management agreed ... to a six-year master contract, six months before the Sept. expiration of the current agreement.

The contract, subject to member ratification, covers union workers performing container and roll-on, roll-off cargo handling at Atlantic and Gulf ports. Local agreements covering break bulk cargo and port-specific conditions will be negotiated separately.. ..

Bowers, ILA President, says he is confident the master contract will be overwhelmingly approved. 'I think this is one of the finest contracts I've ever seen', he said."

PRICE AT THE PUMP

If you look at the explanations for high gasoline prices offered by the media, we see two offered. One is a shortage of refineries. That is obviously untrue since we had the same shortage of refineries when prices were much lower. Another false claim is that gas for pumps requires many different refining processes because of local conditions and legal requirements as in California. Here again, the same argument applies. Why didn't those same requirements raise gas prices earlier?

The excuses don't stand scrutiny. The real reason for increased gas prices is increased profits for big oil. For instance The Seattle Times reports 1/29/04 that: "Strong oil prices, lower production costs and better refining margins helped Conoco Phillips to a first-quarter profit of \$1.6 billion, a 32 percent increase from a year ago."

If you take the lower price of \$1.70 a year ago and add 32 percent you get \$2.24, which is where prices are going today.

So, like most economics under capitalism, the profits go up and living costs go up. Which reminds us that everyone is expecting inflation and rising interest rates this year increased gas and oil prices and profits are a direct stimulus to inflation since raises in gasoline costs raises costs all along the money chain as they are added to all costs of transportation. But if rising gas prices were the only problem we face economy-wise we might not be too bad off. But their are a few rather more profound economic difficulties facing us. One has to do with the foreign trade deficit (the dollar difference between imports and exports) which has to do with Longshore jobs. The U.S. has been allowing the trade deficit to

increase recklessly because we are financially dependent on foreign subsidy of our national debt. Simply, it means we buy their goods so they will buy our C.D.'s. That's an economic balancing act that will collapse from top-heaviness. This is pointed out in The Seattle Times again, 1/28/04,

"The dollar's dramatic slide against the euro and British pound has already had major real-world impacts, mainly for the good of the U.S. economy.

But over the long term, the fall of the mighty dollar, driven by the United States record trade and budget deficits, raises far more ominous fears. . . rising interest rates, falling stock prices and unavoidable decline in the nation's living standard.

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," Morgan Stanley chief economist at Davos, Switzerland." So what does it all mean for our future? We have a fine quote from "Jobs," an AFL-CIO special report, courtesy of the Puget Sound ARA Alliance:

EVERYDAY IN AMERICA

85,444 workers lose their jobs 14.7 workers are jobless, underemployed or have given up looking for work. 43.6million people have no health insurance. 4,277 people file for bankruptcy. 12,878 workers are injured or made ill by their jobs. 6.8 million people are in the workforce but are still poor. 11 million children attend broken down schools."

But that is now. What will it be here on out? We have yet to mention Iraq war, global warming, poison air, water and food. Plus a Bush administration that ignores all the warning signs and seems to thrive on chaos and U.S. decline. Which puts us in mind of that brilliant quote from Kurt Vonnegut, famous American novelist: I refuse to have anything to do a federal administration that has a bush, a dick and a colin in it."

ILWU-PMA ALCOHOLISM/DRUG RECOVERY PROGRAM

Donnie Schwendeman, Director, would like you to know that the above program is available to all registered longshore workers. It has done wonders for many. Let it work for you!

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

From PETE CASO, Phoenix, CA.

"Brother RUDY MARTINEZ:

It was nice to hear from you and I'm proud that you are doing a good job with the pensioners. Enclosed is a check for \$100.00 for the PCPA fund. Thank you. You are a good guy and a good union man.

Brother PETE CASO.

P.S. Give my best to PAUL McCABE. Hope to see you in the summer."

Thank you, PETE.

Your donation will be put to good use.

From MANUEL VENTOZA, Louisville, KY.

Brother VENTOZA sends us a lengthy letter and we appreciate it a great deal. But it is too long for our limited space in the RUSTY HOOK. In it he included a check for \$162.00 which was applied to dues and assessments plus \$12.00 left over for old RUSTY.

Thank you. MANUEL.

Part of the letter said:

"Hi again, fellow Pensioners.

Having a great time here in Louisville with my old military Jump Buddies. However please believe me - I am not using up all my love ones inheritance. But I do believe in spreading out the wealth. Looking forward to seeing you all if the Good lord's willing - and the creeks don't rise. By for now - my best regards to all."

ILWU all the way.

MANNY VENTOZA

But there's more. Shortly after his lengthy letter we got a card from MANUEL:

"Dear fraternal members of ILWU No. 19:

I send you greetings from the great state of California sunshine. We are enjoying the retirement benefits bequeathed by our great organization. Keep up the good work for our younger generation.

ILWU all the way, ----- MANNY VENTOZA."

