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WHO IS THE GREATEST DEBT-TRAP VILLAIN?

By Dave Chaddock

Accusations from the West accuse China's Belt and Road Initiative of luring developing countries into debt traps. Is this true? Let's look at a few examples. Probably the worst case in the world is that of Haiti. It was caused originally by France, but when the United States took control in 1914 debts owed to France were taken over by the United States, in particular by the bank known today as Citigroup.

Known as Saint-Domingue as a French colony, around 1700 it had 18 sugar plantations,

which grew rapidly until 1790 when there were 793. Sugar cane, once harvested, has to be processed rapidly by working all night. Enslaved Africans would do the work. There were also 3100 coffee plantations, 3143 devoted to indigo and 500 cotton plantations. They produced as much sugar as Brazil, Jamaica and Cuba combined, and also half the world's coffee. Slaves were branded like cattle, with the initials of their owners. Women slaves in sugar cane fields had to feed the grinders where, if they were tired or distracted, a finger caught could escalate into an arm and even a whole body except the head.

Then came the French Revolution of 1789 and its statement that "men are born and remain equal." The slaves liked the sound of that, and began to act upon it. By August, 1791 an insurgent force had grown to 10,000 strong. Every plantation in fifty square miles had been reduced to ashes. Planters believed secession from France might be required so they could keep their slaves. In 1801 Jefferson wondered if

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CHADDOCK

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it were possible to prevent Haiti from getting a ship, so its “disease” could be confined. The same year Napoleon arrived with 50 ships, 22,000 soldiers and 20,000 sailors. He thought it might take 3 months at most to bring Haiti to heel, and he started by hanging 60 rebels in one day. But two years later, after losing 50,000 troops, the French had to negotiate a surrender.

In 1816 French envoys arrived and hinted at the need to be reimbursed for the loss of their slaves. Haiti’s ruler at the time, Christophe, found the suggestion to be outrageous. Was it conceivable that Haitians who had escaped torture and massacre and had won freedom by sacrificing their blood should now owe money to their former oppressors? Yet only nine years later, under a new ruler, Jean-Pierre Boyer, who was much less dedicated to the welfare of his people, France was given exactly what it wanted.

In return for paying France an indemnity, Haiti would be granted formal independence. And France also stipulated that, while Haiti could impose tariffs, the tariff rate on French imports would only be half the rate charged everyone else. The amount of the indemnity to be paid was 150 million francs. Considering that the United States was able to engineer the purchase of Louisiana for only 80 million francs (which included all or part of 15 states) this was an enormous sum of money. A commission that Boyer appointed to study French terms were shocked and when threatened by a blockade they warned the French to hoist anchor and depart before they were blasted out of the water. But Boyer was told that perhaps the amount could be renegotiated in the future, and furthermore, that French banks were ready to provide a loan to cover the initial payment, which was six times the government income for that year.

Though Boyer had accepted a shameless capitulation he tried to disguise what he had done. He claimed that the 14-ship French squadron waiting to impose a blockade had come to celebrate Haiti’s independence. He kept the details of his pact a secret but several months later French newspapers revealed the truth. Furious Haitians tried to prevent bags of money from being loaded on French ships. Getting a huge loan from a French bank, Boyer was obligated to repay 30 million francs over 25 years at an annual interest of 6% plus an additional 20%, so that only 24 million was paid toward erasing the balance. Haiti’s coffers were emptied as money that could have been used for schools, ports, roads and hospitals disappeared. Haiti was indeed the defining picture of a country trapped by debt.

In 1838 30% of Haiti’s income went to servicing the debt. By 1888 the former slave-owners had been paid off, but it seemed that there were always new demands for payments requiring new usurious loans. In 1898 loan repayments took 50% of the budget, and in 1913 they increased to 67%. It was time for the United States to move in and take over from France, as World War One required all of France’s attention, and the United States promised to protect Haiti from German takeover. In December 1914 8 Marines walked into Haiti’s National Bank and made off with wooden boxes containing \$500,000 in gold, which would be deposited in a Wall Street vault within days. The following summer U.S. troops invaded, dissolved parliament and established a puppet government. 167 prisoners who had opposed the occupation were executed. In 1916 a new Haitian Army would be commanded by Americans. Forced labor was used to build roads, and it was bragged that “less than a hundred” had to be shot while trying to escape.

