

# AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



PUBLISHED BY  
SEATTLE ILWU-PENSION CLUB

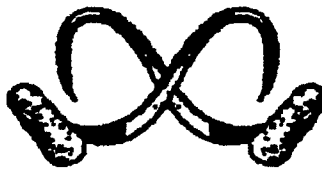
VOLUME 17 – No. 2  
Spring 2009

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[www.rustyhook.org](http://www.rustyhook.org)



*In Memory*  
**FRED BERG  
DEL CASTLE**

## MEETINGS: 10:00 am

April	6
May	4
June	1
July	6

## Mind You, it Hurts a Bit!

By Dave Chaddock

Back in the 1950's when I was a youngster, "Communism" and "Capitalism" were at war with one another. Two competing economic systems were vying with one another, each one hoping to show the whole world that it was the best way to go.

Way back at the beginning of this titanic contest, shortly after the Russian Revolution, Lenin had an inspired idea. He pointed out that the easiest thing in the world, in times of revolutionary ferment, is to seize a factory. But the hardest thing is to decide what to do with the factory once you have seized it. How can it best be run in an intelligent and productive manner? Lenin's idea was to invite the capitalists back into Russia so that they could share their knowledge. He envisaged all of Russia being divided up like a checkerboard, with "red" and "white" squares. Side by side there would be a peaceful competition, with the Bolsheviks operating in the "red" areas, learning as they went along, hoping to prove that socialism was superior to capitalism.

But the leading capitalist nations were not interested in Lenin's offer. The notion of a worker-controlled state was anathema to them. They hoped to wipe out the socialist "baby" while it was still in the cradle. White armies were sent into Russia, counter-revolutionary armies. Since they were under constant attack, the Soviets were forced to go on a constant war footing, devoting vast sums to

national defense. As the years went on and Nazi Germany became a growing threat to world peace, Russian emissary Litvinov made appeal after appeal for a united front against the fascist menace. His appeals were made in vain. In many capitalist minds, in those days, there was a secret (or not so secret) hope that Hitler's armies would attack the Soviet Union.

And then, as the brave people of Spain stood up against the coup d'etat of Franco, and Hitler and Mussolini tested their advanced weapons on the Spanish battlefield and planes bombed peaceful towns like Guernica ( immortalized by the painting of Picasso) the "neutrality" of the U.S. and England did absolutely nothing to oppose this onslaught. Only the Soviet Union aided the anti-fascist struggle in Spain, as did also the International Brigade, including our own Dutch Schultz of Local 19. After the victory of Franco the world was in dire peril. The fascists, boosted by their victory, were sharpening their knives and getting ready to strike. Where would they go first? It was in this desperate situation that the Soviet Union, forced into a corner, made its much maligned and misunderstood pact with Hitler, which bought them just a bit more time to get ready. Eventually, at Stalingrad, the turning point of World War Two, Hitler, like Napoleon before him, would be defeated in Russia.

## AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

Now the Chinese Revolution had been inspired by the one in Russia. However, when I visited China in 1973, there had occurred what is known as the “Sino-Soviet split” which had even led to armed conflict in 1969. During my visit my Chinese guides were openly critical of what they saw as the big-power chauvinism of their Soviet mentors. While the Soviets talked of “peaceful co-existence” with the West, the Chinese felt that the Soviets were too tolerant of the U.S., which since 1964 had been hard at work bombing and blasting the Vietnamese. It was the war in Vietnam which provided the backdrop for Mao to launch his “Cultural Revolution.” His idea was that after a revolution, in which fighters have braved real bullets, there is a danger that they will succumb to the “silver-coated” bullets of corruption. It may have been a noble thought, but in practice it led to ten years of madness, in which all the schools of China were closed, and ultra-revolutionaries subjected perfectly decent people to ridicule, condemnation, and torture.

Not only in China, but even here in the United States, it was considered de rigeur for proper revolutionaries to carry with them at all times the Little Red Book of Mao’s sayings. Many of us in SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) proudly did our duty by sporting Mao buttons and Little Red Books. At the time I had no appreciation of the terrible things that were taking place in China.

