

# AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



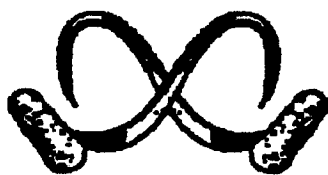
**PUBLISHED BY**  
**SEATTLE ILWU-PENSION CLUB**

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## **MEETINGS:**

April	4
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June	6
July	4

## **THE GUTTING OF SOCIAL SECURITY**

Sticking to his program to rob the poor to pay the rich, Bush is proposing to privatize Social Security. He threatens to turn a very successful program of 70 years into a stock market gamble. This should remove all doubt about Bush's totally anti-peoples', anti-democratic purpose. It puts millions of older retired workers back into poverty. For instance, according to an article in the Washington Post, 1/10-16/05 :

The change would save trillions of dollars in scheduled expenditures and solve Social security's long-term deficit, but at a cost. According to the Social Security Administration's actuary, a middle class worker retiring in 2022 (present young waterfront workers take note) would see guaranteed benefits cut by 9.9 percent. By 2042, average monthly benefits for middle and high income workers would fall by more than a quarter. A retiree in 2075 would receive 54 percent of the benefit now promised."

"Its like saying elderly people today should live at a 1940 standard of living, says Robert Greenstein, executive director of the liberal Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. Part of our social contract has been to allow seniors to participate in rising standards of living rather than consigning them to some second-class status in retirement." Further on, the article points out:

"Peter R. Orszag, a Brookings Institution economist who heads the Pew Charitable Trust's bipartisan Retirement Security Project, counters that there are less drastic ways to cover the cost of trust fund redemptions than Bush is contemplating. The White House could consider rolling back its tax cuts, the size of which, he says, dwarf Social Security's deficit. Over 75 years, the presidents tax cuts will cost the treasury \$11 trillion, nearly triple Social Security's gap during that time."

In addition, the Washington Post, 2/10/05 reports: "And what about private accounts?" . . . But as the White House budget director Josh Bolton told Congress earlier this week: "The private accounts, do not, in themselves solve the full Social Security problem." *Continued on page 2*

## **HARRY BRIDGES CHAIR OFFICE**

The Harry Bridges Chair, formerly held by professor Mike Honey of U of W Tacoma, has been turned over to Dan Jacobe of Bothell campus for a two year term. This comes as the regular rotation of chair holders.

The new Director of the HB chair is Sara Laslett replacing Christine Anderson. The phone number for the HB office is 206 -543 - 7946.

## AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

### THE RADICAL ILWU

Harry Bridges said early on, after the union had gained a better wage and living standard for longshore workers, that he wanted to instill in them a sense of respectability. The workers had begun to go from a social status of casuals who were low paid part time workers whom society considered bums when out of work, to more full timers of more respectability. The idea took hold. Respectability gained. But it became something more than Bridges had hoped. He found later, as he is quoted: "They began to get too respectable for me." The social standing of longshore status was changing. It was becoming a job with affluence. The American Dream was being realized. Cadillac's were replacing used cars. Homes were replacing apartments. A college education for their children became possible. Their wives were dressing in latest fashion. Vacations at more expensive resorts were visited. And a nest egg in the bank was being accumulated. To sum it all up, it is estimated that ILWU income is near the upper 2 percent of the national level.

Along with this came longshore jobs for their children, including women after 1975. A new generation of waterfront workers took over. There are even third generation descendants working on the waterfront, maybe even fourth generationers.

But for the rest of American workers and the poor, being lower class is becoming a permanent condition. A quote from one of the conservative columnists appearing in the Seattle Post Intelligencer, (1/30/05), by David Brooks, illustrates the point:

"The problem is that in every generation conditions emerge that threaten to close down opportunity and retard social mobility. Each generation has to reopen the pathways to success."