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CONVERSATIONS WITH HARRY

By Ian Kennedy

Sue gave me a call, "Why haven't you been down, Harry keeps bugging me wanting to know when you're coming?" I explained to her that I'd been busy getting Dr. Magden's book to the printers." Baring any problems, I'll be down soon."

When I woke up Saturday, I checked my calendar for the coming week and realized I was completely open. I called Sue, "If I come down this week, would it work with Harry?" She responded to the positive and said. "Harry has checked every day to see if I've heard from you." That cinched it for me, I told her " I should get in Monday evening at some point." I packed my overnigher and hit the hay early.

My drive down was uneventful, I took I-5 to make the drive as fast as possible. I figured I'd stop someplace in the Siskiyou's for the night and get an early start so that I could get in by dinner. I was back on the road by the time the sun came up. Called Sue as I crossed the Bay Bridge to let her know dinner was on her and she had the gate open as I pulled up.

After getting settled and cleaned up, I ventured down to the bar with great expectations of the meal ahead. As I settled in I noticed Sue was just coming out of the kitchen, carrying a tray and heading in my direction. As she set it down, I saw two baskets containing Hamburgers with fries. I gave her A BLANK look as she settled down. "Well, what's your problem?" She asked. "It's just that after the long drive, I thought I'd get a real dinner." I responded. She looks at me, "No one gets better than management." And starts to eat her burger. I decide I'd not getting anything better and best eat it before she takes it away. Just

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NOTES FROM ANDREA STEVENSON

ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans Washington Area Welfare Director

ILWU-PMA Welfare Plan Proof of 2023 Medicare Part B Premium-Medicare Eligibles

Each year the Medicare Part B premium, deductible, and coinsurance rates are determined according to the Social Security Act. The standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B enrollees will be \$164.90 for 2023, a decrease of \$5.20 from \$170.10 in 2022

For many Medicare-eligible participants, Medicare Part B premiums change January 1 of each year. To ensure you are reimbursed the correct premium, Medicare Eligibles (including pensioners, beneficiaries, spouses, and disabled adult children) must submit a copy of their 2023 Medicare Part B Social Security notice to the Benefit Plans Office no later than March 31, 2023. However, please note that more time may be allowed for those experiencing extenuating circumstances which might delay their ability to timely submit their 2023 Social Security notice (e.g., hospitalization, out of the country for an extended period of time, etc.). Please note the Plan will only reimburse premiums being paid by members. If your premium is being paid by a third party, you are not eligible for reimbursement and should notify the Benefit Plans Office. The Social Security Administration mails you a letter towards the end of November or the beginning of December with your upcoming premium rate for the following year. Please provide the Benefit Plans Office with a copy of the Social Security letter showing your 2023 Part B

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WELFARE

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premium as soon as possible. Be sure to write your Registration Number next to the name to ensure efficient and accurate processing.

From Medicare.gov 9.22.22 - Updated Covid -19 vaccinations

Important: Updated COVID-19 vaccines are now available to provide increased protection against the currently circulating Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants.

If it has been at least 2 months since you completed your COVID-19 primary series or had your last booster, then you are eligible for an updated vaccine.

As with other diseases, you're protected best from COVID-19 when you stay up to date with the recommended vaccines. COVID-19 vaccines are effective at protecting people from getting seriously ill.

Remember: Medicare covers the COVID-19 vaccine at no cost to you.

From Medicare.gov 10.7.22

This flu season, protect yourself and your loved ones by getting your flu shot. For better protection against flu, the CDC recommends people 65 or older get one of the three higher-dose flu vaccines, if available.