But then China shrugged off this madness and a little man Named Deng Xiaoping came along and declared quite simply that “red cat or white cat”, it made no difference, so long as the cat was good at catching mice. It was a throw-back to Lenin’s old idea that socialists should absorb the insights of those capitalists who had been embedded in the actual struggle to produce consumer goods. When I was in China in 1973 (just before the ascendance of Deng Xiaoping) China was much different than it is today. There were no privately owned automobiles. In fact, aside from toothbrushes and the like, there was hardly any privately-owned anything! About the only private business I ran into was a little old lady selling popsicles. China had “learned” from the Soviet Union to have a quota system, long lines waiting for sales, government control of all prices, etc. Just as the Soviet Union had been unable, due to Western hostility, to learn from the capitalists, so too had China been similarly deprived, due to its slavish absorption of the emaciated Soviet example. When I went to South Korea in 1980, what a contrast! Everywhere, little shops

## *Final Dispatch*

### PENSIONERS

William Anderson 19  
Weldon Boyland 19  
John T. Calkins 52  
Frances Haynes-Herrera 52  
Frank A. Lecker, Jr. 52  
Louis H. Shearer 52  
Patrick G. Vukich 19

### SURVIVORS

Shirley I. Adams 19  
Margaret Hubbard 19  
Kathryn M. Miniken 19

were selling everything! You would walk to one part of town, and there would be nothing but plumbing supplies, toilet bowls, etc. In another street there would be some other specialty. Everywhere there were markets with fresh vegetables and fruit and stores selling clothing. And when you walked underground to cross a street, there were shops there as well.

And as China became more like South Korea, under Deng Xiaoping, my friends told me that China was “selling out”. It was giving in to the “silver-coated” bullets that Mao had warned about. But China insisted that they had “socialism with Chinese characteristics.” There was simply no better way to run the economy, at lower levels, than the way that capitalists had been doing it.

But there remained one very stubborn issue. How should the economy be run at the very highest level? One of my favorite Monty Python episodes featured one of the greatest CIA agents “the world had ever seen” by the name of Teddy Salad. It seems that Teddy was rather garrulous, and fond of relating his previous triumphs. He bragged about the time in Cairo when he had been disguised as a water hydrant. “The whole top part of my head had been removed”, Teddy related, and yet he was able to function. “D’you hear? I really worked...I could put out a fire...Mind you, it hurt a bit.”

One of the problems South Korea had in 1980 was that, at the highest levels, there was nothing there! It was like the top half of its head had been removed. Though the economy at lower levels was functioning quite well, at the higher levels, it was suppressing a popular rebellion in Kwangju by massacre, and it was locked into hostile treatment of North Korea by U.S. tutelage.

As I see it, the US. faces a problem today that is very similar to the one confronting South Korea in 1980. Under Bush, when you reached the upper levels, there was a vacuum. There was nothing taking

## Lessons Learned from Frank Jenkins of Local 19

By Jon Halgren

Black history in ILWU Local #19 should include Frank Jenkins, a Hatch Tender, Winch Driver, Labor Relations Man, Executive Board member, Caucus delegate as well as Convention delegate. I relate my knowledge, and what I learned, listening to Frank Jenkins.

On a Thursday morning I got a replacement job on the Alaska Steamship vessel, Nadena in Gang 31, at Pier 42, in the North berth. "Where are you going in such a hurry, Kid?" Some one had hollered from the lunchroom. I hollered back, "31 Gang, on the Nadena, 42 north inner berth" "You got a good one in Frank Jenkins gang you should get a few days."

Alaska Steam carried cargos to Alaska. Almost anything and everything in the state of Alaska came up on Alaska Steamship Company ships. I had not been out of high school long and still remembered the short classes on labor. It was discussion of John L Lewis, Samuel Gophers, the labor organization IWW, and the garment workers in New York. I learned about the waterfront and Harry Bridges, the President of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen Union from my dad and reading *The Dispatcher*.

Aboard the Nadena, I was not sure what was going on. In the hatch I tried to stay out of the way but wanted to do my share of work. Nature called. I was told where the bathroom was on the dock. I started up the ladder, choosing to use the ladder in the hatch, rather than the escape hatch ladder. As I got to the top of the ladder, there was Frank Jenkins, pulling the winch handles making the load move. "Come on," Jenkins told me, "I will stop until you get safely out." Jenkins said that he would like to talk with me when I returned. What had I done?