Economists and sociologists do not all agree, but it does seem there is at least slightly less movement across income quintiles than there was a few decades ago. Sons' income levels correlate more closely to those of their fathers. The income of brothers also correlate more closely. That suggests that the family you were born into matters more and more how you will fare in life. That's a problem because we are not supposed to have a hereditary class structure in this country. So what is the point of all this? The point is that some of ILWU members are now voting Republican, failing to recognize that the Republican

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They don't, in fact, even narrow the gap between promised Social Security benefits and projected tax revenues." Another source exposing the phony reasons offered by Bush to steal from our elder citizen, is offered by Paul Krugman, nationally syndicated economist appearing in the Seattle Post Intelligencer. He takes on Bush's argument that "private accounts" will pay off for retired workers because the economy will expand and raise the stock market. Krugman points out that if the economy expands that much, there will be enough money in the Social Security fund to keep it solvent without any change.

So there you have it. Bush's program is a program to rob workers and the middle class to pay the rich.

How long will we allow Bush to get away with highway robbery? He has to be stopped or the young people will soon be paying through the nose along with an arm and a leg.

It is incumbent on all of us to holler to the high heavens. Protest must pour into the Congress and the President to keep hands off Social Security. Do so now. Write letters of protest. Get your friends to write. Talk up defense of Social Security wherever you go. The time has come to stop Bush's legalized highway robbery.

In addition, the time has come to build a powerful union movement against Bush's lousy program. Enough is enough.

Rally workers for unionism and Social Security with an appropriate slogan:

WITH A UNION  
EVERY WORKER'S A WINNER!

### *Final Dispatch*

PENSIONERS		SURVIVORS	
Felbert Barnett	19	Lois Barker	19
Kenneth L. James	19	Barbara Ellis	19
Chris Mallos	19	Elsie V. Kitchel	19
Harry Spang	19	Leone E. Langmead	19
		Jessie D. Sutton	19
		Virginia Taylor	19
		Dell B. Taub	19

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program is to make social immobility ( loss of upward financial mobility) permanent. They have taken respectability to its ultimate. Affluence has had its insidious inconsequence. They have cast their lot with Republican permanent poverty.. They may not realize it, but that is what it is. They may not see it that way. They may think they only want to vote "respectable." They want all the gains and advantages of the ILWU, but not the label of radical unionism. They want respectability.

Well, if they want total, anti-union respectability, they have to realize it comes at a cost - the cost of weakening the union and loss of many of its hard won gains. They are becoming like the antiunion, anti-democracy of the Republican party and its Bush anti-union goals. They would, of course, deny that is what they're after. No longshore worker, no matter how deluded, would go that far. Their affiliation with Republicanism is a matter of feeling rather than reason. Reason says stay with the proven record of ILWU gains; but feeling takes over when affluence clouds the mind. Just as some members feel in favor of voting Republican, they may not realize at the same time they are voting against the many gains in social welfare of the Democratic party. They no doubt feel it is more "respectable", or "value-based", or "religious" to vote Republican.

They fail to realize that the gains of the ILWU, which gave them their affluence and respectability, came as a direct result of radical unionism. As we all know, our union has been labeled "radical" or "left- wing" or "red" from its very beginning. It has taken advanced positions on everything from support for higher wages, benefits and pensions,

social welfare, peace and prosperity, to condemnation of war in Korea, Vietnam and Iraq, plus the welfare of the country as a whole. Every one of those radical positions has proved to be in the interests of the American people and workers. The ILWU has given its members the highest living standard of any union, bar none.

As for being radical, Harry Bridges even took a public position against the capitalist system when appearing before one of the congressional hearings trying to deport him in the fifties. When asked by one of the investigators if he was a communist he replied, on the public record that he was neither a communist or socialist, but "he was anti-capitalist". He was anti-capitalist, he said, because capitalism was based upon profits for the rich through exploitation and impoverishment of workers.