The flu can be very serious if you're 65 or older. Getting your flu shot is the best way to reduce the risk of the flu. And if you do get sick with the flu, your symptoms likely won't be as bad or last as long.

Also, you can get a flu shot and a COVID-19 vaccine, including the updated COVID-19 vaccine, at the same visit. Go to [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find COVID-19 vaccines and flu shots, including the high-dose flu vaccines, near you.

NOTE: Medicare covers flu shots and COVID-19 vaccines at no cost to you. Also, starting in 2023, people with Medicare Part D drug coverage will pay nothing out-of-pocket for even more vaccines, including the shingles vaccine, that are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

From KnowBe4.com

Telehealth is a way for health providers to diagnose, treat, and communicate with patients remotely, by phone or video. Telehealth is a quick and easy alternative to your typical doctor's appointment, but it could also be a quick and easy way for cybercriminals to find targets.

Here are some ways to safeguard your personal information while using telehealth services.

Keep Your Device Up to Date

Whether you connect to telehealth using a smartphone or a computer, make sure the device is up to date with the latest security patches. This includes updating all applications, not just the ones used for telehealth purposes. Each app is a potential point of entry for cybercriminals. If the bad guys gain access to your device in any way, then your sensitive medical information will be at risk.

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WHY THE PACIFIC COAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION?

In a monumental negotiations breakthrough, the first ILWU pension checks were passed out to retiring ILWU longshoremen, clerks, and foreman in July, 1952 at special meetings held up and down the coast.

Soon after retiring, these pensioners began to organize into clubs in the various areas of the West Coast. In the beginning a main purpose of the pension clubs was to provide a place and an opportunity for ILWU retirees and their wives to visit and keep alive satisfying work and fraternal relationships going back many years. Before long most pension clubs began to face up to and take action on senior and labor problems and issues of direct concern to their clubs and the locals from which they retired. They found out they needed their pension clubs to represent them in maintaining and improving their living standards under the contract and Social Security. Realizing that strength was in their numbers, in 1968 ILWU pensioners took the next logical step, forming the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association.

The original driving force in organizing the PCPA was Leo Miller, Local 63, Wilmington Marine Clerks. He received help from Locals 13 and 24 in raising money and encouragement. The criteria for a coastwise organizing meeting were: 1) find a location half the distance between Bellingham, Washington and San Diego, California; 2) stay away from the seaports; 3) have parking for RV's and hotel accommodations.

After investigating various sites from Red Bluff, California, to Medford, Oregon, Miller recommended Anderson, California. The call was sent to all pension groups to hold an organizing convention Sept. 16, 17, and 18, 1968. The delegates assembled at the organizing convention and came without compensation, instruction, or constitution, but with enthusiasm and the will to do something, not only for themselves, but for all pensioners.

Miller favored a loose organization, with just a coordinator and an Executive Board. The northern delegates wanted to elect a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Executive Board, with a constitution to be written and presented to the 1969 convention.

(Continued on Page 11: PCPA)

From the Archive:

***The Dispatcher* January 22, 1954**

ILWU Crab Fishermen On Strike in Seattle

SEATTLE — On January 8, ILWU fishermen appeared at Seattle's new Fishermen's Terminal to picket the MV Deep Sea, the Shelikoff and the Foremost, crab trawlers owned by Wakefield's Deep Sea Trawlers, Incorporated.

Locked out by the company were members of the Alaska king crab fishermen's division of Local 3, Fishermen's union of the ILWU who are protesting the company's position of refusing to operate under the existing contract and its demand that the fishermen accept a wage cut amounting to some 23 per cent.

MILITANT GROUP

The strike vote carried overwhelmingly. Long known as one of the most militant groups of fishermen in Local 3, the Alaska king crab fishermen have a history of "firsts" in improved union conditions and contracts since their inception in 1949 when a group of skilled purse seine and drag fishermen "took a chance" on the then new type

of operation proposed by Wakefield Company. Since that time the industry has grown into one of the most profitable firms in the Northwest fishing industry—due in no small way to the skill and know-how of these ILWU Fishermen who helped to develop new methods of obtaining increasingly larger volumes of crab.