Forgot to attend the shop stewards? No. Did not apply for a Navy pass, I had gotten the Coast Guard pass. (There was some rumor that we would be working ammunitions, BIG MONEY) I had that.

All 12 years of my schooling were in multi-racial schools. I could see the difference in skin color, but when it came to games on the playground we were all alike. We all wanted to be winners and we worked together to achieve successes.

I started to climb over the combing to go below. "Things down stairs will take care of themselves. I want to talk to you." So I stood next to Frank Jenkins and listened.

"In Portland, Oregon, in the early days, 1926, or so the union was strong. The employers were slick. The bosses started by saying the blacks wanted the jobs and could displace the whites. The whites were told the same thing about replacing the blacks. The employer wanted animosity and friction between the major work groups. They were successful." "I headed north to Seattle. Things were different. The jobs were hard to come by, but I wanted to stay on the waterfront. I did. The strength of the union is what makes the committee get us pork chops instead of ground round." "You're a youngster down here. You would be wise to learn the winches, and all equipment because in years to come it will be necessary. The machinery will get more sophisticated, and that leads to more skill pay." I asked why he left Portland. "You do not listen well. The employer was playing the whites against the blacks and when they could they put blacks against the whites.

It was not a good time. I felt it was time for me to head north. Seattle was a little more broad-minded and they were trying to prevent racial animosity. We have a 'Gear Priority Rule' that allows the gang that starts a long hatch to stay and finish that hatch. At one time the employer would move gangs so they could release gang members that asked for full coffee breaks or compliance with safety rules. It was better for all to have the rules. There were times when the employer objected and wanted to go back to their choice. The stevedore hired first gets all the work on the vessel when the employer needs a stevedore on that vessel. No games could be played as to who could be called back." What I had just learned took a while to sink in. It did. In just a few years I could see that at times men would be whipsawed so as allow the employer greater flexibility and exploitation of the workers.

Later during contract time Frank Jenkins would repeat, "We want pork chops not ground round" I always believed this to mean we are doing good but can do better if the rank and file supports the program.

Time proved Frank Jenkins to be very correct. We did get Pork Chops. Equipment became very sophisticated. Think back to the last time there was a single winch driver marked up on the Dispatch board. We are lucky. What we have, we have earned. Old-timers were responsible for the gains made and the conditions we now enjoy.

### Conversations with Harry

By Ian Kennedy

I was in San Francisco for the February caucus and thought I'd try to save a trip down and get with Harry at this time. So, on Monday evening, I grabbed a cab and headed for the bar. I arrived at our designated time to find the bar all but empty. I sat at our usual table and the newer waitress, the one Harry likes to make eyes at, came over and sat across from me.

"Where are all your friends?" she asked.

"I thought they might be around." I responded, and ordered a bottle of beer. I sat for about an hour, then gave up and headed back to the Hotel.

When the caucus adjourned at lunch time, I debated heading back to Seattle. But decided to try once again to see Harry. I arrived early and was on my second beer when they walked in. They, being Harry and Sam Kagel. Sam had been the only Coast Arbitrator until his death, and was replaced by his son, our present coast arbitrator.

"Kid, you're early, or at least you're not late. Harry said, with a twinkle in his eye. I ordered a pitcher for us while Harry and Sam got comfortable.

"What's up?" Harry pauses, "You're not usually in the city this late in the month? Is something going on?"

"The Coast called for a two day caucus to inform us of the PMA's desire to hold back \$100 million a year for three years from the pension funding.

They felt that the locals' representatives should talk it over and give the Trustees direction." I posed to have some of my beer, "The caucus, in their wisdom, sent back a strong no. The pension fund can't be tampered with."

"The pension fund isn't in trouble, is it?" Harry asked.

"No," I responded, "The funding has dropped to about 49%. But there is plenty a money in the fund. And it's the employers responsibility to make the funding right." All this time, Sam had been watching me with a quizzical look on his face.