He was further asked if he would favor a communist system. He replied it was up to the American people to vote for a different system of their choice. It would have to come through a democratic method.

Fortunately, the Republicans in the ILWU are far outnumbered. We don't have the figures on how many in our ranks voted Republican, but it is no doubt in the single digits. Their votes are not enough to change ILWU policy and practice. For instance on the issue of for or against the Iraq war, the International convention of the ILWU, May 1, 2003 passed a resolution that says, in part:

**"OPPOSITION TO THE U.S. OCCUPATION OF IRAQ**

**RESOLVED:** That we demand that the U.S. military immediately withdraw from Iraq and the Middle East and recognize the right of the Arab peoples to self-determination free of foreign interference."

That is the tradition and policy of the ILWU that has won so much for so many. It behooves all ILWU members to understand the power of left-wing unionism. Adopted by the labor movement at large, it would change this country from one wallowing in Republican lies, war mongering and fiscal crisis, to a nation of peace, prosperity and middle class values for all. Abraham Lincoln is quoted as saying, " I hold the value of life is to improve one's condition." That is the value of unionism. It is more so the value of radical unionism.

Long live the ILWU!

### **ILWU/PMA Alcohol/Drug Recovery Program**

Available to all

Actives, Pensioners and their Families.

Contact; Donnie Schwendeman  
Puget Sound & Washington Area Rep.  
506 2nd Ave Rm.1012  
Seattle, Washington 98104  
206-621-1038 - Fax 206-262-0642  
E-mail - dschwendemanilwu@aol.com

## **BUSH'S BUDGET TSUNAMI**

Bush's \$2.75 trillion budget proposal is a financial tsunami. And, like an oceanic tsunami that hits the lowland shore the hardest, it hits the low level income population the hardest.

For instance the Bush budget cuts "discretionary spending" a name for social welfare programs. Senator Maria Cantwell reports that the Community Access Program that provides 53,000 uninsured children in King County alone to get dentistry, checkups for disabilities and immunizations, will be eliminated. If you add in all the counties in the country, that adds up to many thousands of ill children left to home remedies of risky value, or no remedy at a miserable loss of life.

The tsunami budget does not include the costs of the Iraq war which will apparently go on indefinitely at the cost of untold billions more in deficit spending. It does not include the cost of Social Security privatization running to some or two trillion. It is becoming a federal financial crisis that can lead to national bankruptcy according to many economists in the daily press.

It is hard to figure what the Bush gang is up to. Are they deliberately creating a crisis? They may be doing just that, but we do not have to blame a conspiracy. They are rather caught in a system that is itself teetering on collapse. They are desperate. They are caught in the last gasp of conservatism. Instead of this being a period of growth of conservatism, it is rather like the last round of a lost boxing match. They are on their last legs - and they know it. Instead of providing an "ownership" society, they are providing a phony remedy to a default society.

This all adds up to a dangerous threat to our welfare. We need to take preventive action. Our responsibility is to save our country from disaster. We need to build the labor movement. We need to fully engage in political action, to rally behind all the peoples' movements for a better world. Join and support financially such groups as peace, jobs, human rights, social welfare rights, environmental protection and the many other such groups in the front line of struggle for the welfare of the country.

For  
"life, liberty and the  
pursuit of happiness."

## **TSUNAMI UNION RELIEF**

Our Old Timers Club voted at the last meeting, 2/7/05, to donate \$500.00 to the AFL-CIO Solidarity Fund to rebuild the trade unions crippled by the tsunami. Many international U.S. unions are contributing on their own as are unions world wide. If you would like to contribute individually, checks can be sent to:

Solidarity Center Attn: Tsunami Relief Fund  
1925 K St. N.W., Site 300  
Washington, D.C., 20006 - 1105

Please note on your check: Tsunami Relief Fund.