Thanks again, MANNY. And keep in touch.

From FRED REDMAN, Snohomish, WA.

"Hi Guys. In answer to your letter of 2/24/04 you will find enclosed a \$100.00 check -\$50.00 for the P.A. fund - the rest for my assessment. If corporate greed and people like Bush and his gang have their way half the work force will be slave labor and the other half will not be working at all. I wonder who will buy the products that keep the economy strong??"

As ever, FRED REDMAN, 56640, Ret."

Thanks, FRED. Of course, you are right on. Corporatizing the world will send us all down the hatch on a loose turn.

From our greatly appreciated regular, TANK NELSON, Morro Bay, CA.

"DEL - \$20.00 Donation.

Get donuts for the team.

Laugh lots. TANK."

From DAVID HEATLIE, Wilsonville, OR.

"Dear HOOK:

I see you on the internet, so I thought to write. I was in the "pool" with some of you and transferred to Portland where I retired in 1996. Where are your pension meetings and when?"

Our regular pension Club meetings are held on the first Monday each month, (except September) 12 noon. Our meeting is at ILWU dispatch hall, 3440 East Marginal Way So. That's the south end of Seattle waterfront.

From LESLIE NORMAN WILSON, Puyallup, WA. - BK. 53273, Ret.

"I have enclosed cash for \$100.00 for the Lifetime membership and assessment. The Pension Club and the ILWU are fine unions.

Keep up the good work."

From Brother JOHN JOHNSON who recently toured Australia and New Zealand - reported elsewhere in this issue. JOHN donated \$100.00 to help cover mailing costs of RUSTY HOOK. He got some subscriptions there.

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From JACK D.HANSEN and DORIS A. HANSEN,
Lynwood, WA.
"Here's \$50.00 for the Club to use anyway you want.

Sincerely yours,
JACK D. HANSEN, 55665, 1998 Ret."

Thanks a lot, JACK & DORIS. You add to the soil of
good thoughts.

From ED HEPOKOSKI, Renton, WA.
"Fellow Pensioners,

As you know, I am in poor health. I haven't been able
to come to the hall. I'm sending my dues \$15.00, \$50.00
for Political Action and \$50.00 for the RUSTY HOOK.

Say hello to all the fellows. I'm still kicking but not
very high.

I hope I will get better as ever,
ED HEPOKOSKI."

Accept our many thanks, ED. ED has been a strong
supporter of ILWU, Pensioners and RUSTY HOOK for
as long as we can remember. For God's sake, get well,
ED.

From WINODA DELEO, Seattle, WA.

No message, but \$100.00 to the RUSTY HOOK. Can't
thank you enough WINODA, who is MOON's widow.
We will carry on with such help.

From Ms. GEORGIA M. HENSLEE, Seattle, WA.
"Seattle ILWU Pension Club

Enclosed is my check for \$100.00 in m memory of my
husband, CLARENCE ENSLEE - Local 19. He passed
away in December, 1988. Use the money any way you
wish."

Thank you,
GEORGIA M. HENSLEE.

We are grateful, GEORGIA. It will be well used.
Really appreciate it, GEORGIA

From ANTON OBLACK, Bainbridge Island, WA.

A silent donation of \$100.00 that says a lot. Thank you
very much, ANTON.

From HANS & MARIA LERBREK, Seattle, WA.
Another silent one for \$100,00. We really appreciate
it, HANS AND MARIA.

From Mrs. RILEY BLAKE, Port Angeles, WA.
\$50.00. "From AUBREY (RED) BLAKE #19 - de-
ceased, November, '99.

RILEY BLAKE'S wife."

From MICHAEL S. SISTI, Seattle, WA.

"Enclosed \$200.00 - \$100.00 for PCPA. \$100,00
for the RUSTY HOOK. We can beat Bush this fall.
He needs a zipper on his read my lips, his faulty
words.

Best of wishes to all.
MICHAEL SISTI.

Thanks a million, MICHAEL. With help like yours
and our many supporters we will blow Bush out of
the water for sure.

From JOHN CORSO, Bellevue, WA.

"A nice article for the RUSTY HOOK. Enclosed is
a photo of one lucky retiree from Local 19. BOB
ELLEZ is shown reclining in his motor-operated
lounge chair wearing a tailor -made black velvet
lounging suit while waiting for his second cup of
coffee to be served on a silver tray. The REALLY
good life.

Sincerely,
JOHN CORSO."

Thanks, JOHN. We will try to get the picture in - but
your well written description of it almost equals it in
words.

From another of our regulars, LEE ANDERSON,
Seattle, WA. LEE donated \$20.00 -no message, but
real help. Much appreciated, LEE.

From W.P. LEWIS, Shoreline, WA.

A \$100,00 check to the RUSTY HOOK. No mes-
sage except the green one. Many thanks, W.P. It will
serve a good purpose.



Seattle ILWU Pension Club

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