Maritime workers in Seattle remember that it was the Deep Sea crew in 1951 who, in the face of mounting nationwide hysteria, stood firmly by their union's position of "no screening for fishermen" and refused to accept Coast Guard screening as a condition of employment. By their united action they won their point and the ship sailed on schedule with full crew—unscreened.

The picket lines are being respected by all members of other crafts working at the Terminal, including Machinists, Local 79, and Shipwrights, Local 1184, both AFL affiliates.

THREATENED PENSION PLAN

By Kevin Castle

Have you ever opened the mail containing the yearly annual benefit report issued by the ILWU/PMA and anxiously looked to see if our pension plan is still solvent? Now, with so many union pension plans across the country being threatened by underfunding and other issues there's good reason to be concerned. But some of those worries were put to rest with a provision in Biden's American Rescue Plan. An infusion of funds from the pandemic relief bill that he signed into law in 2021 has guaranteed that the federal government's Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation will be solvent through the year 2051. This government agency was established to help shore up union pension funds that are in danger of defaulting. It just awarded nearly \$36 billion to prevent severe cuts to the retirement incomes of 350,000 Teamster workers and retirees across the United States. Indeed, it prevented what amounted to a 60% reduction in their annual benefits. A cut like that in our industry would amount to thousands and thousands of dollars in lost income per ILWU retiree! I don't know about you, but I thank my lucky stars everyday that there's a Democrat in the White House.

HARRY

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then the beer arrives, and I felt better. Sue sits quiet as we finish the Burgers and beer. Knowing I had two or three hours before Harry shows, I told Sue "I'm going to lay down If you would wake me if Harry shows up before --" Sue interrupts with the nod of her head as she heads to the bar to help Quirk deal with a rush.

I woke to a tapping on the door. Sally Mae opened it, "Sorry to disturb you but Sue told me to wake you and make sure you got up." She didn't wait to make sure I was up. It only took me a couple of minutes to get down. The place was crowded and it took me a minute to spot Harry at our table. As I approached he looked up and greeted me, "Where the hell have you been. I've been checking for you for the last three weeks." He paused for a drink."Well. Are you going to sit down? Do you want a beer?" He sits back, waiting for my response. As I'm sitting down, Sue breezes by with a fresh pitcher, fills my glass, then her own, and is gone. "Well, where would you like me to start?" Harry shrugs. "Ok," I start, "Dr Magden's book is complete and printed. We have some money glitches we have to overcome but we should have them straightened out and start giving the books out

by the end of the month." I finish my beer and refill the glass. "Regarding the contract." Harry interrupts, "About time." I continue, "We are still working without a contract. What I know is that 'Health and Welfare' have been agreed upon and the hang up seems to be over work in Seattle that SSA is giving to other unions that contractually belongs to the ILWU. This is just what I believe, not what I know. True or not, the Union is holding firm, the Employers want to handle it locally but they're not getting their way." Harry is nodding his head, pleased with the stand the Union is taking.

"Are the pensioners being taken care of?" He asks. "Thy should be, but you never know. The money is there, it's a question of how pissed off the Employers are when they get to it, and how worn out our people are." Harry looks around, gets up and puts his coat on. "Try to be a little more informative in the future," he remarks as he departs.

Sue had joined us and was just finishing off our pitcher. She pats my hand, "Don't take it to heart, he's always that way," "I think I should get some rest so I can start out first thing in the morning."



CHADDOCK

(From Page 2)

Now Haiti had to pay the salaries and expenses of the invading forces. At a time when lynching was all too common in the American South Haiti was said to be in need of U.S. "civilizing." As Secretary of State Robert Lansing explained in 1918, "The African race are devoid of any capacity for political organization" and had an "inherent tendency to savagery." The U.S. continued direct rule of Haiti until 1934. John Russell, who was high commissioner of the occupation from 1922 to 1930, expressed his belief that the average Haitian was "more or less of an animal" and had "the mentality of a child of not more than seven years of age."