We all know this is a worthy cause, especially one that is directed toward rebuilding a labor movement in an area where unions have to struggle hard just to stay alive. Internationally,

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## **ITS THE STUPID ECONOMY**

The RUSTY HOOK has been harping on the state of the economy for some time now. It is beginning to show up more in the daily news. Columnists are raising alarms about how the economy has become mired in debt, the dollar is shrinking internationally, the trade imbalance, around \$600 billion, is getting worse, tax cuts for the rich have gutted the zero deficit under Clinton, the Iraq war is digging the deficit hole deeper by billions every month, and Bush wants to add a couple trillion more debt with his Social Security privatizing scheme. Along with this he is proposes to do away with industry pensions altogether. Where will this end up, as it must some day before long. To get an idea, we quote from Scott Burns a syndicated columnist in the Seattle Times, 1/30/05, in which he describes three stages of economic decline:

Stage one: A decline in the dollar that stays in a range that requires material adjustment but not radical change. It entails the kind of inflation pressures we experienced in the late 70s.

Stage two: We lose our position as consumer of last resort. The dollar would be deposed as the world's reserve currency. A significant reduction in our standard of living would follow.

Stage three: There is wholesale weaseling from the government on promised benefits such as Social Security and Medicare. This would create institutional chaos and circumstances worse than the Great Depression.

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Without major changes, this would easily happen to our children. . . . The third stage will begin when our government is down to two ugly choices, printing money or defaulting on promised benefits, particularly the massive promises of Medicare. This is the runaway inflation that concerns some readers.

Impossible you say?

We've already done it. It could happen again. When our first currency, the continental, became worthless after the Revolutionary War, it led to the only armed insurrection against government in our history, Shay's Rebellion, in Massachusetts. Many gold enthusiasts (gold investors) expect such runaway inflation."

So there you have it. Is the problem that serious? It certainly looks that way. When Republicans, who have been considered fiscally conservative have gone whole hog for Bush's ruinous financial policy; and when Democrats seem unable to offer a program to counter Bush's runaway inflation and subversion of democracy and peace, the country is headed downhill faster than most can see.

What can be done to save the country? One thing for sure is an electoral campaign to clean house in Congress and the presidency. We hope the Democratic party will lead the way, and with the election of Howard Dean as chairman of the Democratic Leadership Committee, which in the past has turned into a party to guarantee election of Republicans, there is some hope. But Dean nor the DLC can do the job by themselves. They can do what's needed if they have the backing of a growing peoples' rebellion against reactionary Bushism.

This requires fundamental backing of the labor movement. Labor, and in particular the ILWU, has the simple answer. It can strike where it hurts Bush through a vigorous campaign to organize more workers, to gain wage increases, to strengthen democracy and peace, and to work with all the truly democratic forces now in the picture.

Remember, Bush got elected by only a two percent majority. He is not yet a dictator, nor will he be.

### SHARING THE WEALTH

A senator from Brazil, Suplicy was the sponsor of the "Citizen's Basic Income" legislation that was signed into law last year. The law is grounded in the concept that an unconditional and guaranteed minimum income is the simplest and most effective step

toward the eradication of poverty. It will be implemented gradually in Brazil beginning this year.

He said today: "All people -- regardless of their ethnicity, gender, whatever -- should be able to share in the wealth of the nation. This should be done in a way that is just and provides for dignity and real freedom. Ensuring a guaranteed unconditional income does several things: It ends bureaucracy of reporting and checking on people. It eliminates the stigma attached to getting resources from the government. It does not penalize someone for earning money from a job. And it removes uncertainty."

Suplicy added: "In the U.S., the Alaska Permanent Fund provides for a guaranteed income to all its [Alaska's] citizens." When the Brazilian Sergio Vieira de Melo was nominated to be the coordinator of the United Nations' actions in Iraq, in May 2003, I contacted him, suggesting that the Alaskan model be applied for the Iraqis. He quickly replied positively and said that he would share the suggestion with the relevant authorities. The following month, on June 23 in a speech in Jordan, Ambassador Paul Bremer, the chief administrator in Iraq, said "Some profits from oil sales could be distributed to Iraq's citizens as "dividends," along the lines of the system used by the State of Alaska."