"I don't seem to know you." He stated. "Should I?" "no" I answered, "I've heard you speak, but have never been before you on any arbitration's."

Harry interrupts, "What's the state of the Union Like?" he asks. "Last I heard, Containers are down around twenty percent. San Pedro is sending

steadies back to the Hall.

The "B" men and women are hurting, they are drawing PGP and the fund could be in trouble soon. The Weekly Indemnity Program could also be in trouble. People are claiming to be sick, so they can continue to get paid rather than try to work. It appears that some are taking advantage of the program. In Seattle, SSA was setting up to operate Terminal Thirty, but has put that on hold. The one bright spot would be the Cruise Lines that will be starting in the second half of April."

Harry looked up and smiled as Cindi brought us a fresh pitcher. (She told me her name the previous evening.) He filled our glasses and we sat quietly, enjoying the beer.

"Well," Harry looks over to me, "I'd just thought I'd show Sam around a little bit. I'd best take him back. Kid, you finish up the beer. We'll see you next time," and they headed for the door.

### Origins of the Hook

Called a Molly Hook or lumber hook. It was made by Ballard Iron Works, in Seattle. Other companies made them but Ballard Iron Works made the best ones. Back then Seattle was a lumber port. Ballard had its own longshore local - a lumber local.

The hook was designed to protect the fingers from being smashed by having a raised handle. The point was filed to a triangle, with an inside flat side so that it wouldn't slip off the loads. The hump close to the handle (where Ballard Iron Works is printed) was designed to fit into the shackles on foreign vessels that had slots and they'd turn it like a screw driver. The American vessels had shackles with a hole and they used a pin to turn them. The longshoremen held the hook with two fingers on each side of the metal for the most strength.

The Hook Pin was first designed as a strike pin. It means "we've hung the hook" - i.e., we don't work until.

Now for many it is used as a retirement pin, meaning when you retire you hang up the hook. Active members also wear the pin and use the design of it on their coats, etc., as a sign of pride and solidarity. Note that Local #19 has this design painted on each of its entryways.





**AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL**

**Mind you it Hurts a Bit** - *from page 2*  
place. Too much was being entrusted to the "Unseen Hand." Though the system was able to function, "it hurt a bit."

But now we are going to change that. How many presidents have we had lately who have been inspired by Malcolm X, as Obama relates in his intensely readable autobiography DREAMS FROM MY FATHER ( p.86)?

If China has come around to an appreciation of the wonders of an untrammled economy at the lower levels, the U.S. has been grossly in need of some better direction at the top. Perhaps it really does not matter what we call it. So long as it does a better job. So long as it catches mice. So long as an infusion of intelligence can take care of vital needs like education, medical care, and lack of opportunity for those who have been deprived and neglected, what does it matter? So long as it can nip off the growth of economic bubbles before they become cancerous.

The thing is, we need to keep a close watch on unscrupulous people who will take advantage of every opportunity to make a fast buck if we do not rein them in. And in an environment where we are all learning from one another instead of trying to defeat each other and send our opponents into oblivion, is it too much to contemplate the possibility of realizing that ancient dream of humanity, a world at peace?

**Seattle ILWU Pensioners Club  
Annual Luncheon  
Thursday May 21, 2009**

Lake City Elks Lodge  
14540 Bothell Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98155

Time: 11:00 - 12:15 Social Hour  
12:15 Lunch  
Cost: \$20:00

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 by mail.

Seattle Pensioners Club  
3440 E. Marginal Way S  
Seattle, Wash 98134

If you or anyone you know that needs transportation contact our office at 206-623-7461

We would like a big turnout this year  
**SEE YOU THERE !!!!**

**Seattle ILWU Pensioners Club Annual Luncheon**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Please choose one of the following per person:

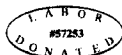
\_\_\_\_\_ Prime Rib with Baked Potato

\_\_\_\_\_ Salmon with Rice

Cost is \$20:00 per person.  
Please respond by May 12, 2009  
Bring in or mail to:

No Host Bar

ILWU Seattle Pensioners Club  
3440 E. Marginal Way S.  
Seattle, WA 98134



## Pension Caucus

February 23, 2009

By Ian Kennedy

The caucus was called to discuss a PMA proposal to request of the PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION (PBGC) the right to hold back approximately \$100,000,000 per year for the next three years.