After all the years of conditioning Haiti to rule by military dictatorship, the United States believed it was safe to turn the job over to corrupt officials who were willing to sell the interest of the country for personal gains. Hence the brutal rule of "Papa Doc" Duvalier and his son "Baby Doc" from 1956 to 1985. Later when popular leader Aristide started doing research about the staggering ransom paid to France, and actually called upon the French to pay reparations, he was denounced as a demagogue and spirited out of the country. And this is how Haiti was hobbled with debts for over a century "perpetually stuck in crisis, with staggering illiteracy, hunger and disease, without public transportation, reliable electricity, garbage collection, or sewage system." (I relied on three sources for this story of Haiti, two of them were books by Laurent Dubois, *Avengers of the New World* and *The Aftershocks of History* dated 2004 and 2012. The third source was a series in the *New York Times* from May 22 to May 26 this year called "The Ransom")

Another country facing a debt meltdown recently is Sri Lanka. Although Western media have declared it to be a victim of Chinese debt, Indrajit Samarajiva, a native Sri Lankan, protests

that only 10 to 20% of its debt is owed to China, while the majority is owed to U.S. and European financial institutions. The International Monetary Fund, in which the United States plays a dominant role, has extended loans 16 times, always with stringent conditions. It just keeps restructuring the debt for further exploitation by creditors. Samarajiva says Sri Lanka is nothing but a colony of the IMF (NYT, 8-16-22).

The leader of Barbados, Mia Mottley, tired of taking out new loans to pay off the interest on old ones, has declared resistance to the austerity the IMF has demanded in return for the loans. She refuses to slash needed funds for government agencies, and declines to fire thousands of government employees and auction off national assets. With 55% of its GDP being set aside to pay off its debts, she has had enough. She says: "The global order is not working." As a Caribbean country victimized by extreme hurricanes caused by global warming, Barbados is a victim of industrial pollution caused by others. She declares: "Today, my friends, we are prying off the hands that have been strangling us" (NYT Sunday Magazine, 7-31-22).

In a joint study published by Columbia University and Oxford in May, summarizing the debt owed by African countries over the last decade, only 12% was owed to China, compared to 35% for private Western donors. Moreover, Africa had to pay an average of 2.7% to China, as opposed to 5% interest for the West. China also offered a longer period for repayment, and was willing to suspend payments for countries facing difficulties. Under the Belt and Road Initiative the African countries were not subject to dictation but had a free say in determining the scope of the investments, which generally had to do with much needed infrastructure. For example, a deep-sea port in

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WELFARE

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Use an Advanced Login

Telehealth services typically require users to create a username and password. If the service offers Multi-factor Authentication (MFA), use it! MFA requires you to enter your password and then enter another form of verification, such as a code sent via text message. If MFA isn't offered, we recommend using a password manager to generate and securely store complex passwords.

Connect with a Secure Network

Never use a public Wi-Fi connection for telehealth services. You never know who could be watching and tracking your activity. When connecting from home, be sure to set up a strong password for your router. Default router passwords are often public knowledge or easy to guess. For the most secure network, connect to a virtual private network (VPN), which encrypts web traffic to protect your information.

Please be sure you open ALL mail regarding your ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans

Correspondence pertaining to medical, dental, vision or the prescription plan. If any part of your bill doesn't look right (i.e.: remaining balances unpaid or no payments at all) please contact WA Area Welfare Director, Andrea Stevenson. Do not hesitate to call (206) 938-6720 (office), (206) 938-6726 (Fax) or email astevenson@benefitplans.org. Please always include your longshore registration number and a telephone number, anywhere on your paperwork, so I can contact you. The San Francisco Benefit Plans phone number is: (888) 372-4598.