Suplicy argues that the idea of a guaranteed income is to be found in virtually every religion and in writings as diverse as Confucius and Thomas Paine. He is author of several books, most recently "The Citizens' Income The Exit Is Through the Door" (in Portuguese), and is a professor of economics. Suplicy was one of the founders of the Workers' Party along with Brazil's current president Luis Inacio Lula da Silva.

Suplicy has recently completed a period of research in residence at the Woodrow Wilson Center in D.C. and will be giving a talk there

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Thursday at 10:30 a.m.; RSVP Alex Parlani, Woodrow Wilson Center, [parliniaj@wwic.si.edu](mailto:parliniaj@wwic.si.edu). STEVEN SHAFARMAN, [steve@CitizenPolicies.org](mailto:steve@CitizenPolicies.org), <http://www.CitizenPolicies.org> President of the Citizen Policies Institute, Shafarman said today: "If Brazil, a poor, highly unequal country, can move toward a guaranteed basic income for its citizens, surely we in the United States can do something similar. Current approaches toward ending hunger, homelessness, and poverty, are obviously not working. With regard to these fundamental concerns, the Bush budget plan is taking us in the wrong direction, It's time to guarantee economic security for every American, at least at a basic level. We can do that. And it will greatly strengthen our democracy by ensuring that people can afford to participate more actively as citizens."

Shafarman added: "Supporters of a 'negative income tax' or 'guaranteed income' included Richard Nixon and George McGovern; economists Milton Friedman, James Tobin, and John Kenneth Galbraith; and Martin Luther King Jr. A guaranteed income bill, Nixon's 'Family Assistance Plan,' was endorsed by major newspapers and passed by the House of Representatives by a decisive 2 to 1 ratio, but was defeated in committee in the Senate."

### LOCAL NEWS

Glad to see TERRY O'NEIL back from open-heart surgery. He had a valve replaced and a two-way bypass. He isn't 100% yet because he's been nice to everyone!

Heard from a reliable source that JOHN VLASIC and DICK ANTLE are still going strong in Arizona. The source says john keeps his pool too hot to swim in. He just uses it to cook lobster.

STEVE JACROUX is having some problems, so we have no Sick Committee Chairman, hope he gets back soon.

RUDY MARTINEZ is going in for a knee replacement if he can get Group Health to get on the ball.

If you haven't paid your dues, please do so as we need the money. Everett, with the help of NICK BUCKLES has started a Pensioners Club. They had about 35 members show up for their first meeting.

RUSTY HOOK / Spring 2005

## Seattle ILWU Pensioners Club

### Annual Luncheon

Thursday  
May 19, 2005

Seattle F.O.E. Aerie No. 1 Eagles Club  
Location : 6205 Corson Ave. So. Seattle

Time: 10:30 -11:15 Open Bar  
11:15-12:00 Guest Speakers  
12:00 -Buffet Lunch

Cost \$15.00 Widows & Ladies Aux. Members Free

Active members remember the pensioners you worked with for many years. This is an opportunity to visit and enjoy a meal with them at our annual luncheon

Tickets can be purchased at the pensioners club or you can order them by mail  
Seattle Pensioners Club  
3440 E. Marginal Way So.  
Seattle Wash.

If you or anyone you know that needs transportation contract our office at (206) 343-0504  
We would like to have a big turn out this year.

SEE YOU THERE

US Accused of Being Slow to Aid Tidal Wave Victims



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### CORRESPONDENCE

From AUSTIN and JOAN BROWN, Portland, OR  
"I really enjoy the RUSTY HOOK, especially the cartoons and humor. My daughter and I are looking forward to seeing our friends from your area at the next convention in San Francisco in September.  
Love to you all.  
AUSTIN & JOAN BROWN, Local 8 Pensioners"

Thank you for your kind words and also for the \$20.00.