The Coast Committee felt this was not something they should act upon without caucus action, and presented the PMA proposal without recommendation.

Due to the decline in the economy, the Pension Plan has experienced a major decline in assets. On June 30, 2008, the Plans assets were \$2.3 billion, and benefits were 70% funded. February 17, 2009, assets had dropped to \$1.7 billion and were 49% funded. The Plan calls for an increase in funding from approximately \$250 million/yr in 2008, to \$500 million/yr by 2014.

The PMA calculates the members assessments each spring, using a combination of man hours worked and tonnage moved. Cargo volume is expected to continue in a downward trend through 2009, coast wise.

The PMA foresees fewer man hours and less tonnage for the next couple of years. If there is no change in the economy, the PMA will need to increase assessment rates for man hours from \$21.52/Hour to \$35.73/Hour. And TEU rates to increase from \$22.38/TEU to \$37.78/TEU, increases of 66% and 69% respectively. The PMA feels that increases of this size will force carriers to shift discretionary cargo away from West Coast ports.

Approximately 50% of current cargo is discretionary. The \$300 million reduction would only reduce the tonnage rate by \$3. The PMA stated that they would then get a Line of Credit for another \$150 million to reduce the assessment rates by \$2.50 to \$3. per man hour.

If the Union is willing to support these changes, and the PBGC is willing to amend the present agreement, they want also to amend the required time to reach the 80% funding goal from five years to ten years. And if in th plan years 09, 10, and 11, the contributions fall below the minimum requirements, the PMA would be allowed to use the Plan's "Credit Balance" to make up the short fall.



## ILWU 75th Anniversary July 5<sup>th</sup> Bloody Thursday Memorial Picnic at Vasa Park

You are all invited to the 75<sup>th</sup>  
memorial of Bloody Thursday at  
Vasa Park on lake Sammamish  
Sunday July 5, 2009 (10am-7pm)

Volunteers are needed to help with  
this year's event, if interested  
contact the pensioner's office at  
623-7461 ext 7106.

They're open  
Mon-Wed-Fri 8:30-12:30.

If you would like to bring a dish  
we need dessert items.

NO DOGS are allowed unless  
camping at site, NO GLASS is  
permitted for safety reasons,  
for overnight camping reservations  
information call (425)-746-3260

## AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

### CORRESPONDENCE

From JACK & DI FAIRBANKS, Oak Harbor.

Enclosed is the check for \$100.00 which the funds can be used towards Xmas for Kids or wherever most needed. Take care, Happy Holidays

Love,  
JACK & DI.

Thank you JACK & DI. Our club contributed \$500.00 to Christmas for Kids.

From KEYO MORENO, San Pedro, CA.

It has been awhile since I have been on the waterfront and seen many of you that I used to work with. I miss you all and hope are all in good health for 2009.

I have relocated in Sunny San Pedro, CA for the winter. I want to send blessings to all of you wherever you are and am donating \$60 dollars to the Rusty Hook.

Hope to see some of you in the future: from the "Cheap Mexican"

KEYO MORENO

Thanks for the \$60.00 KEYO, We don't think its cheap!

From DON (TOOT) & JACQUE THORNTON, Kingston.

Keep the Rusty Hook going guys. I see a few of us are still left. ART WALLACE and RED SAMPLES. I haven't been able to make the meetings since two open heart surgeries and lung problems and don't drive far, but still kicking. Sorry IRIS VINGE, to hear about CLIFF. We all had some good times.

Advise to the new fellows, keep the union strong and fight to keep the benefits we fought for. Tough times ahead but hang in there.

Sending \$200.00 for the Rusty Hook coffers  
DON THORNTON

Thank you very much DON for the generous donation. and the fine newsy letter

From MURRELL LEE, Lake Tapps.

Thanks for the Rusty Hook. It keeps me informed of what is going on. Use the check wherever it is most needed and for dues.

MURRELL LEE

Thanks MURRELL. Your dues are paid and \$72 went to the Rusty Hook. We are glad you kept us informed.