Final Dispatch

Michael Faker-Feist, Local 19

Steven Steward, Local 19

Darrell Drugge, Local 52

Patrick Neal, Local 52

Robert Howery, Local 19

James Smith, Local 19

John Moore, Local 19

John Munson, Local 19

Ben Blu, Local 19

Frank West, Jr., Local 19

Lyle Roderick, Local 19

Recent Retirees

Louis Gray, Jr, Local 19

Craig Taylor, Local 19

Ken Gomes, Local 19

Leslie Hennem, Local 19

Sandor Varga, Local 52

Charles Wilbert, III, Local 19

Mark Emard, Local 19

Kathy Dvorak, Local 52

Marla Knigge, Local 19

Mario Walker, Local 19

CHADDOCK

(From Page 7)

Lagos is designed to create 170,000 jobs and bring in billions of dollars of earnings (Beijing Review,8-25-22). Obviously the U.S. puts distorted emphasis on the Chinese portion of the debt, in an attempt to blame China for the creation of an unfair debt structure of long standing that has reached the breaking point.

Consider as a final example the default of Argentina in 2001, which exposed the fact that the U.S. has allowed the existence of hedge funds like Elliot Management which have justly earned the nickname “vulture funds.” Owing \$132 billion in loans that it was unable to pay, Argentina restructured its debt, discounting its bonds by two thirds, but allowing for more payment when the economy recovered. Though 93% of the bondholders accepted the deal, the vultures, who had purchased the bonds at a big discount after Argentina defaulted, yet expected to be paid in full. Moreover, they took Argentina to court in New York and actually got a judge to rule that none of the other bondholders could be paid the haircuts they had agreed to until the rip-off artists received full face value (NYT, 4-1-16). What kind of system is this in which a U.S. court can dictate to a sovereign nation that it must reward bullying investors?

Vulture hedge funds pulled a similar trick in Puerto Rico, which has no vote in Congress, and its constitution gives hedge funds the right to be paid first even when it means that schools have to be closed down to foot the bill. Isn't it high time that the United States followed the example of China and became fully civilized?



CAN IMMIGRANTS RESCUE SOCIAL SECURITY?

By Kevin Castle

Americans are living longer and having fewer babies. This threatens the solvency of our Social Security system. That is because it is young workers who contribute the taxes that pay for the benefits that older Americans enjoy. A lower birth rate means there are fewer young workers to support the increasing number of Americans who are drawing more benefits for longer periods due to their longer life spans. It is expected that Social Security will be insolvent by 2034.

According to the Bipartisan Policy Center at Michigan State University, immigrants offer a partial solution to this alarming trend. First off, they expand the workforce whose taxes support retirees. In addition, they tend to be younger on average than our existing population and thus will stick around longer in our workforce paying taxes for many years. They come to America specifically to improve their lives so a greater percentage of them work than their native counterparts. At the same time, they pose little threat of taking jobs away from us as they tend to perform the jobs Americans are unwilling to tackle. And, today there are more jobs in our economy than Americans can fill. Far from fearing the rise of immigrants crossing the border we should welcome their arrival as a hard working, youthful addition to our workforce who will help support our social security system by paying taxes into our treasury for years to come.

RUSTY HOOK CORRESPONDENCE

By Mary Fuller

From MARC LEACH, \$30.00 for 2022 dues. Thank you MARC. From MIKE HURLOCK, \$90.00 for 2023, 2024, & 2025 dues. Thank you MIKE. From STEVE RAMELS, \$30.00 for 2022 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you STEVE. From JACKIE SZIKSZOY, \$30.00 for 2022 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks so much JACKIE. From BART FORTUNE, \$30.00 for 2022 dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you BART an the dues are \$30.00 per year, not \$25.00. Your form is old.



SOURCE: THE DISPATCHER, NOVEMBER 11, 1949

DAYS

By Kevin Castle

In hiring halls
we set to work,
stevedores before
the peg.

The lore of ships
and longshore ways.
Bullrail gulls shriek
in defiance
at a ship named
the Mary Luckenbach,
rising from her
waterman's grave.
The once breaker
of backs
lays in the rip
of muscle memory.
Wings abreast
we met the hook
and belly packed...
deep in the
hatch of days.