From BARBARA NEALE, Seattle, WA  
"To whom it may concern;  
BARBARA ELLIS, widow of NORMAN S. ELLIS, Local 19, passed away the 12th of December 2004. Her ILWU pension was fabulous. Thanks so much. Please remember her name for future mailings."

BARBARA NEALE  
Proud Longshore daughter.

BARBARA enclosed \$50.00 contribution to the RUSTY HOOK. Many thanks BARBARA.

From Brother LACEY, Quincy, Wa.  
LACEY encloses an article appearing in The Wenatchee World of 1/14/05 that calls readers' attention to its headline:  
"Inaugural's big-money donors are in line for big-money favors." The paper points out that:  
"Many donors are corporations that are regulated by the federal government, dependent on government tax and spending policies, or both. At least 16 are from finance industry, 14 are from the energy sector, six are real estate developers, and at least five are from both the health and telecommunications industries. The Washington Post Co. has pledged \$100,000."

Thanks for the info, Brother

Our continuing donor, TANK NELSON, sends in another \$20.00 for which we are grateful. We will do our best, TANK, to keep smiling. But smiling under Bush is like biting into a rotten apple.  
Thanks for your welcome note - and for the twenty spot.

From LOIS STRANAHAN, Portland, OR.  
"The RUSTY HOOK, Seattle ILWU  
Dear Brothers, Editorial Staff:  
I'm sending a small contribution of \$25.00. Please continue sending your wonderful job of labor news. I'm also sending a little job JESSE STRANAHAN was going to put in our "OLD TIMER" but had his massive heart attack and died in '98. He was a giant when it came to labor research. Here's the quote:

"Union busting has become the corporate sport of choice in our country, and employers large (like Wal-Mart) and small routinely violate our labor laws because the laws have no teeth. The truth is that in this most advanced of industrial nations, you lose all your rights when you try to join or form a union. No freedom of assembly - if you assemble, you get fired.

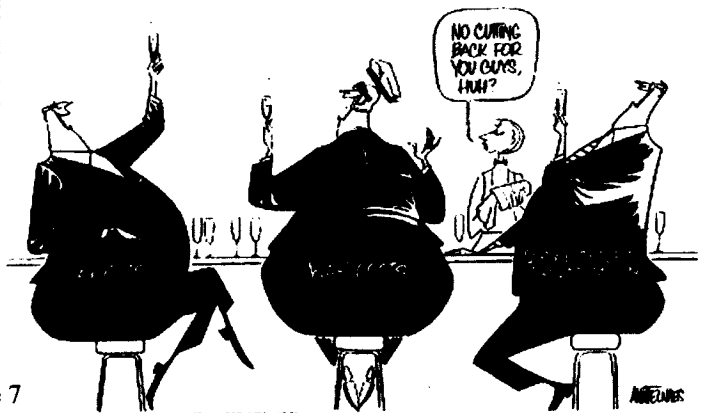
When I left Arkansas my father said: "When you get a job and there's no union, make one." And so all my work life I've followed his advice. "Jesse and I never retired. We just went off the payroll." So, Brothers and Sisters, in solidarity let's roll the union on." Remember, ILWU is Bush's (Bastard child of the Supreme Court} target. We won't give up, will we?

Greetings, LOIS STRANAHAN."

"P.S. I had a heart attack in Canada in September at the PCPA convention. Slowed me down. I had to fly home early and was in hospital 7 days.  
Set me back a bit. LOIS. 503-232-7446."

Thank you so much, LOIS. We cherish your fighting spirit and we wish you a speedy and vigorous recovery.

THE BUSH TRIPLET GO PARTYING



THEY THREATENED TO MESS WITH HER SOCIAL SECURITY...

# ATTACK OF THE 50 FT WOMAN



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