We received contributions for the Rusty Hook from the following members. No messages, just the money. The money is very welcome. We'd also like to hear how you are doing.  
Please write!

ROBERT SMITH \$50.00  
JACK FAIRBANKS \$85.00  
PETE KOLLOEN \$72.00  
RICHARD GROSCUP \$100.00  
JERRY STORVIK \$72.00  
RODNEY BAKKEY \$72.00  
FRANK CEPEDA \$54.00  
W. P. LEWIS \$200.00

### Pension Caucus

*From page 6*

The "Credit Balance" is presently at about \$1 billion, and the PMA expects it would need to draw it down approximately \$70 million. The "Credit Balance" consists of the money the employers put into the Fund above the minimum required amount.

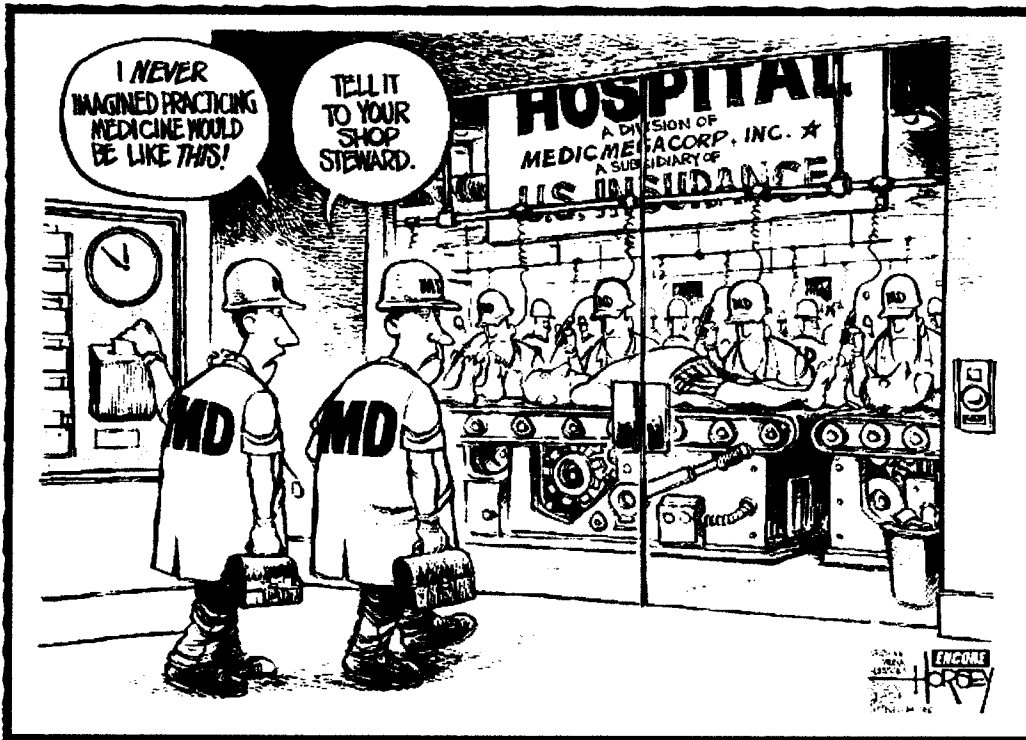
There are risks involved no matter what we do. But in my estimation, if we agree with the PMA, and the PBGC also goes along, and the economy continues to slide, the PMA could continue to draw down the "Credit Balance" until it hits a negative value. And, any time the "Credit Balance" is reduced, it opens the door for the PBGC to step in and reduce our benefits.

The caucus, in their great wisdom, voted to turn down the PMA's request, knowing that they will continue to make demands for other forms of reduction in costs.

The Union's Actuary feels that if no additional money were paid into the Fund, the Fund would remain solvent for six years.

The subject of the PGP was brought up and it was suggested, we'd trade, give the PMA the ok to hold back funds from the Pension Plan in exchange for more funding in the PGP. This was killed quickly. LA/LB are beginning to draw from the PGP Fund. It was also pointed out that the Weekly Indemnity Program was in trouble

Other suggestions were made along these lines but didn't get much favorable response. I believe any such exchanges would require opening the contract, and there's no knowing what that could lead to.



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