Rusty Hook Publication Schedule: 2023 - 2024

- Spring 2023: Submission deadline is March 17th, to be published on March 31, 2023.
- Summer 2023: Submission deadline is May 17th, to be published May 31st, 2023.
- Fall 2023: Submission deadline is August 11th, to be published on August 25th, 2023.
- Winter 2024 Submission deadline is December 1st, to be published on December 15th, 2023.

An Injury to one is an injury to all!

PCPA (From Page 5)

They resolved their differences and Bill Lawrence, Local 13, was elected President; Mike Sickinger, Local 8, Treasurer; Rosco Craycraft, Local 19, Secretary of the Executive Board, and Brother Leo Miller to serve as coordinator until the 1969 convention.

The purpose of all this was to have a fraternal organization of ILWU pensioners that would give them unity, direction, and purpose. Through their association they would have a voice to speak for them at both the union and the national level. They believed that a fraternal adjunct to the ILWU would be of considerable value.

The pensioners and wives who gathered at the first convention were all veterans of the 1934 strike. They had been together through the struggles of the 30's and 40's and knew there was no such thing as a free lunch. They understood that in order to maintain their benefits they had to support the ILWU as they did when they were working.

In the beginning most pensioners and their spouses believed in the PCPA, but attitudes changed in pensioners retiring after the 1960's. When they retired, they failed to participate or even join the PCPA. The ILWU still needs the support of all pensioners, spouses, and widows. Out of 8,700 eligible retirees, only 2,700 are members of the PCPA. Our union and the labor movement as a whole are at a crossroads, and both need the support of all the ILWU pensioners.

Prosperity breeds greed, apathy and complacency. Workers and pensioners become self-serving during the good times. There is no one among us working or retired who should forget that what we have today is here because someone fought on our behalf long before we were part of the union movement. We "old timers," pensioners, or whatever we want to be called, should not sit back and collect our

pensions and Social Security and ignore what has happened with the airline and automobile companies, where pensions and retiree health care have been slashed or eliminated altogether, and think we are immune. Only by joining in the struggle can we be sure what we enjoy today is not lost.

We should not just think of ourselves, but of future generations of workers, including our children and grandchildren. We should remember the past and constantly remind the active workers how it was.

Many years ago IWW leader Big Bill Haywood said, "You can put two bits in a working man's pocket and do anything you want with him. If you try to take any part of it away, he becomes a fighting SOB."

We have to be prepared for the worst, so join the struggle now. Join the PCPA.

This article was written by Arne Auvinen, PCPA President, at the time. I don't have a year it was written, but it still stands true today.



SOURCE: THE DISPATCHER, FEBRUARY 3, 1950

THE RUSTY HOOK
3440 E. Marginal Way S.
Seattle, WA 98134

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To our members -

On behalf of the International Titled Officers, welcome to the **ILWU COVID-19 Support** website.

The ongoing pandemic has affected each and every one of us in many ways. We know this is stressful and overwhelming, especially for those that are ill with COVID-19 or losBe well and stay safe.

ing their jobs. It is our hope that this website will provide the necessary information and support for our members and their families during this difficult time.

For further questions and support, please contact ILWU International Headquarters as 415-775-0533.

For members of the Coast Longshore Division, please contact your local office for more information.

Be well and stay safe.

VISIT: <https://www.ilwuovid19support.org>

For information in Washington State:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/DataDashboard>

2021 Seattle Pensioner Club Officers

President: Mary Fuller

Vice-President:

Carl Wreck

Secretary/Treasurer:

Kathleen Brown

Recording Secretary:

Sally Roach

Convention Committee

Delegate: Joe Toro

Trustees:

Michele Drayton

Bill Crawford

Lanny McGrew

Sick Committee:

Bill Lassiter

Luncheon Committee:

Mary Fuller.

ILWU-PMA Benefit Plan Washington Area Welfare Director contact: Andrea Stevenson (57049)
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